



Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the **Meeting of the Council** held in **The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes** on **Wednesday, 16 October 2013** at 2.30pm

Present:

Councillor I J White (Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M A Cutress, S B Davy, D R Edmunds, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, 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, 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, and B M Warren.

Apologies received:

Councillors M P Chartier, A Dean, P Gander and R K Maskell.

	Minutes	Action
55	Minutes The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18 July 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.	
56	To Receive any Announcements From the Chair of the Council, Leader of the Council, Members of the Cabinet or the Chief Executive (i) <u>Chair of the Council's Engagements</u> The Council received the list of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council's engagements carried out since the Meeting of the Council held on	

18 July 2013.

(ii) Long Service Awards to Officers

The Chair, on behalf of the Council, made Long Service Award presentations to Andy Bryce, Head of District Services, and Chris Wyer, Waste Quality Manager, in recognition of them each having completed 25 years service to the Council.

57 Petitions

The Chair received a petition from Jo Pettitt on behalf of Riverside Park Community Voice, Newhaven which contained 647 signatures. It called for the Council and East Sussex County Council to transfer the areas known as Riverside Park and Lewes Road Recreation Ground, Newhaven, to Newhaven Town Council.

Ms Pettitt addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures.

In response to a question from the Chair, Ms Pettitt stated that a similar petition would be presented to East Sussex County Council.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 12(a), the petition would be referred to a future meeting of Cabinet.

CHPRE

58 Written Questions from Councillors

Councillor O’Keeffe asked questions of the Cabinet Member for Health and Environment, Councillor Nicholson, relating to unspent funding for play areas and open spaces that had been derived from 106 planning agreements.

As the questions were rather detailed, they had been sent to Councillors in advance of the meeting in order to give them time to digest the content. Additionally, in light of the questions, a Briefing Note, a Projects Timetable and a List of Projects had been prepared for Councillors which had also been sent to them in advance of the meeting in order to give them time to digest the content. Copies of those documents were also made available to those attending the meeting (copies of which are contained in the Minute Book).

Oral replies to the questions were given at the meeting by Councillor Nicholson.

59 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:

QuestionerQuestion/Response

Councillor
Stockdale

Question:

The Conservatives had campaigned in 2011 that, if they formed the major party following that year's general election, they would not increase taxes. However, they now appeared to be doing so by the introduction, in some areas, of Special Expenses. Councillor Stockdale felt that such scheme should be postponed pending the outcome of comprehensive negotiations in respect of the devolution of assets.

He further felt that the proposal relating to Special Expenses was being rushed and experts had advised that the associated consultation questionnaire should be condemned as it was biased.

What confidence had the Leader of the Council got in getting a Special Expenses budget approved by the Council when the Conservative Group no longer formed the majority on the Council?

Response:

The Leader of the Council stated that, having the majority on the Council was not the issue as the Council operated a democratic system of decision making. The Council was consulting on the subject of Special Expenses and all members of the Council would have the opportunity to decide upon the merits of the results thereof.

Councillor Howson

Question:

How much had the new food waste bins cost across the District as Councillor Howson could not recall having made a decision for such expenditure?

QuestionerQuestion/ResponseResponse:

The Leader of the Council was unable to provide details of the cost of the bins whilst he was at the meeting. However, he reported that the associated funding had been provided by central government grant through a bidding process. Therefore, the bins had been provided at nil cost to the Lewes District taxpayer.

The Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling, Councillor Franklin, reported that the bins had been manufactured locally from recycled materials at minimal cost.

Councillor Lambert

Question:

Councillor Lambert reported that she understood that the webcasts of meetings of the Council did not appear on the Council's website.

Would the Leader of the Council please ensure that such issue was remedied so that the webcast of this meeting of the Council was available for viewing on the Council's website.

Response:

The Leader of the Council undertook to ensure that the webcast of this meeting of the Council was available for viewing on the Council's website.

CHLDS
(HDS)

The Chair reported that it was his understanding that the webcast of the previous meeting was available for viewing on the Council's website.

60 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Davy – Chailey and Wivelsfield Ward	<p>Chailey Heritage School was a world famous organisation that had been in existence for 100 years during which time some wonderful work had been undertaken.</p> <p>Leyden House had originally been purchased in order to give children from the Heritage, who did not go home at weekends or for holidays, the opportunity for a taste of a more relaxed life outside the Heritage. However, health and safety regulations and the standardisation of disabled accommodation had led to the closure of Leyden House which had since been sold and the proceeds from its sale had been awarded to six beneficiaries.</p> <p>The current Chair of the Council had visited the Heritage in 2013 and previous Chairs of the Council had also visited during their years' in office.</p> <p>Furthermore, Councillor Davy had recently attended a presentation event at the new Life Skills Centre.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That future Chair's of the Council continue to pay annual visits to Chailey Heritage School.</p>	CHLDS (HDS)
Councillor Stockdale – Lewes Bridge Ward	<p>Thomas Street, off the A26 road, Malling Street, Lewes, was a very narrow lane which had terraced houses on either side and did not have sufficient space for cars to turn around.</p> <p>When Caffyns had bought the buildings at the end of Thomas Street, it closed off the end of that Street which had previously been used as a through route for residents.</p> <p>Residents and ambulances currently had to back out of Thomas Street into the path of traffic on the A26 road in order to exit that Street.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Director of Planning and Environmental Services be requested to write to East Sussex County Council in order to establish whether or not a right of way existed over the Caffyns owned land at the end of Thomas Street and note the concerns</p>	DPES

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	of residents in respect of safety issues.	

61 Urgent Decisions Taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members

Urgent Decisions taken by the Leader of the Council

At the invitation of the Chair, the Head of Legal Services reported details of urgent decisions that had been taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members since the Meeting of the Council held on 18 July 2013, which were not subject to the call-in procedure as follows:

On 1 August 2013, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, had taken some exempt decisions relating to the purchase of a house for the Council's housing stock, details of which had been sent to Councillors. On that occasion, the Leader of the Council had decided that the decisions were urgent and, therefore, were not subject to the call-in procedure.

62 Recommendations from Cabinet

The Chair reported that, at its meeting on 30 September 2013, the Cabinet had made a Recommendation to the Council for its consideration which related to Minute No 41.1 in respect of Wave 2 of the City Deal process. Councillors were reminded that a note had been included in that Minute which indicated that the Recommendation would be considered by the Council at its meeting in either December 2013 or February 2014, whichever was appropriate, depending on the progress made on matters relating to the City Deal process.

63 Updates to Constitution: Responsibility for Functions and Localism Act 2011 Duties

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 173/13 relating to updates to the Council's Constitution in respect of the Responsibility for Functions and duties associated with the Localism Act 2011, be received and adopted subject to the inclusion of cross-references to the "Functions" shown underlined in the centre column of the section headed "5 Council Functions" in Appendix A on pages C17 to C22 to the Report to indicate that the appropriate details could be found on the relevant pages of the Constitution, and to the amendment of the word "Cabinet" to read "Executive" in the text set out in the column headed "LDC body" on the right

hand side of the table in Appendix B to the Report.

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

Resolved:

63.1 Accordingly.

CHLDS
(HDS)

64 Representative on Outside Body - Joint Portfolio Holders Strategic Planning Group

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Blackman seconded, the motion that the appointment of Councillor Tom Jones as the Council's representative on the Joint Portfolio Holders Strategic Planning Group, which was a new outside body, be confirmed.

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

Resolved:

64.1 Accordingly.

CHLDS
(HDS)

65 Notices of Motion

The Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Lambert relating to the installation of fire sprinkler systems in all new-build Council-owned buildings, consideration being given to the installation of domestic sprinkler systems in refurbished Council owned homes where the occupants were people with restricted mobility and to the promotion of the use of fire sprinklers and the encouragement of others to install them into any building where they were not otherwise required to be installed by Building Regulations or council Planning rules.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor Lambert moved, and Councillor Jones seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

“Background:

In the last 10 years, 57 people have died in fires in buildings in East Sussex, 8 of those in the Lewes District. All of these were potentially preventable if sprinklers had been installed in the building.

Fire sprinklers save lives, prevent injuries and reduce damage to buildings.

In short, they reduce the impact of fire in all respects. Sprinklers are inexpensive to install and are unobtrusive. Only those sprinklers close to the fire will operate and extinguish the fire. Rehousing is avoided and repairs are much quicker and considerably less expensive than if the fire had been allowed to grow and spread. Installing a sprinkler is like having a firefighter in every room.

It is often the less obvious impacts of fire that cause the most destruction to people's lives. Buildings can be rebuilt but in just a few minutes, a lifetime's accumulation of irreplaceable personal possessions may be destroyed. Childhood memories, photographs, contracts, certificates...

Sprinklers typically use 60 litres of water per minute to control a fire. This is between 1/25th and 1/100th of the water used by each fire service hose. In fact, sprinklers use even less water than this because they tackle the fire immediately, when it is still small. Smaller fires need much less water to control them. Houses which suffer major fires are seldom able to be lived in afterwards and are often demolished. Rooms protected by domestic sprinklers can usually be back in use within a few hours, and the rest of the house is usually unaffected

When a business suffers a fire, it is widely recognised that 85% of those businesses will never recover or will cease trading within 18 months. Sprinklers can protect a business and allow them to prosper. They protect firefighters, safeguard our heritage and reduce damage to the environment.

Sprinklers can also be used to compensate for a reduction in other fire safety features when a building is being designed. This creates greater design flexibilities for the design team. For example, if a building is sprinklered, it may be possible to reduce the number of staircases or extend the distance that people can travel to escape. The approximate cost of installing a domestic sprinkler in a new build 3-bedroom property is £1,500. In comparison, the cost of installing fire protection measures to meet Building Regulations is around £1,200 (fire doors, compartment wall etc.).

Domestic sprinklers are not expensive, costing typically less than 2% of the cost of an average new house, or about the cost of carpeting a house, and are designed to last at least 50 years.

Myths Squashed!

X Sprinklers do not 'false alarm' – they will only operate if there is an actual fire

X Only the sprinkler heads directly affected by the fire are triggered (normally four or less) – not the whole building, as often depicted in the movies

X The odds of winning the lottery are greater than the 16 million to one chance of a sprinkler malfunction – they are extremely reliable

Motion 1: Fire Sprinklers in New Council Buildings

Proposed By: Cllr Carolyn Lambert

Seconded By: Cllr Tom Jones

The Motion:

That Lewes District Council commits to install fire sprinklers in all new-build Council-owned buildings.

That should finances allow, Lewes District Council would consider installing domestic sprinkler systems in refurbished homes owned by the District Council where these are occupied by people with restricted mobility.

That this council will also actively promote the use of fire sprinklers and encourage others to install them into any building where they are not otherwise required to be installed by Building Regulations or council Planning rules.”

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

Resolved:

65.1 Accordingly.

CHHS/
DPES

66 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies

Councillor Nicholson provided feedback on a meeting which he had attended as the Council’s representative on the East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board as follows:

Councillor

Outside Body

Councillor
Nicholson

East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board

Councillor Nicholson reported details of a meeting of the East Sussex Health and Well-Being Board that he had attended on Tuesday, 15 October 2013 at which its composition had been revised in order that, on an annual, rotational, basis, two representatives of the five District and Borough Councils in East Sussex were on

CouncillorOutside Body

the Board. Three District Councils had each asked that they be represented in their own right, for which Councillor Nicholson was not in favour as, he felt, the Board might become cumbersome and potentially political and, therefore, might detract from the work which was provided by the health professionals who reported to the Board.

Additionally, the Board's meeting had been informed of progress on matters relating to improving facilities in each of the health professional's areas.

Resolved:

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

The meeting ended at 3.33pm

I J White
Chair