

## FULL COUNCIL

20 JULY 2016

Present: The Right Worshipful The Mayor (Councillor Judy Rogers) in the Chair, Councillors Sinden, Batsford, Cartwright, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Howard, Dowling, Poole, Sabetian, Scott, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Roberts and Atkins

14. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2016 AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2016**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 18 May 2016 and the Special Council meeting held on 15 June 2016 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

15. **QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER RULE 11**

A written question had been received from Ms B Rogers regarding the cost of a new cycle route in Alexandra Park. Councillor Davies, the Lead Member for Environment and Place, answered the question. Copies of the question and the reply were circulated at the meeting.

Ms Rogers asked Councillor Davies a supplementary question regarding the costs of additional safety measures identified during the public consultation on the proposed cycle route, including the cost of extra signage in the park. Councillor Davies welcomed the responses received during the public consultation and agreed to provide Ms Rogers with a written response to her supplementary question.

16. **QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12**

No written questions have been received from Councillors.

Questions to the Leader, Deputy Leader and other Lead members were asked and answered in accordance with Rule 12.1 as follows: -

| Questioner and Councillor | Subject   | Reply Given By Councillor |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Lee                       | <u>New Home Secretary</u> would the Leader of the Council join with him in congratulating our local MP on her appointment as Home Secretary?<br>Councillor Chowney congratulated Amber Rudd | Chowney                   |

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|         | <p>MP on her new appointment, and explained that he had emailed her shortly after her new role was announced. He explained that he met with Ms Rudd regularly to discuss issues of local concern.</p>  |         |
| Rankin  | <p><u>Addressing Street Drinking</u> given the importance of inward migration and tourism to the local economy, what is the council doing to tackle street drinking in Hastings town centre?<br/>Councillor Chowney replied that addressing street drinking was primarily a matter for the Police, he continued that as a result of reductions to policing budgets, crimes were now assessed based on potential threat, harm and risk. Councillor Chowney had met with the newly appointed Chief Inspector for Hastings and put forward that street drinking should also be considered as an economic threat. The council also worked proactively with a range of other partners on this issue and was considering the implementation of Public Space Protection Orders to help tackle the issues experienced in the town centre.</p>  | Chowney |
| Westley | <p><u>European Funding Opportunities</u> Hastings has benefited considerably from European funding in the past, what will the impact on the financial position of the town be after the vote to leave the European Union?<br/>Councillor Chowney responded that it was likely the town would have significantly fewer resources than previously, although there were still many unknown impacts of the decision to leave the European Union. It was likely that the council would also find it increasingly difficult to find other European partners to bid for new projects. Councillor Chowney added that the council, in partnership with Amicus Horizon, had recently successfully obtained European funding for the SHINE initiative to help tackle fuel poverty. The council was also pursuing a bid for Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) 2 funding. Previous funding opportunities through Community Led Local Development (CLLD) may also now be limited from a 5 year programme, to 1 year.</p> | Chowney |
| Cooke   | <p><u>Missed Bin Collection</u> a number of reports of missed bin collections have been received from residents around the town, what action is being taken with the contactor to improve performance?<br/>Councillor Davies replied that the council continued to work with the other members of the Joint Waste Committee and through officer</p>  | Davies  |

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|          | contacts to address areas of under performance in the contract and support improvements to services.   |         |
| Scott    | <u>Green Flag Award for Alexandra Park</u> can the lead member advise if Alexandra Park will retain its Green Flag accreditation for another year?<br>Councillor Davies said he was pleased to announce that Alexandra Park had been awarded a Green Flag accreditation for another year. The Green Flag Award was a national scheme, which recognised that the park was maintained to a high standard.  | Davies  |
| Beaver   | <u>Litter bins on the seafront</u> given the recent fine weather, could the lead member arrange for extra collections from the litter bins on Sea Road in the evening, to prevent rubbish from accumulating there?<br>Councillor Davies explained that he had been monitoring this issue closely, reporting any incidents of overflowing bins online and meeting with staff from the council's waste and street cleansing contractor. Councillor Davies encouraged all members to report waste and street cleansing issues using the My Hastings online service. | Davies  |
| Batsford | <u>Parking Near Schools</u> will the Leader of the Council request that East Sussex County Council (ESCC) deploy their Traffic Enforcement Officers outside local schools at busy times to help address safety concerns and instances of illegal parking?<br>Councillor Chowney agreed to contact ESCC to make this request. He added that this was a longstanding issue in the town, but deploying Traffic Enforcement Officers in this way had been proven to improve safety.  | Chowney |
| Clarke   | <u>Engaging with Businesses</u> would the Leader of the Council comment on a recent report by the Local Government Association (LGA) which set out a series of measures for local authorities to engage more effectively with businesses?<br>Councillor Chowney explained that the council already successfully engaged with businesses in a variety of ways. He continued that he was not yet familiar with the specific report Councillor Clarke referred to, but would investigate how its findings could be applied in Hastings.                             | Chowney |
| Patmore  | <u>Renaming Aquila House</u> given the current financial position of the organisation, how can the   | Chowney |

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|         | <p>cost of renaming Aquila House to Muriel Matters House be justified?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney explained that the costs of renaming the building would be minimal. The current name of the building had been chosen by the previous owner and it was considered appropriate that the building should be re-named to honour a local resident who had made a significant contribution towards securing votes for women. Nationally, a number of initiatives were planned to mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of women gaining the vote in 2018. The new name was due to come into effect from 1 January 2017.</p>   |         |
| Bacon   | <p><u>Dog Fouling</u> a minority of irresponsible dog owners are repeatedly allowing their dogs to foul and refusing to clear up after them, what is the council doing to address this?</p> <p>Councillor Davies replied that the council's warden service was involved in a range of initiatives to reduce dog fouling. He noted that the council continued to take robust enforcement action against irresponsible dog owners, an increased number of Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) had been issued in the first half of the year. The team were also preparing a new education and awareness campaign to help tackle dog fouling, which would be launched shortly.</p> | Davies  |
| Edwards | <p><u>Renewal of Trident</u> does the Leader of the Council support the Leader of the Labour Party in his opposition to the renewal of Trident?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that he did support the Leader of the Labour Party in this stance.</p>   | Chowney |

### 17. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Turner proposed a motion, set out in the resolution below, seconded by Councillor Forward.

**RESOLVED (by 28 votes for to 1 against) that Hastings Borough Council believes that the Government's plans threaten patient access to pharmacies and pharmacy services in Hastings. Our local pharmacies are at risk of closure or being forced to cut services such as free delivery of prescription drugs, family planning advice and advice on medicines. This will put more pressure on GPs and hospitals and impact social services and is at odds with the local Clinical Commissioning Group's desire to increase the use of pharmacists to ease pressure on GPs.**

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We therefore call on the Government to abandon these cuts and maintain a fully-funded community pharmacy service and request the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of state for Health, NHS England and Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group expressing this view

### 18. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Bacon proposed a motion, set out in the resolution below, seconded by Councillor Webb:

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Hastings Borough Council condemns discrimination in all its guises. The council fears that recent national events could leave many individuals and communities feeling isolated and fearful. We reassure all people living in Hastings and St Leonards that this council will use every opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity and to promote equality.**

Furthermore, Hastings Borough Council will continue its long term commitment to dealing with the multiple causes of hate crime. We will not allow hate to become acceptable. We will continue to invest in projects to both tackle the causes and support the victims of such crime, including domestic violence and abuse.

Finally, Hastings Borough Council will continue to deliver on its corporate commitment to community cohesion and a tolerant and inclusive Borough.

Hastings Borough Council therefore resolves to:

1. Maintain and build on our long-term commitments to fight hate crime and promote community cohesion
2. Write to each of our schools, charities and faith groups to request that they promote the message of "One Hastings, Many Voices"
3. Write to the Police and Crime Commissioner for an assurance that budget cuts will not adversely impacts on the ability of the police to both investigate and bring to justice the perpetrators of such crime
4. Work closely with our local police to maintain a community approach to the prevention of hate crime and supporting its victims
5. Seek clarification from our MP of the detail of additional funding for tackling hate crime recently announced

### 19. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Lee proposed a motion regarding the membership of committees, as set out in the resolution below.

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**RESOLVED** that the council adopt the following arrangements for the membership of committees: -

1. Councillor Edwards be appointed to the vacant seat on Licensing Committee

### 20. **ANNUAL AUDIT REPORT 2015/16 TO COUNCIL**

The report of the Chief Auditor, from the Audit Committee, on the annual review of the effectiveness of internal audit was submitted. Under regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015, local authorities are required to publish a statement of internal control each year, with the authority's financial statements. The findings of the annual review of the council's internal control had been considered by the Audit Committee. The report set out the review of internal control and assurance gathering process.

Under rule 13.3 the report was approved without being called for discussion.

**RESOLVED** that the Audit Committee report 2015/16 to Council be accepted

The reason for this decision was:

Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations (England) 2015 requires relevant bodies to conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of its systems of internal audit and for a committee of the body to consider the findings.

### 21. **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

The Mayor having called over the minutes set out in the agenda, the under mentioned minutes were reserved for discussion.

**RESOLVED** under rule 13.3 that the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda be received, including minute number 5 of Cabinet on 6 June 2016 and minute number 18 of Cabinet on 4 July 2016 which were matters for Council decision. Only those items which were reserved were discussed, as follows: -

| Meeting              | Minute   | Councillor |
|----------------------|--|------------|
| Cabinet, 6 June 2016 | 8 – 1066 Anniversary Community Grants                      | Street     |
| Cabinet, 4 July 2016 | 14 (C) – Housing Strategy                                  | Forward    |
| Cabinet, 4 July 2016 | 15 – Customer First Communication Strategy and Action Plan | Webb       |
| Cabinet, 4 July      | 17 – Income Generation                                     | Clarke     |

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Minute number 14 of Cabinet on 4 July 2016 was a matter for Council decision. Councillor Forward moved approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

No motions for reference to Overview and Scrutiny Committee or reference back to Cabinet were approved in respect of the items reserved for discussion and they were, therefore, received.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at. 8.27 pm)