

**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the  
**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FULL COUNCIL** held in the **ALL SAINTS CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY**  
**SCHOOL, ALL SAINTS LANE, BEXHILL-ON-SEA,**  
on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at 7pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Plim (Town Mayor); Cllr Baldry; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Fenner; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Harding; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Norris; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Wray

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** J Miller, Clerk

**00251. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were none.

**00252. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies with reasons for absence from Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Rustem, Cllr Winter.

**00253. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr Harding Cllr Gibson declared an interest in the item concerning Ukraine due to hosting refugees.

**00254. MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

**00255. COMMITTEES**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive the minutes and updates of committees held since the last Full Council meeting:

- a) 06/07/2022 Planning and Development Advisory Committee
- b) 13/07/2022 Community Committee
- c) 20/07/2022 Planning and Development Advisory Committee
- d) 20/07/2022 Finance and General Purposes Committee
- e) 02/08/2022 Planning and Development Advisory Committee

**00256. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

**Community Committee**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following:

- a) Town Crier contract
- b) Town Crier lone working method statement
- c) Town Crier risk assessment
- d) Audio streaming policy

**Finance and General Purposes Committee**

- e) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following policies:
- i. Local Government Pension Scheme Policy
  - ii. Document Retention Policy
  - iii. Investment Strategy Policy
  - iv. Project Plan Scrutiny Policy
- With the following amendment:
2. The Finance and General Purposes Committee shall review each project plan over £10,000 at the soonest possible scheduled meeting. All project plans under £10,000 shall be subject to scrutiny by the committee responsible for the project plan using the points in 4 below,
- v. Procurement Policy
  - vi. Protocol for Officer and Councillor Relationships
- f) To approve recruitment of part time Customer Services role  
It was **RESOLVED** to close the meeting to the public to discuss staff salary scales.  
After discussion, the meeting was reopened to the public.  
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the recruitment of part time Customer Services role.
- g) To consider request from 18 hours for financial support of £15,000  
It was **RESOLVED** not to financially support 18 hours.

**00257. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor – an update was noted.  
It was **RESOLVED** to thank the Mayor for his continuous commitment to local activities, particularly Bexhill Day and the Bexhill Carnival.

**00258. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors  
A report was circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors  
There were none.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors  
A report for Sackville Ward was circulated.

**00259. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE**

- a) To receive update from Cllrs Brailsford; Taylor-Gee; Thomas on 'Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support  
Cllr Taylor-Gee gave an update.  
It was **RESOLVED** to thank Cllr Taylor-Gee for her sterling work with the Ukrainian Hub.

**00260. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

- a) To receive update following Vision and Strategy Day 06/07/2022

It was noted that the day was extremely useful. The vision and strategy will be considered at the next Community Committee and presented to Full Council.

- b) To receive update on Bexhill Trust membership.  
It was noted that the next meeting is on 17<sup>th</sup> October and members are being sought. It was agreed to put a link on the town council website to the Bexhill Trust application form.
- c) To note DBS checks for all councillors to commence – noted.
- d) To consider that Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council take the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge and adopt the 'Dignity at Work' Policy.  
It was **RESOLVED** that the town council take the NALC Civility and Respect Pledge and adopt the Dignity at Work Policy.
- e) To consider steps to be taken to encourage members of the public to stand for election in 2023 – this item was deferred to the next meeting.

#### **00261. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

To receive reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting)

- a) RALC - Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee – no further update.
- b) Citizen's Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson – no further update
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – the cadets will be taking part in the Remembrance parade.
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Izzard – It was noted that the town had been award Fairtrade status on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The Fairtrade group are working on a directory of retailers for the town.
- e) 'Old and Bold' – Cllr Barfoot – Cllr Taylor-Gee reported that Cllr Barfoot is taking the course to check the validity of the project.
- f) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson – the project is progressing and further updates will be received in due course.
- g) To note police liaison meeting requested – noted.  
It was noted that the next Police Focus Group will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> October at the Town Hall. Ward councillors will agree who will attend on behalf of their ward.

#### **00262. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

There are none.

#### **00263. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

- a) To consider request from Community Supporters to support grant application to Rother District Council  
It was **RESOLVED** to support Community Supporters in the grant application to Rother District Council.
- b) To note East Sussex County Council 'Living Well in East Sussex' survey (closing 18<sup>th</sup> September) – noted.
- c) To note Sussex Police rural crime team update for July 2022 – noted.
- d) To note NALC consultation on short term holiday lets – noted.

#### **00264. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) To receive answers to questions raised at the last meeting

<p>Cllr Baldry What steps can the town council take to encourage members of the public to stand for election in 2023</p>	<p>This item is on the agenda for discussion.</p>
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- b) To receive questions from councillors  
 Cllr Carroll asked if the council could sign up to the Anti- Bullying pledge to show residents that the council supports professional behaviour.  
 Cllr Carroll asked if the town council could write to the local fire services to offer thanks and support.  
 Cllr Wray asked for feedback from the grants that were paid.  
 Cllr Taylor-Gee asked if the town council could write to express concern about the proposed fire cuts  
 Cllr Plim asked if the council could ask the Fire Service to present their issues to the town council  
 Cllr Taylor-Gee asked if the town council could do something about not being included in the meetings for sewage  
 Cllr Thomas asked that the council ‘stick up’ for residents on the sewage spill.
- c) To note any future agenda items – there were none.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register – there were none.

#### **00265. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted in item 164, the public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of the following:

#### **00266. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON STAFFING MATTERS**

It was **RESOLVED** that:-

1. That the town council finds there is no case to answer to the complaints made by a member of the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council.
2. That the following recommendations are adopted:-
  - a. Following the review of existing policies by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the adoption of any new policies, Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council Members must familiarise themselves with the content and the requirements/obligations.
  - b. The Town Council shall organise training from its appointed HR Consultants to ensure an understanding on
    - (i) the role and implications arising from their role as an employer;
    - (ii) the proper conduct of Appraisals;

- (iii) the duties and obligations under the Contract of Employment;
  - (iv) the conduct of grievance and disciplinary proceedings;
  - (v) Employer/Employee Codes of Practice that supplement the Policies.
- c. The Town Council reinforces that the appropriate route for communication by councillors is through the Council/Committee or Chairs.

3. That the following observations are adopted:

- a. The council acknowledges that given Bexhill-on-Sea is a new Council, and still only early in its second year of business, the Town Clerk has performed well.
- b. There appears to be an increasing 'blame culture' within the town council which can only be detrimental to the Community in the long term that needs addressing.

*Meeting closed at 21:24pm*

Signed.....

Date.....