

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

Held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**

BEXHILL-ON-SEA

On **Wednesday 25th February 2026** at **6:30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove, Cllr Byrne, Cllr Crotty, Cllr Drayson, Cllr El, Cllr Goss, Cllr Hunt, Cllr Huseyin, Cllr Jacklin, Cllr Lee, Cllr Peters, Cllr Plim, Cllr Thomas, Cllr Timpe, Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: M Webber, Deputy Clerk; L Muhilathithan; One Videographer, five members of public.

The Council sends their condolences on the recent passing of Joy Hughes, a former Councillor and ex-Mayor. A minute of silence was held.

Cllr Lee entered the meeting at 18:12pm.

00461 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of public reported on the issue of overgrown weeds along Hastings Road and the problems this creates for those who use mobility scooters. This resident has been complaining for the past 8 months trying to get this issue fixed. Has been told five times by Highways that they will send someone to inspect the road. This issue no longer needs to be inspected it needs to be cleared. If there is an accident this Council will be held accountable for criminal negligence. This needs to be cleared now. *This is the responsibility of East Sussex County Council as Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council hold no authority over this land. However, following a public update from a Rother District Councillor, a team of subcontractors have been sent to Hastings Road to make improvements.*

A member of the public, representing Community Supporters, referred to the possibility of Bexhill receiving the Cultural Town Award. There is also the opportunity for the Town to be accredited as a Nature Town. This member of public would like to work alongside the Town Council, as a local authority is required to be on board, to receive this accreditation. They have good remit with the Bexhill Beach Garden for doing this sort of work. This accreditation would allow the Town to promote green spaces,

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get people out into nature, improve parks and improve accessibility to nature. The resident wanted to put this on the radar of the Town Council to see how this can be brought forward.

This will be discussed further in the Engagement Communications Committee meeting on the 6th May 2026.

Cllr Thomas entered the meeting at 18:36pm.

00462 APOLIGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reason from Cllr Carroll, Cllr Rustem and Cllr Wilson.

00463 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Cllr Byrne declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Drayson declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Timpe declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.
Cllr Winter declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

00464 CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Huseyin, acting as chair in Cllr Wilson's absence, will be deferring agenda item 13 till the next meeting due to the size of the agenda and limited time.

00465 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meeting:

a) Wednesday 28th January 2026.

Cllr Peters reported an inaccuracy in the recorded vote on Cllr Drayson's motion; Cllr Peter's name is missing in the list of voters for the motion.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes from the meeting of Wednesday 28th January 2026, including the proposed amendment by Cllr Peters.

00466 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

a) Amenities Committee

To delegate authority to the Deputy Clerk to produce scenarios based on Cllr Wilson's motion for the future premises of the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and report these back to Full Council.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 18:58pm.

Cllr Lee re-entered the meeting at 18:59pm.

The Deputy Clerk to contact Rother District Council regarding the use of the Town Hall.

The Deputy Clerk suggested deferring this decision to the upcoming Strategy Committee.

Cllr Byrne proposed that we ask the Town Clerk to enter into a rental agreement for no longer than three years that meets our current operational needs. This would give us flexibility to move as quickly as possible if right operational space becomes available.

Cllr Plim suggested an amendment to Cllr Byrnes motion to pass the long-term decision-making process to the Strategy Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Deputy Clerk to find a rental property to either be overflow space or a complete move for no longer than a 3-year lease and to pass the decision to the upcoming Strategy Committee to finalise a long-term decision.

00467 MAYORS OFFICE

- a) To receive an update on the work of Town Mayor.
There was none.

00468 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External Councillors may report for three minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors.

Cllr Ian Hollidge reported the Neighbourhood Board are to make use of redundant and empty buildings to bring investment to Bexhill. Parking in zone F was a difficult debate, some park there for work purposes, but campervans and trailers were also being left there for months, which is not the original purpose of the residential public highway. May have noticed an increase in diversions and roadworks. A new Committee has been set up to review street works.

Cllr Lee left the meeting at 19:27pm.

- b) To receive reports form Ward District Councillors.

There was none.

- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Crotty reported that Santander officially have a closing date – 19th March. Sad news that the Factory Shop will also be closing at some point. If the Draft Local Plan gets approved, we could lose majority of car parks in the Town centre. Asks residents to look at the Draft Local Plan and report any objections.

Cllr Peters praised the smooth process involved in calling out the Town Rangers.

00469 SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

- a) To receive update. – updated received.

It was noted that East Sussex County Council have approved the suggested locations for School Crossing Patrol and are willing to fund this. However, request that Bexhill-on-Sea town Council liaise with local schools to assist with the recruitment process.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Deputy Clerk to liaise with local schools to see how the Council can assist with the recruitment process of School Crossing Patrol Officers.

00470 PLANNING MATTERS

- a) To receive update on the Neighbourhood Plan. – update received.
b) To discuss Rother Local Plan.

Cllr Drayson noted Rother District Council public meeting to be held at the Pelham on the 3rd March from 3 till 7. Officers will be there to explain

the site allocations and encourage people to complete the consultation. There was a meeting, mainly concerned with West Bexhill, which will be repeated at the Wheatsheaf on Sunday 8th March.

Cllr Winter corrected the date of the meeting at the Wheatsheaf to be Saturday the 7th March from 4 till 6.

- c) To discuss the National Planning Framework. – discussed.

00471 TO RECEIVE IT AND CYBER SECURITY POLICY

- a) To receive and consider the approval of the IT and Cyber Security Policy. To note dates for IT training to be released. It was **RESOLVED** to approve the IT and Cyber Security Policy.

00472 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIASON

- a) To receive update on Pebsham Recreation ground. – update received. It was noted that the Council is waiting for further information once Rother District Council Cabinet have met.

00473 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) To receive updates from external representatives. – not being discussed due to limited time.

Cllr Crotty left the meeting at 19:39pm.

Cllr Crotty re-entered the meeting at 19:40pm.

00474 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Drayson
The Council adopts the following policy, as shown in appendix G, regarding the appointment of the Chair of Bexhill on Sea Town Council and Mayor of Bexhill.
It was **RESOLVED** to not adopt the policy regarding the appointment of the Chair of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and Mayor of Bexhill.

- b) Cllr Drayson

The Council adopts the following policy, as shown in appendix H, regarding the appointment and succession of the Vice Chair of Bexhill on Sea Town Council and Deputy Mayor of Bexhill.

It was **RESOLVED** to not adopt the policy regarding the appointment and succession of the Vice Chair of Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and Deputy Mayor of Bexhill.

c) Cllr Crotty

This Council notes that under the Local Government Finance Act 1992, special expenses are costs that relate only to part of a district and must be funded solely by the Council Taxpayers of that area. This Council further notes that Bexhill attracts special expenses raised exclusively from Bexhill ratepayers for the provision of services within Bexhill. This Council resolves that, should responsibility for any service currently treated as a Bexhill special expense transfer from Rother District Council to Bexhill Town Council, the corresponding special expense must be removed from Rother District Council's Council Tax calculation for Bexhill and not absorbed into the wider district budget. This Council further resolves to seek written assurance that Bexhill ratepayers will not be charged twice for the same service and that all arrangements will remain compliant with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Cllr Drayson re-declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Byrne re-declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

Cllr Byrne proposed to seek written assurance that Bexhill ratepayers will not be charged twice for the same service and that all arrangements will remain compliant with the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

Cllr Plim suggested the amendment to Cllr Byrne's motion so that it reads "this Council further resolves to seek written assurance that Bexhill ratepayers will not be charged twice for the same service and that all arrangements will remain compliant with the Local Government Finance Act".

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the amended motion for this Council to seek further written assurance that Bexhill ratepayers will not be charged twice for the same service and that all arrangements will remain compliant with the Local Government Finance Act.

d) Cllr Lee

For the Town Council to sponsor a local community group with 12 litter pickers and hi-vis vests with their group name and logo saying sponsored by BTC. The cost of this would be around £120 online or around £150 from a local hardware store.

Cllr Lee put forward a motion to remove this proposed motion from the agenda.

Cllr Lee requested to remove his motion to sponsor a local community group with 12 litter pickers and hi-vis vests with their group name and logo saying sponsored by BTC.

It was **RESOLVED** to remove the motion to sponsor a local community group with 12 litter pickers and hi-vis vests with their group name and logo saying sponsored by BTC.

e) Cllr Lee

For the Town Council to investigate the possibility and costs of installing Modular self-cleaning toilets in the town.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this motion in Cllr Lee's absence.

f) Cllr El

Due to the developers in Pebsham not going ahead with a multi-use sports facility, I would like to recommend the empty green space by Barrack Hall Allotments for the installation of a new MUGA. I would also like to open this discussion if any other area is proposed.

Cllr Plim proposed an amendment to Cllr El's motion to include that once we have taken ownership of the green land and recreational areas within Bexhill that the Clerk investigate the possibilities of installing a Muga on those available.

Cllr El approved Cllr Plim's suggestion and proposed that the motion include that once the devolvement of the green spaces is made to

Bexhill Town Council that we check the areas that we have got available for a potential Muga or sports facility.

The amendment was proposed to discuss with developers their plans for potential sports facilities.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate, once green spaces have been devolved from Rother District Council, what spaces are available in relation to a Muga or 4g pitch of similar styles and discuss with developers if they are looking to include such a facility.

Cllr Drayson proposed for the Town Clerk to submit to the consultation on the Local Plan that the Town Council would like to see if it is possible that playing areas and sports fields are included in developments.

It was **RESOLVED** for the Deputy Clerk to submit a comment to the Consultation on the Local Plan in relation to sports facilities being included in Local developments.

g) Cllr Plim

That this council submits the following to Catesby Estates and Rother District Planning: "Bexhill Town Council are extremely concerned with regards to the proposed development west of Ninfield Road. The lack of infrastructure to support such a development in particular the small narrow single-track roads of St Marys Lane and Peartree Lane and Turkey Road. We would like Infrastructure ahead of homes."

Cllr Drayson re-declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council and Chairman of the Planning Committee.

Cllr Byrne re-declared an interest as a member of Rother District Council.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit the following to Catesby estates and Rother District Planning: "Bexhill Town Council are extremely concerned with regards to the proposed development west of Ninfield Road. The lack of infrastructure to support such a development in particular the small narrow single-track roads of St Marys Lane and Peartree Lane and Turkey Road. We would like Infrastructure ahead of homes."

Cllr Drayson proposed for the comment on infrastructure be included on the previously agreed letter on the Draft Local Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to include the comment on infrastructure in the previously agreed letter on the Draft Local Plan.

00475 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

This item was deferred due to limited time.

00476 RISK REGISTER

a) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.

There was none.

00477 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 25th MARCH 2026

All motions for the next meeting of the Full Council on 25th March 2026 must be received by received by the 14th March 2026.

The meeting was closed to the public at 20:12pm.

Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press will not be permitted to attend during the following items:

Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 20:12pm.

Cllr Thomas re-entered the meeting at 20:14pm.

00478 CIVIC AWARD NOMINATIONS

a) To agree award winners for 2025-2026.

It was **RESOVLED** to approve the following as award winners:

Jamie Hancock

Malcom Turner

Lauren O'Sulivam-Barnes

Tumer Mehmet

Alexander Haines

Angela Hastings

Gordon Smith
Louis Owen
Greg Hempe
Nicola Collins
Helen Bridger
Jamie Ramsden

It was **RESOVLED** for Friends of Lossie Long to be awarded the Community Organisation Award.

It was **RESOLVED** to not award a Freedom Award for 2025–2026.

It was **RESOLVED** to award the following nominations for the Freedom Award as Civic Award winners:

Stephen Johnson
Heather Winchester
Mr Brown – Uncle Bumble

00479 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

a) To receive an update. – update received.

It was **RESOLVED** to submit an interest in all five plots.

00480 MOTIONS

a) To consider two motions put forward by Cllr Wilson in relation to Local Government Reorganisation – Asset Transfer.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer this item due to limited time.

The Civic Administrator left the meeting at 20:45pm.

00481 STAFFING UPDATE

a) To appoint the Proper Officer – Successful Town Clerk candidate and start date 7th April 2026.

Standing Order 3x was suspend at 20:56pm.

For:

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Cllr Byrne
Cllr Drayson
Cllr El
Cllr Goss
Cllr Hunt
Cllr Huseyin
Cllr Plim
Cllr Thomas
Cllr Timpe

Against:

Cllr Blagrove
Cllr Crotty
Cllr Peters
Cllr Winter

Abstentions:

Cllr Jacklin

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint the successful Town Clerk candidate as Proper Officer with a start date of 7th April 2026, in accordance with Terms of Reference.

Cllr Blagrove left the meeting at 21:05pm.

b) As HR Sub-Committee recommendation – Deputy Town Clerk to be nominated Proper Officer until start date of new Town Clerk.

It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Deputy Town Clerk as Proper Officer until the start date of the new Town Clerk.

c) As HR Sub-Committee recommendation – Deputy Town Clerk to have enhanced pay scale until New Town Clerk is in post.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Deputy town Clerk have enhanced pay scale until the New Town Clerk is in post.

The meeting was closed at 21:12pm.

Date.....

Signed.....

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