

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

Held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**

BEXHILL-ON-SEA

On **Wednesday 28th January 2026** at **6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Carroll, Cllr Crotty, Cllr Drayson, Cllr Goss, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Rustem, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Wilson, Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: M Webber; L Muhilathithan; J Bartholomew; One Videographer; 8 members of public, Cllr Ian Hollidge (East Sussex County Council).

00405 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was none.

00406 APOLIGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr El and Cllr Huseyin.

It was noted that Cllr Drayson reminded the Council to follow procedure on the recording of apologies for absence; other Councillors are not to make comments on a Councillor's absence.

It was noted that Cllr Hunt would be in attendance but would arrive later in the meeting.

00407 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

00408 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced that the Council has a lot to get through in tonight's meeting. What has not been discussed by 20:45pm will not be discussed tonight. The Chair is setting aside 35 minutes for information that needs to be discussed in the closed session. Cllr Wilson also asked

that the Council bear in mind that one of the standing orders is before a Councillor speaks, they should stand, if possible.

00409 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meeting of the Full Council.

a) Wednesday 17th December 2025.

Cllr Drayson expressed concern over the accuracy of the minutes and what he considers to be a serious breach of Standing Order one in the way that the budget for 2026-2027 was decided. In minute 00359, the minutes correctly record that Councillor Plim moved a motion to follow the Responsible Financial Officer's advice and submit the precept request. However, the minutes then record two further items as if they were separate motions, one from yourself Chair and one from myself. These were not motions; they were properly proposed and seconded amendments to Councillor Plims' original motion. Therefore, they should have been debated and voted on. This is a clear breach of standing orders and therefore this decision is procedurally invalid.

Cllr Hunt entered the meeting at 18:39pm.

Cllr Peters proposed a motion to amend the minutes of the meeting of the 17th December 2025 to include a line stating, "The Chair originally voted against the motion and then changed the vote for when it was the casting vote".

Cllr Plim proposed for the Council to approve the minutes of the 17th December as a true record, including the amendment that's been proposed by Cllr Peters.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amended minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 17th December 2025.

The Deputy Clerk sought advice from senior officers on the matter. They recommended that the Council suspend standing orders 7A and 7B which relates to the discussion of resolutions within six months; 9B, 9D and 9F which states you must give prior notice of a motion being put forward.

Cllr Drayon proposed to suspend standing orders 7A, 7B, 9B, 9D and 9F.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing orders 7A, 7B, 9B, 9D and 9F.

Cllr Drayson put forward a motion to possibly reduce the devolved asset expenditure line and accordingly the proposed budget. This includes:

- a) To reduce the risk of Bexhill residents being charged twice for the same services, this Council resolves that the previous figure for Devolved Asset Expenditure of £1,040,871 quoted in the budget predictions for 2026/27 be reduced by 50%, resulting in a revised figure of £520,435.50.

This would reduce the overall Budget requirement from £2,259,437 to £1,739,002.

- b) The Council further resolves that the Devolved asset Income figure shown under Receipts as £225,710 also be reduced by 50% to £112,855 to allow for delay in devolvment.
- c) The Council instructs the Responsible Financial Officer to adjust the Budget and Precept schedules accordingly and to present the amended figures for approval.

Cllr Blagrove requested a recorded vote on Cllr Drayson's motion.

For:

Cllr Blagrove

Cllr Byrne

Cllr Carroll

Cllr Crotty

Cllr Drayson

Cllr Goss

Cllr Hunt

Cllr Jacklin

Cllr Rustem

Cllr Thomas

Initial.....

Cllr Timpe
Cllr Winter

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 19:28pm.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting 19:30pm.

Against:
Cllr Plim
Cllr Wilson

This was **RESOLVED** to approve the budget for 2026-2027 - £1,739,002

This was **RESOLVED** to approve the precept request from Rother District Council of £1,610,588.

The Full Council re-instated Standing Orders 7A, 7B, 9B, 9D and 9F at 19:30pm.

00410 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

a) Engagement and Communications Committee

Recommended that the discussion of the Serpollet Sculpture for Glyne Gap Roundabout becomes the responsibility of the Amenities Committee.

Cllr Plim, as chair of the Engagement and Communications Committee, proposed that the discussion of the Serpollet be moved to the Amenities Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** for the discussion of the Serpollet Sculpture for Glyne Gap Roundabout to become the responsibility of the Amenities Committee.

00411 MAYORS OFFICE

a) To receive an update on the work of Town Mayor. – Verbal update received.

00412 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Initial.....

External Councillors may report for three minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.

Cllr Ian Hollidge reported that the budget has been set through cabinet and will go to the Council on the 10th February. Unfortunately that the Mayoral elections have been delayed. However, the combined Mayoral authority, without the mayor, is being set up. Rother have released their local plan. The Rother parking system with new restrictions will be going up. Once we know in the middle of March what the Government have decided, we are hoping they choose the one Sussex for all model, then asset devolvement can be discussed.

b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.

Cllr Timpe, the Ward District Councillor for Sackville Ward, noted concerned residents regarding the closure of the GP located on Sea Road due to its proposed closure. The container spill has affected East Parade. The beaches are currently rated using RAG; red, amber, green. The red beach is currently Camber. Our beach line is currently amber. Once Camber comes down to an amber rating they will come along to our beach line.

Cllr Byrne mentioned that the NHS presented their Winter Plan; this is in the public domain on the East Sussex County Council website under the minutes of the Health and Obesity Scrutiny Committee. Cllr Byrne has requested that Cllr Azad take this up with the authorities and look at the possibility of Sea Road Surgery remaining open.

c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Crotty referred to the Bexhill Observer, who did a good piece on Buckhurst Road with all the 40 plus potholes. This was a good discussion about the potholes.

Cllr Winter expresses thanks to the residents and Councillors who contacted him about a remark given regarding his previous apologies. Cllr Winter is in the process of putting forward a formal complaint.

a) To receive update.

The Deputy Clerk gave a verbal update on current ongoing projects:

- I. Lead councillors – This is being investigated, and advice is being sought on how to proceed.
- II. Crime Prevention – A meeting has been arranged with the relevant person regarding CCTV.
- III. Muga – The Officers have been in contact with the Gateway Development. There is no such thing going into the development site. However, there are sports pitches and a sports Pavilion being installed. The Pavilion would be used solely for toilets and changing rooms. Currently, there are no plans for a Muga to be installed in Pebsham.
- IV. Work Experience – This has been investigated but will be deferred until a new Town Clerk is in position.
- V. School Patrol Crossings – Awaiting response from East Sussex County Council.
- VI. Correspondence from a member of public – In light of the previous discussion earlier in this agenda, this is to be noted.

00414 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

a) To receive an update. – verbal update received.

Cllr Jacklin asked, due to more asset lists coming, would it be possible to locate which ward each asset is located in. The Deputy Clerk will arrange this.

00415 PLANNING MATTERS

a) To receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan. – Verbal update received.

00416 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIASON

a) To note the update on the lease and to consider the approval of the Draft Heads of Terms for Channel View East Public Conveniences.

Cllr Hunt left the meeting at 20:00pm.

Cllr Hunt re-entered the meeting at 20:05pm.

Cllr Plim put forward a motion to delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk, to bring this back to the Full Council once the Deputy Clerk is happy with all the condition reports and information provided from the Solicitors.

This was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk to bring this back to the Full Council once the Deputy clerk is happy with all the condition reports and information provided from the solicitors.

Cllr Wilson put forward a motion to delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk regarding the Leases and Licenses of the Public Conveniences. This was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk regarding the Leases and Licenses of the Public Conveniences.

- b) To note solicitors' response, confirm that all required documentation has been received, and authorise progression of the licenses for the Public Conveniences.

It was **RESOLVED** to delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk regarding documentation and licences for the Public Conveniences.

- c) To receive further information regarding the office on 35 Western Road and the Villas; to consider the approval of the Draft Heads of Terms for The Villas.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 20:28pm.

Cllr Crotty entered the meeting at 20:29pm.

Cllr Drayson proposed not to approve the Draft Head of Terms for the Villas due to issues with accessibility.

It was **RESOLVED** to not approve the Draft Heads of Terms for the Villas.

Cllr Rustem left the meeting 20:32pm.

Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 20:34pm.

- d) To receive update on Pebsham Recreation ground. – Verbal update received.

It was noted that this is still an ongoing project, however the Deputy Clerk cannot sign the paperwork in relation to CIL funding agreement, due to not being the designated Proper Officer.

- e) To receive update from Leader's Meeting. – update received.

00417 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) To receive updates from external representatives.
There was none.

00418 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Wilson

To decide if Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council staff:

1. remain occupied in the Hub and operate WFH for a further year, as the office is uncomfortable and with the growth of workloads in the next 12 months it is unclear if this is acceptable.
2. To move to the Villas as in the prepared Heads of Terms as already decided, with confirmation of whether there is disabled access via the Town Hall or an alternative access point for those that require it.
3. To investigate the possibility of purchasing an alternative building within the whole of Bexhill, noting that two previous motions on this subject have failed.
4. Carry out option 1 or 2 and look to purchase a plot of land and build our own civic centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the discussion of this motion until the next meeting of the Full Council.

- b) Cllr Drayson

The Council adopts the following policy, as shown in appendix G, regarding the appointment of the Chair of Bexhill on Sea Town Council and Mayor of Bexhill.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the discussion of this motion until the next meeting.

c) Cllr Drayson

The Council adopts the following policy, as shown in appendix H, regarding the appointment and succession of the Vice Chair of Bexhill on Sea Town Council and Deputy Mayor of Bexhill.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the discussion of this motion until the next meeting of the Full Council.

d) Cllr Crotty

This Council notes that under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, special expenses are costs that relate only to part of a district and must be funded solely by the Council Taxpayers of that area. This Council further notes that Bexhill attracts special expenses raised exclusively from Bexhill ratepayers for the provision of services within Bexhill. This Council resolves that, should responsibility for any service currently treated as a Bexhill special expense transfer from Rother District Council to Bexhill Town Council, the corresponding special expense must be removed from Rother District Council's Council Tax calculation for Bexhill and not absorbed into the wider district budget. This Council further resolves to seek written assurance that Bexhill ratepayers will not be charged twice for the same service and that all arrangements will remain compliant with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the discussion of this motion until the next meeting of the Full Council.

e) Cllr Lee

For the Town Council to sponsor a local community group with 12 litter pickers and hi-vis vests with their group name and logo saying sponsored by BTC. The cost of this would be around £120 online or around £150 from a local hardware store.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the discussion of this motion until the next meeting of the Full Council.

f) Cllr Lee

For the Town Council to investigate the possibility and costs of installing Modular self-cleaning toilets in the town.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the discussion of this motion until the next meeting of the Full Council.

00419 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a) To approve the proposed Street names for the Gateway development.

To note the theme for the Street names is Rivers and Waterways.

Cllr Plim put forward the motion to object these proposed Street names for the Gateway development and instead suggest that the Street names be named after Rivers and Waterways in Sussex.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Council to object the proposed Street names for the Gateway development and instead suggest that the Street names be named after Rivers and Waterways located within Sussex.

b) To consider the involvement of the Town Council in the naming ceremony for Waddingham Way.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Town Council to be involved in the naming ceremony for Waddingham Way.

00420 PRINTER CONTRACTS – THIS ITEM WAS MOVED OUT OF CONFIDENTIAL

a) To receive quotes.

It was **RESOLVED** to continue with the current provider and extend the contract.

00421 RISK REGISTER

a) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.

This item was not discussed due to limited time.

00422 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 25TH FEBRUARY 2026

All motions for the next meeting of the Full Council on 25th February 2026 must be received by received by the 14th February 2026

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press will not be permitted to attend during the following items:

The meeting was closed to the public at 20:45pm.

00423 MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

- a) To consider the employment of two full time Public Convenience cleaners/maintenance operatives.
Cllr Plim suggested the amendment of hiring three full time Public Convenience cleaners/maintenance operatives instead of the originally proposed two.
It was **RESOLVED** to seek the employment of three full time Public Convenience cleaners/maintenance operatives.

00424 STAFFING UPDATE

- a) To receive update on recruitment of Town Clerk. – verbal update received.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 20:54pm.

00425 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

- a) A verbal update was received.

00426 TO DISCUSS LEGAL COSTS FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE MAYORAL ROLE

It was **RESOLVED** for the Deputy Clerk to investigate this further through seeking advice from the Legal Advisors.

The Meeting was closed at 21:14pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

Initial.....