

**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the  
**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**  
**FULL COUNCIL** held in the **COMMITTEE ROOM, ROTHER DISTRICT**  
**COUNCIL TOWN HALL, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.**  
on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 7pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Plim (Mayor); Cllr Baldry (Deputy Mayor); Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Harding; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Wray; Cllr Winter.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** J Miller, Clerk; seven members of the public

**00392. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public asked the following questions:

- a) What the benefit of the extra grass cutting?  
*The council felt that by funding additional grass cutting it would improve the appearance of the town.*
- b) What is the council doing to obtain more interest on the funds in the bank?  
*The council must have regard to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments when considering investing funds. Parish and Town Councils should demonstrate that they have carefully considered the expertise that they need to manage the risks arising from their strategy. The Finance and General Purposes Committee will be considering an investment policy as part of the ongoing policy review actions.*

A member of the public asked the following question

- c) Why are the gas and electricity bills so high at the new council premises, particularly as it is empty at present.  
*The town council premises is occupied by staff and is being prepared for opening to the public. The gas and electricity meter readings have been taken and submitted to the provider however until the account set up has been completed the bills are currently estimated readings. The council must pay these estimated bills for now, to prevent disconnection. Once the meter readings are up to date on the account the figures will be adjusted to actual use and billed accordingly.*

A member of the public made the following statement

- d) The surveyor hired by Rother District Council to look at toilets is reported to have said he's never seen anything as bad as this.  
*Your comment is noted.*

A member of the public asked

- e) What plans the town council has got to put pressure on East Sussex County Council regarding Herbrand walk to address the illegal parking, persons residing on beach and discarded waste, abandoned vehicles.

*The town council has been in dialogue with County Councillor Nuala Geary and Rother District Council neighbourhood services team who are addressing the situation.*

A member of the public asked

- f) Can the town council advise if they have had any communications with Rother District Council or other agencies regarding replacing the town council fountains?

*The council has asked Rother District Council (RDC) if the fountains can be replaced. We have been advised that the costs are beyond the resources of the district council at this point in time. The council is incorporating this project into the five-year strategy plan.*

A member of the public asked

- g) Can anybody explain why Cllr Baldry declared a non-pecuniary interest in Bexhill Senior Citizens Club (BSCC) and spoke in favour of the grant and voted on it.

*A councillor is personally responsible for deciding if they hold an interest (whether disclosable or not) and what action they take. After seeking advice, Cllr Baldry considered that the repairs to the flooring at the BSCC did not have a greater effect on her than on the majority of inhabitants of the ward affected by this decision. Cllr Baldry made the decision to disclose to the meeting her membership and participate in the voting in good faith, as she is not an active member of the club. Cllr Baldy's vote did not have a significant impact on the decision, it was a majority decision of the committee. In order to prevent any ambiguity, Cllr Baldry is no longer a member of the BSCC.*

- h) Please explain why the noticeboards cost £11436 which was quoted and voted on and agreed by the councillors is now showing as £8000. What does that figure include?

*The cost of the noticeboards is not shown as £8000. The full report containing details of the noticeboards, the research and the decisions taken can be found in the agenda and report documents for the Community Committee on the town council website:*

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#### **00393. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies with reasons for absence from Cllr Fenner; Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Norris.

#### **00394. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr Winter declared an interest in Citizens Advise Bureau as a trustee and company director

Cllr Gibson and Cllr Harding declared an interest in the Ukraine item, due to having Ukrainian refugees staying with them

Cllr Taylor-Gee declared an interest in the Ukraine item as coordinator of Bexhill Hub for Ukraine

Cllr Rustem declared an interest in the Pebsham Community Association item.

### 00395. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### 00396. COMMITTEES

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

- a) Planning and Development Advisory Committee - 05/10/2022
- b) Asset Transfer Committee – 12/10/2022
- c) Community Committee – 12/10/2022  
Cllr Harding asked what is a POSH Club?
- d) Planning and Development Advisory Committee - 19/10/2022
- e) Finance and General Purposes Committee -19/10/2022

### 00397. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Community Committee
  - i. Mace Bearer contract, job description and risk assessment

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Mace Bearer contract, job description and risk assessment.

- b) Finance and General Purposes Committee

To approve grants to the following: -

Light Up Bexhill	£ 2,200.00	Christmas Magical Event
Pebsham Community Association	£ 1,500.00	Purchase 150-fold up chairs and trolley

A recorded vote was requested.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant £2,200 to Light Up Bexhill for the Christmas Magical Event.

FOR: Cllr Baldry; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Harding; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Wray, Cllr Plim

AGAINST: Cllr Carroll

ABSTAIN: Cllr Winter; Cllr Brailsford

*Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 19:20pm*

A recorded vote was requested:

It was **RESOLVED** that until the answers to the following questions are received no decision will be taken:

- i. Why is the constitution not signed by chair, secretary or treasurer and not dated?

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- ii. There are seven members – why have they not signed the constitution?
- iii. Who is applying for the grant? The CIO or Association?
- iv. Why are the latest set of accounts only up until Dec 2022
- v. If the PBA has members which pay fees, where is the money shown in the accounts that they have paid?

FOR: Cllr Plim; Cllr Baldry; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Harding; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Wray; Cllr Winter.

AGAINST: None

#### **00398. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor – an update was noted.  
The Mayor thanked those that stepped in to cover Mayoral duties whilst he was unwell.

#### **00399. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

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

#### **00400. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON**

- a) To note next meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 and to register any questions to ask.  
It was asked if RDC could clarify the information about funding for fountains, as this was mentioned in the public participation session.  
It was asked if RDC could update the town council on the sewage discharge issues, and to ask if the town council can liaise with the environment officer.
- b) To consider appointing external representatives to attend the Rother District Council High Street Task Force  
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Taylor-Gee and Cllr Plim as external representatives. Cllr Plim will be considering Pebsham, Little Common and Sidley when in attendance.

#### **00401. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON**

- a) To receive updates from Police Crime Commissioner meetings on 18<sup>th</sup> October and to agree quarterly police liaison meetings  
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the action points from the meeting as follows:
  - i. Town council to set up quarterly parish engagement meetings with Sussex Police.
  - ii. Town council interested in assisting with cadet force

- iii. ESLAC to provide more links and information to the town council regarding improving and installing CCTV.
- iv. The town council could work with youth groups to improve engagement.
- v. Town council to consider organising community fun day at Skate Park.

#### 00402. NEW PREMISES

- a) To consider external signage designs.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove the window stickers from the main window

It was **RESOLVED** to go ahead with the Green Border sign.

It was **RESOLVED** to keep the door clear of signage.

It was **RESOLVED** to place the window border along the bottom fascia.

- b) To receive a general update.

It was noted that the contracts required for building services will be presented to full council for consideration at the next meeting.

- c) To consider allocating management of premises budgets to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate the management of premises budgets to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

#### 00403. 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. The hub was thanked for all the work being done to support Ukrainian refugees in Bexhill.

#### 00404. SUPPORT FOR EAST SUSSEX FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE IN BEXHILL

- a) To consider writing letter of support to Bexhill fire and rescue service personnel and to express concern for any proposed cuts to local services.  
It was **RESOLVED** to write a letter of support to Bexhill fire and rescue service personnel.

#### 00405. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To consider first draft budget and precept for 2023/24  
Questions were asked about the budget costs of the WC maintenance, the Community Funding Agreements and if £25,000 is suitable to cover the cost for climate officer.

*Cllr Gibson left the meeting at 20:18pm*

*Cllr Gibson re-entered the meeting at 20:19pm*

It was **RESOLVED** to refer the budget back to the F&GP committee to review the questions posed and a second draft created to enable a better discussion on the possible future staffing model of the town council.

- b) To note registration with Information Commissioners Office complete – noted.
- c) To note resignation of Cllr Blagrove and to receive update on vacancy. It was noted that an election had not been called and the position will be advertised, and the council will co-opt a new councillor at the next meeting.

*Cllr Wray left the meeting at 20:47pm and re-entered the meeting at 20:48pm  
 Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 20:48pm and re-entered the meeting at 20:51pm  
 Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 20:51pm and re-entered the meeting at 20:53pm*

**00406. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

To receive reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting) – all noted:

- a) RALC - Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee  
Re-forward the RALC emails.
- b) Citizen’s Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron - Mayor
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Izzard
- e) Old and Bold – Cllr Barfoot
- f) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson
- g) ESALC AGM 30/11/2022 1pm – Cllr Drayson

**00407. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- a) Cllr Carroll  
That the town council pledge support for the Anti-Bullying Alliance  
It was **RESOLVED** to sign up to the Anti-Bullying Alliance on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**00408. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

*All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting*

- a) Various correspondence regarding the co-option process – noted.
- b) Complaint regarding Ukraine event – noted.

**00409. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

<p>Cllr Taylor-Gee Asked for an update on the new premises.</p>	<p>This is on the agenda.</p>
<p>Cllr Harding What was the response to the funding request to 18 hours?</p>	<p><i>Sorry for the delay in updating you, but I understand from Christine that you are already aware that the town council decided against funding 18hours.</i></p> <p><i>There was a long discussion, but members felt that the amount of funding was significantly higher than it gives to other local groups and organisations and in the interest of fairness they couldn't justify this amount to one group, particularly as the groups they normally donate to are volunteers and unpaid workers.</i></p>

	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>BoSTC/09.11.2022 – 000119</b></p> <p><i>The council's budget for funding other organisations is £30,000 per year – so one lump sum to 18 hours has a significant impact on other community funding. The council's agreed policy is no more than £1000 to each organisation. They did say that if there were unspent funds, they would consider what they could offer at the end of the year, but last year there was only some unspent funds of approve £6k in the budget. and with the scheme now more widely known about I couldn't predict what this might be for the year ahead yet.</i></p> <p><i>Through these discussions, the council did raise some health and safety issues from the night-time event, and councillors that organise events suggested 18 hours get some professional advice on road closures and events in the public realm. If you feel you would benefit from this, I could introduce you to some of our members that are event organisers.</i></p>
<p>Cllr Drayson Does the council foresee councillors attending the new premises on a timetable at specified times each week.</p>	<p>This will be for the council to decide.</p>

- b) To receive questions from councillors  
Cllr Izzard asked for the council to discuss allegations made about the council on social media.  
Cllr Thomas asked if the new premises will be used as a warm space and asked for this to be considered at the next meeting.
- 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.

**00410. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 7<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

Meeting closed at 20:58pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Initial.....