

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the meeting of the **FULL COUNCIL**
held in the **BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD,**
BEXHILL-ON-SEA
On **Wednesday 26th February 2025** at **6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Byrne; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Crotty; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Goss; Cllr Hunt; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Peters; Cllr Plim; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; J Daeva; One videographer; one member of the public.

00615 In the absence of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor it was **RESOLVED** for Cllr Plim to chair the meeting.

00616 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

00617 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Hampton; Cllr Carroll; Cllr El; Cllr Huseyin and Cllr Wilson.

00618 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 and cabinet portfolio member for parks and open spaces.

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

00619 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Plim announced that the Christmas Lights item will be moved to the closed session of the meeting due to the commercial sensitivity of the item.

00620 MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the following meetings of the full council:

a) Wednesday 29th January 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 29th January 2025.

00621 COMMITTEES

- a) To note minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:
 - i. Engagement and Communications Committee 05/02/25 – noted.
 - ii. Finance and Audit Committee 12/02/25 – noted.

00622 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Engagement and Communications Committee:
This item was deferred to the closed session of the meeting.

00623 MARINA GARDENS PLANTING

- a) To consider collaborating with Rother District Council on Marina Gardens planting for the cost of £9,000 from General Reserves.

Cllr Peters entered the meeting at 18:12pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to collaborate with Rother District Council on Marina Gardens planting for the cost of £9,000 from General Reserves.

00624 MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor.
An update was circulated prior to the meeting.

00625 REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

External councillors may report for 3 minutes. Written reports must be received three days before the meeting.

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors – a report was received, and it was **RESOLVED** to raise a concern about the disparity of the timings of parking charges between East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council and that this council would like to see this addressed. We also have concerns about residents parking permits.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors – Cllr Timpe reported that equipment had to be reinstalled at Robertsbridge which meant the tankers returned to Glyne Gap. Residents received letters from Southern Water. Cllr Timpe also reported that the Egerton Park lake had been drained to find out where the water has been flowing, and it will be filled again by the end of the week.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors. Cllr Crotty reported that potholes and sinkholes are an issue.

00626 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To note leaders meeting taking place on 21st March 2025. – noted.
Cllr Crotty asked if the leaders meeting can be asked if the new Hub affects the Town Council and if it will have a banking hub.
- b) To note awaiting update on the request for the acquisition of Rother District Council Town Hall, a list of discretionary services and an update on the devolution of parks and open spaces and the Museum. – noted.
- c) To note Channel View East Public Convenience lease with solicitors. – noted.
- d) To note no clarification on ownership of War Memorials received, this matter is being followed up regularly. – It was noted that Rother District Council is responsible for the central War Memorial, but not the one in Little Common. The Clerk will continue to investigate if National Highways own the Little Common War Memorial.
- e) To note heads of terms for Pebsham Play Park being progressed. – noted.
- f) To note visioning exercise arranged for 16th April 2025. – noted.

00627 CONCLUSION OF AUDIT

- a) To note the completion of the external audit for the financial year 2023-24 and the publication of the Conclusion of Audit Notice in accordance with statutory requirements. – noted.

00628 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

- a) RALC – Cllr Jacklin and Cllr Thomas.
- b) Citizen's Advice – Cllr Byrne
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor
- d) Bexhill Maritime – Cllr Timpe
- e) Little Gate Farm – Cllr Jacklin
- f) Town Board – Cllr Wilson
- g) Chamber of Commerce Centenary Fund Assessment Panel – Cllr Wilson
Cllr Byrne stepped down from his position as the external representative for the Combe Vally CIC. It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Jacklin as external representative for Combe Valley CIC.

00629 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS – There are none.

00630 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Pegasus Group – Installation of replacement apparatus at Cooden Beach Sports and Social Club for 5G Mobile Connectivity.
- b) Bexhill Heritage Consultation Proposed Eastern Conservation Area for Bexhill and Neighbourhood Plan involvement.

00631 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Cllr Jacklin asked if the Town Clerk can clarify the declaration of interests in regard to the Rother Forum.	Rother District Council Monitoring Officer has been asked for guidance.
Cllr Drayson asked if previous years minutes and agendas could be archived on the town council website.	Minutes and agendas are archived under the 'Minute Documents' and 'Meeting Agendas' sections on the Town Council website. Bexhill-on-Sea, Bexhill-On-Sea
Cllr Drayson asked if the council could consider the Bexhill Trust to make Bexhill Day a fundraising event for the Bexhill Trust.	The Engagement and Communications Committee discussed this on 5 th February 2025.
Cllr El asked how the work with Town Rangers is going.	The capital expenditure for the new team will be reviewed by the Amenities Committee on 5th March 2025. Recruitment will commence shortly after the necessary purchases are approved to support the role.

- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
- c) To note any future agenda items.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.

00632 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 26TH MARCH 2025

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:

00633 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Engagement and Communications Committee:
It was **RESOLVED** to recommend to the Full Council that financial regulations are suspended to permit the council to enter a three-year contract with the current Christmas Lights supplier.

A recorded vote was called.

FOR:

Cllr Blagrove.

Cllr Byrne.

Cllr Drayson.

Cllr Goss.

Cllr Hunt.

Cllr Jacklin.

Cllr Plim.

Cllr Rustem.

Cllr Thomas.

Cllr Timpe.

Cllr Winter.

AGAINST:

Cllr Crotty.

ABSTAIN:

Cllr Peters.

It was **RESOLVED** that financial regulations are suspended to permit the council to enter a three-year contract with the current Christmas Lights supplier.

00634 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

There were none.

00635 CIVIC AWARD NOMINATIONS

a) To agree award winners for 2024-2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the following as award winners:
Wendy Dennis, Rodney Summer.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve Homecall as award winners for the Organisation of The Year Award.

It was **RESOLVED** for Lynn Langlands to be awarded the Freedom of The Town.

The meeting closed at 19:21pm.