

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**
ASSET TRANSFER COMMITTEE held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROTHER**
DISTRICT COUNCIL TOWN HALL, BEXHILL-ON-SEA
On **Wednesday 15th November 2023** at **6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Crotty; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Plim; Cllr Wilson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; J Daeva; Cllr Winter (ex-officio); Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Thomas; Richard Parker-Harding (RDC); Cllr Bayliss (Rother District Council); six members of the public.

00401. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Cllr Bayliss asked that the town council take on a lease with Network Rail to maintain the Devonshire Square public toilets, as the council has already raised the budget to maintain the toilets.

A member of the public asked that the town council stop negotiating with the district council and make a final offer.

Cllr Jacklin spoke in support of moving forward the maintenance of the toilets forward and asked that CCTV is considered in the round.

A representative of the Chamber of Commerce spoke about the commercial impact on the town of the closure of the toilets.

A member of the public spoke about the need for disabled toilets in the town.

00402. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Goss, Cllr El and Cllr Rustem.

00403. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Winter declared an interest as a Rother District Councillor.

00404. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair reported on the joint leaders meeting with Rother District Council on 8th November and the decision of the Full Council on 8th November.

00405. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of 11th October 2023.

- a) To receive updates on investigations concerning the lease on the Devonshire Square toilets.

It was noted that Network Rail are open to a lease/licence with the Town Council, and this is being explored.

It was **RESOLVED** to request that Rother District Council review the possibility of a third-party agreement to re-open the Devonshire Square toilets and cross charge Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council until such time that the lease with Network Rail was agreed and signed, subject to the lease being acceptable to Network Rail.

A recorded vote was called for.

FOR: Cllr Wilson; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Crotty; Cllr Plim; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Brailsford.

AGAINST: None.

- a) To note decision of Full Council :

It was **RESOLVED** to mandate the Asset transfer committee to further consider the possible administration, management, and maintenance of the toilets.

It is for the Asset Transfer Committee to review the information from Rother District Council on leasehold and recommend next steps to Full Council in December

Cllr Brailsford gave an update on the leaders meeting with Rother District Council on 8th November 2023 and asked all members to give their views before deciding next steps.

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that contact RDC to agree a leasehold on the Polegrove and Channel View East toilets and to contact all known interested community groups to see who is interested in the other sites.

A recorded vote was called for:

FOR: Cllr Wilson; Cllr Plim; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Brailsford

AGAINST: Cllr Crotty

ABSTAIN: Cllr Carroll

It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council that the town council continues to pursue the freehold of the remainder of the standalone sites as there are examples of this in three other councils.

A recorded vote was called for:

FOR: Cllr Plim; Cllr Crotty; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Wilson; Cllr Brailsford.

It was agreed to defer the following items until the next meeting:

- b) To consider future discussions around three sub-headings for public conveniences:
 - i. Refurbishment
 - ii. Maintenance Specification
 - iii. Procurement Process
- c) To consider next steps on business plan strategy

00407. CCTV

- a) To consider future provision of CCTV in Bexhill from RDC and agree next steps.

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Richard Parker-Harding to address the meeting.

It was **AGREED** to ask Richard to provide answers to the following questions:

- a) *Sidley doesn't work. Which other ones don't work?*
- b) *Where are all the cameras? Is there a map available?*
- c) *How many people are employed to manage the screens?*
- d) *How many people have been prosecuted via CCTV?*
- e) *Are there any plans to install more i.e. DLWP lights keep getting broken?*
- f) *I believe the costs are £100k is that correct?*
- g) *What is the service / maintenance costs of these CCTV. Is it internal or external?*
- h) *If internal are there TUPE costs and who would pay that?*
- i) *Will we need to find somewhere to house the screens?*
- j) *Who would pay for the IT to be transferred?*
- k) *Would these extra items be covered under our existing insurance?*
- l) *If the BTC don't take over this service when would you stop maintaining the existing?*
- m) *What is the relationship like with the Police to deal with enforcement?*
- n) *Are there CCTV over playgrounds and how does this work with filming children?*
- o) *The current service level agreement with the police when does it expire?*
- p) *Are we able to negotiate our own service level agreement?*
- q) *Is there any other provider for this facility other than BT?*

00408. DATE OF NEXT MEETING –13th DECEMBER 2023

The meeting was closed at 19:17pm.

Signed..... Date.....

DRAFT