

# Council



## Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, 22 February 2017 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Councillor Pat Hearn (Mayor) in the Chair

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

### 51 Minutes.

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2016 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

### 52 Mayor's announcements.

1. The Mayor welcomed Councillor Paul Metcalfe who was recently elected to the Council following the Sovereign Ward By-Election.
2. The Mayor has had a busy few months. Some of the engagements that the Mayor has recently attended include:
3. Flag for the Wish Tower Flag Raising Event – This took place at the Wish Tower on 19<sup>th</sup> November following a community project to design a new flag. The flag will fly whenever the Wish Tower is open to the public.
4. Society of Eastbourne Artists Exhibition – During the weekend of 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> November the Society of Eastbourne Artists held an Exhibition and Sale of Paintings at the Town Hall. The Mayor's Charities benefited from the exhibition sales and also raised funds at the refreshments stall during the weekend.
5. Metro Bank Opening – The Mayor was pleased to open the 46<sup>th</sup> branch of Metro Bank in the newly extended Arndale Centre on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.
6. Pantomime Civic Night – On 15<sup>th</sup> December the Mayor and other members of the Council attended the Civic Night of the Pantomime at the Devonshire Park Theatre. This winter's pantomime was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs.
7. Christmas Day – On Christmas Day the Mayor attended the Rotary Club Alone at Christmas event at Our Lady of Ransom Parish Hall and enjoyed chatting with those who would otherwise be spending the day on their own. She then visited the Accident and Emergency department at Eastbourne DGH, the Police Station at

Hammonds Drive and the Fire Station to thank those who were spending their Christmas Day working for Eastbourne's emergency services.

8. Sport Eastbourne Open Day – The Mayor was pleased to learn about the different activities on offer at Hampden Park Sports Centre during her visit to the Sport Eastbourne Open Day on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> January.
9. Mayor's Charity Quiz Night – The first Mayor's Charity Quiz Night of the new year took place at the Town Hall on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January. Once again the event was very well attended and raised over £500 for the Mayor's Charities. The winning team was 'Straight Outta Trumpton'.
10. Beachy Head Marathon Cheque Presentation – On 24<sup>th</sup> January the Mayor attended the Beachy Head Marathon Cheque Presentation at the International Lawns Tennis Centre. The Mayor thanked the volunteers for their involvement in the event and presented them with cheques totalling £7700.00.
11. Launch of Eastbourne Volunteers – A new Eastbourne Volunteers project was launched on 28<sup>th</sup> January and the Mayor was pleased to open their Hub in the Labyrinth. At the same time a new community newspaper for Eastbourne was also launched called 'The Eastbourne Volunteer'.
12. Launch of Seaside Community Hub – On 17<sup>th</sup> February the Mayor was very happy to attend the launch of the new Seaside Community Hub. The Hub was set up by Sue Morris and Helen McCabe as a large community space in Seaside to stop another building becoming unused and to provide social activities for local residents, many free or low cost.
13. During the last few months the Mayor has also attended a number of awards ceremonies, concerts, conferences and other events.
14. 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 had a busy few months, and there are still a number of events remaining for you to show your support for the charities. These include:
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> March – The Mayor's Edwardian Eastbourne Charity Ball. Final bookings must be received by Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February at the very latest.
  - 25<sup>th</sup> March – Mayor's Charity Bingo Night at the Town Hall. Tickets are £15 each and include 8 games of Bingo, a Fish and Chip Supper and a drink. Cash and other prizes will be on offer, as well as a raffle.

- 21<sup>st</sup> April – The final Quiz Night for the current Mayor’s Charities taking place at the Town Hall. Tickets are £10 each and include a Fish and Chip Supper.
- 29<sup>th</sup> April – 1<sup>st</sup> May – Following the success of their November Exhibition, the Society of Eastbourne Artists will be returning to the Town Hall with all proceeds of the Exhibition going to the Mayor’s Charities.

For any enquiries regarding these events, please contact the Mayor’s Office.

**53 Apologies for absence.**

No apologies received.

**54 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**

No declarations were made.

**55 Sovereign by-election 24 November 2016.**

The Council received the report of the Returning Officer on the outcome of the by-election for the Sovereign ward held on 24 November 2016. The by-election had followed the resignation of Raymond Blakebrough on 6 October 2016. Councillor Paul Metcalfe had been elected and he was welcomed by Councillors Tutt and Freebody on behalf of the Council.

**56 Council budget and setting of the council tax for 2017/18.**

This matter was reported and proposed by Councillor Mattock on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Tutt. The Council considered the reports to Cabinet, as included in the draft budget book and also the Cabinet minutes and resolutions from the meeting held on 8 February 2017. The budget proposals were also reported to Scrutiny Committee on 30 January 2017 where no comments or proposals for change were made.

The Council expressed its thanks and appreciation to all officers and in particular the work undertaken by the Chief Finance Officer and his team in the preparation of the draft budget.

**Resolved: (By 17 votes to 8 with 2 abstentions)** That approval be given to the following:

1. The recommendations as detailed in the reports from the Deputy Chief Executive (and Chief Finance Officer) to Cabinet on 8 February 2017:
  - (i) The General Fund net expenditure for 2017/18 of £14,533,700 and the growth and savings proposals.
  - (ii) The charge for council tax for Eastbourne Borough Council Band D change to £232.92; an increase of 1.93%.

- (iii) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) income and expenditure proposals, including revised HRA budget for 2016/17 and the budget for 2017/18, rents and service charges, arrangements for finalising Eastbourne Homes' management fee and annual plan.
  - (iv) General Fund capital programme as set out in the report of the Chief Finance Officer.
  - (v) The Treasury Management Strategy and Prudential Indicators.
2. That consequent upon a General Fund budget of £14,533,700 and other matters, the basic amount (Band D) of Council Tax for the Borough Council's functions will be £232.92 calculated as follows:

	£'000	£'000
Gross Expenditure:		
General Fund		81,968
HRA		15,642
Business Rates payable to Government		11,180
<b>Total</b>		<b>108,790</b>
Less Income:		
Service Income	(83,418)	
Government Formula Grant	(944)	
Other Government Grants	(2,105)	
Business Rates Income	(14,292)	
Collection Fund Surplus (Council Tax)	(129)	
<b>Total</b>		<b>(100,888)</b>
<b>COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENT</b>		<b>7,901</b>
Band 'D' Council Tax		£232.92

The statutory resolutions relating to this matter are given at paragraphs 3 and 4 below.

- 3. That it be noted that at its meeting on 13 December 2016 the Cabinet (in exercise of powers delegated to them by the Council) delegated the final determination of the Council Tax Base to the Chief Finance Officer. This has been set at an amount of 33,923.7 Band 'D' equivalent properties for the year 2017/18 (Item T in the formula in section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended).
- 4. Calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2017/18 as £7,901,500.
- 5. That the following amounts be now calculated by the Council for the year 2017/18 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended:

(a)	£108,789,970	being the aggregate of the amounts which the
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		Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act.
(b)	£100,888,470	being the aggregate of the amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£7,901,500	being the amount by which the aggregate at 5(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 5(b) above, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year. (Item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
(d)	£232.92	being the amount at 5(c) above (Item R), all divided by Item T (4 above), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year.

6. To note that East Sussex County Council, East Sussex Fire and Rescue Authority and Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex have issued precepts to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, for each category of dwellings in the Council's area as indicated in the table below.
7. That the Council, in accordance with Sections 30 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the tables below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2017/18 for each of the categories of dwellings.

### Valuation Bands

#### EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

A	£155.28	B	£181.16	C	£207.04	D	£232.92
E	£284.68	F	£336.44	G	£388.20	H	£465.84

#### EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

A	£876.24	B	£1,022.28	C	£1,168.32	D	£1,314.36
E	£1,606.44	F	£1,898.52	G	£2,190.60	H	£2,628.72

#### POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF SUSSEX

A	£102.61	B	£119.71	C	£136.81	D	£153.91
E	£188.11	F	£222.31	G	£256.52	H	£307.82

#### EAST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY

A	£58.93	B	£68.76	C	£78.58	D	£88.40
E	£108.04	F	£127.69	G	£147.33	H	£176.80

#### AGGREGATE OF COUNCIL TAX REQUIREMENTS

A	£1,193.06	B	£1,391.91	C	£1,590.75	D	£1,789.59
E	£2,187.27	F	£2,584.96	G	£2,982.65	H	£3,579.18

8. That it be determined that the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 is not excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

**NOTE:** As the billing authority, the Council has **not** been notified by a major precepting authority that its relevant basic amount of Council Tax for 2017/18 is excessive and that the billing authority is not required to hold a referendum in accordance with Section 52ZK of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended.

#### **Named voting record for the resolutions at item 56 above:**

**For:** Councillors Bannister, Choudhury, Coles, Dow, Holt, Mattock, Miah, Murray, Robinson, Rodohan, Sabri, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tester, Tutt, Ungar and Wallis.

**Against:** Councillors Belsey, di Cara, Freebody, Jenkins, Murdoch, Metcalfe, Smart and Taylor.

**Abstentions:** The Mayor and Councillor Ballard.

#### **57 Treasury management and prudential indicators 2017/18.**

This matter was reported and proposed by Councillor Mattock on behalf of the Cabinet and seconded by Councillor Tutt.

**Resolved: (By 17 votes to 9 with 1 abstention)** That the treasury management strategy and annual investment strategy; the methodology for calculating the minimum revenue provision; the prudential and treasury indicators and the specified and non-specified investment categories, as set out in the report to Cabinet on 8 February 2017, be approved.

#### **58 Tourist accommodation retention supplementary planning document.**

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

**Resolved: (By 18 votes to 8) (1)** That the tourist accommodation retention supplementary planning document be adopted.

**(2)** That the assessment of financial viability of tourist accommodation supplementary planning guidance, as set out in appendix 5 to the report to cabinet be revoked.

**(3)** That any minor or technical adjustments found necessary in the tourist accommodation retention SPD be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Planning in consultation with the lead cabinet member.

**(4)** That the terms of reference for a tourist accommodation consultative group, as set out in appendix 3 to the report to cabinet be approved.

**59 Local development scheme 2017-2020.**

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

Members conveyed their thanks to the Planning Policy Officer for his work on the report.

**Resolved: (Unanimously) (1)** That the local development scheme for 2017-2020 as set out in appendix 1 to the report to Cabinet on 8 February 2017 be adopted.

**(2)** That any minor or technical adjustments to the Local Development Scheme be delegated to the Director of Regeneration and Planning in consultation with the lead cabinet member.

**60 Change management - human resources policy.**

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

**Resolved: (Unanimously)** That the revised change management policy be approved.

**61 Adoption of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of anti-Semitism.**

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

*The Council welcomes the Government's announcement that it has signed up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on anti-Semitism. The Council recognises the importance of understanding and supporting all endeavours to shape and advance Holocaust education and remembrance, to understand how anti-Semitism manifests itself and pledging support to combat those behaviours. To this aim the Council will adopt and apply the IRHA's definition of anti-Semitism as follows:*

*"Anti-Semitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of anti-Semitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or*

*their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities."*

Dorit Oliver-Wolff addressed the Council on the motion.

**Resolved: (Unanimously)** That this motion be approved.

**62 Downland farms.**

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

*"The Conservative group call upon Eastbourne Borough Council to hold a referendum on the proposed sale of the Downland Farms, and let local people decide."*

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Ungar and seconded by Councillor Dow:

That the following alternative proposal wording replaces the wording of the original motion:

*"The Council endorses the ongoing consultation process on the proposal to sell the working farms freeholds. It notes that the consultation has been made available online and to every household in the town via the Eastbourne Review.*

*It also recognises the associated opinion poll in the Review giving all residents of Eastbourne an opportunity to consider this proposal and alternative measures made necessary in the light of financial pressures imposed by reduction in Government grant."*

Simon Boyle, John Boyle, Dennis Scard, Caroline Tradewell, Sally Boys, Penny Shearer and Catherine Tonge addressed the Council on the motion.

**Resolved: (By 17 votes to 9 with 1 abstention)** That the amended motion be approved.

**Named voting record for the above resolution.**

**For:** Councillors Bannister, Choudhury, Coles, Dow, Holt, Mattock, Miah, Murray, Robinson, Rodohan, Sabri, Shuttleworth, Swansborough, Tester, Tutt, Ungar and Wallis.

**Against:** Councillors Ballard, Belsey, di Cara, Freebody, Jenkins, Murdoch, Metcalfe, Smart and Taylor.

**Abstentions:** The Mayor.

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

The minutes of the following Council bodies were submitted to this meeting.

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<b>Committee</b>	<b>Date</b>
Conservation Area Advisory Group	22 November 2016 and 10 January 2017
Planning Committee	15 November 2016, 13 December 2016 and 17 January 2017
Audit and Governance Committee	30 November 2016
General Licensing Committee	9 January 2017
Scrutiny Committee	5 December 2016 and 30 January 2017
Cabinet	13 December 2016 and 8 February 2017

No items for discussion were raised on the above minutes. Further to Council procedure rule 14.3 it was:

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

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm

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