

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL** held in the **PEBSHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE, SEABOURNE ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA** on **Wednesday 18th August 2021 at 6.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Paul Plim (Town Mayor); Cllr Claire Baldry (Deputy Mayor)
Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Drayson;
Cllr Gibson; Cllr Harding; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Norris; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter; Cllr Wray

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Miller, Clerk, four members of the public; Cllr Courtel (RDC); Cllr Coleman (RDC); Cllr Bayliss (RDC); two representatives of the Town Forum.

00135. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION/BEXHILL TOWN FORUM

A member of the public objected to the motion supporting the divest of East Sussex Pension Fund.

A member of the public reported that he had been told that a councillor had renamed the Bexhill Downs 'King Offa Woods' and objected to this.

A member of the public spoke about the need for electric vehicle charging points in Bexhill-on-Sea.

00136. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and accept apologies from Cllr Blagrove and Cllr Fenner with reasons given.

00137. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Drayson declared an interest in the item regarding Bexhill Trust.

00138. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 21st July 2021 subject to the following minor amendments.

00070 - To remove 'Best Way of Recovering from COVID'
and to add 'to support the people of the town.'

00070 – Add in 'apparently'

00075 – To remove 'extend' and add 'also to adopt the Healthcare Worker Covenant.

00139. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES

The following minutes and updates of committees were received.

(a) Community Committee - Cllr Baldry gave an update on the resident survey. It was **RESOLVED** to note thanks to the clerk for the amount of work put into preparing the survey. The committee was also thanked for its discipline in agreeing the document and action plan.

(b) Planning Committee – Cllr Plim gave an update on the comments made at the planning committee.

- (c) Climate, Nature and Environment Committee – Cllr Wray gave an update on the first meeting of the committee.
- (d) Premises Working Group
Cllr Plim reported that the next meeting will be held on 19th August to review the properties discussed at the last meeting.
- (e) COVID Recovery Team
It was noted that the group will be meeting soon to review new ideas.

00140. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

To consider recommendations from committees

- (a) It was **RESOLVED** to approve the terms of reference for the Climate, Nature and Environment Committee.
- (b) It was **RESOLVED** to support the Bexhill Fair Trade Town Committee by using the town council's social media channels.
- (c) It was **RESOLVED** that Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council supports the Divest East Sussex Campaign calling on East Sussex County Council to divest the East Sussex Pension fund from its holdings in the damaging Fossil Fuel companies, and that a letter should be sent to the East Sussex Pension Committee from BTC urging them to show real leadership in the climate crisis and make a commitment to urgently divest the remaining investments in fossil fuel companies.

Cllr Izzard called for a recorded vote.

FOR: Cllrs Taylor-Gee; Izzard; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Wray; Cllr Plim; Cllr Baldry; Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Harding; Cllr Thomas

AGAINST: Cllrs Rustem; Clasby; Winter; Norris

ABSTAIN: Cllrs Carroll; Brailsford; Drayson

00141. MAYOR'S OFFICE

A report was circulated to members detailing the work of the Town Mayor.

It was **RESOLVED** to thank the Mayor for all his hard work in the role to date.

00142. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) Division County Councillors
County Councillors were not in attendance and reports were circulated prior to the meeting.
- (b) Ward District Councillors
District Cllrs Coleman; Bayliss; Courtel gave updates.
It was agreed to pass over the issues reported with litter collections to the Climate, Nature and Environment Committee.
- (c) Town Councillors
General updates were received from Cllrs Carroll; Izzard; Taylor-Gee; Clasby.

00143. BEXHILL TRUST

- (a) To note summary of trust deed for councillor information only – noted.
- (b) To appoint two trustees to the Bexhill Trust.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllrs Taylor-Gee and Cllr Gibson to the Bexhill Trust.

00144. BEXHILL DAY - AUGUST 22nd 2021

It was noted that the council will be holding a stall at the Bexhill Festival on Sunday for residents to meet councillors. The Mayor will be driven by an Elva to the event, the Lord Lieutenant and Chairman of Rother District Council will be in attendance at the Festival and Cllr Baldry will read a poem composed for the event. Then the Mayor and Deputy Mayor will then travel around the wards to meet groups and local residents.

00145. VERGE CUTTING COSTS FROM EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

- (a) To receive costs from East Sussex County Council and consider next steps.
It was **RESOLVED** to review the survey results to ensure that there is a resident need to improve verge appearance, should the verge maintenance be a priority for residents option 2 could be implemented in 2022-23 to ensure an immediate solution. Further investigations could then take place with regard to the town council implementing option 3 in the future.

00146. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- (a) To consider grants and donations policy for adoption
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy with a minor amendment to add 2.5 'applications recommended by the Community Committee in excess of £1000 must be referred to the full council.'
- (b) To consider Mayoral protocol policy for adoption
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the policy and to remove 4.3 that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor can never attend together in an official capacity.
It was confirmed that the Mayor would be appointing Al Manoukian as Mace Bearer, a Chaplain or Celebrant and Town Crier will be appointed in due course.
- (c) To consider Data Protection policy for adoption
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the Data Protection Policy
- (d) To consider external representative policy for adoption
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the external representative policy.
- (e) To consider protocol for working groups for adoption
It was **RESOLVED** to adopt the protocol for working groups.
- (f) To consider applying for Bexhill Coat of Arms at a cost of £3,705 to be taken from Legal and Professional Fees budget - £4,000.
This decision was deferred and it was **AGREED to** further investigate the right to use the coat of arms on the Mace and the Chain of Office. It was agreed to approach Bexhill Heritage for advice. It was **noted** that the clerk could also investigate if the town council can use the town motto. It was suggested that the local schools could participate in a competition to design a new logo for the town council to use.

- (g) To consider number and appointment of substitute members to committees:
- i. Community Committee
 - ii. Planning and Development Advisory Committee
 - iii. Climate, Nature and Environment Committee
- It was **RESOLVED** not to appoint substitutes to committees.

00147. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

- (a) To appoint two councillor representatives to the Rother Association of Local Councils
Cllr Rustem and Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 20:48

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee to represent Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council on the Rother Association of Local Councils.

Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 20:49

00148. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- (a) Cllr Carroll
To allocate £100 from the Community Support budget to fund a 'bug hotel' at the allotments.

Cllr Brailsford re-entered the meeting at 20:50

It was **RESOLVED** to fund the 'bug hotel' up to a value of £100 from the Community Support budget.

- (b) Cllr Thomas
To discuss devolvement of services.

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 21:07

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 21:10

The clerk was asked to obtain a copy of the RDC report that laid out the future aspiration for services being devolved to parish and town councils.

The clerk will liaise with RDC to investigate the district council's position with regard to Bexhill-on-Sea.

- (c) Cllr Thomas
To consider that the council is prepared to advise residents to exercise caution with regards to COVID19, mask wearing and social distancing.
It was **RESOLVED** to advise residents to exercise caution with regards to COVID19, mask wearing and social distancing.

(Clear Cache)

- (d) Cllr Plim
To request that Rother District Council liaise with the town council to ensure that sufficient time is given to matters that require a response and that the town council is consulted on any such district council work that affects Bexhill-on-Sea.

It was **RESOLVED** to request that Rother District Council liaise with the town council to ensure that sufficient time is given to matters that require a response and that the town council is consulted on any such district council work that affects Bexhill-on-Sea.

00149. CORRESPONDENCE

There is none.

00150. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- (a) To receive answers to questions raised at last meeting – these were circulated prior to the meeting.
- (b) To receive questions from councillors
Cllr Plim asked for an asset list to be produced and identify the assets that are unlisted as transferred from the Charter Trustees.
Cllr Plim asked for the clerk to investigate the town council's rights of access and any potential capital interest in the town hall.
Cllr Plim asked for the ownership of Herbrand Walk to be confirmed.

It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing order 3 (x) and to continue the meeting to 21:40pm

Cllr Gibson asked for Bexhill Day 2022 to be placed on the agenda for the Community Committee.

Cllr Izzard asked for an agenda item regarding electric vehicle charging points to be placed on the Climate, Nature and Environment Committee.

Cllr Izzard asked for parking to be added to the agenda.

Cllr Izzard asked for an item to be added to the agenda to consider support for the Fairtrade Town group.

Cllr Izzard asked for the clerk to investigate additional staffing for the town council.

Cllr Rustem asked if a policy could be considered to reduce the amount of time that RDC and ESCC councillors spend reporting at town council meetings.

Cllr Drayson asked for the lighting of the beacon on Galley Hill to be added to the next Community Committee agenda.

00151. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Meeting closed at 21:36pm