

BEXHILL-ON-SEA PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the **First Annual Statutory Meeting of Bexhill-on-Sea Parish Council** held in the Council Chamber, Bexhill Town Hall on Wednesday 19th May 2021 at 6.30pm

PRESENT: Cllrs

Claire Baldry	Dan Barfoot	Sharon Blagrove
Lynn Brailsford	Tony Carroll	Bryan Clasby
Brian Drayson	Tim Fenner	Elly Gibson
David Harding	Ben Izzard	Julie Norris
Paul Plim	Charlie Rustem	Viv Taylor-Gee
Richard Thomas	Connor Winter	Stuart Wray

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Christine Bayliss R.D.C.
Cllr Jimmy Carroll R.D.C.
Cllr Nuala Geary E.S.C.C.
Mr. Paul Lendon former R.D.C. and Mayor
Members of the public in the building
Linda Butcher, Interim Clerk

Due to COVID-19 restrictions members of the public were able to watch the meeting live via the YouTube broadcast [62]

Cllr Christine Bayliss, as the former Chairman of the Community Governance Review Steering Group welcomed everyone on this special occasion and formally opened the meeting.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2021/22

00001 RESOLVED to elect Cllr Paul Plim to the position of Chairman of Bexhill-on-Sea Parish Council for the municipal year 2021-2022.

Cllr Plim thanked Cllr Bayliss for opening the meeting and his fellow Councillors for their support in voting him in as Chairman of the Parish Council. He wishes to work with all the Councillors and wanted to remember people who had gone before in the campaign for a local council for Bexhill. Particularly he wanted to thank Margaret Jones, a Liberal councillor for her campaign efforts, John Lee, Collington Ward Independent who ten years ago was a district councillor and used the Localism Act to start things moving forward on the governance review, and the late Stuart Earl, a former councillor who had given much encouragement to many of the councillors who have now been elected.

DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN

The Chairman, Cllr Plim signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Proper Officer.

ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN

There were two nominations for the position of Vice Chairman, Cllr Claire Baldry and Cllr Stuart Wray.

00002 **RESOLVED** to elect Cllr Claire Baldry as Vice Chairman for the municipal year 2021-2022.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - None

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST - None

DOCUMENTS TO BE ADOPTED BY COUNCIL (as discussed at the Induction/Training events)

Standing Orders

00003 **RESOLVED** to adopt Standing Orders on a temporary basis and form a Working Party consisting of 6-7 Members to review and then take a recommendation to the next Council meeting.

Financial Regulations

00004 **RESOLVED** to adopt the Financial Regulations on a temporary basis and that the same Working Party would review and then take a recommendation to the next Council meeting.

Code of Conduct

00005 **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Code of Conduct with the additional words under section 5.1, the final sentence of the first paragraph to read “For example, making trivial or malicious allegations about other councillors or behaviour that is considered dishonest and/or deceitful can bring your local authority into disrepute”.

Complaints Procedure

00006 **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Complaints Procedure as presented.

Scheme of Delegation and Council/Committee structure

00007 **RESOLVED** that in principle the Council adopts a committee structure but refers the details to a Working Group of Councillors to investigate alternative structures and committee responsibilities, and refer back to Council within the next few weeks. In the meantime, set up a Planning and Development Advisory Committee on a temporary basis in order to consider any planning applications which are notified to the Council.

TO AGREE MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES and ELECT CHAIRMEN OF THOSE COMMITTEES

00008 Although most of this item is deferred it was **RESOLVED** that the Staffing sub-committee should comprise six Members (Cllrs Baldry, Blagrove, Harding, Plim,

Taylor-Gee and Wray) and that three of those Members would form the Interview Panel.

ASM/19.05.2021 – 000003

OFFICER'S REPORT

Planning Applications – to formally request RDC to inform BPC of all applications within Bexhill

- 00009** **RESOLVED** to authorise the Clerk to write formally to Rother District Council and request notification of all planning applications for Bexhill.

In view of Cllr Drayson's involvement with RDC Planning, he withdrew his name from the list of Members wishing to sit on the Planning and Development Advisory Committee. This committee therefore has the following Members: Cllrs Barfoot, Fenner, Norris, Plim, Rustem and Winter.

Accommodation for a Parish Council office – Egerton Park and other options

- 00010** **RESOLVED** to form a Working Group to look at possible options for a Clerk's Office including the Library, Egerton Park building, shops and other sites.

It was recognised that there are plenty of Halls, including the Town Hall, where the Council could hold its meetings in the future if this is what the Council resolves but it is necessary to have an Office for the Clerk and perhaps for Councillors to hold surgeries.

Provisional Calendar of Meetings for 2021/2022

The Clerk advised that an up-dated list had been circulated to all Councillors but nothing was set in stone and could be amended. Also, no bookings for rooms have yet been agreed.

GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

To consider whether the Council wishes to adopt this power. The criteria of elected councillors has been met, the interim parish clerk is qualified. This agenda is formal notification of this subject for discussion and adoption.

- 00011** **RESOLVED** to adopt the General Power of Competence to enable the Council to be involved in the wider life of Bexhill.

APPOINTMENT OF CLERK/RFO TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

To appoint a Panel [maximum 3] to undertake short-listing and conducting interviews in order to make a recommendation to Council.

- 00012** **RESOLVED** to leave the Staffing sub-committee of six Members to undertake the short-listing of candidates for interview and to choose which three would form the Interview Panel.

TOWN COUNCIL STATUS

To consider taking on the title of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council which can be done by formal resolution.

00013 RESOLVED to take on the title of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.

To consider the Chairman and Vice Chairman taking on the title of Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor if the Council decides to adopt the title Town.

There was an amendment to defer this item for two years but this was LOST.

00014 RESOLVED that the Chairman and Vice Chairman would be known as Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

00015 RESOLVED that a separate occasion would be arranged for the formal handover from the Charter Trustees Mayor to the Town Mayor.

In closing the meeting at 7.22pm, Cllr Plim thanked Cllr Christine Bayliss who had been instrumental in taking the matter through Rother District Council. He also thanked his fellow councillors for participating in the first meeting of the new Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.