

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Council Chamber, County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes, East Sussex, BN7 1UE on 25 September 2023 at 6.00 pm.

Present:

Councillor Ian Alexander (Chairman).
Councillors Graham Amy, Lucy Agace, Janet Baah, Christine Brett, Christina Bristow, Ciarron Clarkson, Roy Clay, Graham Clews, Ezra Cohen, Chris Collier, Paul Davies, Johnny Denis, Nikki Fabry, Becky Francomb, Cathy Gallagher, Stephen Gauntlett, 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, Joa Saunders, Isobel Sharkey, Mark Slater and Stella Spiteri.

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Kate Slattery (Head of Legal Services), Sarah Lawrence (Committee Team Manager), Simon Russell (Head of Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer), Ian Fitzpatrick (Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Regeneration and Planning) and Nick Peeters (Committee Officer).

33 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2023

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34 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Boniface, Clay, Coupland, Houreau, O'Connor, Robinson, Stewart-Roberts.

35 Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

36 Announcements

The Chair drew attention of the Council to the list of his engagements since the last Council meeting, in particular his attendance at the 81st Anniversary of the

Dieppe Raid Commemorations in Dieppe, France. There were no other announcements.

37 Urgent items

There was no urgent items.

38 Questions from members of the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

39 Petition - 'To Return Lewes Farmers Market Back to Cliffe Precinct'.

Celia Schultz of Poppys of Lewes (on behalf of the traders in the Riverside) presented the petition signed by 924 signatories, and with the statement:

‘To return Lewes Farmers Market back to Cliffe Precinct’ and with the explanation:

‘Please support Riverside Lewes and Local businesses if you think that Lewes Farmers Market should return to Cliffe Precinct to allow Friars Walk car park to be used for Car Parking’.

In accordance with the Council’s Petitions Scheme procedure, the Chair invited two Lewes Ward Councillors and then two other Councillors to speak on the matter. Councillor Baah (ward councillor), Councillor Maples (ward councillor for Lewes and Cabinet Member), Councillor Denis (Cabinet member) and Councillor MacCleary (Shadow Cabinet Member) spoke in relation to the petition.

Key issues identified by the speakers for consideration in relation to the petition on the market location, were the needs and views of residents, traders and special interest groups, and taking into account accessibility, availability of car parking, and the impact on local businesses.

In line with the petitions scheme, the petition was then referred to the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee for consideration.

The Chair thanked Celia Schultz for attending the meeting and presenting the petition.

40 Urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet members

In accordance with the Policy and Performance Advisory Committee Procedure Rule 17, the Council was notified of the details of an urgent Cabinet Member Decision in relation to the ‘Contract Renewal - Core IT Systems’ made on 3 August 2023.

41 Notice of Motion: Bins for Boys Campaign

Councillor MacCleary moved and Councillor Macleod seconded a motion on

the Bins for Boys Campaign as set out in the agenda.

Councillor Maples, as the relevant Cabinet member, spoke in support of the motion.

The motion was put to a vote and carried unanimously.

RESOLVED that

1. That the Council notes Prostate Cancer UK's campaign of "boys need bins" and supports the provision of sanitary bins in toilets, wherever possible, so that waste products can be disposed of in a discreet and hygienic manner;
2. That the Council requests that the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Wellbeing works with Officers of the Council to roll out a trial programme to provide sanitary bins in several Council managed facilities and calls upon Cabinet to make the funding available to achieve this, and the Council asks that Cabinet reviews the success of the trial during 2024 to consider an extension to other Council owned and managed facilities; and
3. That the Council further requests that the Leader writes to the MPs covering our Authority area to ask them to publicly back the campaign, as found on the Prostate Cancer UK website.

42 Written questions from Councillors

No written questions had been received in accordance with procedure rule 12.

43 Questions to the Leader of the Council

Two questions had been submitted to the Leader of the Council:

1. Question from Councillor Keene:

Councillor Keene asked: "How will recent Government announcements have an impact on the Council's sustainability plans?"

Councillor Nicholson asked Councillor O'Brien to respond as the relevant Cabinet Member. Councillor O'Brien advised that she had been contacted by other Councillors and residents concerned by the Government's announcement that it intended to delay implementation of some key green policies nationally, aimed at achieving net zero for the UK, and asking about the implications for the Council and locally. Councillor O'Brien responded first in a personal capacity of her concerns of the implications of the changes for the UK economy, the wellbeing of its citizens and the future of the environment. As a Cabinet Member, she confirmed that the Council had declared a climate emergency in 2019 including an aspiration to achieve net zero for the Council, and if possible, for Lewes District by 2030 rather than 2050. However, many local measures depended on national policy.

Councillor O'Brien advised that she had asked officers to look urgently into the implications of the announcement for the Council's own local plans, including the refresh of the Climate and Sustainability action plan which aimed to be completed for March next year, and would be reporting back on these through Cabinet, and via the climate scrutiny panel.

2. Question from Councillor Gauntlett:

Councillor Gauntlett advised that during the summer Seaford Councillors had received numerous complaints and revolting photos of Council owned and maintained toilets in Place Lane and The Salts in his ward, in particular the women's toilets, which faced those arriving at Seaford station. He asked that there be some investment to improve and update these toilets, as other parts of the district had received, and asked how the Council would ensure regular cleaning, re-supply of toilet paper and mending of broken locks.

Councillor Nicholson responded that the Council owned toilets were cleaned twice a day, so would attribute their state in the pictures to vandalism. Councillor Nicholson advised she would ask Officers to provide a written response to Councillors with a breakdown of who owned and who is responsible for the maintenance of which toilets in Seaford. She also committed to involve ward councillors in the discussion about the refurbishment and maintenance programme for Council owned facilities.

44 Ward issues

There were no ward issues to be discussed.

45 Reporting back on meetings of outside bodies

The following reports had been received on outside bodies set out in the agenda and agenda supplement, and were noted:

- Newhaven Town Deal Board – Councillors Nicholson and Robinson
- Aspiration Homes LLP – Councillors Nicholson and Robinson
- Greater Brighton Economic Board – Councillor Nicholson
- South Downs National Park Authority – Councillor Stewart-Roberts
- Armed Forces Champion – Councillor Stewart-Roberts
- Lewes Citizens Advice – Councillor Makepeace

46 Date of Next Meeting

It was confirmed that the next meeting of Full Council was scheduled for 20 November 2023 at 6 pm.

The meeting ended at 6.40 pm

Councillor Ian Alexander (Chairman)