



## Extraordinary Meeting of the Council

**Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes on Thursday, 10 January 2013 at 2.30pm**

### Present:

Councillor I A Nicholson (Chair)

Councillors R E Allen, R Blackman, J L Carr, M P Chartier, S B Davy, A Dean, D R Edmunds, I Eiloart, P Gander; P F Gardiner, D M Gray, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R Main, R K Maskell, E C Merry, C R O'Keeffe, S J Osborne, J V S Page, R Robertson, E E J Russell, S Saunders, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, J Stockdale and I J White.

### Apologies received:

Councillors S Adeniji, G R Amy, C A Bowers, M A Cutress, P L Franklin, S J Gauntlett, C Sugarman and B M Warren

|            | Minutes   | Action |
|------------|---|--------|
| <b>128</b> | <b>Minutes</b><br><br>The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2012 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.  |        |
| <b>129</b> | <b>To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council</b><br><br>(i) <u>Localised Flooding in the District Over Christmas and New Year</u><br><br>The Chair of the Council thanked those members of staff and the Council's contractors who had worked over the Christmas and New Year holiday in order to cope with the severe weather and localised flooding which had occurred in the District over that period. In particular, he thanked the |        |

Chief Executive, Lindsay Frost, Ian Kedge, Tim Bartlett, Janet Adams, Geoff Funnel and Linda Lusted, together with the Leader of the Council, whose efforts had been greatly appreciated by residents.

(ii) Councillor Gauntlett

The Council noted that Councillor Gauntlett had been re-admitted to the Liberal Democrat Group following his earlier suspension.

(iii) Mark Reynard (East Sussex County Council)

The Chair of the Council thanked the Legal Services section of East Sussex County Council for releasing one of its Officers namely, Mark Reynard, to attend the Extraordinary Meeting in order to provide assistance during the unavoidable absence of the Council's Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services.

**130 Localisation of Council Tax Support: Council Tax Support Scheme; and Discounts and Exemptions**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, the motion that Council do resolve itself into committee for the purpose of receiving a presentation by the Director of Finance on matters relating to the Localisation of Council Tax Support: Council Tax Support Scheme; and Discounts and Exemptions, as detailed in Report No 8/13, and to enable the Director to answer any technical questions in respect of the Report.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**130.1** Accordingly.

At the invitation of the Chair of the Council, the Director of Finance gave the Council a presentation on matters relating to the Localisation of Council Tax Support: Council Tax Support Scheme; and Discounts and Exemptions, as detailed in the Report and, together with the Revenues Manager, answered some technical questions in respect thereof.

During the presentation, the Director of Finance drew Councillors attention to the results of the survey which had been undertaken in respect of the Council Tax Support Scheme and to the comments that had been received in respect thereof, details of which had been circulated to all Members of

the Council on 21 December 2013 as part of the Extraordinary Council Agenda. He highlighted the importance of Council taking account of those results and comments when taking its decisions in respect of the Scheme.

The Chair of the Council thanked the Director of Finance and the Revenues Manager for guiding the Council through such a complex issue following which Council came out of committee.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Cost Control, Councillor Smith, moved, and Councillor Maskell seconded, the motion that the Recommendations contained in Report No 8/13 be received and adopted and that the Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Osborne, and members of the Panel of that Committee which had considered the issue of the Localisation of Council Tax Support, be thanked for the work which they had undertaken in respect thereof.

Councillor Eiloart moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, an amendment for the retention of the current level of 50 pence minimum entitlement to Council Tax reduction rather than the introduction of a £5 minimum weekly entitlement.

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**130.2** Accordingly.

The Chair of the Council thanked all those who had been involved with the preparation and production of the Council Tax Support Scheme.

The meeting ended at 3.18pm

I A Nicholson  
Chair

DF/  
CHLDS