

Full Council

Minutes of meeting held in Council Chamber at County Hall, St Anne's Crescent, Lewes on 15 July 2019 at 6.00 pm

Present:

Councillor Stephen Gauntlett (Chair)

Councillors Adrian Ross (Vice-Chair), Sam Adeniji, Graham Amy, Nancy Bikson, Matthew Bird, Liz Boorman, Phil Boorman, Christine Brett, Roy Burman, Julie Carr, Roy Clay, Chris Collier, Sharon Davy, Johnny Denis, Lynda Duhigg, Tom Jones, Isabelle Linington, Ron Maskell, Ruth O'Keeffe, Julian Peterson, Steve Saunders, Robert Banks, Christoph von Kurthy, Jim Lord, Sylvia Lord, James MacCleary, Sean MacLeod, Imogen Makepeace, Milly Manley, William Meyer, Joe Miller, Zoe Nicholson, Emily O'Brien, Laurence O'Connor, Nicola Papanicolaou, Christine Robinson, Geoff Rutland and Ian White

Officers in attendance:

Robert Cottrill (Chief Executive), Catherine Knight (Assistant Director of Legal and Democratic Services) and Sarah Lawrence (Senior Committee Officer).

16 Minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2019

The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 20 May 2019 were approved as a correct record, subject to typographical changes, including a correction to the spelling of Councillor O'Keeffe's name in item 9 and to Councillor Robinson's name in Minutes Appendix 1.

17 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Rigden and Davis.

18 Declarations of interest

Councillors O'Brien, Brett, Peterson, Adeniji, S Lord, J Lord and Clay declared personal interests in respect of item 8 (petitions) as they were patients at the doctors surgeries involved. Councillor Saunders also declared a personal interest in item 8 as he was a member of the trustees for Wave Leisure, which was a partner in the proposed scheme. None of the interests were prejudicial, and all Councillors remained in the room and took part in the discussions of item 8.

19 Announcements

The Council received a list of the Chair of the Council's engagements carried out between 20 May 2019 and 15 July 2019.

20 Urgent items

There were no urgent items.

21 Notice Received for Removing the Leader of the Council

The Chair of the Council advised that notice had been received from Councillor MacCleary and Councillor Collier in accordance with paragraph 5.3 in the Council's Constitution proposing the removal of the Leader, and that Councillor Nicholson be appointed as the Leader of the Council instead. The Chair confirmed that no alternative nominations were received by the deadline of 7 July 2019. Council was asked to vote first on the proposed resolution to remove the Leader.

In accordance with paragraph 18.4 of Council Procedure Rules, more than five members of the Council requested that a ballot was held on this vote.

In accordance with paragraph 18.5 of the Council Procedure Rules, more than five members of the Council then requested that a named vote was held on the item, which overrode the demand for a ballot.

The vote on the removal of the Leader was therefore put to the vote and declared carried by 22 to 17 votes, and the names of those voting recorded as follows:

For the Motion:

Councillors Amy, Banks, Bird, Brett, Carr, Clay, Collier, Denis, Gauntlett, von Kurthy, MacCleary, Macleod, Makepeace, Manley, Meyer, Nicholson, O'Brien, O'Connor, O'Keeffe, Robinson, Ross and Saunders. (22)

Against the Motion:

Councillors Adeniji, Bikson, L Boorman, P Boorman, Burman, Davy, Duhigg, Jones, Linington, J Lord, S Lord, Maskell, Miller, Papanicolaou, Peterson, Rutland and White. (17)

The Chair then put the nomination of Councillor Nicholson to be Leader of the Council to a vote by way of a show of hands. This was carried by 22 votes to 17.

RESOLVED – That Councillor Isabelle Linington be removed as Leader and that Councillor Zoe Nicholson be appointed as Leader of the Council.

Further to the resolution, the Chair of the Council advised that there would be some appointments, including the membership and chairmanship of the Scrutiny Committee, the chairmanship of Audit and Standards Committee,

and representation on outside bodies which specifically required a member or representative to be a Cabinet Member or an Opposition Member. The Assistant Director – Legal and Democratic Services would therefore contact Group Leaders following this meeting to make any other necessary changes to appointments.

Councillor Nicholson thanked the Council and advised that the following would also be members of the Cabinet:

Councillor MacCleary – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Prosperity.

Councillor O'Brien – Cabinet Member for Planning

Councillor Carr – Cabinet Member for Waste and Recycling

Councillor Bird – Cabinet Member for Sustainability

Councillor Meyer – Cabinet Member for Housing

Councillor Denis – Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities.

Councillor O'Keeffe – Cabinet Member for Partnership and Enterprise

Councillor Collier – Cabinet Member for Performance and People.

22 Questions from members of the public

There were no questions received from the members of the public.

23 Petitions

Holger Zschenderlein for Downs Development Neighbourhood Voice presented a petition to the Council entitled 'Petition to stop the Development on the Downs Leisure Centre site. Save our Recreation Grounds, keep Doctors in Seaford Town' and read out the supporting statement. He advised that the hardcopy of the petition had received 1,876 signatures, and to date the online petition had received 764 signatures to date and was due to complete on 11 October 2019.

Councillors Adeniji and Brett, as ward members spoke in relation to the petition. In addition, Councillor O'Brien and Councillor Denis spoke, the latter highlighting, in his role as outgoing Scrutiny Chair, that the Scrutiny Committee had set up a Task Group to look at the proposed Seaford Health Hub.

The Chair formally received the petition, and advised that as it contained more than 1,500 signatures it will be referred to the next Full Council in September for discussion. In addition, it was appropriate for the petition to be notified to the Scrutiny Task Group for its consideration.

24 Standards - Appointment of Independent Persons

Councillor Gauntlett moved the recommendations of the report for the appointment of two Independent Persons for a four year term, and this was seconded by Councillor Carr and approved.

The Chair advised that these appointments had also been approved by Eastbourne Borough Council at its Full Council meeting on 10 July 2019.

RESOLVED:

- 1) That the Council approves the appointment of Neal Robinson and Graham Branton as Independent Persons for Lewes District Council for a term of four years, commencing on 1 August 2019, subject to re-confirmation at Annual Council in 2020, 2021 and 2022; and
- 2) That the Council record its thanks to Vic Kempner for his service as outgoing Independent Person.

25 Recommendation from Audit and Standards Committee

The Chair of the Council advised that on 18 March 2019 the Audit and Standards Committee had considered the Council motion on Investment and Climate Change, had received an update on the East Sussex Pensions Fund investments, and had agreed to receive a regular update as part of treasury management monitoring on the implications of the Council's investments on climate change.

Councillor Gauntlett moved and Councillor Saunders seconded and accordingly the Council:

RESOLVED - To note the consideration and resolutions of the Audit and Standards Committee on the Council motion on Investment and Climate Change.

26 Notices of motion.

The Chair of the Council reported that the following notice of motion had been submitted under Council Procedure Rule 14.

(a) To Declare a Climate Emergency

Councillor Bird moved and Councillor Brett seconded:

"We call on the Council:

1. To develop a comprehensive Climate Change Strategy within 12 months that addresses all inward and outward-facing Council functions and implement appropriate monitoring and reporting mechanisms in order to:
 - Ensure that all strategic decisions, budgets and approaches to planning decisions are in line with a shift to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2030;
 - Ensure that appropriate resources and capacity are put in place

to progress the actions needed to address the 'climate emergency' effectively; and

- Support and work with relevant agencies and stakeholders towards making the entire District zero carbon and climate resilient by 2030.

2. To request Scrutiny Committee to set up a Climate Change Scrutiny Panel that receives progress reports on the policy and actions enacted by the Council to address the 'Climate Emergency'. This incorporates the existing request to Scrutiny Committee to monitor the implementation of recommendations made by the Climate Change Action Group. The Panel will also invite appropriate experts to support Council climate change actions.
3. To request that a Community Climate Change Forum is convened with representation and participation from across the district. Invitees to include but not be restricted to representatives from local communities, parish and town councils, organisations, business, education, nature groups, agricultural, food, health and transport groups.
4. To request that the Council is especially proactive in taking steps to include young people in the 'Climate Emergency' process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future.
5. To report on an annual basis to the Audit and Standards Committee on the level of investment in the fossil fuel industry that our pensions plan and other investments have, and review the Council's investment strategy to give due consideration to climate change impacts in the investment portfolio.
6. To ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budgeting take into account actions the Council will take to address this emergency.
7. Portfolio Holder to write to the Government to set out the Council's intentions and call on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible, and ask our local MP to do likewise."

The motion was put to the vote and it was carried (**RESOLVED**).

27 Urgent decisions taken by the Cabinet or Cabinet members

There were no urgent decisions to report.

28 Written questions from Councillors

There were no written questions from Councillors.

29 Questions to the Leader of the Council

There were no questions put to the Leader of the Council.

30 Ward issues

No ward issues were notified to be raised at the meeting.

31 Reporting back on meetings of outside bodies

No Councillors had asked to report back on meetings of outside bodies.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm

Councillor Stephen Gauntlett (Chair)