

Annual and Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE on 22 May 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Adrian Ross (Chair).

Councillors Graham Amy (Vice-Chair), Lucy Agace, Ian Alexander, Janet Baah, Lesley Boniface, Christine Brett, Christina Bristow, Julie Carr, Ciarron Clarkson, Roy Clay, Graham Clews, Ezra Cohen, Chris Collier, William Coupland, Paul Davies, Johnny Denis, Nikki Fabry, Becky Francomb, Cathy Gallagher, Stephen Gauntlett, Freddie Hoareau, Olivia Honeyman, Charlotte Keenan, Paul Keene, Nick Kortalla-Bird, Christoph von Kurthy, James MacCleary, Sean MacLeod, Imogen Makepeace, Wendy Maples, James Meek, Paul Mellor, Zoe Nicholson, Emily O'Brien, Laurence O'Connor, Christine Robinson, Joa Saunders, Isobel Sharkey, Mark Slater, Stella Spiteri and Daniel Stewart-Roberts.

Officers in attendance:

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

1 Election of the Chair of the Council

The Chair of the Council, Adrian Ross, welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated all newly elected and returning Councillors on their election. He also thanked all those who had not been elected for their service and commitment to the Council and community over the last four years.

The Chair then invited Councillors to formally move the nomination received in advance of the meeting for Councillor Ian Alexander to be Chair of the Council for 2023/24.

Councillor Nicholson proposed and Councillor Collier seconded the nomination of Councillor Alexander.

The proposal was put to the vote and was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED that Councillor Ian Alexander be elected as the Chair of the Council for 2023/24.

Councillor Alexander then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office as Chair of the Council and took the chair.

In his speech of acceptance of his re-election, Councillor Alexander thanked the outgoing Chair and Vice-Chair, Adrian Ross and Councillor Graham Amy

for their work over the last year.

2 Appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Council

The Chair invited members to formally propose the nomination for Vice-Chair of the Council received in advance of the meeting for Councillor Lesley Boniface.

Councillor Brett proposed and Councillor Carr seconded the nomination of Councillor Boniface to be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Council for 2023/24.

The nomination was put to a vote and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED that Councillor Lesley Boniface be appointed as the Vice-Chair of the Council for 2023/24.

Councillor Boniface then made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office as Vice-Chair.

3 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 February 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

4 Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

5 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

6 Announcements

The Council received a list of the outgoing Chair of the Council's engagements carried out between May 2022 and May 2023 which had been tabled at the meeting, and the new Chair highlighted the range of the work carried out by Adrian Ross during the last year. There were no other announcements made.

7 Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

8 Returning Officer's Report

The Chair drew the Council's attention to the report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Returning Officer informing the Council of the result of the District Elections held on 4 May 2023, and congratulated both returning and newly elected Councillors, who would hold office until May 2027 as follows:

Ward:	Full name of Councillor:
Chailey Barcombe and Hamsey	Joa SAUNDERS, Mark SLATER
Ditchling and Westmeston	Paul Anthony David MELLOR
East Saltdean and Telscombe Cliffs	Ian Keith ALEXANDER, Laurence Julian O'CONNOR, Christine Sandra ROBINSON
KINGSTON	Stella SPITERI
Lewes Bridge	Zoe NICHOLSON, Janet BAAH
Lewes Castle	Wendy MAPLES, Nick KORTALLA-BIRD
Lewes Priory	Imogen MAKEPEACE, Graham CLEWS, Paul KEENE
Newhaven North	Julie Lyn CARR, Sean Andrew MACLEOD
Newhaven South	Graham Roger AMY, James Neville MACCLEARY, Christoph David VON KURTHY
Newick	Charlotte KENNAN
Ouse Valley and Ringmer	Lucy AGACE, Johnny DENIS, Emily O'BRIEN
Peacehaven East	Paul Thomas DAVIES, Cathy GALLAGHER
Peacehaven North	Ciarron Joss CLARKSON, Isobel Louise SHARKEY
Peacehaven West	Chris COLLIER, Nikki FABRY
Plumpton, Streat, East Chiltington and St John (without)	Daniel James Banfield STEWART-ROBERTS
Seaford Central	Stephen GAUNTLETT, Freddie HOAREAU
Seaford East	Ezra COHEN, Becky FRANCOMB
Seaford North	Roy CLAY, James MEEK
Seaford South	Christine Anne BRETT, Olivia HONEYMAN
Seaford West	Lesley BONIFACE, Christina Kathleen BRISTOW
Wivelsfield	William COUPLAND

Councillor Collier moved and Councillor Denis seconded the recommendation to note the report. In moving the recommendation, Councillor Collier extended his thanks to the Returning Officer, to the Head of Elections and Local Land Charges, and the whole team for the excellent way in which the election was conducted and thanked them for the enormous amount of work involved in delivering the election successfully, in particular with the introduction of voter ID.

A question was raised around the new approach to publishing addresses in nomination and results papers. The Chair confirmed that this could be considered outside the meeting, taking into account relevant legislation.

The recommendation was put to a vote and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

9 Election of the Leader of Council, in accordance with Council Procedure Rules

The Chair invited nominations for the position of Leader of the Council.

Councillor Clarkson proposed and Councillor Maples seconded the nomination of Councillor Nicholson to be elected as Leader of the Council for a 4 year term of office.

The nomination was put to a vote and declared approved unanimously.

RESOLVED that Councillor Nicholson be elected to be Leader of the Council for a 4 year term of office.

Following the appointment, Councillor Nicholson made her speech of acceptance and thanks, reflecting on what had been achieved by the co-operative alliance over the last four years and committing to continuing that work. She extended her personal thanks to Councillor MacCleary who had served as Leader for two of the four years, and to other Councillors who had previously served on Cabinet and to her fellow ward councillor, Adrian Ross.

10 Appointments Report

The Chair advised that the appointments report had been tabled as an agenda supplement.

At the Chair's invitation, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Nicholson, advised that the following would be appointed to the Cabinet and on their areas of responsibilities for information:

Cabinet Member	Portfolio
Councillor Zoe Nicholson	Leader of the Council, Chair of Cabinet and Cabinet member for finance, assets and community wealth building
Councillor Christine Robinson	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet member for community wellbeing
Councillor Chris Collier	Cabinet member for innovation, delivery and people
Councillor Johnny Denis	Cabinet member for arts, culture and tourism and leisure
Councillor Wendy Maples	Cabinet member for neighbourhood wellbeing

Councillor Emily O'Brien	Cabinet member for climate, nature and food systems
Councillor Laurence O'Connor	Cabinet member for planning and infrastructure
Councillor Mark Slater	Cabinet member for tenants and those in housing need

Councillor Nicholson moved and Councillor MacCleary seconded the recommendations set out in the appointments report.

The Chair of the Council then drew the Councillors' attention to the list of nominations set out in Appendix 1 to the report and advised that there were two outside bodies where there were more nominations than places (in respect of Impact Seaford and Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group). In addition, where no nominations had been received, it was proposed the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to appoint to vacancies in consultation with Group Leaders in accordance with political balance rules, or in relation to Deputy Chair appointments these be put to a vote at the first meeting of the relevant Committee.

The Chair put to a vote first all the appointments where there were no contested seats, and all other report recommendations, and these were carried unanimously.

The Chair then put to a vote the nominations received for Impact Seaford; Councillor Meek received 26 votes, Councillor Boniface 15 votes, and there were no abstentions. Councillor Meek was declared to be the Council's representative for Impact Seaford.

The Chair then put to a vote the nominations received for Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group; Councillor O'Brien received 26 votes, Councillor Bristow received 15 votes, and there were no abstentions. Councillor O'Brien was declared to be the Council's representative for the Local Government Association – Coastal Issues Special Interest Group.

RESOLVED:

1. To approve the proposed number and allocation of seats and nominations to Committees, Other Bodies and Outside Bodies, and to Chairs and Deputy Chairs as set out in Appendix 1;
2. To approve the increase in the size of the Licensing Committee to 11 members;
3. To rename the Audit and Standards Committee as the Audit and Governance Committee and to delegate the Monitoring Officer to make the relevant changes to the Council's constitution.
4. To appoint all members of the Council to the 'approved list' of members appointed as substitute members in accordance with Council's Rules of Procedure, except where prohibited by those rules such as for Licensing Committee and Cabinet;

5. To note the Leader of the Council's appointments to Cabinet, the individual areas of responsibility allocated to the Cabinet and the allocation of those areas of responsibility to the members of the Cabinet, as reported at the meeting;
6. 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;
7. To approve the establishment of a Constitution Working Group and its proposed terms of reference as set out at Appendix 2 of the report, and 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
8. To delegate to the Head of Democratic Services to resolve in consultation with Group Leaders any vacant appointments.

11 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 Collier moved and Councillor MacCleary seconded the recommendations set out in the report.

The recommendations were put to a vote and approved unanimously.

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

12 Urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet members

There were no urgent decisions to report.

13 Calendar of Meetings 2023/24

Councillor Robinson moved and Councillor O'Brien seconded approval of the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24.

This was put to a vote and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED – That the Calendar of Meetings for 2023/24 as set down on the agenda be approved.

14 Date of Next Meeting

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting of the Council was on 24 July 2023 at 6 pm.

The meeting ended at 6.29 pm

Councillor Ian Alexander (Chair)