

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Court Room at Eastbourne Town Hall, Grove Road, BN21 4UG on 24 May 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Pat Rodohan (Mayor).

Councillors Candy Vaughan (Deputy Mayor), Nick Ansell, Kathy Ballard, Margaret Bannister, Daniel Butcher, Andy Collins, Ali Dehdashty, Peter Diplock, Christina Ewbank, Nigel Goodyear, Stephen Holt, Jane Lamb, Robin Maxted, Anita Mayes, Amanda Morris, Jim Murray, Hugh Parker, Teri Sayers-Cooper, Kshama Shore, Alan Shuttleworth, David Small, Robert Smart, Colin Swansborough and Jenny Williams.

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Kate Slattery (Head of Legal Services), Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services) and Sarah Lawrence (Committee Team Manager).

1 Election of the Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor Shuttleworth and seconded by Councillor Swansborough that Councillor Candy Vaughan be elected as Mayor for the municipal year 2023/24.

It was accordingly:-

RESOLVED (unanimously) – That Councillor Candy Vaughan be elected Mayor for the 2023/24 municipal year and until the election of the Mayor at the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

Councillor Vaughan then signed her statutory declaration of acceptance of office as Mayor and took the chair. In her speech of acceptance, the Mayor advised that she would be raising money for two charities in 2023/24 which would be Band of Brothers and The Old Bank Wellbeing Centre.

Councillor Vaughan thanked Councillor Rodohan and Barbara Rodohan for their excellent work as Mayor and Mayoress during the last year and congratulated them on the £22k raised for their charities.

2 Notification of apologies for absence.

The Head of Democratic Services advised that apologies had been received from Councillors Belsey and di Cara.

3 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 (please see note at end of agenda).

There were no declarations of interest made.

4 Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February 2023

RESOLVED – That the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 22 February 2023 were confirmed and signed as a correct record.

5 Appointment of Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor Murray and seconded by Councillor Diplock that Councillor Amanda Morris be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the municipal year 2023/24.

RESOLVED (by 19 votes for, 0 against and 6 abstentions) – That Councillor Amanda Morris be appointed as Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Councillor Morris then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office as Deputy Mayor. In her speech of acceptance, the Deputy Mayor advised that Nick Reynolds would act as her consort for the year, and her daughter, Sophia Morris, who would accompany her to events when her official consort was unavailable.

6 Investiture of Mayor's Consort.

The Mayor reported that her daughter, Nickie Foster, would act as the Mayor's consort for the 2023/24 municipal year.

7 Mayor's Chaplain - Notification of Appointment.

The Mayor reported that Father Danny Pegg would serve as the Mayor's Chaplain for the municipal year 2023/24.

8 Election of Leader of the Council

It was proposed by Councillor Swansborough and seconded by Councillor Ewbank that Councillor Stephen Holt be elected as Leader of the Council.

This was debated by the Council.

RESOLVED (by 19 votes to 6) - That Councillor Holt be elected as Leader of the Council and Cabinet Chair for a 4-year term of office until May 2027, to continue until a new Leader is elected.

Councillor Holt gave a speech of acceptance for the role of the Leader of the Council.

9 Borough Council Elections 2023 - Returning Officer report.

The Council received the report of the Chief Executive and Returning Officer

setting out the results of the elections held on 4 May 2023, and the Councillors elected until May 2027 as follows:

Ward:	Councillor (*newly elected)
Devonshire	Margaret Elizabeth BANNISTER, Christina Jane EWBANK* Stephen Alfred HOLT
Hampden Park	James Robert MURRAY Teresa Marie SAYERS-COOPER* Colin Richard SWANSBOROUGH
Langney	Anita MAYES* Alan SHUTTLEWORTH Candy VAUGHAN
Meads	Andrew William COLLINS* Jane Elizabeth LAMB Robert Christopher SMART
Old Town	Ali Asgar DEHDASHTY* Peter Robert DIPLOCK Amanda Jennifer MORRIS
Ratton	Nicholas John Raymond ANSELL* Colin Sidney BELSEY, David SMALL*
St Anthony's	Daniel David Anstey BUTCHER* Hugh Wayne PARKER Jenny WILLIAMS*
Sovereign	Penelope Rose DI CARA Nigel Royston GOODYEAR* Kshama SHORE
Upperton	Katherine Leah BALLARD* Robin Hugh MAXTED Patrick Joseph RODOHAN

The report recommendations were proposed by Councillor Holt and seconded by Councillor Smart.

Councillors congratulated all Councillors on their election and took time to thank and pay tribute to all those who had served the Council and stood down at this election including Councillors Babarinde, Choudhury, Dow, Freebody, Miah, Murdoch, Taylor, Tutt, Wallis and Whippy.

Thanks were extended to the Returning Officer and his team for their work on the election.

RESOLVED (unanimously)- That the Returning Officer's report be noted.

10 Appointments Report

The Council considered the report of the Head of Democratic Services, setting out political balance and the allocation of seats on Committees and Other Bodies prepared in consultation with Group Leaders.

Councillor Holt proposed and Councillor Bannister seconded the recommendations set out in the report and appendices, subject to a correction advised by Councillor Holt (which was tabled) to the representative for 'Team East Sussex', to be Councillor Holt, and substitute Councillor Swansborough.

RESOLVED (by 19 votes to 6):

1. To approve the proposed number and allocation of seats and nominations as set out in Appendix 1, to Committees, Other Bodies and Outside Bodies, and to Chairs and Deputy Chairs;
2. That the continuation of the following bodies be confirmed with terms of reference as set out in the Council's Constitution, and that they have a fixed membership or to which members are appointed by the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive or relevant Director as the need arises: Equality Steering Group, Council Panels, Recruitment Panels, Task Groups and Project Boards;
3. That Neal Robinson and Graham Branton be re-confirmed as the Council's Standards Independent Persons until their tenure ends on 31 July 2023, and to note that the Monitoring Officer will undertake a new recruitment process for the positions, to be reported back to the next meeting of the Full Council;
4. To approve the establishment of a Constitution Working Group and its proposed terms of reference, as set out at Appendix 2 of the report, approve its membership, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, and to delegate the Monitoring Officer to incorporate its formation into the relevant sections of the Council's constitution; and
5. To approve the Scheme of Delegations to Officers and Proper Officer functions as set out in the relevant sections of the Council's Constitution.

11 Executive Arrangements

Councillor Holt as Leader of the Council advised that the Councillors appointed to the Cabinet for 2023/24 were as follows:

- Leader of the Council (and Community Strategy, Local Strategic Partnership, the Corporate Plan, Performance and Staff) – Councillor Stephen Holt
- Deputy Leader (Tourism, Leisure, Accessibility and Community Safety) – Councillor Margaret Bannister
- Finance and Resources – Councillor Robin Maxted
- Carbon Neutral 2030 – Councillor Jim Murray
- Enterprise, Community Spaces and Heritage Assets – Councillor Colin Swansborough
- Housing and Planning – Councillor Peter Diplock

In addition, Councillor Holt confirmed that the terms of reference and constitution of the Cabinet were as set out in the Council's Constitution and were unchanged, and that delegations to individual Cabinet members in respect of executive functions had not been made at this time.

12 Calendar of Meetings 2023/24

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Smart seconded the ratification of the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24, as set out on the agenda.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – That the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24 be approved.

13 Annual Pay Policy Statement 2023-24

The Council received the report of the Director of Tourism, Culture and Organisational Development, presenting the Pay Policy Statement for the financial year 2023/24 for approval by the Council.

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Smart seconded the recommendations set out in the report.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – That the Council approves and recommends the updated Pay Policy Statement for publication on the Council's website.

14 Discussion on minutes of council bodies.

The minutes of the following Council bodies were submitted to the meeting for information:

Planning Committee – 27 February 2023 and 17 April 2023
Audit and Governance Committee – 1 March 2023
Cabinet – 14 March 2023

No items were called for discussion.

Councillor Holt moved and Councillor Diplock seconded acceptance of the minutes.

RESOLVED (unanimously) – That the minutes be accepted.

15 Date of next meeting.

It was noted that the date of the next meeting was scheduled to take place on 26 July 2023 at 6 pm.

The meeting ended at 7.30 pm

Councillor Candy Vaughan (Mayor)