



Meeting of the Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on Wednesday, 25 February 2015 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, J L Carr, M P Chartier, S B Davy, A Dean, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, 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, 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, B M Warren and I J White.

Apologies received:

Councillors M A Cutress and D M Gray

Minutes

122 Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 3 December 2014 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

123 Declarations of Interest

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, A Dean, J M Harrison-Hicks, A T Jones, R K Maskell, E C Merry, C R O'Keeffe, S Saunders and B M Warren declared their personal, prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 12(ii) (Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 12 February 2015 in respect of the financial matters leading up to the setting of the

Action

Council Tax).

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

(i) A Meeting of the Trustees of the Stanley Turner Recreation Ground Trust

The Chair reminded Councillors that, immediately following this Council Meeting, there would be a meeting of the Trustees of the Stanley Turner Recreation Ground Trust of which all Members of the Council were Trustees.

(ii) Unsung Hero's event at Newhaven Fort - 11 April 2015

The Chair reported that, on 11 April 2015, he would be hosting an Unsung Hero's event at Newhaven Fort which was aimed at celebrating those people in the District who volunteered their services for the overall benefit of the local community. He was seeking details from Members of the Council of people they wished to nominate to attend the event at which the Council could show its appreciation for their work. If Councillors wished to submit details of a nomination, they were asked to speak with the Chair at the end of the meeting of the Trustees of the Stanley Turner Recreation Ground Trust or contact the Council's Civic and Member Services Officer, Caroline Hanlon, at Southover House, Lewes.

(iii) Retirement of John Magness and Philip Pople

The Chair reported that the Council's Director of Finance, John Magness; and Philip Pople, who had helped to ensure that the Council's civic events had run smoothly at Lewes House and Lewes Town Hall, were both retiring shortly for which a retirement reception was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, 4 March 2015. Jointly they had worked in local government for some 61 years. Tomorrow was Mr Magness' final working day. Philip Pople was due to retire at the end of March having completed 37 years' service with the Council.

The Chair the paid tribute to John Magness and Philip Pople on behalf of the Council and thanked them for all that they had achieved for the Council. The Council then extended its appreciation for the work which had been undertaken by Mr Magness and Mr Pople.

(iv) 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 3 December 2014.

(v) Speech by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Blackman

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Blackman, reported details of the Council's achievements over the period of the current administration which included prioritising partnership through action with, among others, Eastbourne Borough Council; Sussex Police and East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service; the Council's counterparts in France; and developers.

He believed that real and lasting change could be achieved through the aggregation of incremental gains. He also believed in a focus on detail, a drive for excellence and a learning attitude.

The Council had prioritised reaching outside the organisation in order to develop new relationships and new programmes which included the introduction of the Lewes District Business Awards.

Young people in the District had more learning opportunities as the Council had prioritised real ready-for-work learning that allowed young people to have a career and not just a job. The Local Enterprise Apprenticeship Platform programme had already helped 81 young people to obtain apprenticeships. Furthermore, the University Technical College at Newhaven would change the future prospects of generations of young people in and around Newhaven.

The Council had presided over the allocation of over £50m to Newhaven for projects ranging from flood defences to improving transport access.

125 Questions from Members of the Public

Written questions were asked of the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Smith, by Ian Linton on the following subjects, copies of which were circulated to all Councillors at the meeting and made available to the public attending the meeting (a copy of which is contained in the Minute Book). Mr Linton also asked some supplementary questions which related to his original questions. Oral replies to the questions were given at the meeting.

Questioner

Ian Linton

Question Concerning

In response to the Petition against Special Expenses from concerned residents, the Council had commissioned an Independent Peer Review (IPR). Unfortunately the reviewer chosen was too closely associated with the Council to be seen as independent by any reasoned measure. The Terms of Reference were so narrowly defined as to be meaningless as they had restricted consideration of the wider issues.

Consequently the IPR had proved to be somewhat subjective, lacking in supporting evidence and one-sided as not one Council taxpayer had been consulted.

Who was to be held accountable for the Independent Peer Review relating to Special Expenses?

Ian Linton

Details relating to the possible term of the contract with the recently appointed Grounds Maintenance Contractor, in light of the possible devolution of all open spaces assets over the next two financial years and Town and Parish Councils possibly wishing to consider using their own resources and/or other contractors to reduce costs further.

Ian Linton

Whether the Council's budget savings achieved by devolving Landport Bottom, Lewes; Malling Recreation Ground, Lewes; and The Forges, Ringmer, would be applied solely to the Towns and Parishes involved and not spread over the District as a whole.

126 Western Road Lewes Public Toilets Petition Response

At the Meeting of the Council held on 15 October 2014, Councillor Catlin of Lewes Town Council, Councillor O'Keeffe and Jackie Bishop, Churchwarden of St Anne's Church, Lewes, had presented a petition which contained 1503 signatures that 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.

In light of the number of signatures and in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, the petition would be debated by the Council as an individual Agenda Item at this meeting.

At the invitation of the Chair of the Council, Jackie Bishop addressed the Council during which she referred to the petition and the number of signatures thereto. Ms Bishop provided several examples of information and evidence which had been obtained by the petition organisers to support the re-opening and maintenance of the public toilets. Councillor O'Keeffe also addressed the Council on matters relating to the petition.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services, Councillor Smith then moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 28/15, be received and adopted.

Councillor Eiloart moved, and Councillor Chartier seconded, an amendment

as follows:

“That continued public toilet provision be included in any scheme to redevelop the site.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried.

In response to issues raised by Councillors during the debate in respect of the matter, the Assistant Director of Corporate Services explained that the Council was currently working with a developer in respect of the possible redevelopment of some sites in the District which included the site of the toilets. If the Council was not minded to approve the recommendations set out in Report No 28/15, then it would be necessary for the Officers to prepare a further Report for consideration at a future meeting of the Council which set out details of the consequential implications thereof. However, ideas which were proposed by the Council in respect of the Western Road toilets site could be reported to the developer as part of future negotiations but they could not be made part of a requirement of that developer.

Councillor Gardiner moved, and Councillor Osborne seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That, in addition to the recommendations set out in Report No 28/15, the evidence which had been obtained by the petition organisers to support the re-opening of the public toilets be passed to the developer which the Council was working with in respect of the site to consider in any redevelopment scheme for the site as representing the wishes of the people of Lewes town.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried.

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

Resolved:

126.1 Accordingly.

DSD

127 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questioner

Question/Response

Councillor
Adeniji

Question:

The Council was considering undertaking a trial green waste collection service in Seaford. In light of Seaford’s Household Waste Recycling Site being closed for four days per week, would the Council reconsider its proposal to charge people between £60 to £75 to have their green waste collected?

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

The Council was not able to undertake a free green waste

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>	
	collection service but it would make the charge fair and reasonable. It might be possible for the Council to reconsider the level of the proposed charge.	
Councillor Bowers	<p><u>Question:</u> As one of the two Councillor 'approvers' on matters relating to the tendering process in respect of the '49 sites', Councillor Bowers was aware of the need for confidentiality in respect of the tenders. He was therefore very concerned to see a recent article in the local press which related to the associated contract. Councillor Bowers felt that the article had resulted from a 'leak'.</p> <p>Could the Leader of the Council assure the Council that none of his own Councillors was responsible for the 'leak' to the press. If he was unable to give such assurance, would he promise a full investigation to ensure that any 'leak' did not come from his party or his Cabinet?</p>	
	<p><u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> Councillor Blackman was currently unable to identify from whom the 'leak' had come. However, he took a very 'dim' view that the leak had occurred and would work with the Chief Executive to establish from whom it had come and, subsequently, would take very serious action in respect thereof.</p>	CE/ DSD
Councillor Saunders	<p><u>Question:</u> At the most recent meeting of Cabinet, the Leader of the Council had been 'bullish' about the Council's tenants support for the proposed local authority rent increase.</p> <p>What independent advice and alternative options were offered to those tenants in light of the proposed increase being well above that which had been advised by the Government which would directly affect some of the poorest residents of the District?</p>	
	<p><u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> Councillor Blackman disputed that he had been 'bullish' about the view of the Tenants of Lewes District (TOLD) organisation in respect of the proposed rent increase. There had been conversations with TOLD around convergence of the rent charges in respect of which TOLD was in agreement that the proposed rise was fair. However, Councillor Blackman was not certain as to exactly what had been discussed with TOLD and, therefore, would provide Councillor Saunders with a written response to his question.</p>	DF

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>
Councillor Osborne	<p><u>Question:</u> Councillor Osborne understood that the union UNISON had expressed concern about staff stress levels. Did the Leader of the Council think that comments which effectively said that ‘staff were not up to the job’ which Councillor White had made in open session at a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, had added to staff stress and did the Leader endorse Councillor White’s comments?</p> <p><u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> Councillor Blackman had not attended the Scrutiny Committee meeting and, therefore, was not able to comment on what Councillor White had said or had not said at that meeting but, if Councillor White had said what Councillor Osborne had claimed, then Councillor Blackman did not necessarily condone any such comments. He indicated that if Councillor Osborne had felt that such matter was serious then she could have reported it to the Council’s Standards Committee. He assumed that she had not done so and, therefore, Councillor Blackman felt that, as such, it was the end of the matter.</p>
Councillor Eiloart	<p><u>Question:</u> When considering a Report relating to the Council’s procurement of gas and electricity at the most recent meeting of Cabinet, Councillor Smith had commented that the issue of sustainability was ‘a bit of a wackey concept’. Did the Leader of the Council agree with Councillor Smith’s comment?</p> <p><u>Response (by Councillor Blackman, Leader of the Council):</u> Councillor Blackman believed that such comment had stemmed from the issue of the Council’s procurement of gas and related to Councillor Smith’s view that the issues of sustainability and gas did not go ‘hand-in-hand’. If Councillor Eiloart had felt that Councillor Smith’s comment should be reported through to the Council’s Standards Committee, then he was able to do so.</p>

128 Ward Issues

Ward issues were raised by Councillors on the following subjects:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Chartier – Lewes Castle Ward	<p>Councillor Chartier understood that a Board had been established to manage the joint venture with the Santon Group for the development of the North Street Quarter in Lewes.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> Could the Council be advised as to who were the members of that Board and details of the Scheme of Delegation that the Board had from the Council to make decisions on its behalf?</p>	DBSD
Councillor Adeniji – Seaford South Ward	<p>Dog fouling had got worse in Seaford over the winter months. The Council had recently joined the “We are Watching You” campaign relating to raising awareness of dog owners who allowed their pets to foul in public places without cleaning-up behind them.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> Councillor Adeniji felt that there was a need to provide more Dog Wardens in Seaford to help deter dog owners from not cleaning-up after their pets had fouled. Therefore, would the Council give consideration to training Seaford Town Council employees or volunteers to become Dog Wardens?</p>	DSD
Councillor Davy – Chailey and Wivelsfield Ward	<p>Some years ago, the Council had asked the Trustees of Chailey and Wivelsfield Village Halls to help to find some space from where materials for recycling could be collected. Unfortunately, the car park surfaces at those Halls had not been constructed to withstand the weight of the vehicles that were used for such collection and, consequently, the car parks had been damaged by those vehicles for which, for some time, no action had been taken to admit responsibility or provide funding for the necessary repairs to be undertaken.</p> <p>Councillor Davy had subsequently been asked to assist with resolving the problem.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u> That the Council’s Director of Service Delivery, Gillian Marston; and the Waste Operations Manager, Greg Martin, be thanked for their help in resolving the matter; and that Councillor Franklin be thanked for his support in respect of the issue.</p>	DSD

129 Recommendations from Cabinet

(i) **Recommendations from the meetings of the Cabinet held on 5 January 2015 and 12 February 2015 relating to:**

(a) Minute 58 relating to the Meetings Timetable 2015/2016;

(b) Minute 59 relating to the Officer Scheme of Delegation;

(c) Minute 75 relating to East Sussex Electoral Review; and

(d) Minute 76 relating to the Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Allowances Scheme

Unreserved Items

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 5 January 2015 and 12 February 2015 contained in:

Minute 58 relating to the Meetings Timetable 2015/2016;

Minute 59 relating to the Officer Scheme of Delegation; and

Minute 75 relating to East Sussex Electoral Review,

be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

129.1 Accordingly.

Reserved Item

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson seconded, the motion that the recommendation of Cabinet held on 12 February 2015 contained in Minute 76 relating to the Independent Remuneration Panel – Members’ Allowances Scheme , be received and adopted.

Councillor Main moved, and Councillor White seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That consideration of the implementation of the Recommendations of the Council’s Independent Remuneration Panel in respect of the Members’ Allowances Scheme be deferred until such time as the forthcoming East Sussex Electoral Review has been completed when the financial implications of those Recommendations can be taken into account.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried.

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

ADCS/
DCS/

was

Resolved:

129.2 Accordingly.

ADCS

(ii) Budget Recommendations from Cabinet held on 12 February 2015

- (a) Minute 68 - Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2015/2016 to 2017/2018;**
- (b) Minute 69 - General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016;**
- (c) Minute 70 - Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/2016; and**
- (d) Minute 71 - The Capital Programme 2014/2015 to 2017/2018**

Reserved Items

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, the motion that Minute 68 of the Cabinet entitled "Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2015/2016 to 2017/2018"; be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

129.3 Accordingly.

DF

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

Minute 69 entitled "General Fund Revenue Budget 2015/2016";

Minute 70 entitled "Housing Revenue Account Budget 2015/2016"; and

Minute 71 entitled "The Capital Programme 2014/2015 to 2017/2018",

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 Stockdale seconded, an

amendment as follows:

“That £50,000 be allocated for the creation of a Village Agents scheme, and that the Scrutiny Committee undertake to scope and research this work and seek out partnerships in advance of this time.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors R E Allen, G R Amy, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, C S Lambert, J N MacCleary, R Main, S J Osborne, S Saunders and J Stockdale (15).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, S B Davy, A Dean, 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:

129.4 Accordingly.

Councillor O’Keeffe moved, and Councillor Harrison-Hicks seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That the Council give consideration to the creation or support of a Village Agents Scheme, and that the Scrutiny Committee undertake to scope and research this work and seek out partnerships. Should the Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet agree it, any call on funding would be from the Strategic Priority Fund in year.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, S B Davy, A Dean, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, B W Groves, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, J N MacCleary, R Main, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, 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,

B M Warren and I J White (35).

Resolved:

129.5 Accordingly

DSD/PO
(Scrutiny)

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Stockdale seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That £20,000 is allocated for the development and implementation of a pilot selective landlord licensing scheme in Lewes District”.

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors R E Allen, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J N MacCleary, R Main, S J Osborne and J Stockdale (12).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S B Davy, P L Franklin, P Gander, B W Groves, J V Harris, P A Howson, I A Nicholson, R Robertson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, C Sugarman and I J White (13).

Resolved:

129.6 Accordingly.

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That £2,300 be allocated to ensure that all Council employees are paid above the Living Wage”.

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors R E Allen, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, A Dean, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J N MacCleary, R Main, C R O’Keeffe, S J Osborne, S Saunders and J Stockdale (15).

Against the Amendment:

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, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, C Sugarman and I J White (18).

Abstained:

Councillors R Robertson and B M Warren (2).

Resolved:

129.7 Accordingly.

Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That £5000 be allocated to investigate and determine the implications and opportunities for the Council becoming an accredited Living Wage Authority”.

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors R E Allen, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J N MacCleary, R Main, C R O’Keeffe, S J Osborne, S Saunders and J Stockdale (14).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, S B Davy, A Dean, P L Franklin, P Gander, B W Groves, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, R K Maskell, E C Merry, R Robertson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White (19).

Abstained:

Councillors A T Jones and I A Nicholson (2).

Resolved:

129.8 Accordingly.

Councillor Adeniji moved, and Councillor Gander seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That time be allocated to the Scrutiny Committee to investigate and determine the implications and opportunities for the Council becoming an accredited Living Wage Authority.”

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, S B Davy, A Dean, I Eiloart, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J V Harris, P A Howson, A T Jones, J N MacCleary, R Main, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, 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, B M Warren and I J White (32).

Abstained:

Councillors R E Allen and J M Harrison-Hicks (2).

Resolved:

129.9 Accordingly.

(Note: Councillor Osborne withdrew two of her proposed amendments, details of which were set out in the Agenda papers, namely, proposed amendments numbers 5 and 6).

Councillor Eiloart moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, an amendment as follows:

“That a budget of £30,000 be allocated for a review of the impact of the following plans, and to make recommendations on the adoption of new objectives and targets:

1. The Climate Change Adaption And Mitigation Plan 2009-2016, 2. The Lewes District Council travel plan, 3. The 2009 Air Quality Action Plan.

With a view to (a) reducing the environmental impact of the Council, and of the District as a whole, and (b) reducing costs, or increasing revenues from energy generation or other services. To be funded from the budget for Service Priorities”.

The amendment was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Amendment:

Councillors R E Allen, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J N MacCleary, R Main, S J Osborne, S Saunders and J Stockdale (13).

DCS/PO
(Scrutiny)

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, S B Davy, P L Franklin, P Gander, 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 (19).

Abstained:

Councillors A Dean and C R O’Keeffe (2).

Resolved:

129.10 Accordingly.

The substantive motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Substantive Motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, R Blackman, J L Carr, M P Chartier, S B Davy, A Dean, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, J N MacCleary, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, C R O’Keeffe, S J Osborne, R Robertson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, J Stockdale, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White (29).

Abstained:

Councillors C A Bowers, C J Butler, I Eiloart, R Main and S Saunders (5).

Resolved:

129.11 Accordingly.

(Note: Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, A Dean, J M Harrison-Hicks, A T Jones, R K Maskell, E C Merry, C R O’Keeffe, S Saunders and B M Warren declared their personal, prejudicial interest in Councillor Osborne’s proposed amendment relating to the allocation of £20,000 for the development and implementation of a pilot selective landlord licensing scheme in the District as they were landlords from which they received financial income and, therefore, left the room and took no part in the consideration, discussion and voting thereon).

DF/DSD/
DCS/PO
(Scrutiny)

(iii) Adoption of a Formal Resolution for the Council Tax for the Year Ending 31 March 2016

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Robertson 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 £6,632,448 for 2015/2016 and the resultant band D tax of £172.11 as set out in Appendices A and E to Report No 29/15, and now adopts the formal Resolution for the Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2016, in the terms set out in Appendix G to that Report which is appended to these Minutes.

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.6 as follows:

For the Motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, R Blackman, C A Bowers, C J Butler, J L Carr, M P Chartier, S B Davy, A Dean, P L Franklin, P Gander, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J V Harris, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, A T Jones, J N MacCleary, R Main, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, 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, B M Warren and I J White (33).

Abstained:

Councillor I Eiloart (1).

Resolved:

129.12 Accordingly.

DF

130 Notices of Motion

(a) The Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Dean relating to Affordable Housing.

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 13, Councillor Dean moved, and Councillor O'Keeffe seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

"I respectfully request that this council to consider the regrettable situation that 'Affordable Housing' does not effectively address the problem of a shortage of local housing for people who live and work in Lewes District for the following reasons;

(1) Affordable Housing does not address the problem of homelessness and those in greatest need locally, despite being subsidized.

(2) It is set at market rate, instead of the average salary, which makes it

unaffordable for people who live and work in the district.

(3) This policy undermines local communities at a time when central government is cutting services. Families and communities are a crucial support system and surely housing policy needs to take this into account?

(4) 'Affordable Housing' prices out key workers in the District.

I would like to call upon this council to consider;

(1) reviewing the notion of, 'Affordable Housing' in relation to Social Housing, in terms of both priority and level of subsidy.

(2) Set the cost of Affordable Housing at the average salary for local workers.

(3) Tie in the availability of, 'Affordable Housing' to key workers, including local business owners with a maximum gross turnover of £100,000".

With the agreement of Council and of her seconder, Councillor Dean agreed to the revision of her Notice of Motion to read as follows:

".....prices out key workers in the District.

Therefore, the Council:

(1) Lobby government to set affordable rent levels based on property rebuild values, and local earnings; and

(2) Prioritise implementation of previously agreed recommendations from the two Lewes District Council scrutiny review reports on affordable rural, and affordable urban housing."

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

Resolved:

130.1 Accordingly.

(b) The Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Dean relating to fracking and shale gas exploration.

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

"That this council deplores the lack of public analysis and debate given to Fracking and Shale gas exploration at all levels of government, and that this lack of public debate undermines the principle of representative democracy.

Setting aside the issue of whether or not the benefits of Fracking outweigh the costs, all three major parties, have agreed to allow Fracking and Shale Gas exploration to go ahead, regardless of public opinion and deprived us

DSD

all of an opportunity to consider this as an electoral issue.

I would urge councillors to read the Department of Energy and Climate Changes paper, Fracking UK Shale : Planning permission and Communities and to make themselves aware of the issue if they are not already.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/283832/Planning_v3.pdf

I would also urge this council to consider producing information about this process for the general public independently of any information provided by ESCC or the SDNPA”.

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

Resolved:

130.2 Accordingly.

DSD

(c) The Chair reported that a Notice of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13 by Councillor Saunders relating to car parking charges in Newhaven.

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

"I would ask the Council to note the following:

Newhaven Town Centre has been suffering from both a lack of footfall and investment for many years and despite this Council's stated desire to invest and help regenerate the area, there has been little real progress. Whilst the new UTC that is planned to be open in September of this year, will be a welcome boost and the Rampion Windfarm has also raised expectations for Newhaven residents and businesses alike, the shops and businesses in the town centre have continued to decline. All the banks and building societies have shut up shop and left, despite heartfelt pleas and protests from our MP, local Members and the Town Council. Local people and visitors alike, are dissuaded from coming into the Town because of the cost of parking, combined with the decreasing number and variety of shops and retail businesses that are there.

The Leader of this Council was against considering the concession of free parking in the town's car parks in the run up to Christmas last year, which had previously received support from the vast majority of its members. This has always been warmly welcomed by the people of the Town and has helped to boost trade. Indeed, the Chamber of Commerce has recommended the introduction of free parking on a more permanent basis, to attract more retail into the High Street and to actively support those that struggle to trade with the lack of footfall.

I have brought to this council the problems we have with vehicles ignoring bylaws in place in the High Street and illegally park and drive through,

endangering the lives of young and old alike. The local police team have agreed that free parking will almost certainly minimise the infringement of traffic laws and enable them to deal more easily with those few that may flagrantly continue to do so.

Our MP has raised the issue in the past and is again pressing for this Council to consider introducing free off-street parking.

I therefore propose the following Notice of Motion to this Council:

‘That for a period of one calendar year from April 1st 2015, Lewes District Council introduces a scheme to all their pay and display car parks within Newhaven, that provides for the first 2 hours free. This shows a commitment by this Council to help fulfill its promises to Newhaven of regeneration and support and will enable LDC to carry out a review into the impact it has on the High Street businesses. The findings of such a review should include feedback from the Chamber of Commerce, the Neighbourhood Policing Team, Newhaven Town Council and the County Council's Parking Enforcement Team and can help provide information for similar schemes in other towns within the District in the future.’”

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and the vote thereon was recorded in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 18.5 as follows:

For the motion:

Councillors R E Allen, C A Bowers, J L Carr, M P Chartier, I Eiloart, P F Gardiner, S J Gauntlett, J N MacCleary, R Main, S J Osborne, S Saunders and J Stockdale (12).

Against the motion:

Councillors S Adeniji, R Blackman, S B Davy, P L Franklin, P Gander, J V Harris, A T Jones, R K Maskell, E C Merry, I A Nicholson, E E J Russell, H J F Sheppard, A X Smith, C Sugarman, B M Warren and I J White (16).

Abstained:

Councillors C J Butler, A Dean, J M Harrison-Hicks, P A Howson, O’Keeffe and R Robertson (6).

Resolved:

130.3 Accordingly.

131 Changes to Memberships

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Howson seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in Report No 30/15 relating to Changes to Memberships, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

131.1 Accordingly.

ADCS

The meeting ended at 6.59pm.

I A Nicholson
Chair