



Annual Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Council held in The Chamber, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes on Wednesday, 8 May 2013 at 2.30pm

Present:

Councillor M P Chartier (Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, S B Davy, A Dean, D R Edmunds, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, D M Gray, B W Groves, 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, I A Nicholson, 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, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White.

Apology received:

Councillor M A Cutress.

	Minutes	Action
1	<p>Election of the Chair of the Council</p> <p>The Chair of the Council invited the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services to inform the Council of the nomination which had been received for the office of Chair of the Council.</p> <p>The Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that Councillor Michael Chartier had been nominated by Councillor Page.</p> <p>Councillor Page moved, and Councillor Bowers seconded, the motion:</p> <p>“That Councillor Michael Chartier be elected Chair of the District Council of Lewes until the next Annual Meeting of the Council and his successor is entitled to act as Chair.”</p>	

The motion was put to the meeting and it was

Resolved:

- 1.1** That Councillor Michael Chartier be elected Chair of the District Council of Lewes until the next Annual Meeting of the Council and his successor is entitled to act as Chair.

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The Chair of the Council (Councillor Chartier) then made and subscribed the Declaration required by law and announced that his wife Monica would be his Consort during his year of office.

Councillor Chartier in the Chair

Councillor White moved, and Councillor Bowers seconded, a vote of thanks for Councillor Nicholson's work on behalf of the Council during his year of office. Councillor Nicholson then gave a brief speech in response during which he thanked the Mayors of Lewes, Peacehaven, Seaford and Telscombe for the support and co-operation which they had shown him during his year of office. He felt that the position of Chair of the Council provided the opportunity to foster such co-operation between Councils.

Councillor Nicholson thanked his Consort, Angela Nicholson, and the Vice-Chair of the Council, Councillor O'Keeffe, for their support during his year of office. He also thanked the Civic Officer for providing administrative support and for arranging events including the recent Unsung Heroes event and the Olympic Torch Relay that had passed through the District last summer.

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

Resolved:

- 1.2** Accordingly.

2 Appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Council

The new Chair of the Council (Councillor Chartier) invited the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services to inform the Council of the nomination which had been received for the office of Vice-Chair of the Council.

The Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that Councillor Ian White had been nominated by Councillor Page.

Councillor Page moved, and Councillor Dean seconded, the motion:

"That Councillor Ian White be appointed Vice-Chair of the District Council of Lewes until immediately after the election of a Chair at the next Annual Meeting of the Council."

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

Resolved:

2.1 Accordingly.

The Vice-Chair of the Council (Councillor White) then made and subscribed the Declaration required by law.

3 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive

(i) Urgent Item

The Chair advised that it had been agreed, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, that Appendix A to Report No 87/13 relating to the Council Plan 2013 - 2014 which had been circulated to all members of the Council on 3 May 2013 under cover of Council Document C, be considered as a matter of urgency in order that the Council could make its decisions thereon based on the most up to date information which was available.

(ii) Chair of the Council's Engagements

The Council received the list of the Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Meeting of the Council held on 27 February 2013.

(iii) Future Meetings of the Council

The Chair reminded Councillors that, beginning with the next meeting of the Council on Thursday, 18 July 2013, all future such meetings would be held in the Council Chamber at County Hall, Lewes, where they would be webcast and would be available for people to view via the Council's website.

(iv) Presentation by e-on

The Chair reported that, following the conclusion of this Annual Meeting of the Council, there would be a presentation to Councillors and Officers by Chris Tomlinson of e-on, on the proposals and process by which the planning application in respect of the Rampion off-shore wind farm would be decided.

(v) Speech by the Leader of the Council

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, delivered a speech in which he stated that the period of time during which he had been Leader had been both challenging and rewarding and he thanked Councillors for their hard work and advice.

During that time, the Council had delivered on a wide range of initiatives and had worked together to back the successful bid for the future provision of a University Technical College in Newhaven which would help to create jobs and economic growth.

In the forthcoming year, one of the greatest challenges that the Council faced was the need for Councillors to work together in the interests of their individual communities in order to boost jobs, economic growth and supply more affordable housing. It was important that Councillors respected their political party differences but still collaborated across party lines.

There was an opportunity to create something special in the District by Councillors working together in order to deliver excellence to residents, businesses and visitors.

5 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Councillors asked questions of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, on the following subjects, oral responses to which were given at the meeting:

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
Councillor Dean	<u>Question:</u> What was the precise legal and/or constitutional reason that prevented St Mary's Social Centre, Lewes, from being removed from the list of potential development sites?	

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
	<p><u>Response:</u> The Centre had been included in a value of a contract which had been advertised through OJEU. If that Centre or any other site was removed from the list then it would reduce the value of the package and might result in the Council facing a legal challenge.</p> <p>Additionally, deleting any site(s) might lead the market to view the Council in an unfavourable light as not being a serious partner and might feel that their time was being wasted in undertaking the necessary preparatory work.</p>	
Councillor Eiloart	<p><u>Question:</u> Why had Councillor Sugarman attended so few meetings of bodies to which he had been appointed during the last municipal year including licensing hearings for which he had not attended any?</p> <p><u>Response:</u> Councillor Sugarman responded that his current personal circumstances had prevented him from attending such meetings.</p>	
Councillor Edmunds	<p><u>Question:</u> Whilst the Council employed its own in-house legal team of Officers, why had it apparently spent £2 million on external legal fees during the last financial year?</p> <p><u>Response:</u> In consultation with the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services, Councillor Page responded that the Council had not spent such sum on external legal fees and that Councillors Edmunds and Smith (together with the Leader of the Council) would be sent details of the actual level of such expenditure.</p>	CHLDS

6 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Lambert – Seaford Central Ward	<p>STEPS was an organisation which provided short term housing support for people aged 65 and over. Its Resident Manager had approached Councillor Lambert and had offered that STEPS give a presentation to Councillors on matters relating to its work.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That STEPS be invited to give a presentation to Councillors on matters relating to its work either before or after a future meeting of the Council.</p>	CHHS
Councillor Lambert – Seaford Central Ward	<p>There was a private war memorial located in St Mary's Close, Seaford, which had been erected in accordance with a Section 106 agreement and which was surrounded by some tall trees that had become a nuisance to residents of that Close.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council be requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Confirm that the planned planting of the trees had been part of the construction of the war memorial; (b) Confirm that a BRE report had been commissioned from the developers as part of the planning process in respect of the development of St Mary's Close, Seaford; and (c) Advise the local ward Councillors as to how the issue of the nuisance trees would be responded to in order that the views of residents could be represented. <p><i>(Note: The Leader of the Council responded that he too was aware of the above issues and had visited the site at a time when the trees had not been in leaf. He reported that he would revisit the site when the leaves were in leaf and that matters relating to the nuisance trees would be reviewed around the end of May 2013/beginning of June 2013).</i></p>	DPES

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Adeniji – Seaford South Ward	<p>People who visited Seaford Cemetery had reported that, whilst there, the nearby industrial units created a negative visual impact.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council consider the provision of some tree screening at the Cemetery in order to minimise the visual impact of the nearby industrial units.</p>	DPES

7 Recommendations from Cabinet

Unreserved Item

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Page seconded, the motion that the recommendation of Cabinet held on 23 April 2013 contained in Minute 172 relating to the Finance Update, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

7.1 Accordingly.

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CHLDS

8 Appointments

The Leader of the Council reported that he had appointed the following Councillors to be members of the Cabinet with the following portfolios:

Individual Areas of Responsibility

Councillors

Strategic Overview, Customer
Advocacy, Regeneration and Equalities
Planning
Waste and Recycling
Corporate Services
Business, Economic Development and
Tourism
Health & Environment

J V S Page (Leader of the Council)
A T Jones
P L Franklin
A X Smith
R Blackman
I A Nicholson

The Leader of the Council then moved, and Councillor Jones seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report Nos 84/13 and 85/13 on pages 5 to 10 and 13 to 15 of Council Document B, be approved subject to the notification that Councillor Page had received from the Leader of the

UKIP Group that its seat on the Landport Bottom Management Committee had been offered to, and accepted by, Councillor O'Keeffe.

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

Resolved:

- 8.1** That it be noted that the following Councillors had been appointed as members of the Cabinet with the following portfolios:

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Individual Areas of Responsibility	Councillors
Strategic Overview, Customer Advocacy, Regeneration and Equalities	J V S Page (Leader of the Council)
Planning	A T Jones
Waste and Recycling	P L Franklin
Corporate Services	A X Smith
Business, Economic Development and Tourism	R Blackman
Health & Environment	I A Nicholson

- 8.2** That it be noted that, as a matter of law, the power to appoint the Deputy Leader rests with the Leader of the Council who had appointed Councillor R Blackman to that role;

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- 8.3** That the membership of Committees etc. for the municipal year 2013/2014, based on the political structure and the political balance in the Appendix to Report No 84/13 and taking account of the adjustments referred to in that Report, be as follows:

Proportionality is shown as Conservative – Liberal Democrat – UKIP:

Audit and Standards Committee

Membership 7 (4-3-0)

P L Franklin
J V Harris
E E J Russell
C Sugarman

I Eiloart (Chair)
M P Chartier
S J Gauntlett

(plus up to 3 co-opted, non-voting Town/Parish Council members – participation restricted to Standards matters)

Complaints Panel	This Panel comprises three councillors who have not had any direct involvement in the complaint.	
Devolution Committee	Membership 7 (4-3-0)	
J M Harrison-Hicks E C Merry A X Smith B M Warren	P F Gardiner D Gray C S Lambert	
Employment Committee	Membership 5 (3-2-0)	
E E J Russell (Chair) R Blackman A X Smith	C J Butler S J Gauntlett	
Licensing Committee	Membership 10 (5-4-1)	
J M Harrison-Hicks R Robertson C Sugarman B M Warren P Gander	J Stockdale (Chair) G R Amy C Butler S J Gauntlett	P A Howson
Planning Applications Committee	Membership 11 (5-5-1)	
S B Davy (Chair) S Adeniji J V Harris A T Jones H J F Sheppard	R Main (Vice-Chair) R E Allen A Dean J Stockdale P F Gardiner	P A Howson
Scrutiny Committee	Membership 11 (5-5-1)	
J M Harrison-Hicks I White J V Harris E C Merry E E J Russell	S J Osborne (Chair) A Dean P F Gardiner S J Gauntlett J Stockdale	D R Edmunds

- 8.4** That the following Sub-Committees/Working Groups be re-appointed in order to continue the business for which they were originally established:

Housing Working Party Membership 7 (4-3-0)

R K Maskell (Chair)	M P Chartier
P Gander	S J Osborne
E C Merry	S Saunders
S B Davy	

Constitution Working Party Membership 4 (3-1-0)

I A Nicholson (Chair)	I Eiloart
J V Harris	
J M Harrison-Hicks	

- 8.5** That the nominations for the appointment of Chairs, as indicated above, be approved and that the remaining Chairs be appointed at the first meetings of the bodies concerned;

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- 8.6** That the appointment of representatives to serve on outside and joint bodies be as follows:

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Outside Body (Annual appointment unless term of office/expiry date stated)	Representative(s)
3VA Board (Voluntary Action Lewes)	C R O'Keeffe
Action in Rural Sussex	H J F Sheppard
Age UK East Sussex Governing Body	J V Harris E E J Russell (sub)
Asham Literary Endowment Trust (3 year term 2011-2014)	M P Chartier
Chailey Common Nature Reserve Management Committee (2 reps)	S B Davy H J F Sheppard
Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Lewes & Seaford	J V S Page
Community Safety Partnership (2 reps)	A X Smith (Chair) S J Osborne
Community Transport for the Lewes Area Limited Management Committee	R Robertson

Outside Body (Annual appointment unless term of office/expiry date stated)	Representative(s)
Court of the University of Sussex	J V S Page Chief Executive
East Sussex Flood Risk Panel	A T Jones
East Sussex Gypsy and Travellers Forum (2 reps)	S B Davy I Eiloart
East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board	I A Nicholson
East Sussex Rural Partnership	I White
East Sussex Strategic Partnership	R Blackman
English Heritage – Heritage Champion	R E Allen
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	E C Merry
Lewes Conservation Area Advisory Group	M P Chartier J Stockdale (sub)
Lewes Joint Parking Board (2 reps)	R Blackman I Eiloart
Lewes Town Partnership	J Stockdale
Local Government Association: General Assembly	J V S Page
Rural Commission (2 reps)	P Gander (voting) S Osborne
Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	R E Allen
District Councils' Network	J M Harrison-Hicks
Newhaven Strategic Network	R Robertson
Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve Liaison Group	R Robertson
Rural Services Network/SPARSE	J V S Page
Seaford Community Partnership	S Adeniji
Seaford Head Nature Reserve Management Committee (2 reps)	I A Nicholson P L Franklin
South Downs National Park Authority (4 year term 2011-2015)	A T Jones
South East Employers Local Democracy and Accountability Network (2 reps)	P L Franklin E E J Russell
South East Employers & South East Regional Council	E E J Russell R Blackman (sub)
South East England Council	E C Merry

Outside Body (Annual appointment unless term of office/expiry date stated)	Representative(s)
Sussex Community Foundation Grants Committee (Lewes and District Flood and Disaster Relief Fund)	J V S Page
Sussex County Playing Fields Association	H J F Sheppard
Sussex Downs and Low Weald LEADER Local Action Group	H J F Sheppard
Sussex Police and Crime Panel	A X Smith
Tourism South East	R Robertson
Wave Trust Leisure Board	R Blackman

Joint Body (Annual appointment unless otherwise stated)	Proportionality (where appropriate) Con-LibDem-UKIP (see Report No 84/13)	Representative(s)
Housing Consultative Panel	4 (3 - 1 becomes 2 - 2 - 0, see paragraph 17 of Report No 84/13)	P Gander C Sugarman A Dean S Saunders (R K Maskell, Lead Councillor, Housing ex officio)
Landport Bottom Management Committee	4 (3 - 1 becomes 1 - 2 - 1, see paragraph 17 of Report No 84/13)	P Gander M P Chartier M A Cutress C R O'Keeffe
Planning User Group	3 (2 - 1 - 0)	A T Jones J V Harris P F Gardiner

(Note: Subsequent to the meeting it was established that, as a consequence of the changes made to the membership and portfolios of the Cabinet, it was necessary to make some changes to the Conservative group's appointments to the Audit and Standards Committee, the Housing Working Party and the Housing Consultative Panel as follows:

Audit and Standards Committee: P L Franklin to be deleted (as a member of the Cabinet cannot serve on that Committee) – replacement appointment to be advised;

Housing Working Party: R K Maskell (Chair) to be deleted – R Blackman (Chair) or I A Nicholson (Chair) to be inserted as relevant portfolio holder

dependant on the subject matter for consideration at each meeting; and

Housing Consultative Panel: R K Maskell, Lead Councillor, Housing ex officio to be deleted – I A Nicholson, Lead Councillor, Health and Environment ex officio to be inserted.)

9 Substitute Members

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, the motion that, in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4, all members of the Council be appointed to the “approved list” of members appointed to act as substitute members.

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

Resolved:

9.1 Accordingly.

10 St Mary’s Social Centre – Response to Petition

At its meeting on 27 February 2013, the Council had received a petition jointly from Mr Colin Reynolds, Chairman, St Mary’s Social Centre, Lewes, and Councillor Chartier. The petition had called for the Council to save St Mary’s Social Centre and Supporters Club from being sold for redevelopment.

The petition had contained 1,500 or more signatures and, therefore, in accordance with the Council’s Petitions Scheme, as set out in Part 6 of its Constitution, it was debated by the Council as an individual Agenda Item at this Annual Meeting.

The Chair of the Council introduced to the meeting Mr Reynolds who reminded the Council of the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures and outlined the uses to which the popular community facility was put.

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Bowers seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 86/13 relating to the response to the petition received at the Council meeting on 27 February 2013 in respect of the St Mary’s Social Centre, Lewes, be received and noted.

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

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Resolved:

10.1 Accordingly.

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11 Notices of Motion

(a) The Chair of the Council reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor O'Keeffe relating to the St Mary's Social Centre, Lewes.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor O'Keeffe moved, and Councillor Eiloart seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

"The Council recognises the enormous public support for the St Mary's social Centre at Christie Road, Lewes remaining in continuous use as a community centre, at a time when the economic climate means that any break in this use could render some or even all of its many community services and groups vulnerable, noting that this site does not cost the District Council anything to run, and brings in a receipt of £10,000 a year in rent.

In view of this the Council requests the Cabinet to agree to the removal of St Mary's Social Centre from the list of potential development sites within Lewes District."

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and it was

Resolved:

11.1 Accordingly.

CHPRE
(to note)

(b) The Chair of the Council reported that a Notice of Motion had been jointly submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillors Dean, Eiloart, Stockdale and himself (ie Councillor Chartier) relating to the St Mary's Social Centre, Lewes.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 and with the agreement of the co-signatories to the Notice of Motion, Councillor Eiloart moved, and Councillor Lambert seconded, a revised version of the Notice as follows:

"This Council recognises the important role played by the St Mary's Social Centre in Lewes, and the immense public support for it. In view of this, this Council requests that the Cabinet either (a) agree to the removal of St Mary's Social Centre from the list of potential development sites within Lewes District, or if that is not possible, then (b) make it a requirement of any contract with any development partner that St Mary's Social Centre is retained in its existing or improved form and enabled to function without interruption to the activities of either St Mary's Social Centre or St Mary's

Supporters Club."

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

Resolved:

11.2 Accordingly.

(Note: During the Council's consideration of the Notice of Motion referred to in (b) above, discussion was undertaken in respect of:

(i) the perception, by some people, that the site was likely to be developed in response to which the Leader of the Council stated that there was currently no commitment to any scheme for the site but that the opportunity was being taken to let potential partners arrive at suggestions which might improve use of the site and enhance community benefit. Any subsequent proposals would need to be considered and approved by Cabinet and would be the subject of a consultation process; and

(ii) the reasonable interpretation of the word "interruption" in the context of the activities of either St Mary's Social Centre or St Mary's Supporters Club during any future work which might be carried out at the site. It was acknowledged that any such work was likely to result in some level of interruption of the activities (it was highlighted that even the minor redecoration of an internal wall was likely to result in some level of interruption of the activities) but that any interruption would be kept to a minimum.).

12 Council Plan 2013 - 2014

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Groves seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 87/13 relating to the Council Plan 2013 - 2014, be received and adopted subject to the alteration of page 21 of Appendix A thereto, to indicate the new composition of Cabinet; that Councillor Blackman, not Councillor Jones, was Deputy Leader of the Council; and that Nilam Popat was the Corporate Head Property, Regeneration and Enterprise."

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

Resolved:

12.1 Accordingly.

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Perform
Officer

The meeting ended at 4.18pm

M P Chartier
Chair