



## Meeting of the Council

**Minutes** of the **Meeting of the Council** held in **The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes** on **Wednesday, 3 December 2014** at 2.30pm

### **Present:**

Councillor I A Nicholson (Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, M P Chartier, S B Davy, D R Edmunds, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, D M Gray, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R K Maskell, E C Merry, 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.

### **Apologies received:**

Councillors C J Butler, J L Carr, A Dean, B W Groves, A T Jones and R Main.

## Minutes

### **107 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15 October 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

### **108 Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Stockdale declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 9 (Ward Issues).

## Action

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

## 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 15 October 2014.

The Chair reported details of an additional engagement which he had undertaken following the preparation of the list of engagements namely that, on Wednesday 19 November 2014, he had attended St Peter & St James Hospice and Continuing Care Centre in North Chailey where he had welcomed His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester for the official opening of the new wing.

# 110 Questions to the Leader of the Council

## Questioner

## Question/Response

Councillor  
Adeniji

### Question:

Many District Councils had joined forces with the national environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy in a bid to reduce dog fouling in key problem areas of their towns and cities. The campaign involved a series of poster campaigns.

The campaign had been proven to make a difference and encouraged the minority of dog owners who did not pick up after their pets to do the right thing.

Could the Leader of the Council indicate if the Council was aware of the scheme and if it intended to join the 'We are watching you' campaign?

### Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):

Councillor Blackman indicated that the scheme looked like a great idea and built on the work that the Council had been doing to highlight the problem which included spraying dog faeces with fluorescent paint. Councillor Blackman would ask the Officers to consider the scheme and report to Councillors accordingly.

DSD

Councillor  
Lambert

### Question:

Following the recent decision by the Planning Inspector relating to the McCarthy and Stone development site in Seaford, the provision of some affordable housing units on the site was not going to be undertaken.

Was there any further action which the Council could take to encourage McCarthy and Stone to provide the

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
	affordable housing on the site for which it had been granted Planning Permission?	
	<u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> The Council was continuing to discuss the possibilities for such provision with McCarthy and Stone for which Councillors would shortly be sent a position statement.	ADCS
Councillor Osborne	<u>Question:</u> Would the Leader of the Council please join Councillor Osborne in thanking the Officers for their continued hard work and acknowledge that they go “the extra mile” to help the residents and visitors to the District? Would the Leader also agree that they do so in tough economic times and that the Council should lead by example and be a “Living Wage Council”?	
	<u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> Councillor Blackman acknowledged that the Officers go “the extra mile” in undertaking their work and thanked them for doing so. Councillor Blackman suggested that he would discuss the issue of the living wage with Councillor Osborne and Officers in order to investigate what action could be taken in respect thereof.	DCS

## 111 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor O’Keeffe – Lewes Priory Ward	<p>Legionella had been identified in the changing rooms at the Stanley Turner Recreation Ground which were closed at the beginning of November 2014. It was taking quite a while to resolve that difficult problem.</p> <p>Users of that facility believed that there were other solutions which had not yet been fully investigated.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council discuss with the users of the above facility to consider whether there was a better and quicker solution to resolve the problem.</p>	DSD



<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	<p>Peacehaven Town Council was including an article in its town magazine and enews which explained the situation.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council be requested to return the three dog waste bins which it had removed and which belonged to Peacehaven Town Council.</p>	DSD

*Councillor Stockdale declared his personal, non-prejudicial interest in this item as he was a member of Lewes Rugby Football Club which used the Stanley Turner Recreation Ground and, therefore, was able to take part in the discussion thereon).*

## 112 Recommendations from Cabinet

### Unreserved Items

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 20 November 2014 contained in Minute 42 relating to the Finance Update and Minute 45 relating to the Procurement of New Service Delivery Model Technology and Consultancy Services, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**112.1** Accordingly.

### Reserved Item

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Harrison-Hicks seconded, the motion that the recommendation of Cabinet held on 20 November 2014 contained in Minute 44 relating to Photovoltaic (PV) Panels to Housing and Other Properties, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**112.2** Accordingly.

DF/Trans  
Mgr

DSD

**113 Notices of Motion**

The Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Gardiner relating to tax avoidance by some multinational companies.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13 and with the agreement of Council, Councillor Gardiner moved, and Councillor Osborne seconded, a slightly revised version of the Notice of Motion to that which was circulated with the Agenda papers as follows (the revision related to the addition of a set of brackets around the words “on multinational corporate tax avoidance”):

**“Background**

While many ordinary people face falling household income and rising costs of living, some multinational companies are avoiding billions of pounds of tax from a tax system that fails to make them pay their fair share. Local governments in developing countries and the UK alike would benefit from a fairer tax system where multinational companies pay their fair share, enabling authorities around the world to provide quality public services. The UK government must listen to the strength of public feeling and act to end the injustice of tax dodging by large multinational companies, in developing countries and the UK.

**Motion**

This council resolves to write to the UK government:

welcoming its crack-down on UK tax avoidance, which includes measures such as a general anti-avoidance rule, capping income tax reliefs, and reducing annual tax free pension contributions from £250,000 to £40,000.

further welcoming the UK government’s role in the OECD drive to introduce country by country reporting, and transfer pricing documentation, and exchange of information on taxation.

and urging the government to do all that it can to accelerate international co-operation (on multinational corporate tax avoidance) through the European Union, the OECD and other international bodies.

and further, to write to the President of the European Commission, and the chair of the European Union’s Committee on Economic and Monetary Affairs urging them to treat the prevention of corporate tax avoidance as a priority during the current session.”

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

“That the words ‘and further welcoming today’s Autumn Statement announcement of a twenty-five percent tax on profits transferred overseas’ be inserted as an additional paragraph following the paragraph which began

with the words ‘further welcoming the UK government’s role.....’”

The amended motion was put to the meeting and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18 as follows:

For the amended motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, G R Amy, R Blackman, C A Bowers, M P Chartier, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, D M Gray, J V Harris, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, 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, J Stockdale and B M Warren (25).

Against the amended motion:

Councillors D R Edmunds, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, R K Maskell, A X Smith, C Sugarman and I J White (7).

Abstained:

Councillors S B Davy and H J F Sheppard (2).

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

Resolved:

**113.1** Accordingly.

DF

**114 Change to Membership of Planning Applications Committee and Scrutiny Committee**

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Davy seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 170/14, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**114.1** Accordingly.

ADCS

**115 Right to Buy Sales and Lease Extensions - Delegated Powers**

The Lead Councillor for Stakeholder Improvement, Councillor Howson moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in Report No 171/14, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**115.1** Accordingly.

ADCS

The meeting ended at 3.16pm.

I A Nicholson  
Chair