

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 18th December 2024** at **6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Byrne; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Crotty; Cllr El; Cllr Goss; Cllr Hampton; Cllr Hunt; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Peters; Cllr Plim; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Wilson; Cllr Winter.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: J Miller, Clerk; One videographer; Cllr Ian Hollidge (East Sussex County Council); David Dennis (Bexhill Wild CIC); one member of the public.

00480 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

David Dennis addressed the meeting and invited all councillors to the Bexhill Nature Club quiz at the Senior Citizen's Club. He also advised that he now has David Attenborough's address and would write to him about the lack of response from the Secretary of State about the extension to the SSSI.

He spoke on a detailed quote from a film company to make a BBC quality film at a cost of £50,000 from the lottery grant, and ESCC Flood managers to review the Egerton Park flooding issues. He advised that if the Leaky Dams project can't go ahead, he will return the money.

00481 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was **RESOLVED** to receive and approve apologies for absence with reasons from Cllr Blagrove and Cllr Drayson.

00482 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Byrne 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.

00483 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00484 MINUTES

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

a) Wednesday 27th November 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 27th November 2024.

00485 COMMITTEES

- a) To note minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:
 - i. Planning and Development Committee 27/11/24. – noted.
 - ii. Engagement and Communications Committee 04/12/24. – noted.
- b) To note current vacancies on committees as per Terms of Reference and appoint members to the following vacancies:
 - i. Planning and Development Committee x1.

The following item was brought forward:

00486 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

- a) Cllr Wilson.
To ask that The Town Clerk prepares a document for full council to consider implementing a call in process relating to planning applications as opposed for a review of all planning applications. This will enable ward councillors to take responsibility for planning applications within their own ward and permit all councillors to debate call ins at full council.

It was **RESOLVED** To ask that The Town Clerk prepares a document for full council to consider implementing a call in process relating to planning applications as opposed for a review of all planning applications. This will enable ward councillors to take responsibility for planning applications within their own ward and permit all councillors to debate call ins at full council.

00487 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

- a) Engagement and Communications Committee.
It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Marketing and Communications Officer job specification.

00488 MAYOR'S OFFICE

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

00489 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.
Councillor Ian Hollidge spoke at the meeting about traffic accidents on the A259 road. He mentioned that East Sussex County Council is planning to review the speed limit next year. He also pointed out that when traffic is diverted from major roads onto smaller local roads, it causes problems.

Councillor Hollidge talked about the White Paper on devolution and expressed his support for it. He highlighted how important it will be for the Town Council to be involved. He also discussed the Town Council's visioning document, praised it, and said he was happy about the new marketing role.

The water issues in Buckhurst Road were discussed and South East Water are required to investigate.

b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors – there were none.

c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.

Cllr Crotty reported that there have been two planning applications not being followed up and he's chasing these.

00490 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

a) To note no update on the request for Rother District Council Town Hall being used as an asset in the future. – noted.

b) To note no update from Rother District Council on the devolution of parks and open spaces. – noted.

c) To note final tax base figure from Rother District Council and Band D equivalent. – it was noted that this is yet to be received.

00491 CHANNEL VIEW EAST PUBLIC CONVENIENCE LEASE

a) To note repairs underway. – noted.

00492 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIASION

a) To note no clarification on ownership of War Memorials received. – noted.

b) To consider next steps following Rother District Council's devolution policy (Cllr Plim).

It was **RESOLVED** to keep this as a substantive agenda item moving forward.

c) To note next leaders meeting on 17/01/25 and to consider any questions. – noted.

Cllr Plim asked if the Town Council could explore ownership of the Beacon on Galley Hill.

Cllr Rustem asked if a timescale for the Pebsham Playpark lease could be clarified.

00493 PEBSHAM ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK

a) To note draft lease being prepared by Rother District Council. – noted.

00494 VISIONING EXERCISE

a) To receive Visioning Exercise report and consider next steps.

It was **RESOLVED** to arrange a further meeting to determine the order of the strategic plan in February 2025 on a Wednesday evening.

00495 POST OFFICE

- a) To discuss repercussions of the possible closure of the Post Office (Cllr Plim).

It was **RESOLVED** to contact Post Office Ltd to ensure the Town Council is included in the official consultation process and is given the opportunity to promote factual information to residents.

00496 SIDLEY LEAKY DAMS PROJECT

- a) To consider ways to support the continuation of the Sidley Leaky Dams Project (Cllr Jacklin).

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cllr Hollidge to address the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to the relevant authorities, (Rother District Council, East Sussex County Council, Sussex River Trust, Environment Agency) asking if they can enable the work to be undertaken in quarter one.

00497 NORTHEYE ASYLUM PROPOSAL

- a) To note Town Council information sent to National Audit Office Inquiry. – noted.
b) To note Home Office decision not to use the Northeye site. – noted.

This item will no longer appear on the agenda.

00498 EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES

- a) To receive reports from external representatives (circulated prior to the meeting) 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) To approve request from Bexhill Chamber of Commerce for Cllr Wilson to join the Centenary Fund Assessment Panel.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the request from Bexhill Chamber of Commerce for Cllr Wilson to join the Centenary Fund Assessment Panel.

00499 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

a) Cllr Wilson.

To consider contacting Rother District Council with regard to devolving the car parks in Bexhill that are currently free of charge for its users.

An amendment was voted on and it was **RESOLVED** to contact RDC to obtain a list of all discretionary services that could be devolved to the Town Council. Once the list is received the Town Council will then organise a meeting with Rother District Council officers to discuss.

00500 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

a) Rother District Council Budget Consultation – Deadline for response: 10/01/25. – noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to respond to the consultation. The Town Council will state that it is willing to continue working with Rother District Council to ensure the protection of discretionary services to residents on a devolved basis. The council also objects to the proposed charging in the free car parks. The Town Council acknowledges the considerable financial constraints that the District council find themselves under. Individual councillors are responding as personal individuals.

b) Statutory Consultation on proposed parking restrictions and shared footpaths for Bexhill cycle route between Worsham and Collington. – noted.

It was **RESOLVED** to fully support this proposal.

00501 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

<p>Cllr Drayson asked how the council can ensure that important planning applications are not missed.</p>	<p>Planning lists relevant to Bexhill-on-Sea are included on each Planning and Development Committee Agenda. Committee members attending meetings ensures these applications are discussed and commented on. All councillors can sign up to the weekly planning list at www.rother.gov.uk</p>
<p>Cllr Timpe asked what the Town Council would do about the unauthorised lighting of the beacon.</p>	<p>Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council has no decision-making powers regarding the beacon. This power falls to Rother District Council.</p>

Cllr Plim asked if the Clerk could investigate Rother District Council's devolution policy and how the town council could work with it.	<u>BoSTC/18.12.24-00122</u> This item is on the agenda.
Cllr Plim asked who owns the two war memorials in the town and how we can work with the owners on any improvements.	Clarification on the ownership of the two war memorials has been sought.
Cllr Plim asked if there could be a discussion about repercussions of the possible closure of the Post Office.	This item is on the agenda.
Cllr Jacklin asked what mechanism the Town Council has to help keep the Sidley Woods Leaky Dams project going in the short term?	This item is on the agenda.

- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
Cllr El asked for a final design update on the Pebsham Play Park and to have this displayed in the Hub.
Cllr Jacklin asked for the list of discretionary services to be provided prior to the visioning exercise.
Cllr Jacklin asked if the previous motion is the last longest motion ever agreed by the Town Council.
- c) To note any future agenda items.
There were none.
- d) To consider any new risks to be added to the risk register.
There were none

00502 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – WEDNESDAY 29TH JANUARY 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:

00503 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

There were none.

The meeting closed at 19:50pm.