



## Meeting of the Council

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on Wednesday, 15 October 2014 at 2.30pm**

### **Present:**

Councillor I A Nicholson (Chair)

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, P L Franklin, P Gander, S J Gauntlett, B W Groves, J M Harrison-Hicks, J N MacCleary, R K Maskell, E C Merry, C R O'Keeffe, S J Osborne, R Robertson, E E J Russell, S Saunders, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, J Stockdale, C Sugarman and I J White.

### **Apologies received:**

Councillors J L Carr, D R Edmunds, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, D M Gray, J V Harris, P A Howson, C S Lambert, R Main and B M Warren.

## Minutes

### **96 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 17 July 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **97 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Stockdale declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 8 (Questions to the Leader of the Council).

**Action**

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

(i) Former Councillor Ralph Taylor

The Chair reported the death of former Councillor Ralph Taylor who had been elected in Seaford Central Ward to serve on the Council from 2003 until 2007. He was particularly remembered for being associated with the Peace Garden that was located in Seaford.

The Council then held a period of silence as a mark of respect for the life of former Councillor Taylor.

(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 17 July 2014.

**99 Petitions**

The Chair received a petition from Councillor Catlin of Lewes Town Council, Councillor O'Keeffe and Jackie Bishop, Churchwarden of St Anne's Church, Lewes, which contained 1503 signatures from both on-line and paper based petitions. It requested the Council to re-open and maintain the public toilets on Western Road, Lewes, as they were a much appreciated and needed public facility that were used by local residents and visitors to Lewes.

Councillor Catlin addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures.

As the petition contained 1,500 or more signatures, 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 a future meeting as an individual Agenda Item.

DSD

**100 Questions to the Leader of the Council**

Questioner      Question/Response

Councillor Gauntlett      Question:  
Following the introduction of reduced opening hours at the Seaford Household Waste Recycling Site, some residents of Seaford were wondering whether or not a kerbside green waste collection service could be introduced in that town in order to assist those residents who were currently unable to recycle their green waste.

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What progress had been made in respect of that issue and

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<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>
	<p>what action did the Leader of the Council intend to take in respect thereof?</p> <p><u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> The matter was being considered as a District-wide, paid or non-paid service, as part of the Council's overall Waste Strategy.</p>
Councillor Stockdale	<p><u>Question:</u> East Sussex County Council had established a Scrutiny Review Board in order to look at the process that had been followed in awarding a preferred bidder status in respect of the St Anne's School site, Lewes. The site was part of a larger site, together with County Hall, which was identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment as being able to deliver 100 units of housing in Lewes.</p> <p>The Council had identified sites which met just 53% of the housing demand and did not currently have a five year housing supply that obliged the Planning Applications Committee to consider approving planning applications for sites that would not otherwise be approved.</p> <p>Did the Council intend to make a submission to East Sussex County Council's Review Board on behalf of the planning department or the housing department about the use of the School site?</p> <p><u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> Councillor Blackman believed that the Review Board had been established in order to determine whether or not the decision to award the contract was a fair one. There had been several bidders who had been interested in the site.</p> <p>Councillor Blackman believed that, as the decision had been taken to award the contract to someone, there was nothing more that the Council could do in respect thereof as, he felt, that would be interfering with the process which had been put in place by East Sussex County Council.</p>

*(Note: Councillor Stockdale declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item as he was a former Trustee of the Lewes Community Land Trust).*

## 101 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>There had been some road traffic accidents on the Bishopstone Estate which had been caused as a result of motorists parking their vehicles at the junctions of Bishopstone Road and Marine Drive. Furthermore, there were no white lines on Marine Drive so as to direct motorists around bends in the road etc.</p> <p>Additionally, when vehicles are parked on both sides of Marine Drive, there was insufficient space for the local bus to pass which meant that people needed to walk for a quarter of a mile in order to use the bus service.</p> <p>Councillor Groves had taken part in two meetings with representatives of East Sussex County Council's Highway's Department following which no action had been taken to improve road safety in the vicinity.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Officers be requested to write to Officers at the Highways Department, East Sussex County Council, in order to request that action be taken to improve road safety in the vicinity of the junctions of Bishopstone Road and Marine Drive, Seaford.</p>	DSD
Councillor Gander – Ouse Valley and Ringmer Ward	<p>There was a problem with motorists parking their vehicles over the disabled person's crossing on the corner of the shopping precinct in Ringmer.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Officers be requested to write to the Highways Department, East Sussex County Council in order to request that suitable "No Parking" signage be installed at the site and that possibly a yellow triangle be installed on the pavement so as to make it clear to motorists that they must not park their vehicles across the crossing, as the existing double yellow road markings were not clearly visible to all motorists.</p>	DSD



**102 Recommendations from Cabinet****Unreserved Items**

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 29 September 2014 contained in Minute 29 relating to the Corporate Services Review and Minute 33 relating to the Members' Allowances Scheme – Independent Remuneration Panel, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**102.1** Accordingly.

DCS/  
ADCS  
(HDS)

**103 Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2013/14 and Work Programme 2014/15**

The Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Saunders seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 148/14, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**103.1** Accordingly.

DBSD

**104 Review of Polling Place for Streat Parish Electors**

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor White seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 149/14, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**104.1** Accordingly.

ADCS

**105 Update to Constitution: Provision for Officers to Speak at Full Council Meetings**

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 150/14, be received and adopted.

Councillor Merry moved, and Councillor Blackman seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That the text set out in in paragraph 8 (Officers Speaking”) to Appendix A to the Report be amended to read:

‘No officer may be called upon to speak at Council meetings, without the consent of the Chair of the Council. However, with such consent, an officer may contribute by way of answers to a question to clarify a point or to alert Council to factual inaccuracies in any report. Directors, together with officers holding statutory positions, shall not be prevented from addressing the Council where they see fit to do so and so far as they act within the law.’”

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Saunders seconded, an amendment to the amendment (of Councillors Merry and Blackman) as follows:

“That the first sentence of the amendment (of Councillors Merry and Blackman) be amended to read ‘No officer may be called upon to speak at Council meetings, without the consent of the Chair of the Council and/or Head of Paid Service.’”

**With the agreement of Council, the meeting was adjourned for approximately ten minutes at this point so as to enable informal discussion in respect of the above amendments.**

The amendment (of Councillors Osborne and Saunders) to the amendment (of Councillors Merry and Blackman) was put to the meeting, Declared Not Carried.

Councillor O’Keeffe moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, an amendment to the amendment (of Councillors Merry and Blackman) as follows:

“That the start of the third sentence of the amendment (of Councillors Merry and Blackman) be amended to read ‘With the consent of the Chair, Directors, together with officers holding.....’”

The amendment (of Councillors O’Keeffe and Robertson) to the amendment (of Councillors Merry and Blackman) was put to the meeting, Declared Carried.

The substantive amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried.

Resolved:

**105.1** Accordingly.

For clarification, the text of the agreed Resolution of the Council was as follows:

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“1 That the change to Part 4 - Rules of Procedure - Council Procedure

ADCS

Rules, as set out below, be approved;

### **'8 Officers Speaking**

No officer may be called upon to speak at Council meetings, without the consent of the Chair of the Council. However, with such consent, an officer may contribute by way of answers to a question to clarify a point or to alert Council to factual inaccuracies in any report. With the consent of the Chair, Directors, together with officers holding statutory positions, shall not be prevented from addressing the Council where they see fit to do so and so far as they act within the law.'; and

2 That the Assistant Director of Corporate Services updates the Constitution to reflect the change set out above."

### **106 Change to Membership of Planning Applications Committee**

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 151/14, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**106.1** Accordingly.

ADCS

The meeting ended at 3.48pm.

I A Nicholson  
Chair