

**BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the **BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN COUNCIL  
FULL COUNCIL** held in the **COUNCIL CHAMBER, BEXHILL-ON-SEA TOWN  
HALL,**  
on **Wednesday 20<sup>TH</sup> April 2022 at 6.30pm**

**PRESENT:** Cllr Plim (Town Mayor); Cllr Baldry; Cllr Barfoot; Cllr Blagrove; Cllr Brailsford; Cllr Carroll; Cllr Clasby; Cllr Drayson; Cllr Gibson; Cllr Fenner; Cllr Harding; Cllr Izzard; Cllr Norris; Cllr Rustem; Cllr Taylor-Gee; Cllr Thomas; Cllr Winter; Cllr Wray

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** J Miller, Clerk; four members for the public.

**00664. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public updated the council on the Clean Seas Please project and the next stage of investigating blocked drains and leafleting with advice on litter picking and recycling.

**00665. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were none.

**00666. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY AND NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

Cllr Winter declared an interest in the item referring to Citizens Advice Bureau.

Cllr Izzard declared an interest in the item concerning Air Cadets due to his previous involvement with the organisation.

Cllr Harding declared an interest in the item concerning Family Support Work correspondence.

Cllr Thomas declared an interest as a psychotherapist in regard to his motion regarding the town council premises.

**00667. MINUTES**

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2022. The minutes of the meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> April will be received at the next meeting.

**00668. COMMITTEE AND WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

The following minutes and updates of committees were received:

- a) 23/03/2022 Finance and General Purposes Committee
- b) 06/04/2022 Asset Transfer Committee
- c) 06/04/2022 Planning Committee
- d) 13/04/2022 Community Committee

**00669. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COMMITTEES**

- a) Asset Transfer Committee
  - i. To commence negotiations with Rother District Council with regards to the maintenance of public toilets in Bexhill.

It was **RESOLVED** to ask Rother District Council to clarify point 7 and point 10 of the Financial Stability Report to Cabinet of 28<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It was **RESOLVED** to commence negotiations with Rother District Council with regards to the maintenance of public toilets in Bexhill.

- b) Community Committee
  - i. To consider Community Committee recommendation for five-year strategy. It was **RESOLVED** for the initial recommendations of the Community Committee for the strategy are passed back to the committee to add more detail.

**00670. MAYOR'S OFFICE**

- a) An update on the work of the Town Mayor was noted.

**00671. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- a) External county councillor reports were noted.
- b) Ward reports from District Councillors – there were no further updates.
- c) Ward reports were received from Town Councillors.

**00672. SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE**

- a) To receive update from Cllrs Brailsford; Taylor-Gee; Thomas on 'Bexhill Hub for Ukraine Support'.  
It was noted that the meeting takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> April at 2pm and 7pm and will include officers from Rother District Council, RVA, Bexhill Churches Together and the MP's office.
- b) To consider how the town council can further support Ukraine.  
It was **RESOLVED** for councillors to share any support taking place in wards and the clerk will publicise online.

**00673. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

It was noted that the five-year strategy will cover the governance elements of the town council.

*Cllr Carrol left the meeting at 19:33pm.*

**00674. EXTERNAL REPRESENTATIVES**

- a) RALC - Cllr Winter and Cllr Taylor-Gee  
It was noted that there had been an update on road conditions, speed reduction and emergency planning.

*Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 19:37pm*

- b) Citizen's Advice Bureau – Cllr Gibson  
It was noted that there had been no further update as there has been no reply from organisation.  
Cllr Winter offered to assist Cllr Gibson in making contact.
- c) Bexhill Air Cadet Squadron – Mayor – there was nothing to report.
  - i. To consider Mayoral Cadet award  
It was **RESOLVED** to make following amendments:

The list of civic events will be also supplied to the mayoral cadet and their respective organisation.

The minimum age of 13 and no older than 19 years

The council should adopt a safeguarding policy before the appointment of any cadet.

The council should undertake an enhanced DBS checks on the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and any council staff overseeing the mayoral cadet duties.

*Cllr Winter left the meeting at 19:31pm*

*Cllr Winter re-entered the meeting at 19:32pm*

Remove the reference to uniformed and broaden to youth member organisations.

*Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 19:54pm*

*Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 19:56pm*

It was asked that the clerk seek legal advice on the requirement of a DBS check if councillors work with young people.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the vote for the application process and the amended document until a future meeting.

- d) To nominate representative for Fairtrade Group  
It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Izzard as the external representative on the Fairtrade Group.
- e) To nominate representative to attend Sussex Road Safety Stakeholder Virtual Briefing 28/04/2022.  
It was **RESOLVED** to nominate Cllr Drayson to attend the Sussex Road Safety Virtual briefing.

#### **00675. MOTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

- a) Cllr Thomas:
  - i. That the Council believes that the policies of the Town Council are so important that they should be given their final backing following an away day at which options could be considered in detail, resulting in a coherent and united vision for Bexhill expressed in practical and affordable policies, and asks the town clerk to organise such a meeting. The services of Trevor Leggo, as the foremost regional expert on our level of government, should be sought as the co-ordinator.

*Cllr Gibson left the meeting at 20:03pm*

*Cllr Gibson re-entered the meeting at 20:04pm*

It was **RESOVLED** that the Council believes that the policies of the Town Council are so important that they should be considered at an away day at which options could be

considered in detail, resulting in a coherent and united vision for Bexhill expressed in practical and affordable policies, and asks the town clerk to organise such a meeting. The services of Trevor Leggo, as the foremost regional expert on our level of government, should be sought as the co-ordinator.

- ii. It was **RESOLVED** that the Council commits itself to making health and wellbeing, mental and physical, a central concern of the Council and would support the use of Council premises in the future as a base for such work, where practicable.

- b) Cllr Blagrove:

It was **RESOLVED** that full council and committee meetings should not start before 6pm, enabling people who work, to attend the meetings, unless agreed in advance at the previous meeting.

*Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 20:56pm*

*Cllr Carroll re-entered the meeting at 20:58pm*

- c) Cllr Izzard:

To start discussion of reviewing policies, regulations and standing orders at this meeting.

The motion was withdrawn.

#### **00676. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS FOR INFORMATION**

- a) Request from Spanish flag collector to send flag of Bexhill.

It was **RESOLVED** to send the link for how to purchase a Bexhill flag.

It was **RESOLVED** to investigate a Bexhill-on-Sea Town Council flag displaying the coat of arms on the Bexhill flag and register this.

- b) Request from Family Support Work for views on their grant application to Rother District Council.

*Cllr Wray left the meeting at 20:11*

*Cllr Wray re-entered the meeting at 20:13pm*

It was **RESOLVED** that the town council recognises the urgent needs of disadvantaged families in Bexhill and fully support Family Support Works bid in their RDC Grant.

- c) Letter from Friends of Bexhill Events – noted.

#### **00677. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

<p>Cllr Drayson: Under our Terms of Reference - Scheme of Delegation, approved on 11<sup>th</sup> Feb 2022, The Finance and General Purposes Committee is required to carry out a review of our Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for recommendation to Full Council at its AGM in May. What progress has been made in relation to this?</p>	<p>This item is on the agenda of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2022.</p>
<p>Cllr Drayson: Under Standing Order 3 (s) 'voting on a question shall be by a 'show of hands', it goes on to say that at the request of a councillor, the voting on any question shall be recorded so as to show whether each councillor present and voting gave his vote for or against that question.  It does not seem to allow for recording those Members who abstain but more importantly this Standing Order is identified as applying to Full Council only.  I can find no reference to how voting at Committees and Sub-Committees should be carried out nor any reference to what is meant by "show of hands".</p> <p>a) How should votes at Committees and Sub Committees be conducted and recorded?  And</p> <p>b) Should a 'show of hands' vote include those voting against a motion and those abstaining?</p>	<p>Local Government Act 1972 sch 12 para 13 states that unless provided by standing orders the manner of voting at meetings shall be by show of hands.  As the town council has not identified that committees vote in a different way, the statutory provision of a show of hands applies.  A recorded vote is a role call of all members present and which way they vote. If they abstain this is recorded as their vote.  Where there is statutory provision there does not need to be a standing order reference.</p>
<p>Cllr Drayson: If a Member of the Council believes that the conduct of a particular meeting has breached the Council's Standing Orders, what recourse does that Member have?</p>	<p>During a meeting a councillor may raise a point of order. A point of order is an objection addressed to the chairman of the meeting about a procedural irregularity in the debate that is going on or the conduct</p>

	<p style="text-align: right;">BoSTC/20.04.2022 – 000244</p> <p>of the meeting itself due to non-compliance with a statutory provision or standing orders.</p> <p>A point of order shall be decided by the chairman of the meeting and his decision shall be final.</p> <p>If a member is not satisfied there is a legal procedure by which a court can review an administrative action by a public body, called Judicial Review. In a Judicial Review generally the court is not concerned with the merits of the decision but rather with the lawfulness of the decision-making process, that is, how the decision was made and the fairness of it.</p>
<p>Cllr Drayson: I can find no reference in our Standing Orders or our other published Policies as to whether the Chairman of Council has voting rights on every Committee Meeting. Can this position please be clarified?</p>	<p>All present members have equal voting rights. (Local Government Act 1972 sch 12 para 39 (1) Subject to provisions of any enactment all questions coming before the authority shall be decided by a majority of all the members of the authority present and voting thereon at a meeting of the authority.)</p> <p>The member presiding over the meeting has a second or casting vote in the case of an inequality of votes. (LGA1972 sch 12 para 36 (2))</p> <p>Where there is statutory provision there does not need to be a standing order reference.</p> <p>The Town Council has appointed the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to have ex-officio membership of committees with voting rights therefore when they are present they have voting rights.</p>
<p>Cllr Drayson: Would there be support for a Standing Agenda Item at Full Council under which Members can submit written questions before a meeting and receive a reply</p>	<p>The right to submit written questions exists in the agenda item 'Questions from Councillors' or within the Public Participation Session.</p>

<p>together with the right to ask a supplementary question?</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">BoSTC/20.04.2022 – 000245</p> <p>A supplementary question can be asked in the 'Questions from Councillors' section. Answer to questions raised at the meeting will be responded to prior to the next meeting.</p>
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*Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 21:19pm*

*Cllr Rustem re-entered the meeting at 21:20pm*

b) To receive questions from councillors.

Cllr Drayson asked should a show of hands vote include those voting against a motion and those abstaining.

Cllr Drayson asked if there was a way that a councillor can have that mistake corrected by judicial review.

Cllr Izzard asked what caused the delay in the town council opening a bank account and why wasn't it done at the beginning of the term.

Cllr Blagrove asked when will the live streaming begin and can we have a written update on it.

Cllr Blagrove asked when all of the financial information from this council is going to be uploaded to the website.

Cllr Blagrove asked if the assistant clerk could be invited to meet councillors at full council.

c) To note any future agenda items

There were none.

**00678. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – 18<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022 – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

*Cllr Blagrove left the meeting at 21:24pm*

*Cllr Brailsford left the meeting at 21:25pm*

**00679.** It was **RESOLVED** to suspend the standing orders to allow the meeting to continue

*Pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act) 1960, because of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted, the public and the press will be asked to leave the meeting during consideration of following item*

**00680. TO RECEIVE UPDATE ON LEASE NEGOTIATIONS**

There was no further update.

*Cllr Baldry left the meeting at 21:27pm*

*Cllr Baldry re-entered the meeting at 21:27pm*

*Cllr Barfoot left the meeting at 21:27pm*

*Cllr Brailsford re-entered the meeting at 21:28pm*

Initial.....

Cllr Barfoot re-entered the meeting at 21:29pm

**00681. CIVIC AWARD NOMINATIONS**

- a) To consider award winners for 2022  
 It was **RESOLVED** to approve all of the nominated civic award winners.  
 It was **RESOLVED** to support the honorary freedom award and organise a formal meeting to approve as per the legislation.
- b) To consider regalia categories if required  
 Cllr Drayson left the meeting at 21:42pm  
 Cllr Drayson re-entered the meeting at 21:44pm  
 Cllr Rustem left the meeting at 21:44pm  
 It was **RESOLVED** to use the cup and present it to a civic award winners for affordable housing gardens.  
 Cllr Carroll left the meeting at 21:48pm  
 It was **RESOLVED** to use the Mullins Cup for the organisation that is a civic award winner.  
 Cllr Drayson declared an interest in this item as a member of the winning organisation.
- c) To consider presentation ceremony  
 It was noted that the civic awards will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

Meeting closed at 21:51pm

Signed.....

Date.....