



Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on Thursday, 18 July 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, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander; P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, S J Osborne, J V S Page, S Saunders, A X Smith, J Stockdale and B M Warren.

Apologies received:

Councillors M A Cutress, A Dean, D R Edmunds, D M Gray, R Main, R Robertson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, C Sugarman and I J White.

	Minutes	Action
39	Minutes	
	The Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 13 June 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
40	Declarations of Interest	
	Councillor Gauntlett declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 11 (Recommendations from Cabinet).	

41 To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive**(i) Chair of the Council's Engagements**

The Council received the list of the Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Annual Meeting of the Council held on 8 May 2013. The Chair of the Council thanked the Vice-Chair of the Council for attending some engagements on his behalf when he had been on holiday and for Chairing the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council on 13 June 2013.

(ii) Mumford and Sons – Gentlemen of the Road Stopover

Councillors were reminded that the two days Mumford and Sons, Gentlemen of the Road Stopover event was being held in Lewes on 19 and 20 July 2013. The Leader of the Council thanked the Council's Officers and others who had volunteered to assist at the event and drew Councillors attention to two leaflets that had been produced in respect of the event which detailed activities that would be taking place and a guide to car parking facilities, copies of which were made available for Councillors to take away with them after the meeting.

(iii) Councillor's Security Swipe Cards

The Chair reported that Councillor's security swipe cards had been circulated to them prior to the commencement of the meeting which enabled them to access the Council's offices at Southover House, Lewes.

(iv) Urgent Item

The Chair had agreed, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the Recommendation of the Cabinet at its meeting held on 11 July 2013, as set out in Minute No 32 relating to the Finance Update, which had been circulated to all members of the Council on 16 July 2013, be considered as a matter of urgency under Agenda Item 11, in order that the Council could take its decision based on the most recent information which was available.

42 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:

Questioner

Question/Response

Councillor Lambert

Question:

Would the Leader of the Council like to congratulate the Officers and Members of the Scrutiny Panel that had provided an excellent Report to the July 2013 meeting of Cabinet relating to the provision of affordable housing in urban areas?

The Report had resulted in such issue becoming a corporate priority and to a commitment to provide a minimum of 500 affordable units over five years.

Response:

The Leader of the Council responded that he did wish to congratulate the Officers and Members of the Scrutiny Panel that had provided that Report.

Scrutiny
and Cttee
Officer

Councillor Bowers

Question:

The July 2013 meeting of Cabinet had approved a public consultation exercise relating to Special Expenses.

Is the public going to be involved in such consultation and, if so, how?

Can the Leader of the Council assure the Council that, in instances in which some Council Tax payers were currently being charged twice for the provision of some services, the proposed measures would result in a reduction in Council Tax charges for those affected?

Response:

The consultation process had not yet been defined but was likely to include Town and Parish Council's in the District and the Council's Scrutiny Committee.

DF

Provisional indications were that, in instances in which residents had been charged twice for the provision of some services, Band D Council Tax bills were likely to be reduced by approximately £24.55 per annum. However, in instances where the Special Expense was incurred at a point of use, then the residents in such areas would experience an increase in their Council Tax bills.

DF

43 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Gardiner – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	<p>Residents of Ringmer had recently been involved with a local consultation with a developer in Ringmer from which the feedback that Councillor Gardiner had received from residents was that the developer appeared to want to ride ‘roughshod’ over the Council’s planning framework and the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Director of Planning and Environmental Services write to the developer of the Bishops Lane site in order to request that he does not submit his proposal until the Ringmer Neighbourhood Plan had been approved and that his proposal conforms to the format of that Plan?</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>43.1 That, in light of the date of the next meeting of Cabinet (ie 30 September 2013) to which such matter would normally be referred, the Director of Planning and Environmental Services be authorised to write such letter at the earliest opportunity and to circulate a copy thereof to all Members of the Council.</p>	<p>DPES</p> <p>DPES</p>
Councillor Gander – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	<p>Brighton and Hove Bus Company had confirmed that it had Bus Stops at The Yeomans and at Raystead. However, there were no Bus Stop signs at those locations and, therefore, some of their bus drivers did not stop at those locations.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Director of Planning and Environmental Services write to Brighton and Hove Bus Company and/or East Sussex County Council, as appropriate, in order to request that such signs be erected.</p>	DPES

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p>improve the Trust's facilities in Newhaven, some of which were in urgent need of upgrading, and part of it used in respect of dilapidation repairs.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>43.4 That, in light of the date of the next meeting of Cabinet (ie 30 September 2013) to which such matter would normally be referred, the Corporate Head – Property, Regeneration and Enterprise be authorised to prepare a response at the earliest opportunity and to circulate a copy thereof to all Members of the Council.</p>	CHPRE

44 Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members

Urgent Decisions taken by the Cabinet

In accordance with paragraph 17 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules, the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported that the Cabinet, at its meeting held on 11 July 2013, had agreed that Resolution 32.6 relating to authorising the Director of Finance to progress a Treasury Management opportunity, was urgent in order that Cabinet's response to the issue could be sent by the appropriate deadline date and, therefore, was not subject to the call-in procedure.

45 Recommendations from Cabinet

Unreserved Item

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Smith seconded, the motion that the recommendation of Cabinet held on 11 July 2013 contained in Minute 32 relating to the Finance Update, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

45.1 Accordingly.

DF

(Note: Councillor Gauntlett declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in Minute 32.5 of this item as he was a Trustee of the Lewes and Seaford Citizens Advice Bureau. However, Minute 32.5 was not subject to

consideration by the Council).

46 Updates to Constitution: Officers' Management Structure and Appointments Committee Remit

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 124/13 relating to updates to the Council's Constitution in respect of the Officers' Management Structure and the Appointments Committee remit, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

46.1 Accordingly.

CHLDS/
HDS

47 Membership of the Audit and Standards Committee

The Council was invited to note that Councillor E C Merry had replaced Councillor P L Franklin on the Audit and Standards Committee.

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

Resolved:

47.1 Accordingly.

CMT/A
Blanshard/
Z Downton

48 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies

Councillors provided feedback on meetings which they had attended as the Council's representatives on outside bodies as follows:

Councillor Outside Body

Councillor East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board
Nicholson

Councillor Nicholson reported details of three important issues that were to be considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Board that was scheduled to be held during the week commencing 22 July 2013, as follows:

- To assess the needs of the local population through the Joint Strategic Needs

CouncillorOutside Body

Assessment;

- Production of a Health and Wellbeing Strategy to inform the commissioning of health care and public health services in East Sussex; and
- Promotion of greater integration across health and social care.

The voting membership of the Board comprised four East Sussex County Councillors, 3 Officers and 4 Doctors however, none of the Councillors represented a Division that was within the District.

Councillor Nicholson indicated that he was available to members of the Council if they wished to discuss any issues that might be relevant to future meetings of the Board.

At next week's meeting, the Board was also scheduled to discuss, among other issues, the prospectus for Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford.

Councillor Nicholson felt that there might be a need for a change of culture in some areas of the National Health Service.

Councillor Nicholson felt that health and wellbeing were important functions for which the Council was represented and that the Council had responsibilities for some important preventative public health functions.

Resolved:

- 48.1** That the oral Report relating to the East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board be received and noted.

Councillor
EiloartLewes Joint Parking Board

The Board was a partnership between the Council and East Sussex County Council to discuss parking methods in Lewes. However, Councillor Eiloart felt that the County Council did not really regard the Council as a partner as it had recently organised a meeting of the Board at a time when neither of the Council's two representatives were able to attend. Therefore, a substitute representative had

CouncillorOutside Body

needed to attend the meeting.

Councillor Eiloart reported that details of the parking accounts had been tabled at the Board's meeting in January 2013 on the understanding that they would be discussed at the following meeting. However, at that following meeting, it had been reported that, as those accounts had been tabled in January 2013, they would not be discussed at the meeting.

The accounts had indicated that the cost of a review of on-street parking in Lewes had consumed more than two years worth of the surplus that had been generated from the operation of the parking scheme across a wider area than just Lewes.

Councillor Eiloart suggested that the Chairing of the Board's meetings might be undertaken alternately by Councillors from the Council and those from East Sussex County Council.

Resolved:

- 48.2** That the Corporate Head – Property, Regeneration and Enterprise be authorised to write to East Sussex County Council requesting it to ensure that meetings of the Board were arranged at times when the Council's representatives were able to attend and to request that meetings of the Board are Chaired alternately by Councillors from the Council and those from East Sussex County Council.

CHPRE

Councillor
GanderLandport Bottom Management Committee

Councillor Gander had recently attended a site visit and a meeting of the Committee at which it had been noted that, following the removal of ragwort from the site, sheep were being grazed to control grass growth.

There were examples of rare orchids and flowers growing on the land.

Sussex Archaeological Society had recently undertaken an archaeological dig at the site.

CouncillorOutside Body

The provision of car parking had been discussed for which, in 1998, a plan had been prepared.

Councillor Gander thanked the Council's Ranger for his work at the site and for continuing to raise the public profile of the land at Landport Bottom.

Resolved:

- 48.3** That the oral Report relating to the Landport Bottom Management Committee be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 3.02pm

M P Chartier
Chair