

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 27th November 2024** at **6:00pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Goss; Cllr Hunt; Cllr Huseyin; Cllr Jacklin; Cllr Peters; Cllr Plim; Cllr Timpe; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Wilson; Cllr Winter.

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

00409 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

David Dennis addressed the meeting about the Sidley Woods project. The flooding at Egerton Park could be contained using leaky dams. It was reported that Rother District Council have refused permission to complete the project. The Town Council was asked to help by renting Sidley Woods from Rother District Council to give permission for the project to go ahead.

00410 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

00411 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS

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.

00412 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

00413 MINUTES

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

a) Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday 23rd October 2024.

00414 COMMITTEES

- a) To note minutes from committee meetings held since the last meeting:
- i. Amenities Committee 06/11/24 – noted.
 - ii. Finance and Audit Committee 13/11/24 – 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 x 2.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Peters to the Planning and Development Committee.
 - ii. Finance and Audit Committee x 1.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Wilson to the Finance and Audit Committee.
 - iii. Amenities Committee x 1.
It was **RESOLVED** to appoint Cllr Blagrove to the Amenities Committee.

00415 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES

There were none.

00416 MAYOR'S OFFICE

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

00417 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 parking consultation and encouraged responses. Further updates were given on the accessibility projects, and he asked that all tiers of local government to work together.
- b) To receive reports from Ward District Councillors – there were none.
- c) To receive ward reports from Town Councillors.
Cllr Jacklin gave an update on the Pevensey Coastal Management Scheme and the flooding that has been experienced in Norman's Bay. The risks to beach front properties from future flooding was noted.

00418 GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

- a) To review budget and precept proposals for 2025/26 for approval and to note questions received from councillors.

The following items were brought forward

- 00419** a) Cllr El (moved by Cllr Plim)
To contact Rother District Council and express an interest in the future of the town hall building as an asset and possibilities of acquirement.
An amendment to the motion was made and
It was **RESOLVED** to contact Rother District Council and express an interest in the future of the town hall building as an asset

00420 b) Cllr Plim,

That should this council at any time in the future instruct the Town Clerk to seek usage from RDC of the Town Hall for Town Council Meetings. Then that the Clerk be open to adjust the meeting day from a Wednesday to any other alternative day that is deemed to be more operationally suitable to facilitate usage of the Town Hall.

The motion fell.

c) Cllr Wilson.

That full council request that the Clerk investigates the implications of the devolution of parks and gardens with a view to a phased approach to transfer responsibilities to the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and to contact Battle Town Clerk to understand how their Parks and gardens operate.

It was **RESOLVED** That full council request that the Clerk investigates the implications of the devolution of parks and gardens with a view to a phased approach to transfer responsibilities to the Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council and to contact Battle Town Clerk to understand how their Parks and gardens operate.

00421 Questions received from councillors were noted and the Sidley and Little Common Christmas fund was amalgamated and increased to £10,000. The committee shall decide how this is shared in 2025. It was **RESOLVED** to approve budget and precept proposals for 2025/2026 as follows: £959,700 with a £917,400 precept. The final tax base figure will be received from Rother District Council in December and the Band D calculation shall be reported to the next meeting.

A recorded vote was called

FOR:

Cllr Huseyin
Cllr Hunt
Cllr Carroll
Cllr Plim
Cllr Drayson
Cllr Peters
Cllr Jacklin
Cllr Thomas
Cllr Goss
Cllr Wilson

AGAINST:

Cllr Timpe

Cllr Blagrove
Cllr Winter

The fire at the New Inn was discussed and it was **RESOLVED** to transfer £500 from the Mayoral Budget of 2024/25 to Heart of Sidley.

00422 CHANNEL VIEW EAST PUBLIC CONVENIENCE LEASE

a) To note lease on hold until repairs completed. – noted.

00423 ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCIL LIASION

a) To note update on leaders meeting held on 15/11/24. – noted.
The ownership of the War Memorials was discussed, and confirmation shall be sought.

00424 PEBSHAM ACCESSIBLE PLAY PARK

a) To note draft lease being prepared and grants being sought. – noted.

00425 VISIONING EXERCISE

a) To note preparation of visioning report underway. – noted.

00426 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

00427 MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Jacklin.

In light of calls on East Sussex County Council to commit to applying to become a member of the City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network, with the aim of becoming a recognized Council of Sanctuary, can the Town Council discuss whether we should have a view on East Sussex becoming a recognised Council of Sanctuary.

The motion fell.

00428 Cllr Jacklin.

In the light of the National Audit Office's Investigation into the acquisition of the Northeye site for asylum accommodation and the resultant announcement of a Public Inquiry can the Clerk be asked to submit the publicly available information from the Town Council's April 2023 meeting to the Inquiry.

It was **RESOLVED** that in the light of the National Audit Office's Investigation into the acquisition of the Northeye site for asylum accommodation and the resultant announcement of a Public Inquiry can the Clerk be asked to submit the publicly available information from the Town Council's April 2023 meeting to the Inquiry.

00429 CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION

- a) Email from Bexhill Museum regarding leasing information. – noted.

00430 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Cllr Blagrove asked if a policy is needed for pets and children in the Hub.	The presence of pets and children in the Hub is guided by the council's risk assessment, which provides clear guidelines to ensure everyone's comfort and safety.
Cllr Blagrove asked for an update on the timings for Christmas Lights.	The event starts at 2:45pm and the Christmas tree lights switch-on is planned for 5:00pm.
Cllr Blagrove asked if councillors could speak up at meetings for the audio recording.	It is for individual councillors to consider their conduct at meetings.
Cllr Drayson asked if the Planning and Development Committee size should be reduced.	The size of the committee was increased to address issues with member attendance. If needed, it can be reduced again by submitting a motion for the council's consideration.
Cllr Plim asked if Councillors not on committees could be nominated onto the Planning and Development Committee.	Councillors who are not currently on any committees can be nominated to join the Planning and Development Committee, subject to the usual nomination and approval process.
Cllr Jacklin asked for a report on how many Councillors have asked for a device.	Four councillors have asked for devices. Three councillors have asked for laptops, and one has received a tablet.
Cllr Jacklin asked about the PSPO Consultation and if this was for group feedback or for individual responses.	When the corporate body receives consultations, they should be reviewed by the committee to agree on a majority-supported response.

- b) To receive questions from councillors at the meeting.
Cllr Drayson asked how the council can ensure that important planning applications are not missed.
Cllr Timpe asked what the Town Council would do about the unauthorised lighting of the beacon.
Cllr Plim asked if the Clerk could investigate Rother District Council's devolution policy and how the town council could work with it.
Cllr Plim asked who owns the two war memorials in the town and how we can work with the owners on any improvements.
Cllr Plim asked if there could be a discussion about repercussions of the possible closure of the Post Office.
Cllr Jacklin asked what mechanism does the Town Council have to help keep the Sidley Woods Leaky Dams project going in the short term?
- 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.

00431 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18TH DECEMBER 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:

00432 TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEGAL CLAIM

There were none.

Meeting closed at 19:43pm.