

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL** held in **THE BEXHILL SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB, EVERSLEY ROAD, BEXHILL-ON-SEA**

On **Wednesday 24th July 2024** at **6:30pm**.

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Carroll; Cllr El; Cllr Goss; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Hunt; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Plim; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Wilson.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; one videographer; two representatives from Bexhill Museum; Cllr Ian Hollidge (East Sussex County Council); eight members of the public.

00180 CO-OPTION

- a) To co-opt a councillor to fill the Sidley Ward vacancy.
Cllr Carroll declared a personal interest in Jamie Hunt.

Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 18:41pm.

It was **RESOLVED** to co-opt Cllr Jamie Hunt to fill the Sidley Ward vacancy.

Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 18:44pm.

00181 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked the town council to hold a public inquiry as to why the water fountains are not operational.

A member of the public thanked all those involved in the recent 70's explosion event.

A member of the public asked about the Christmas Lights brochure and quote that he gave to the committee previously and what the process is for obtaining tenders.

A member of the public asked for CCTV to be installed around the pond in Egerton Park due to an increase in vandalism to the park and wildlife.

00182 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Byrne, Cllr Crotty; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Hampton; Cllr Winter.

00183 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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

00184 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00185 TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO ALLOW BEXHILL MUSEUM TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

A representative of the museum addressed the meeting and asked for funding for modular toilets next to the accessible toilet in order to free up space within the museum.

00186 MINUTES

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

a) Wednesday 26th June 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 26th June 2024.

00187 COMMITTEES

- a) To note minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:
- i. Finance and Audit Committee 10/07/24 – noted.
 - ii. Engagement and Communications Committee 03/07/24 – noted.

The following item was moved forward on the agenda:

b) Cllr Plim.

That this council reschedule Planning Committee meetings to commence upon the rising of any other council meeting that is currently scheduled to meet on the dates previously set for the remainder of this Municipal year. The result of this motion would therefore mean that any meeting currently scheduled to meet after the Planning Committee shall commence at 6pm.

It was **RESOLVED** that this council reschedule Planning Committee meetings to commence upon the rising of any other council meeting that is currently scheduled to meet on the dates previously set for the remainder of this Municipal year. The result of this motion would therefore mean that any meeting currently scheduled to meet after the Planning Committee shall commence at 6pm.

- c) To note current vacancies on committees as per Terms of Reference and appoint members to the following vacancies:
- i. Planning and Development Committee x 2 – noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Hunt to the Planning and Development Committee.

- d) To note Planning and Development Committee inquorate on the following dates and to consider next steps: - noted.
- i. Wednesday 15th May 2024.
 - ii. Wednesday 12th June 2024.
 - iii. Wednesday 26th June 2024.
 - iv. Wednesday 10th July 2024.

00188 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were none.

00189 MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor.
An update was received.

00190 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.
Cllr Hollidge gave an update on the proposed 10 week closure of the library whilst refurbishment takes place. It will reopen on the 25th November. This will be added to the town council's noticeboards. It was discussed that the Flexi-bus is changing and the zones are increasing and buses are improving.
Cllr Hollidge reported that he had many complaints about grass cutting and advised that there are alternatives that could be investigated.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors – there were none.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
Cllr Rustem thanked the council for the funding for the accessible toilet at Pebsham Community Centre and advised that the work will be carried out imminently. Cllr El and Cllr Rustem have met with St Michael's Church and they are looking into creating a community garden, more information will be circulated.
Cllr Plim was very pleased that the town council had funded the 70's Explosion event and the Bexhill Carnival is this weekend and encouraged councillors to get involved in the Bexhill Day event.
Cllr Carroll advised that Sidley festival was a great success, Bexhill-on-Sea has been alive this summer and the council is supporting the right events.

Cllr Jacklin reported on the refurbishment of the Norman's Bay toilets.

00191 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To consider cost and security implications of tablets or laptops for councillors.

It was **RESOLVED** that if a councillor wishes to have a tablet or laptop the Town Council will provide one.

The maximum budget of £300 will be set for either a tablet or laptop.

- b) To review pension policies.

The pension policies were reviewed.

- c) To consider request for £9,240 CIL funding for Summerhill Allotment Society to install fence around Town Council allotment site for security and boundary protection.

It was **RESOLVED** to grant £9,240 CIL funding for Summerhill Allotment Society to install fence around Town Council allotment site for security and boundary protection.

00192 TOWN COUNCIL PREMISES

- a) To receive report on premises options and to consider next steps.

The report was received and it was **RESOLVED** for the Town Clerk to report back on any future available properties.

00193 TO CONSIDER DRAFT HEADS OF TERMS AND PLANS FOR THE TRANSFER BY LEASE OF CHANNEL VIEW EAST PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

It was **RESOLVED** for councillors to send all questions on the lease to the Clerk to obtain answers for Rother District Council to answer before proceeding.

00194 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To note update on Town Centre Visioning Group. – noted.

- b) To receive update on leaders meeting on 17th July.

An update was received, notes have been circulated.

00195 SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note any further updates on current performance of CCTV.

It was noted that the maintenance agreement is being prepared.

00196 NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To note no further updates. It was **RESOLVED** to write to the Home Office for an update on the site and if it is being considered as a prison.

00197 TOWN BOARD

- a) To receive update.
An update was circulated prior to the meeting.

00198 VISIONING EXERCISE

- a) To note visioning exercise being revisited later this year. – noted.

00199 REQUEST FROM DAVID DENNIS

- a) A formal funding contribution from the Town Council to the Crowdfunder for the Sidley Woods Project.
It was **RESOLVED** to contribute £1,000 towards the project from the council's general reserves and invite an application to the next round of grants and donations.
- b) That the Town Council writes to Bexhill Wild CIC to support a grant bid to Rother District Council. This letter is required by Rother District Council.
It was **RESOLVED** to write to Bexhill Wild CIC to support a grant bid to Rother District Council. This letter is required by Rother District Council.

00200 TOWN RANGERS

- a) To receive report on Town Rangers.
The report was received, and it was **RESOLVED** to investigate what service The Pelham could provide on a short-term basis with pricing.

It was **RESOLVED** to research timing and the tender process with a view to appoint a long-term contractor once any temporary arrangement has expired and furthermore to discuss with Rother District Council what services can be devolved.

00201 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

- a) RALC – Cllr Jacklin
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Thomas as a RALC representative.
- 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
- i. To consider deputy to attend meetings in Cllr Wilson's absence.

It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Huseyin to attend meetings in Cllr Wilson's absence.

00202 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

e) Cllr Crotty.

I am asking for training session with understanding Autism in the workplace.

This item was deferred.

f) Cllr Wilson.

For the Mayor of Bexhill to have a Mayors Ball sometime during April 2025 probably at the Manor Barn to celebrate the conclusion of the Mayors term and to fund raise for the Mayors Chosen Charity. The Council is asked to consider how this is organised either

- i. The Clerk shall be delegated authority to manage a set income and expenditure budget and be delegated decision-making powers to organise the event.
- ii. A committee of the full council shall be formed and delegated authority to manage a set income and expenditure budget and be delegated decision making powers to organise the event.
- iii. A private event is arranged and organised by individuals, that is not a town council event or Mayoral event, but is a private fundraiser for the Cricket Club.

It was **RESOLVED** that a private event is arranged and organised by individuals, that is not a town council event or Mayoral event, but is a private fundraiser for the Cricket Club.

00203 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

There were none.

00204 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

There were none.

b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.

Cllr Rustem asked how the museum toilets item will be taken forward.

c) To note any future agenda items.

There were none.

- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
Cllr Plim reported that there are some DBS checks outstanding and various training items for councillors and the the number of complaints being made to RDC about councillor behaviour.
Cllr Rustem thanked the team for the work on the website.

00205 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2024

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:

00206 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

An update was received.

00207 PEBSHAM ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK

- a) To receive tenders and consider next steps.
It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with the chosen contractor and to allocate a budget inclusive of contingency at 120k
- b) To consider lease options.
It was noted that the Rother leaders had agreed for the leased area to cover the play area and the documents will be prepared for the council to approve. Grant applications are being investigated.

The meeting was closed at 21:00pm.