

# Council



## Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 20 July 2016 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Councillor Pat Hearn (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, Raymond Blakebrough, Sammy Choudhury, Janet Coles, Penny di Cara, Jonathan Dow, Tony Freebody, Steve Holt, Gordon Jenkins, Harun Miah, Pat Rodohan, Dean Sabri, Margaret Robinson, Alan Shuttleworth, Robert Smart, Kathy Smethers, Colin Swansborough, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, David Tutt, John Ungar and Steve Wallis.

### 19 Minutes.

The minutes of the annual and ordinary meetings held on 11 May 2016 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

### 20 **Declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests (DPIs) by members as required under section 31 of the Localism Act and of other interests as required by the Code of Conduct.**

Councillor Ungar declared personal interests in items 28 and 29 below in respect of a relative being an employee of the Council. These were considered to be non-prejudicial and he remained and took part in the debate on these items.

### 21 **Mayor's announcements.**

1. The Mayor attended the Chestnut Tree House Night to Remember Midnight Walk on Saturday 14 May. The Mayor arrived at the Sovereign Centre shortly before midnight to wish the walkers well on their journey. This has become an annual event and this year over 700 walkers took part.
2. On Saturday 21 May the Mayor attended the Royal British Legion's annual conference at the Congress Theatre and welcomed delegates to the town. Later in the day, the Mayor attended a parade at the War Memorial and laid a wreath on behalf of the Town. The following weekend the Mayor attended events during the Oddfellows Annual Moveable Conference.
3. The Eastbourne Sunshine Carnival took place on Eastbourne Seafront on Saturday 11 June. The Mayor was pleased to help judge the floats before taking part in the parade.
4. On Friday 17 June the Mayor welcomed a group from Fort Mahon Plage, France, to Eastbourne. The group included the town's Mayor and school children and they visited the Fort Mahon Plage memorial at Beachy Head before lunch followed by a Town Hall

tour and visit to the Mayor's Parlour. The following week the Mayor welcomed another French Mayor to the town, this time from Richebourg. At the Redoubt Fortress the Mayor of Richebourg was presented with the remains of a church bell brought back to England after the Battle of Boars Head in WWI.

5. The Mayor attended the Aegon International Finals at Devonshire Park on Saturday 25 June. This year's winner was Dominika Cibulkova.
6. A number of events which the Mayor attended took place on Saturday 2 July. First of all, the Mayor attended the opening ceremony of the annual 999 Emergency Services display at the Western Lawns. This was followed by the unveiling of a memorial stone dedicated to Nelson Carter VC during a ceremony at the Redoubt Gardens. The ceremony marked 100 years since Nelson Carter was awarded the VC posthumously following his death during the Battle of Boars Head. Prior to his death Nelson Carter lived in Eastbourne with his family. The ceremony was organised by Eastbourne Borough Council in conjunction with East Sussex County Council. Later in the day the Mayor attended the unveiling of another stone in Hailsham, as Nelson Carter also spent a few years of his life living there.
7. During the week commencing 4 July, the Civil Service Bowling Association Tournament took place in Eastbourne. The Mayor attended the opening ceremony at Eastbourne Bowls Club on the Monday, and later in the week their annual dinner at Pomodoro e Mozzarella.
8. During her first couple of months in her new position as Mayor, Councillor Pat Hearn has also attended a number of awards ceremonies for local schools, concerts and opening ceremonies.
9. The Mayor has chosen to support Refuge, which helps women and children affected by domestic violence and The Eastbourne Open Award Centre for the Duke of Edinburgh Award, a programme of personal development for young people. The Mayor's Charity Committee have been busy organising the yearly programme of fundraising events, the first of which, a Charity Bowls Tournament, takes place on Sunday 24 July at Hampden Park Bowls Club. It is still possible to enter a team in the tournament, please contact the Mayor's Office for further details.
10. The Mayor's Charity Committee will also be attending the Hampden Park Funday on Sunday 21 August, and will be holding a tombola. Please come along and support them during the day.
11. Notice is given to Councillors that the Mayor's Civic Church Service will take place at St Mary's Church, Hampden Park, on Sunday 2 October. Further information and invitations will be sent by the Mayor's Office shortly.

**22 Apologies for Absence.**

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Mattock, Murdoch and Murray.

**23 Urgent Motion.**

The following procedural motion was proposed by Councillor Tutt and seconded by Councillor Freebody:

*(1) That Council procedure rules be suspended in order that an urgent motion can be moved on the subject of the atrocity in Nice.*

*(2) That with regard to the urgency provisions of Section 100 B (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Mayor be advised that the reason for urgency is that the events of 14 July occurred after the publication of the council agenda and that the Mayor be requested to allow an urgent motion to be brought before this meeting.*

**Resolved:** That this procedural motion be approved.

**24 Motion - Recent Atrocity in Nice, France.**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Ungar:

*Eastbourne Borough Council wishes to offer its deepest condolences and pays tribute to the people of France following the recent atrocity in Nice.*

*At this time, the Council reflects upon the ideas of liberté, égalité, and fraternité and the importance of promoting tolerance and acceptance within our communities. We stand together against attacks which are used to divide us and remember that what unites us is far stronger.*

*This council will do all within its power to ensure Eastbourne remains welcoming to all irrespective of racial or national origin, belief, sexual orientation, gender identity or disability.*

*Our thoughts are with those affected by these acts, and we pay tribute to those lost.*

**Resolved:** That this motion be approved and that this be conveyed to the Mayor of Nice. Further, that a Book of Condolence be arranged.

**25 Standards - Appointment of Independent Persons**

Council considered the report of the Monitoring Officer on the outcome of the recent recruitment process for the appointment of independent persons. This was carried out by a selection panel comprising Councillors Smethers and Swansborough and the Monitoring Officer.

It was proposed by Councillor Swansborough, seconded by Councillor Smethers and:

**Resolved: (1)** That the Selection Panel's chosen candidates, Mr Allen Gales and Mr Neal Robinson, be appointed as independent persons for an initial period of one year.

**(2)** That the Council's Monitoring Officer be granted delegated authority to extend the term of office for up to a total of 4 years.

**(3)** That the remuneration of the independent persons appointed by the Council be delegated to the Monitoring Officer.

**(4)** That the appreciation of the Council be recorded for the valuable contribution Mr T Elliott has made to the work of standards across the authority during his 8 years of service.

**26 Update on public speaking at Planning Committee and update on the planning scheme of delegation.**

This matter was proposed by Councillor Sabri on behalf of the Planning Committee and seconded by Councillor Taylor.

**Resolved:** That the planning committee's recommendations for amendments to be made to the scheme of delegation and council procedure rules be approved, subject to these amendments being initially in place for a trial period of 6 months.

**27 Regulatory services - new and amended policies.**

This matter was proposed by Councillor Wallis on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Jenkins.

**Resolved:** That the policies and statement as submitted to Cabinet and subject to the added changes set out in the report be adopted.

**28 'Stronger Together' - Joint transformation programme - stakeholder engagement.**

This matter was proposed by Councillor Tester on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Smethers.

**Resolved:** That the recommendation at paragraph 9.11 of the Cabinet minute, for adoption of the shared services employment model with Eastbourne Borough Council acting as the host authority, be approved.

**29 Employee code of conduct**

This matter was proposed by Councillor Tester on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Smethers.

**Resolved:** That the updated code of conduct for employees be approved and adopted.

**30 Motion - Memorial Benches.**

The following motion was proposed by Councillor Smart and seconded by Councillor Taylor:

*We urge the Executive as a matter of urgency to commission the refurbishment of all memorial benches that currently detract from the appearance of the town and would otherwise continue to deteriorate.*

Councillor Tutt advised the Council on the current programme of repair and/or removal of memorial benches which was undertaken in partnership with bench donors.

**Resolved:** (By 15 votes to 8) That this motion be rejected.

**31 Minutes of council bodies and items for discussion.**

The minutes of the following council bodies were submitted to this meeting:

Planning Committee – 17 May and 21 June 2016  
Conservation Area Advisory Group – 24 May and 12 July 2016  
Cabinet – 25 May and 13 July 2016  
Scrutiny Committee – 6 June 2016  
Audit and Governance Committee – 22 June 2016

The following items for discussion were raised:

1. Planning Committee, 21 June 2016, minute 18 – Beach Huts – item raised by Councillor Holt.
2. Planning Committee, 21 June 2016, minute 19 – Devonshire Creative Hub – item raised by Councillor Holt.
3. Planning Committee, 21 June 2016, minute 20 – Devonshire Park Players Building, Devonshire Park – item raised by Councillor Taylor.
4. Audit and Governance Committee, 22 June 2016, minute 5 – Audit materiality 2015-2016 – item raised by Councillor Taylor.

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was:

**Resolved:** That the minutes of the above council bodies be accepted.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm

**Councillor Pat Hearn**  
**Mayor, Chairman**