

BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
Minutes of the **FULL COUNCIL MEETING** of the
BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL
FULL COUNCIL held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, ROTHER DISTRICT**
COUNCIL TOWN HALL, BEXHILL-ON-SEA.
on **Wednesday 8th March 2023 at 7pm.**

PRESENT: Cllr Plim (Chair); Cllr Baldry; Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Harding; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Norris; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Wray; Cllr Stanger; Cllr Fenner; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; 17 members of the public

00693. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Questions are asked at the meeting and a response provided in italics below after the meeting.

A member of the public

- a) Spoke in objection to the Town Council taking on the maintenance of the public conveniences.

A member of the public asked:

- b) If the Town Council premises had a separate meeting room.

The Town Council has not yet developed a policy for the use of the additional space at its new premises in Western Road, it has prioritised opening a helpdesk to the public and equipping a safe workspace for staff. The use of the other rooms in the building will be decided by the Council at a future meeting.

- c) A member of the public asked if details of the negotiation of the toilet lease could be made available on the Town Council website.

Negotiations of leases are commercially sensitive and not available to the public, release of negotiation information could prejudice the position of the Council during the process. If a lease is agreed, details are then published.

A member of the public asked:

- d) For the Town Council to support the new initiative for a Macmillan National Busking Day.

This item is discussed later in the meeting.

A member of the public asked:

- e) Why has a letter not been sent to Town Hall staff about the availability of the Town Hall's defibrillator?

Rother District Council is responsible for the Town Hall, its facilities and communicating with its staff. Please contact the Town Hall directly.

- f) Why have the sink holes that I reported not been repaired?

The repair of highways damage is the responsibility of East Sussex County Council. Potholes and sink holes that have been brought to the attention of the Town Council have been reported to the County Council and are being investigated for repair. Please contact East Sussex County Council for the latest updates/

- g) Is the Town Council aware that the Sovereign Light Toilets at West Parade are not being cleaned.

Rother District Council is responsible for the Public Conveniences in Bexhill, and the management of the cleaning contract. This has been reported to the District Council on your behalf.

A member of the public asked:

- h) How many grants have been applied for and how many have been successful?

The Town Council does not have any project plans in place that grants can be applied for at this stage. When community projects have been agreed and consulted on, grant applications can be made to fund them.

- i) Are the allotments held on a leasehold or freehold basis and do they operate at a loss?

The Town Council owns the freehold to the allotments. Managing allotments is the only statutory duty of a Town Council. It is not lawful for a Town Council to operate profit and loss. Allotments are a statutory requirement that are provided to residents. Allotments are not expected to provide an income to the council. Allotment holders contribute to the costs of maintaining and administering the site. The level of contribution is decided by the Town Council.

- j) If Rother District Council will save £1.7bn devolving assets to the Town Council and these assets are not income generating how will the Town Council fund the management of these assets?

The Town Council raises its income in the same way as Rother District Council, through the precept. Grants and other income generating activities can be investigated by the Town Council if assets are transferred.

- k) The Town Clerk informed me in an email that Rother District Council are not using Surrey Hills Solicitors, the Town Council should be engaging a lease expert to protect itself.

The Town Council has engaged the Local Government lease specialist, Surrey Hills Solicitors.

- l) When will the live streaming of meetings be available on the website? The meetings that were posted on there have been taken down.

During testing period, the YouTube channel was used for test meeting recordings. These test recordings have been added and removed as part of the testing process. Now that testing has been completed, meetings will be live streamed on YouTube, subject to any technical issues experienced at the time.

- m) Town Councillors should clearly give their name when they speak at meetings so that listeners know who are speaking and they should not speak over each other.

The chair of the meeting announces the name of the councillor to speak next and keeps order in meetings.

A member of the public stated that:

- n) They had not had any answers back from questions they have asked at meetings. A response to questions asked at meetings is provided in the minutes of the next meeting.

- o) Have all town councillors read the reports on the surveys of the toilets. Do you know what you are getting yourself into?

All Town Councillors have been given the survey reports carried out by Rother District Council. The Town Council has been researching public convenience maintenance for approximately one year and the Asset Transfer Committee recommended the transfer based on this research.

A member of the public:

- p) Congratulated the town council on the new noticeboards around the town and stated that Egerton Park has an increase in wildlife therefore would the town council consider installing a wildlife information board.
The Town Council can consider this at the Climate, Nature, and Environment Committee.

00694. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were none.

00695. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Baldry declared an interest in the National Busking Day item.

Cllr Drayson and Cllr Thomas declared a general interest as Rother District Councillors.

Cllr Winter declared an interest in Citizens Advice Bureau, as a trustee and director.

Cllr Taylor-Gee declared an interest in Ukraine Hub item.

Cllr Harding declared an interest in the Ukraine Hub due to hosting a Ukrainian

Cllr Gibson declared an interest in the National Busking Day item and the Ukrainian Hub due to hosting a Ukrainian.

- 00696.** It was **RESOLVED** to move the public conveniences item forward on the agenda.

00697. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 8th February 2023.

00698. PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

- a) To receive update on lease and consider next steps.

- 00699.** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend standing order to allow councillors to speak more than once on the item.

Cllr Drayson and Cllr Thomas left the meeting at 19:24pm

It was **RESOLVED** to defer making a decision until after the forthcoming elections when we will have councillors in place for a four-year term who are able to ensure that Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council will bring this project to a successful completion.

A recorded vote was called.

FOR: Cllr Carroll; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Winter; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Norris; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Harding

AGAINST: Cllr Baldry; Cllr Gibson Cllr Stanger; Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Izzard: Cllr Taylor-Gee

ABSTAIN: Cllr Fenner; Cllr Wray; Cllr Plim

00700. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Plim asked that the town council recognise and fully support International Women's Day.

Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Stanger left the meeting at 20:28pm.

00701. COMMITTEES

The following minutes of committees held since the last Full Council meeting were noted.

- a) Planning and Development Advisory Committee – 08/02/23
- b) Asset Transfer Committee – 15/02/2023
- c) Community Committee – 15/02/2023
- d) Planning and Development Committee – 22/02/2023
- e) Finance and General Purposes Committee – 22/02/2023

Cllr Brailsford and Cllr Stanger re-entered the meeting at 20:31pm.

00702. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Community Committee:
 - i. To approve Noticeboard Policy
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Noticeboard Policy.
 - ii. For the Full Council to name the new Council premises
It was **RESOLVED** to name the new Council premises "The Town Council Hub".

00703. MAYOR'S OFFICE

- a) To receive update on the work of the Town Mayor – a verbal update was noted.

00704. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) To receive reports from Division County Councillors – a report was circulated prior to the meeting.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors.

Cllr Bayliss addressed the meeting and gave a verbal Central Ward report.

Cllr Timpe addressed the meeting and reported that Hastings have given six months' notice to leave the 1066 marketing group.

- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
A report from Sackville Ward was circulated.

Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 20:43pm

Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 20:44pm

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To agree insurance renewal for 2023/24.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the insurance renewal with Zurich Municipal.

00704. ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIAISON

- a) To receive any updates on liaison meetings - there were no further updates.

- b) To receive update from external representatives on Rother District Council High Street Task Force – Cllr Plim and Cllr Taylor-Gee.

00705. SUSSEX POLICE LIAISON

- a) To note next Police liaison meeting being organised in April - noted.
- b) To note Clerk to investigate CCTV improvement opportunities when more time available – noted.

00706. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

- a) To receive update from Cllrs Brailsford; Taylor-Gee; Thomas on ‘Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support.’

It was noted that the hub continued to be successful. The forthcoming fundraiser book sale at St Stephen’s Church Hall on Saturday 11th March 2023 was noted.

00707. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

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

- a) RALC - Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee – nothing to report
- b) Citizen’s Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson
Cllr Gibson reported that the group meets every other week with other agencies. Bexhill Primary Care Network was discussed.
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron - Mayor – nothing to report.
- d) Fairtrade – Cllr Izzard – Fairtrade Fortnight is underway.
- e) Old and Bold – Cllr Barfoot – Training is underway for all candidates.
- f) Sea Angling Club Design Workshop – Cllr Gibson – nothing to report.

00708. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Stanger
To discuss the COVID Remembrance Event
The event is being held on Sunday 17th March 2023 at the Tree of Hope and all are welcome.
- b) Cllr Plim
To consider how the Town Council can participate in the Kings Coronation weekend.
It was **RESOLVED** to delegate the Town Clerk to utilise the Events Budget, up to a maximum of £5000, to organise bunting to be erected around Bexhill for the Coronation, if practicable.

00709. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

All information circulated to councillors prior to the meeting.

- a) Email from resident with questions about public toilets 02/03/2023
Cllrs Baldry and Gibson left the meeting at 21:21pm.
- b) Request for support for Macmillan’s National Busking Day 01/03/2023
It was **RESOLVED** to support the Macmillan’s National Busking Day.
Cllrs Baldry and Gibson re-entered the meeting at 21:23pm.

- c) Email from member of the public concerning councillor’s surgeries 26/02/2023
- d) Bexhill Hospital Meet the Contractor Event 21/02/2023.
- e) Email from member of the public requesting town forums be arranged 17/02/2023.
It was noted that due to the Pre-Election period such forums would not be arranged.
- f) NALC Legal Update 13/02/2023

00710. 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.
Questions shall be recorded in the minutes and responded to at the next meeting or before.
Cllr Gibson asked for the effectiveness of the Asset Transfer Committee to be reviewed at the next meeting.
Cllr Drayson asked for an update on allotment management at the next meeting.
Cllr Thomas asked if opinion reports could be provided to accompany Town Council decisions.
- c) To note any future agenda items.
Cllr Thomas advised that he would provide a motion about recruitment of a planning officer to the next meeting.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
There were none.

00711. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 5TH APRIL 2023

Meeting closed at 21:23pm

Signed.....

Date.....

Initial.....