



## Meeting of the Council

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Council held in The Council Chamber, County Hall, St Annes Crescent, Lewes on Monday, 19 February 2018 at 6.00pm**

### **Present:**

Councillor S Gauntlett (Chair)

Councillors S Adeniji; G Amy; S Barnes; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; J Denis; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V Ient; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; D Neave; T Nicholson; R O’Keeffe MBE; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven.

### **Apology received:**

Councillor A Loraine.

## Minutes

### **47 Minutes**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 6 December 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

#### (i) 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 6 December 2017.

## Action

(ii) Recycling Initiative

In light of the increasing press interest in banning plastics, the Leader of the Council reported that Viridor, the contractor who provided the Council's recycling service, recycled plastic into beads that were then used to make other recycled plastic materials. He invited members to publicise and take part in the Council's new recycling initiative, and to encourage all residents to recycle.

**49 Urgent Items**

The Chair reported that he had agreed, in accordance with Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972, that the report entitled "Setting the Council Tax", which was circulated to all members of the Council on 13 February 2018 under cover of Council Document B, be considered as a matter of urgency under Agenda Item 9(ii), in order that the Council could take its decisions based on the most recent information which was available.

**50 Questions from Members of the Public**

Written questions were asked of the Cabinet Member for Planning, Councillor Jones, on the following subjects which related to BH02 Oakfields on Theobalds Road in the Local Plan, 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). Verbal replies to the questions were given at the meeting by Councillor Jones.

QuestionerQuestion Concerning

Sarah Roberts

Wivelsfield was a small, rural village. It has only one school, newly built with too few classrooms, and one shop with limited on-street parking. No doctor's surgery. No dentist. Yet Wivelsfield has been expected to absorb 268 houses near these minimal facilities PLUS at least 479 homes at the extreme north and west of the parish. This is on the furthest boundary of Lewes district. Wivelsfield has done its bit. Now a further 65 houses are to be imposed on North East and West Wivelsfield. How can this be sustainable?

Sarah Roberts

Lewes District Council are now evaluating the viability of BH02 Oakfields on Theobalds Road for a potential 10 houses. The Council requires 4 more homes to meet its housing quota. Does the Council believe that moving the fence posts of your development plans to disregard the Wivelsfield Neighbourhood Plan and waive green field protection to misappropriate land on the farthest reaches of its boundary can be justified when this site cannot deliver any affordable housing, has no viable access

DRP

	because Theobalds Road is a private road and will have a very harmful impact on the character of our road, this sustainable community and a much cherished local recreational amenity - our ancient bridleway and only green corridor?	
Janet Slater	A number of written objections have been submitted re BH02 Oakfields off Theobalds Road re access, but comments from the key stakeholders have not been made public and neither Highways nor planning authorities have been able to provide details of their assessments or how these have been undertaken. Have representatives even attended the site and were they just 'in principle guideline' responses?	DRP
Janet Slater	Would the meeting please review the problem of access and confirm how access is to be delivered off Theobalds Road, even if the status of the bridleway could be overcome?	DRP
Janet Slater	Using the example of the waste collection service for illustration purposes, it is difficult for even the once weekly refuse cart to move along Theobalds Road where it turns at the very end of the lane. There is no space to enter the driveway to Oakfields - where the bricks have been knocked down by someone attempting to use this small space. The driveway is simply too narrow. How would construction traffic gain access and subsequent delivery vehicles, typically 7.5 tonne lorries? MSDC also provide waste collection to households at the start of Theobalds Road and that dustcart has to pull across Valebridge Road and reverse down Theobalds Road as there is no turning space until the very end of Theobalds Road.	DRP

## 51 Petitions

The Chair received a petition from Councillor Carter and Mr Adrian Ross which contained 531 signatures from within Lewes District. The petitioners requested that water fountains be installed around Lewes District to reduce the use of plastic bottles and their environmental impact, and included the running of a design competition for the water fountains.

Councillor Carter and Mr Ross addressed the Council on the subject matter of the petition and the number of signatures. It was noted that whilst the petition contained 1504 signatures overall, 531 signatures were confirmed as

from within Lewes District.

As the petition contained less than 750 signatures from within Lewes District, in accordance with the Council's Petitions Scheme, as set out in Part 6 of its Constitution, the Council would be contacting Councillor Carter and Mr Ross in order to tell them what action it would be taking in respect of the petition.

DSD

## 52 Recommendations from Cabinet

### (i) Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 February 2018 relating to:

#### (a) Minute 78 relating to Lewes District Community Safety Partnership annual report;

#### Unreserved Item

The Chair of the Council moved, and Councillor Nicholson seconded, the motion that the recommendations of Cabinet held on 5 February 2018 contained in Minute 78 relating to Lewes District Community Safety Partnership annual report, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**52.1** Accordingly.

DRP

### (ii) Budget Recommendations from the meeting of the Cabinet held on 5 February 2018 relating to:

#### (a) Minute 74 relating to the Housing Revenue Account Budget 2018/2019;

#### (b) Minute 75 relating to the General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/2019;

#### (c) Minute 76 relating to the Capital Programme 2017/2018 to 2020/2021; and

#### (d) Minute 77 relating to the Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2018/2019 to 2020/2021.

#### Reserved Items

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

(a) Minute 74 of the Cabinet entitled "Housing Revenue Account Budget 2018/2019";

(b) Minute 75 entitled "General Fund Revenue Budget 2018/2019";

(c) Minute 76 entitled “Capital Programme 2017/2018 to 2020/2021”; and

(d) Minute 77 entitled “Annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Investment Strategy 2018/2019 to 2020/2021”;

be received and adopted.

The Cabinet Member for Finance, Councillor Giles, then delivered the Budget Speech, a copy of which is appended to these Minutes.

**Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Maskell seconded, an amendment as follows:**

“That up to £2.2m be allocated from the “acquisition of Land and property” Capital Programme (£4m) in order to fund a scheme to provide new temporary accommodation in Lewes district. The Accommodation would comprise quality modular buildings and sited on Council land.”

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:

DSD/

DCE

For the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji; G Amy; S Barnes; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; J Denis; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V Ient; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; D Neave; T Nicholson; R O’Keeffe; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (40).

**Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Franklin seconded, an amendment as follows:**

“That up to £10,000 be allocated from Reserves to install 10 on street recycling bins in the principal urban areas of the District and to run a campaign to support more recycling.”

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:

DSD/

DCE

For the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji; G Amy; S Barnes; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; J Denis; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V Ient; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; D Neave; T Nicholson; R O’Keeffe; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (40).

**Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Franklin seconded, an amendment as follows:**

“That up to £10,000 be allocated from Reserves to do a feasibility study into the Council operating a trade waste recycle option for small businesses”.

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; G Amy; S Barnes; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; J Denis; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V Ient; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; D Neave; T Nicholson; R O’Keeffe; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (40).

**Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Linington seconded, an amendment as follows:**

“That up to £50,000 be allocated from Reserves to create an environmental initiatives fund. The fund would be utilised to do feasibility and develop a new Lewes standard for environmental sustainability”.

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; G Amy; S Barnes; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; J Denis; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V Ient; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; D Neave; T Nicholson; R O’Keeffe; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (40).

**Councillor Osborne moved, and Councillor Merry seconded, an amendment as follows:**

“That up to £10,000 be set aside from reserves to fund events to mark the centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918”.

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; G Amy; L Boorman; B Bovington; J Carr; J Carter; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; J Denis; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin;

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DSD/  
DCE

DRP/  
DCE

P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V lent; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; S Murray; T Nicholson; R O’Keeffe; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; T Rowell; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (37).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S Barnes (1).

Abstained:

Councillors W Botting and D Neave (2).

**Councillor Denis moved, and Councillor Rowell seconded, an amendment as follows:**

“That £15,000 is allocated from reserves to carry out the investigation and reporting of recommendations to Council into unregulated rural accommodation”.

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 J Carter; J Denis; S Murray; D Neave; R Robertson and T Rowell (6).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji; S Barnes; L Boorman; B Bovington; J Carr; M Chartier; S Davy; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; T Jones; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; T Nicholson; S Osborne; J Peterson; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (27).

Abstained:

Councillors G Amy; W Botting; S Catlin; V lent; A Lambert; R O’Keeffe and S Saunders (7).

**Councillor Denis moved, and Councillor Murray seconded, an amendment as follows:**

“That £15,000 is further allocated from reserves to carry out the investigation and reporting of recommendations to Council into unregulated rural enterprise”.

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:

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DCE/

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Councillors J Carter; J Denis; S Murray; R Robertson and T Rowell (5).

Against the Amendment:

Councillors S Adeniji; S Barnes; L Boorman; B Bovington; J Carr; M Chartier; S Davy; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; T Jones; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; T Nicholson; S Osborne; J Peterson; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (26).

Abstained:

Councillors G Amy; W Botting; S Catlin; P Gardiner; V Ient; A Lambert; D Neave; R O’Keeffe and S Saunders (9).

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

For the Motion:

Councillors S Adeniji; G Amy; S Barnes; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V Ient; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; D Neave; T Nicholson; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (35).

Against the Motion:

Councillors J Denis; S Murray and T Rowell (3).

Abstained:

Councillors J Carter and R O’Keeffe (2).

Resolved:

**52.2** Accordingly.

**Adoption of a Formal Resolution for the Council Tax for the Year Ending 31 March 2019**

The Leader of the Council moved, and Councillor Giles 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 £7,438,000 for 2018/2019 and the resultant band D tax of £183.43 as set out in Appendices A and D to the ‘Setting the Council Tax’ report, and now adopts the formal Resolution for the Council Tax for the year ending 31 March 2019, in the terms set out in Appendix E to that Report as appended to these Minutes.

DCE/DS  
D/DTE



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; G Amy; S Barnes; L Boorman; W Botting; B Bovington; J Carr; S Catlin; M Chartier; S Davy; W Elliott; N Enever; P Franklin; P Gardiner; S Gauntlett; B Giles; J Harrison-Hicks; O Honeyman; V lent; T Jones; A Lambert; I Linington; R Maskell; E Merry; D Neave; T Nicholson; S Osborne; J Peterson; R Robertson; S Saunders; J Sheppard; A Smith; C Sugarman; R Turner and L Wallraven (35).

Against the Motion:

Councillors J Carter; J Denis; S Murray and T Rowell (4).

Abstained:

Councillor R O’Keeffe (1).

Resolved:

**52.3** Accordingly.

DCE

**53 Recommendations from Licensing Committee**

The Chair of the Licensing Committee, Councillor Adeniji, moved, and Councillor Boorman seconded, the motion that the recommendations of the Licensing Committee held on 28 November 2017 contained in Minute 9 relating to Lewes District Council Licensing Fees and Charges, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**53.1** Accordingly.

DSD

**54 Meetings Timetable 2018/2019**

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith, moved, and Councillor Gardiner seconded, the motion that the recommendation contained in the Meetings Timetable 2018/1019 report be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**54.1** Accordingly.

ADLDS

## 55 Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Smith, moved, and Councillor Harrison-Hicks seconded, the motion that the recommendations contained in the Appointments to Committees and Other Bodies report, be received and adopted.

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

Resolved:

**55.1** Accordingly.

## 56 Notices of Motion

The Chair reported that Notices of Motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 14 by Councillor Rowell relating to single use plastics, Council Tax reduction scheme, governance arrangements and special expenses.

Councillor Rowell moved, and Councillor Carter seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

a) Single Use Plastics

“It is proposed that:

1. Lewes District Council will become a ‘single-use plastic free’ council by phasing out the use of ‘single use plastic’ (SUP) products such as bottles, cups, cutlery, food containers and drinking straws in all council activities, where it is reasonable to do so, by 1 April 2018 and will encourage our facility users and other organizations to do the same, by championing alternatives such as reusable water bottles.
2. The Council will support in principle (and in practice where possible) district wide initiatives to reduce the use of SUP products including but not exclusively the group Plastic-Free Lewes.
3. The Cabinet member for the environment will consider how best the Council might engage with emerging initiatives to make Lewes a ‘SUP-free’ district.”

Councillor Linington moved an amendment to this Notice of Motion, which amendment was accepted by the proposer and seconder of the motion. The amendment read:

1. “Lewes District Council will aim to become a ‘single-use plastic-free’ Council by phasing out the use of ‘single-use plastic’ (SUP) products such as bottles, cups, cutlery, food containers and drinking straws in all Council activities, where it is reasonable to do so, by 31 December 2018, and will encourage its members, officers, facility users and other organisations to do the same, by championing alternatives such as reusable water bottles.

ADLDS

2. The Cabinet Member for the Environment will consider how best the Council may support existing and emerging District-wide initiatives to reduce the use of SUP products and make Lewes District SUP-free”.

Councillor lent withdrew his proposed amendment to the Motion.

The motion as amended by Councillor Linington was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**56.1** Accordingly.

Councillor Rowell moved, and Councillor Denis seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

b) Council Tax Reduction Scheme

1. "That officers bring a report to Council no later than July 2018 outlining the implications of introducing a Council tax reduction scheme with a maximum relief of 100%, so that Council, taking into consideration any recommendation which may be made by Cabinet, may determine whether to publish and consult on a draft scheme to implement the same commencing from April 2019”.

Councillor O’Keeffe moved an amendment to this Notice of Motion, which amendment was accepted by the proposer and seconder of the motion. The amendment read:

1. “This Council resolves that officers bring a report to Council no later than July 2018 outlining the implications of introducing a Council tax reduction scheme with a maximum relief of 100%, and assessment of eligibility for both employed and self employed people to be by income with no Minimum Income Floor applied to the self employed, so that Council, taking into consideration any recommendation which may be made by Cabinet, may determine whether to publish and consult on a draft scheme to implement the same commencing from April 2019”.

The motion as amended by Councillor O’Keeffe was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**56.2** Accordingly.

Councillor Rowell moved, and Councillor Denis seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

c) Governance Arrangements

“Lewes District Council currently operates a system of cabinet government. The current Conservative administration despite only having 48.8% of the 41 seats in Lewes holds 100% of the cabinet seats.

DSD

DSD

It is possible to change the way the council is governed and move to a committee structure with membership that is proportional to the political groups represented on the council which would provide a better measure of transparency, openness and democracy.

In order to explore this a working party made up of representatives from all political groups on Lewes District Council will be established to review the current arrangements and to propose a new structure which provides for better transparency, openness and democracy. The working party will research any councils that have already moved from the cabinet to the committee model and will attempt to evaluate the costs and benefits of doing so and report back by the end of 2018.”

Councillor Osborne moved an amendment to this Notice of Motion, which amendment was accepted by the proposer and seconder of the motion. The amendment read:

“In order to explore this **officers will bring an Options paper to full Council** to review the current arrangements and to propose a structure which **best** provides for transparency, openness and democracy. **That Options paper** will research any councils that have already moved from the cabinet to the committee model and will attempt to evaluate the costs and benefits of doing so and report back **to the Council as soon as practicable following the 2019 district council elections**”.

The motion as amended by Councillor Osborne was put to the meeting, Declared Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**56.3** Accordingly.

Councillor Rowell moved, and Councillor Murray seconded, the Notice of Motion as follows:

d) Special Expenses

“That officers review the Council’s stance regarding special expenses for maintenance of open spaces and consult with town and parish councils and residents generally with a view to removing the practice of “special expensing” the collection of money for such maintenance with effect from 2019 if that is the preferred outcome evidenced by the public consultation exercise.”

The motion was put to the meeting, Declared not Carried, and it was

Resolved:

**56.4** Accordingly.

ADLDS

**57 Questions to the Leader of the Council**

<u>Questioner</u>	<u>Question/Response</u>
Councillor Denis	<p><u>Question:</u> At our last meeting, the leader was asked to consider a proportional Cabinet, since then the largest party has lost its majority in the Council Chamber.</p> <p>In times such as these we can see that the make up of the Council is very broad with numerous voices elected by the public. Our present system of governance is inadequate to the task where the winner, however marginal their win is, takes all AND where their win, in terms of their overall authority, is therefore fragile.</p> <p>The public deserve better and they also deserve adequate representation.</p> <p>I call on the Leader of the Council, until such a time as a more democratic and proportional system of governance is adopted by the Council, to consider how best to implement a more broadly representative and more stable cabinet where Cabinet Members are appointed in such a way that is proportional to the number of seats on the Council held by each political group. This should be done with the advice of the Head of Democratic Services and Group Leaders in a timely manner and reviewed from time to time to ensure that changes in group membership are taken into account in cabinet proportionality. Will today's Leader of the Council consider implementing such a democratic change to give us stable and representative governance until the next local government elections in 2019?</p> <p><u>Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council):</u> Councillor Smith recognised that the size of the Administration had reduced but that it remained the largest Group that was voted in by residents. He would not offer out any Cabinet places as the Administration already worked inclusively with other Groups, with the budget being a good example of this harmonised working. He did however welcome the previous motion to look at alternative ways of governance.</p>
Councillor Catlin	<p><u>Question:</u> I understand that across Lewes District this council will become responsible for not only provision of housing for homeless people but also addressing the causes of homelessness from April this year. In addition there is a growing problem across the District with members of the street community presenting as homeless, it appears likely in some cases to obtain funds by begging to fuel a range of addictions, which both causes and evidences a number of</p>

problems for the wider community in addition to the street community members themselves. I am aware that other Councillors are already asking about this and would be grateful for information about the initiatives which Lewes District Council is involved with and are planned to deal with these complex interrelated problems?

Response (by Councillor Maskell, Cabinet Member for Housing):

Councillor Maskell reported that the Council already had statutory responsibilities for giving housing advice to those homeless or threatened by homelessness. The Homeless Reduction Act would come into force this year with the new duties to refer, assess, prevent and relieve homelessness. The Council will do full assessments of each homelessness case and has increased staff numbers in the Housing Needs team to respond to the new duties. There were different causes of homelessness and the Council engaged with genuine cases, other agencies and initiatives to tackle the issue, including conducting the rough sleeper count and invoking the severe weather event protocol when needed.

Councillor  
lent

Question:

At the December meeting of the full Council, I asked a number of questions. Two of these were for the Member for Waste & Recycling, one was to the Cabinet Member for Planning. I have had no replies to any of these questions. Would the Leader please let me know if the Cabinet Member for Waste & Recycling has written to the Environment Minister giving support for the 5p tax on nonbiodegradable coffee cups and to the Secretary of State offering wholehearted support for a deposit return scheme for plastic bottles?

Also would the leader please let me know if the Cabinet Member for Planning has written to the Secretary of State for Transport seeking further clarification as to how the government would envisage a project to restore the Lewes and Uckfield railway line?

Response (by Councillor Jones, Cabinet Member for Planning):

Councillor Jones advised that a written update would be provided to Councillor lent.

Councillor  
Neave

Question:

There is disquiet among some members of the council and some members of the public about the wording of the minutes the meeting held on December 11, 2017 regarding the motion to defer the planning application on Lower Hoddern Farm. Cllr Vic lent was the proposer of the deferment and Cllr Stephen Catlin was the seconder. I have it on good authority that Cllr lent proposed that the application be

DRP

deferred so that members could meet with ESCC, Brighton and Hove City Council and Brighton and Hove Buses. To be exact, Cllr Catlin added the words "and Brighton and Hove City Council and Brighton and Hove Buses".

Unfortunately, when the minutes were published. The wording was thus:

"Resolved: 124.1 That full planning application LW/17/0226 for the development of 143 dwellings (55 affordable), outline planning application for up to 307 dwellings (125 affordable), vehicular, pedestrian and cycle access, internal site roads, parking and public open space, including extension to Peacehaven Centenary Park, and landscaping, all matters other than access reserved (amended plans to show increase in depth of property type 67 by 1 metre and addendum to transport assessment), be deferred until the necessary information is made available to the Council in consideration of the report.

Reason for decision: To allow for further clarity to the Committee on the Highways improvements proposed to be secured as part of the application".

As you will see, there is no reference to holding a meeting with any of the three bodies mentioned in the deferment.

I am concerned that, in this case, the wording of planning application committee minutes has not truly followed what the members actually voted on. I hope the Leader is also concerned. Would the Leader, therefore, arrange for a review of procedures for documenting planning committee minutes so that they accurately reflect the wording used by members and accepted by officers at the time of the meeting?

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

Councillor Smith reported that full Council could not change the minutes of another committee but that there was an opportunity at the next meeting of each committee to query the accuracy of minutes of the previous meeting if required, which also applied to the Planning Applications Committee. He added that the minutes should reflect the business of the meeting but were not a full reporting of the proceedings.

Councillor  
Enever

Question:

For a number of years now there have been problems concerning the Tudor Rose mobile home park in Peacehaven. In particular, the current Licence Agreement is 30 years out of date and for over a year the Licensing Department has been attempting to agree new conditions with the site owner. Also, for a long period now, some repairs and other site issues have not been dealt with, partly because such negotiations were in progress. In addition the

number of homes on the site exceeds the number given in the existing Licence Agreement. There has been a high turnover of LDC staff involved in this process and long term sickness issues. As a result, the residents are feeling frustration over a lack of progress. Would the Lead Member for Licensing investigate the manner in which these issues have been addressed and arrange for the existing Licence Conditions to be enforced and the new Licence Conditions to be brought into force?

Response (by Councillor Smith, Leader of the Council):  
Councillor Smith reported that would ask the Cabinet Member for Environmental Impact, who was responsible for licensing, to look into these issues.

DSD

## 58 Ward Issues

A ward issue was raised by Councillor Saunders on the following subject, details of the action taken by officers would be circulated to all councillors:

<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
Councillor Saunders – Newhaven Valley	<p>Bearing in mind, the inevitable loss of crucial biometric services to the Port Town of Newhaven and its proximity to the City of Brighton, along with the inward investment of £38 million of Enterprise Zone funding towards our regeneration, how can there be a justification for the District Council to make available one of its buildings for a potential franchisee of a Post Office.</p> <p>It did after all take an Examiner to upgrade Newhaven to a District Centre, which overrode LDC's decision to merely identify our town as a Local Service Centre.</p> <p>Sir Vince Cable made a recent statement regarding the Post Office's responsibilities over the expectation of franchises to maintain high standards and that events such as the Carillion receivership scandal, should have taught the Government to avoid outsourcing valuable public bodies to the private sector.</p> <p><u>Suggested action to be taken by the Council:</u></p> <p>Furthermore, and bearing in mind Lord Nolan's 'Seven Standards for Acceptable Behaviour', can we be assured that all possible due diligence has been undertaken by Councillors and Officers, into the suitability of the potential franchisee, as well as the effects on the Town of the loss of our Crown Post Office and the unfair competition to the nearby long-established business at the top of the existing High</p>	DRP



<u>Councillor/Ward</u>	<u>Ward Issue Concerning</u>	
	Street?  As part of my Ward issue, I have some copies of supporting documentation from a local resident, that I have been asked to pass to the Council.	

## **59 Reporting Back on Meetings of Outside Bodies**

Councillor Nicholson had attended a meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel on 19 January 2018 in his capacity as the Council's representative on this outside body, details of which were contained in his report. He also reported that he had copies of the Sussex Police local policing model available, should any members wish to receive a copy.

Resolved:

- 59.1** That the report by Councillor Nicholson relating to the meeting of the Sussex Police and Crime Panel on 19 January 2018, be received and noted.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm.

S Gauntlett  
Chair