



Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on Wednesday, 26 February 2014 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.

Minutes

101 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2013 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

102 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, that Report No 41/14 of the Director of Finance entitled "Setting the Council Tax", which had been circulated to all members of the Council on 20 February 2014 under cover of Council Document C, and some amended appendices to that Report which had been circulated to all members of the Council at the meeting, be

Action

considered as matters of urgency under Agenda Item 12(iv) 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 of the Council's engagements carried out since the Meeting of the Council held on 4 December 2013.

103 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 Howson	<p><u>Question:</u> In the pay policy which is referred to in the Report entitled "Pay Policy Statement" (Agenda Item 13 at this meeting refers), the Council was using the National Joint Council Local Government Pay Scales with a 6% to 6.25% supplement for the cost of living in addition to which the Council had added 13 spinal points at the top of the scale.</p> <p>(a) How many other councils in the South East have deviated from the National Pay Scales? Councillor Howson was aware that East Sussex County Council had not?;</p> <p>(b) Where and when was such deviation introduced for the Council's 'other staff'?</p> <p>(c) How much did such changes make to the Council's pay bill?; and</p> <p>(d) If such pay scales no longer represented the National Joint Council published pay, how did the Council justify applying the national cost of living increases negotiated with the National Joint Council?</p>

Response (by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Page):

The issue relating to the Council's current pay scales was historic. As to the other technical questions, Councillor Page undertook to arrange for replies to be sent to Councillor Howson.

DCS

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
Councillor Butler	<p><u>Question:</u> At the Council meeting held on 4 December 2013, Councillor Butler had asked some questions relating to apprenticeships in respect of the introduction, by the Council, of the Local Apprenticeship and Enterprise Platform (LEAP) programme to which she had not yet received any answers. Could such answers please be sent to Councillor Butler?</p>	
	<p><u>Response (by Councillor Blackman):</u> A Report has been drafted in respect of LEAP which Councillor Blackman had not yet seen. However, he undertook to ensure that the information would be sent to Councillor Butler before the next Council meeting in May 2014.</p>	DBSD
Councillor Eiloart	<p><u>Question:</u> The Freedom of Information regulations required the Council to respond to questions from the public within 20 working days. Could such timescale be introduced in instances in which the Leader of the Council, or Members of the Cabinet, were unable to respond to Councillor's questions during the time set aside for Questions to the Leader of the Council at Council meetings?</p>	
	<p><u>Response (by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Page):</u> Councillor Page agreed that such timescale be introduced for questions asked during the time set aside for Questions to the Leader of the Council at Council meetings.</p>	CMT

104 Ward Issues

A Ward issue was raised by Councillor Adeniji on the following subject:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Adeniji – Seaford South Ward	<p>The area around Splash Point, Seaford, was damaged during the recent stormy weather following which the Council had cordoned-off the affected land as a safety measure.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council considers writing to the Crown Estate Commissioners to request that they contribute towards the cost of undertaking of an assessment of that damage.</p> <p><u>Resolved:</u></p> <p>That a letter be written to the Crown Estate Commissioners to request that they contribute towards the cost of undertaking an assessment of the damage which had been sustained at Splash Point, Seaford, during the recent stormy weather.</p>	ADCS

105 Urgent Decisions Taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet Members

Urgent Decision taken by the Cabinet

At the invitation of the Chair, the Assistant Director of Corporate Services reported that, at its meeting on 6 January 2014, Cabinet had taken a confidential decision which authorised the Director of Finance to progress the Treasury Management opportunity upon which he had updated Councillors at that meeting. Details of that decision had been sent to Councillors.

On that occasion, Cabinet had decided that the decision was urgent and, therefore, was not subject to the call-in procedure.

106 Recorded Vote on Budget and Council Tax Setting

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendation relating to a proposed change to Part 4 of the Council's Constitution in respect of the Council's Procedure Rules, with regard to a mandatory standing order under the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 which required that Recorded Votes be undertaken in respect of the Budget and the Setting of the Council Tax, as set out under Agenda Item No 11 of Council Document A, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

106.1 Accordingly.

ADCS
(HDS)

107 Recommendations from Cabinet

(i) Recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 September 2013 relating to City Deal (Wave 2)

The Chair of the Council invited the Council to note that the Recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 September 2013 relating to City Deal (Wave 2), was no longer to be considered by the Council as the requirement to create a joint committee in respect of the Deal, as referred to in that Recommendation, had subsequently been superseded by the Recommendation of the Cabinet at its meeting on 13 February 2014 to establish the Greater Brighton Economic Board. The text of the Recommendation from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 30 September 2013 was reproduced under Agenda Item No 12(i) in Council Document A.

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

Resolved:

107.2 Accordingly.

(ii) Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 January 2014 relating to:

- (a) Minute 107 - Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement;**
- (b) Minute 109 - University Technical College (UTC) Newhaven;**
- (c) Minute 112 - Fees and Charges; and**
- (d) Minute 116 - Meetings Timetable 2014/2015.**

Unreserved Items

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Page seconded, the motion that:

Minute 107 of the Cabinet entitled "Coastal West Sussex and Greater Brighton Local Strategic Statement";

Minute 109 entitled "University Technical College (UTC) Newhaven";

Minute 112 entitled "Fees and Charges"; and

Minute 116 entitled "Meetings Timetable 2014/2015",
be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

107.3 Accordingly.

DBSD/
ADCS/
DF

(iii) Budget Recommendations from Cabinet held on 13 February 2014

- (a) Minute 124 - Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2014/2015 to 2016/2017;**
- (b) Minute 125 - General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/2015;**
- (c) Minute 126 - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/2015; and**
- (d) Minute 127 - The Capital Programme 2013/2014 to 2016/2017.**

Reserved Items

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, the motion that Minute 124 of the Cabinet entitled "Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2014/2015 to 2016/2017"; be received and adopted.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, M P Chartier; 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'Keefe, 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 (40).

(Note: Councillor J L Carr had not yet arrived at this point of the meeting).

Resolved:

107.4 Accordingly:

DF

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, the motion that:

Minute 125 entitled "General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/2015";

Minute 126 entitled "Housing Revenue Account Budget 2014/2015";
and

Minute 127 entitled "The Capital Programme 2013/2014 to 2016/2017",

be received and adopted.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Smith, then delivered the Budget Speech, a copy of which is attached to these Minutes.

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Page seconded, the motion that Council do resolve itself into Committee in order to receive comments from the Assistant Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Finance relating to some proposed amendments to the above Recommendations which had been received from Councillors Osborne and Gardiner, details of which were reproduced under Agenda Item No 12(iii) in Council Document B.

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

Resolved:

107.5 Accordingly:

Council was in Committee at this point

In response to Councillors' questions, the Assistant Director of Corporate Services and the Director of Finance confirmed that the proposed amendments referred to above had been discussed with the Director of Finance, were properly constituted and were considered to be valid proposals as they did not add to the level of the base budget and proposed the use of finite reserves which were currently uncommitted.

Council came out of Committee at this point

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Eiloart seconded, the following amendments to the Capital Programme 2014/2015:

"1 That the Council maximises its borrowing headroom by the end of March 2015 to expand the capital programme for the express purpose of supporting the building of new affordable homes, and that it is ready for a first round bid for additional borrowing power to its local LEPs."; and

"2 That the Council commits to use all retained receipts from Right to Buy sales within three years of their receipt and to expand the capital programme to support the building of new affordable housing

accordingly.”

With the agreement of Council and of her seconder, Councillor Osborne agreed to the revision of the above text to read as follows:

“1 That the Council continues to maximise its borrowing.....”; and

“2 That the Council continues to use all retained.....”.

The revised amendments were put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Revised Amendments:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, 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 (41).

Resolved:

107.6 Accordingly.

DF

With the agreement of Council, Councillor Osborne moved a revised version of her amendment which was set out in Council Document B to the Council Agenda in respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/2015, as follows, which was seconded by Councillor Stockdale:

“That Officers investigate the proposition that Newhaven is the most suitable area to run a pilot and that the Council sets aside £250,000 from its Strategic Priority Fund, to fund introduction of a targeted Business Rates Discount Scheme in Newhaven, or another pilot area subject to Officers investigations, aimed at new business providing new employment opportunities.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors R E Allen, 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, S J Osborne, J V S Page, S Saunders and J Stockdale (19).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, 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, R Robertson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White (21).

Abstained:

Councillor C R O’Keeffe (1)

Resolved:

107.7 Accordingly.

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Gauntlett seconded, an amendment which was set out in Council Document B to the Council Agenda in respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/2015, as follows:

“That the first £50,000 from the second call on the receipt generated by the 49 sites Development Agreement is allocated to a Community Initiatives budget and the Scrutiny Committee proposes a scheme to Cabinet on how the initiative would be taken forward.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, 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 (41).

Resolved:

107.8 Accordingly.

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Saunders seconded, an amendment which was set out in Council Document B to the Council Agenda in respect of the General Fund Revenue Budget 2014/2015, as follows:

DF/ADCS
(Scrut &
Cttee Off)

“That £50,000 be set aside from the Strategic Priority Fund to help and support staff development and enhancement of their core competencies.”

With the agreement of Council and of her seconder, Councillor Osborne agreed to the revision of her amendment as follows:

“Whilst some money was already being used from the base budget, an additional £50,000 be set aside from the Strategic Priority Fund to help and support staff to expedite development and enhancement of their core competencies.”

The revised amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Revised Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, M A Cutress, S B Davy, A Dean, 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, 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 (39).

Against the Revised Amendment:

Councillor D R Edmunds (1).

Abstained:

P A Howson (1).

Resolved:

107.9 Accordingly.

DF/DCS

Councillor Gardiner moved, and Councillor Stockdale seconded, an amendment which was set out in Council Document B to the Council Agenda in respect of the General Fund Capital and Revenue Budgets 2014/2015, as follows:

“The Council sets aside

- i) a sum of £50,000 (including oncosts and operational budget) for a fixed term post of a Flood and Coastal Risk Engineer be set into the budget for each of the next two financial years period 2014-15 and 2015-16. This is to be funded from the budget for Service Priorities and the commitment to be reviewed in October 2015.

ii) a capital budget of £350,000 be allocated as the second call on capital receipts generated from the Council's 49 sites regeneration project. This is to be used for pump priming flooding and drainage projects. (Cabinet has already agreed that the first call is to repay the loan for the Agile Working project)

iii) A further capital budget of £100,000 from the same source for development with our adjacent authorities, of local measures to reduce the peak flow through the catchments in East Sussex and for the implementation of small schemes which fall outside the funding schemes of the EA but which can be demonstrated to have a valuable return for the people of the District

iv) A budget of £30,000 for investigation of vulnerability of business and residential property to wind and storm damage, to develop an action plan that business and residents can use to minimize damage to property. To be funded from the budget for Service Priorities

v) A sum of £30,000 to investigate the potential damage to infrastructure from slope failure, outside of failures affecting with roads and railways themselves. Again, to be funded from the budget for Service Priorities.

It is proposed that these funds be ringfenced for the proposed uses, and any unused allocation to be transferred into the following financial year. The capital budget would be activated upon the banking of receipts from the regeneration project."

With the agreement of Council and of his seconder, Councillor Gardiner agreed to the revision of his amendment as follows:

".....ii) a capital budget of £350,000 be allocated from the second call....."

The Chair of the Council moved the motion that Council do resolve itself into Committee in order to receive an explanation from the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance relating to calls upon the Council's Capital Receipts which might be affected in light of Councillor Gardiner's proposed revised amendment above.

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

Resolved:

107.10 Accordingly.

Council was in Committee at this point

The Chief Executive and the Director of Finance explained matters relating to calls upon the Council's Capital Receipts which might be affected in light of Councillor Gardiner's proposed revised amendment above.

Council came out of Committee at this point

The revised amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Revised Amendment:

Councillors R E Allen, G R Amy, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, M A Cutress, A Dean, D R Edmunds, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, D M Gray, A T Jones, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R Main, C R O’Keeffe, S J Osborne, J V S Page, S Saunders, H J F Sheppard and J Stockdale (23).

Against the Revised Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, S B Davy, P L Franklin, P Gander, B W Groves, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, R Robertson, E E J Russell, A X Smith, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White (17).

Abstained:

P A Howson (1).

Resolved:

107.11 Accordingly.

DF/DBSD
/DSD

At the request of the Chair of the Council, the Assistant Director of Corporate Services explained to Council matters relating to the Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules, as set out in Part 4 of the Council’s Constitution, in respect of decisions taken by Council relating to the budget.

Those of Councillor Osborne and Councillor Gardiner’s amendments which affected the budget, as set out in Appendix B to Report No 29/14 to Cabinet, could only be made as “in principle” decisions at today’s Council meeting. Those amendments were subject to a “cooling off” period of 5 working days. The rules in the Constitution were to ensure that budget amendments could not be made without prior notice at Council in the absence of proper assessment and without advice from finance officers. However, that was not the case with the above amendments, all of which had been subject to detailed discussion with the Director of Finance before the meeting. Nevertheless, the Council was required to follow its procedures as set out in the Constitution.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Substantive Motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, 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 (41).

Resolved:

107.12 Accordingly.

CMT

(iv) Adoption of a Formal Resolution for the Council Tax for the Year Ending 31 March 2015

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Smith seconded, the motion that the Council, having considered the financial Reports with the Agenda, and the information contained in the draft Council Tax Resolution, approves the Lewes District Council General Fund Council Tax Requirement of £5,967,150 for 2014/2015 and the resultant band D tax of £172.11 as set out in Appendices A and E to Report No 41/14, as amended by the revisions which had been circulated to Councillors at the meeting (a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book) and now adopts the formal Resolution for the Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2015, in the terms set out in the attached version of Appendix G to that Report which is appended to these Minutes.

(Note: For clarification, Appendices A, B and F to Report No 41/14 have been amended by the Director of Finance to reflect the above decisions of Council. Copies of those amended Appendices are also appended to these Minutes).

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 as follows:

For the Motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, 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 (41).

Resolved:

107.13 Accordingly.

DF

The meeting was adjourned for 10 minutes at this point

**(v) Remaining Recommendations from Cabinet Held on
13 February 2014**

Minute 129 – Greater Brighton City Deal

Unreserved Item

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 13 February 2014 contained in Minute 129 relating to the Greater Brighton City Deal, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

107.14 Accordingly.

DBSD/CE
/DCS

108 Pay Policy Statement

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Smith, moved, and Councillor Page seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 42/14 relating to the Pay Policy Statement, 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, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, S B Davy, A Dean, P L Franklin, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, B W Groves, J V Harris, A T Jones, R K Maskell, E C Merry, S J Osborne, J V S Page, R Robertson, E E J Russell, S Saunders, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, J Stockdale, B M Warren and I J White (28).

Against the Motion:

Councillors D R Edmunds, P Gander, D M Gray and P A Howson (4).

Abstained:

Councillors M A Cutress, I Eiloart, J M Harrison-Hicks, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R Main, I A Nicholson, C R O’Keeffe and C Sugarman (9).

Resolved:

108.1 Accordingly.

DCS

109 Notices of Motion

(a) The Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Lambert relating to green waste collection.

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

“GREEN WASTE COLLECTION

East Sussex County Council Cabinet took the decision at their meeting on 28 January 2014 to close the Seaford Household Waste Re-cycling Site four days a week.

The decision was made on financial grounds despite intense public opposition, including the presentation of a petition signed by over 10,000 residents.

Concerns raised by residents included the probability of huge queues at both Newhaven and Seaford Household Waste Sites, additional fly tipping, environmental costs of increased pollution not to mention additional wear and tear on the County’s roads.

There is particular concern about the impact on Newhaven, which perhaps can now be described as the Rubbish Capital of East Sussex.

Notice of Motion

Given the concerns outlined above, this Notice of Motion proposes that Lewes District Council institute a green waste collection for Seaford to take effect from the date of the proposed closure of the tip four days a week.”

With the agreement of Council and of her seconder, Councillor Lambert agreed to the revision of her Notice of Motion by the deletion of the words “to take effect from the date of the proposed closure of the tip four days a week” and that the Notice, as revised, be referred to Cabinet for further consideration.

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

Resolved:

109.1 Accordingly.

DSD

(b) The Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Edmunds relating to car parking charges and periods of maximum stay at some car parks.

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

**“CHARGING OF CAR PARKING FEES IN OFF ROAD CAR PARKS
ACROSS LEWES DISTRICT**

It is widely acknowledged that despite a small upturn in the general economy of this country, household budgets are increasingly being squeezed by the cost of living crisis. According to the Office for National Statistics, in real terms, wages peaked in 2009 and have not recovered since.

As a council, we have a duty to support the local economy in any way that we can. We have recognised the need for Newhaven to be nurtured in particular, but shops on Lewes high street also remain empty, and at the top end of town a number of shop fronts have been converted to residential use over the last few years. Unfortunately our options are limited. We cannot set local business rates, for example. One of the options that *is* open to us is the removal of car parking charges, encouraging people to visit our towns and engage with local businesses.

The government has recognised the negative relationship between car parking charges and high street revenue. In a document entitled *High Streets at the Heart of Our Communities – the Government’s Response to the Mary Portas Review* by the Department of Communities and Local Government, recommendation #9 was: “Local areas should implement free controlled parking schemes that work for their town centres and we should have a new parking league table.” (p12)

And in its evidence to the Transport Committee in March 2013, the Department of Transport said “The Government recognises that parking charges can have a real impact on the success of the high street. We encourage local authorities to look closely at their parking provisions and charges, ensuring they deliver the best outcomes locally. To this end, Ministers from the Department for Communities and Local Government have ... changed a policy inhibiting competition between council areas to one which says parking charges should not undermine the vitality of town centres.”

The purpose of charging for car parking is not to eliminate congestion – only double yellow lines can do that. Rather, it is to regulate traffic and ensure that commuters don’t clog up parking spaces. But there are other ways to achieve the same outcome. Simply time limiting the car parks will have the same effect. Indeed, our car parks are already time limited according to

proximity to the town centre. This is a much more effective way of ensuring that car parking spaces turn over regularly, whilst still encouraging people to visit our towns.

It also has the added effect of levelling the playing field between small retailers in our towns and the larger corporate retailers. Currently, the only free parking to be found in Lewes is at the supermarkets. Although some people may use the supermarkets' car parks without shopping in store, the overall effect is inevitably that trade is pulled away from the high street, and into those supermarkets.

The current scheme is also deeply unpopular. Since the introduction of car parking charges in Lewes town, over 200 acts of vandalism have been carried out on payment machines, and time and time again the people of the District have voiced their opposition to our current payments system in surveys and petitions. It is our role as councillors to listen to the people of Lewes District.

As stated above, the government wishes to see competition between local authorities on car parking charges. Our direct neighbour, Wealden District Council, does not charge for parking in its (approximately) 2,500 spaces across 42 car parks. Instead, they have a team of three Community Officers, one part time admin post, and 40% of a Senior Officer post regulating car parking, which is time limited. Penalties for over-staying recoup some of the costs, and are issued using an in-house system.

Although some revenue will continue to come in in the form of fines for overstaying in time limited car parks, I have purposely not set out a study of the costs of this scheme, and how they can be recuperated. That is up to our cabinet members to decide, should this motion be passed. Rather, this motion is intended to be a statement of intent: that this council will prioritise making car parking free across Lewes District.

Therefore I propose the following motion:

- a) That this council commit to ending all charges for off-road car-parking across Lewes District by the end of this Council Term, that is, by May 2015.
- b) That the car parks in the District which had their maximum stay reduced from 72 hours reduced to 10 or 24 hours in 2012, be restored to a 72 hour maximum stay.
- c) That this council write to East Sussex County Council to ask them to consider either abolishing on-road car parking charges, or, at the very least, making the first hour of parking free on-road."

Councillor Eiloart moved, and Councillor Jones seconded, an amendment that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Scrutiny Committee for further consideration.

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

Resolved:

109.2 Accordingly.

DSD

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

Resolved:

109.3 Accordingly.

DSD

110 Announcement from the Leader of the Council – Councillor Page

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Page gave a speech relating to, among others, issues that had been achieved by the Council during the time that he had been Leader of the Council following which he announced that, with immediate effect, he had resigned from that position.

Following Councillor Page's announcement, Councillor Jones proposed a vote of thanks in recognition of the work that Councillor Page had undertaken during his time as Leader of the Council.

Councillors Gardiner and Adeniji also paid tribute to Councillor Page.

Resolved:

110.1 That the resignation of Councillor Page from his position as Leader of the Council, be received and noted.

111 Election of Leader of the Council

Councillor Gardiner nominated, and Councillor Gauntlett seconded, the motion that Councillor Sarah Osborne be elected Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet following which they delivered speeches in support of Councillor Osborne.

The Chair of the Council requested any further nominations for the election of Leader of the Council, who would also be the Chair of Cabinet.

Councillor Nicholson nominated, and Councillor Jones, seconded, the motion that Councillor Rob Blackman be elected Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet following which they delivered speeches in support of Councillor Blackman.

The nominations were put to the meeting in accordance with the multiple round Runoff Voting procedure for the election of the Leader of the Council, which was agreed by the Council at its meeting held on 27 April 2011. When the nominations were put to the meeting, the vote thereon was

recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 17 as follows:

Votes in Favour of Councillor Sarah Osborne Being Elected Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet:

Councillors R E Allen, 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, S J Osborne, J V S Page, S Saunders and J Stockdale (19).

Votes in Favour of Councillor Rob Blackman Being Elected Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet:

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, S B Davy, 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, R Robertson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White (20).

Abstained:

Councillors D R Edmunds and C R O’Keeffe (2).

Resolved:

- 111.1** That, having received more than 50% of the total number of votes cast, Councillor Rob Blackman be elected Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet (NB In accordance with the Appendix to the Council Procedure Rules relating to the Voting Procedure for Electing the Leader of the Council, Abstentions did not count as votes cast).

112 Announcement by the new Leader of the Council

The new Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, Councillor Blackman, delivered a speech of acceptance of his new position during which he acknowledged the high level of talent which existed among Councillors with whom he looked forward to working to the overall benefit of the District.

Resolved:

- 112.1** That the acceptance speech of Councillor Blackman in his new position as Leader of the Council and Chair of Cabinet, be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 6.24pm.