



## Meeting of the Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on Wednesday, 4 December 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, M A Cutress, 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.

	<b>Minutes</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>82</b>	<b>The Council's New Directors</b>  The Chair of the Council and the Leader of the Council, on behalf of the Council, welcomed the three new Directors namely: Nazeya Hussain (Director of Business Strategy and Development); Gillian Marston (Director of Service Delivery); and Julian Osgathorpe (Director of Corporate Services), and wished them a successful and enjoyable time at the Council.	
<b>83</b>	<b>Mr Lindsay Frost – Director of Planning and Environmental Services</b>  The Chair of the Council reported that the Director of Planning and Environmental Services, Lindsay Frost, was due to retire at the end of 2013 and, therefore, this was the last Council meeting that he was to attend.	

The Chair of the Council; the Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Jones; and the former Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Gardiner, paid tribute to the work that Mr Frost had undertaken during his time of employment by the Council and the legacy that he was leaving, following which Mr Frost gave a brief speech in response.

#### **84 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16 October 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

#### **85 Declarations of Interest**

Councillors Butler, Howson, Lambert, O’Keeffe and Sheppard declared their personal, non-prejudicial interests in Agenda Item 14 (Notices of Motion).

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

##### **(i) Urgent Items**

The Chair advised that he had agreed that, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 18 November 2013 and Report No 200/13 of the Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services entitled “Updates to Constitution”, which were circulated to all members of the Council on 29 November 2013 under cover of Council Document B, be considered as matters of urgency under Agenda Items 11 and 12 respectively in order that decisions thereon could be taken based on the most recent information which was available.

##### **(ii) Chair of the Council's Engagements**

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 16 October 2013.

#### **87 Petitions**

The Chair received a petition jointly from Councillor Catlin (Wischhusen) (Lewes Town Council) and Councillor O’Keeffe which contained in excess of 2000 signatures. It called for the Council and East Sussex County

Council to immediately change parking policy so that it included free parking for up to 30 minutes on School Hill, Lewes, from Monday through to Friday, in addition to free on and off-road parking on Saturday's in Central Lewes where practicable.

Councillor Catlin addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures. He reported that a copy of the petition had been presented to East Sussex County Council at its meeting on 3 December 2013.

The petition 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 would be debated by the Council at its next meeting on 26 February 2014 as an individual Agenda Item.

CHPRE

## 88 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  
Saunders

#### Question:

Would the Council consider re-introducing free car parking provision in Newhaven, and in other areas of the District, on the weeks approaching the forthcoming Christmas period in order to encourage use of the local shops and other businesses in the District, as had been implemented in recent years? Such provision could include free parking all day on Saturday's and after 4.00pm on weekdays.

A successful street market had recently been introduced in Newhaven but potential visitors thereto were being put-off attending the market, in-part, by the current level of car parking charges.

#### Response (by Councillor Blackman, Cabinet Member for Business, Economic Development and Tourism):

Free car parking was being introduced in Newhaven on Saturdays 14 and 21 December 2013. Councillor Blackman felt that, if free on-street and off-street parking was to be introduced at other times it was

QuestionerQuestion/Response

likely to result in chaos and there might be a reduction in visitors who used the car parks rather than an increase. Instead, consideration was being given to using the revenue that was raised from car parking charges on days when people wanted free parking to the overall benefit of the District as a whole for example, to publicise, on street banners, specific events in the District such as late night shopping nights etc.

## Councillor Dean

Question:

In light of the Government's announcement on Tuesday, 3 December 2013 relating to business rates, when, how and would the capping of such rates be implemented by the Council and was it likely to become Council policy in the near future?

Response (by Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services):

The detail relating to that announcement would be made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his Autumn Statement on Thursday, 5 December 2013, following which the Council would be able to evaluate what actions it needed to take.

DF

## Councillor Butler

Question:

How many apprenticeships had the Council recruited and how many had been secured by way of Section 106 negotiations following the introduction, by the Council, of the Local Apprenticeship and Enterprise Platform (LEAP) programme?

Response (by Councillor Blackman, Cabinet Member for Business, Economic Development and Tourism):

A review of the LEAP programme was scheduled to be undertaken in December 2013 following which, in the new year, details relating to the number of new apprenticeships and the business start-up figures would be known which would be used to inform the Council in respect of the most

QuestionerQuestion/Response

appropriate way to progress the programme.

**89 Ward Issues**

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Groves – Seaford West Ward	<p>A woman was recently killed in an accident on the A259 road at Bishopstone which was the seventh fatality in that area in the last nine years. The section of that road between Tidemills and Hill Rise included three road junctions and was considered to be very dangerous.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>That the Council write a letter to the Highways Department, East Sussex County Council, requesting that the speed limit on the section of the A259 road between Tidemills and Hill Rise be reduced to 40 miles per hour in order to make it safer for pedestrians to cross and safer for motorists to enter and exit the road junctions.</p>	DPES
Councillor Main – Newhaven Denton and Meeching Ward	<p>During 2014 commemoration events would be held in respect of the First World War for which Zap Arts was to undertake a production at Newhaven Fort.</p> <p>The charge to that organisation for its use of the Fort had been waived however, Meeching Amateur Dramatics was being charged in excess of £2,500 to stage a production at that venue.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>That councillors who represented Newhaven Denton and Meeching Ward be advised of the reason for the disparity which existed between the charges that were being levied to the above two organisations.</p>	CHPRE

**90 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 Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services reported details of urgent decisions that had been taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members since the Meeting of the Council held on 16 October 2013, which were not subject to the call-in procedure as follows:

On 25 October 2013, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Page, had taken some exempt (confidential) decisions relating to the purchase of a dwelling 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.

**91 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. The Chair further reported that, in the event, that Recommendation was scheduled to be considered by the Council at its meeting on 26 February 2014.

**Unreserved Item**

(a) The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 18 November 2013 contained in Minute 71 relating to the Finance Update, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**91.1** Accordingly.

**Reserved Item**

(b) The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 18 November 2013 contained in Minute 72 relating to Special Expenses, be

received and adopted.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17 as follows:

For the Motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, R Blackman, S B Davy, D R Edmunds, P L Franklin, P Gander, B W Groves, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, J V S Page, R Robertson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White (23).

Against the Motion:

Councillors G R Amy, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, M A Cutress, A Dean, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, D M Gray, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R Main, C R O’Keeffe, S J Osborne, S Saunders and J Stockdale (18).

Resolved:

**91.2** Accordingly.

*(Note: During the Council’s consideration of Minute 72, as referred to above, Council agreed to grant an extension of time to Councillor Smith, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, in respect of his speech to the Council).*

DF

**92 Updates to Constitution**

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 200/13 relating to updates to the Council’s Constitution, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**92.1** Accordingly.

CHLDS  
(HDS)

**93 Scrutiny at Lewes District Council – Annual Report 2012/2013**

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Osborne, moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, the motion that the Annual Report 2012/2013 in respect of Scrutiny at the Council, be received and noted.

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

Resolved:

**93.1** Accordingly.

#### **94 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 proposed closure of the Seaford Household Waste Site.

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

#### **“NOTICE OF MOTION REGARDING PROPOSED CLOSURE OF SEAFORD HOUSEHOLD WASTE SITE**

East Sussex County Council is carrying out a consultation on a service review of its Household Waste Recycling Sites (HWRS). The service review proposes to close three sites including the one in Seaford.

The County Council argues that it has built a brand new HWRS in Newhaven with excellent road access and capacity to take waste from both Newhaven and Seaford and their surrounding areas.

It states that the overwhelming majority of residents will still be within a 10-20 minute drive of their nearest site and that the proposals will provide an efficient network of HWRS across the county and will be consistent with their proposed aims of increasing re-cycling rates.

The proposals have been strongly opposed by residents, Seaford Town and District Councillors and County Councillor Carolyn Lambert. The main objections can be summarised as follows:

1. Closure of the HWRS at Seaford will lead to increased fly tipping, the cost of which will fall on Lewes District Council.
2. The site at Newhaven is already extremely busy and congested. During last summer, the HWRS at Newhaven had to close three times whereas the site at Seaford was able to remain open.
3. Increased road traffic to the HWRS at Newhaven will cause further disruption and queues at the site. The figures provided by ESCC show that the amount of waste being deposited at Newhaven if the Seaford site is closed will double.
4. There will be an environmental cost in the increased travelling time as well as costs to residents in terms of petrol and wear



on vehicles. Many people who use the HWRS in Seaford are elderly and/or on fixed incomes and some currently have to walk to the site. And it cannot be right for infrastructure planning to assume car dependence in the long term.

5. Seaford is the largest town in Lewes District and the population is increasing. It needs its own HWRS with adequate facilities.

### NOTICE OF MOTION

Lewes District Council will write to East Sussex County Council expressing its strong opposition to the proposed closure of the HWRS at Seaford. The letter expressing this opposition will call for the proposed closure to be rescinded, and that, if ESCC objects, that ESCC involve LDC in negotiations about disposing of household waste in Seaford.”

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

Resolved:

**94.1** Accordingly.

DPES

*(Note: Councillors Butler, Howson, Lambert, O’Keeffe and Sheppard declared their personal, non-prejudicial interests in this item as members of East Sussex County Council to which they had been elected and, therefore, were able to take part in the consideration, discussion and voting thereon).*

### 95 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies

Councillors provided feedback on meetings which they had attended as the Council’s representatives 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.

District and Borough Councils would continue to be represented on the Board with voting rights but would be on the basis of two such District/Borough Councils being represented annually in rotation. The representatives of

CouncillorOutside Body

the remaining District/Borough Councils could continue to attend meetings in order to observe and speak.

Councillor Nicholson felt that the Board was an important body upon which the Council was represented and would like to see some publicity given to the Board and the Council's connection to it, being included in District Link.

Councillor Nicholson invited Councillors who had issues that they wished to be raised at a meeting of the Board to bring such issues to his attention. The next meeting of the Board was scheduled to be held during the week commencing 9 December 2013.

Resolved:

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

Councillor  
JonesSouth Downs National Park Authority

Councillor Jones reported details of a meeting of the South Downs National Park Authority held on 3 December 2013 at which the final draft of the partnership management plan had been approved and could be viewed on that Authority's website.

Resolved:

- 95.2** That the oral Report relating to the South Downs National Park Authority be received and noted.

Councillor  
JonesThe Council's Local Plan - Duty to Co-Operate With  
Other Organisations

Councillor Jones reported on matters relating to the Council's Local Plan and the duty to co-operate which had become an important issue in successfully getting Local Plans through examination.

The Council was currently a member of the East Sussex Planning Member's Group and the Coastal, West

Councillor

Outside Body

Sussex and Brighton and Hove Strategic Statement Group and, subject to approval by the Cabinet at its meeting on 6 January 2014, would become a member of the West Sussex Joint Planning Board, all of which were important with regard to the Council's duty to co-operate.

Resolved:

- 95.3** That the oral Report relating to the Council's Local Plan and the Council's duty to co-operate with other organisations, be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 4.36pm

M P Chartier  
Chair