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FULL COUNCIL

20 SEPTEMBER 2023

Present: Councillors O'Callaghan (Chair), Bishop (Vice-Chair), Bacon, Barnett, Batsford, Beaney, Beaver, Cannan, Carr, Collins, Cooke, Edwards, Evans, Foster, Haffenden, Hay, Hilton, Jobson, Patmore, Roberts, Rogers, Sinden, Turner, Webb, and Williams

In attendance: Jane Hartnell (Chief Executive), Mary Kilner (Chief Legal Officer) and Kit Wheeler (Chief Finance Officer).

20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Roark, Willis, and Fernando.

21. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19th July 2023 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

22. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

23. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

There were no announcements from the Mayor or the Leader.

24. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

24a) Members of the Public under Rule 11

A written question was received from Becca Horn and a written answer supplied by Councillor Roark.

A written question was received from Michael Wharton and a written answer supplied by Councillor Roark.

A written question was received from Anna Sabin and a written answer supplied by Councillor Batsford.

In a supplementary question Anna Sabin asked if Councillor Batsford would commit to working with East Sussex County Council to allocate road space in Hastings for cycling? Councillor Batsford replied that officers have put in a lot of time and effort working closely with East Sussex County Council. Even if the Alexandra Park cycle route was approved funding for road schemes was unfortunately poised to be scrapped by the county council.

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24b) Councillors under Rule 12

Councillor Edwards submitted a written question to Councillor Barnett, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Edwards asked what can the Council do to incentivise Orbit to develop the site at Harrow Lane? Councillor Barnett replied that the site needs to be developed as fast as possible and that is what Orbit want as well. We can expect to see something come forward in the New Year.

Councillor Hilton submitted a written question to Councillor Roark, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Hilton asked if the cabinet will be supporting cycling routes in Hastings in the future? Councillor Barnett replied that these are extraordinary times and until there is financial security there will be projects that have to be paused. However, conversations with Sustrans will continue.

Councillor Jobson submitted a written question to Councillor Roark, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Jobson asked if signage can be put up near Old Roar Gill to warn residents as dogs are still becoming ill from the water? Councillor Evans replied that she had already requested safety signs to be put up.

Councillor Collins submitted a written question to Councillor Roark, a written response was received and published on the Council's website.

In a supplementary question Councillor Collins asked the cabinet to commit to address the issues at the Burton memorial without delay. Councillor Barnett replied that once Councillor Roark has had time to look into the matter, she will respond to Councillor Collins.

Questioner	Question	Reply given by
Councillor Patmore	<p>St Mary in the Castle has been closed for nearly a year, and the White Rock Theatre is coming up for closure in January. Does the Leader have any news on these venues?</p> <p>Councillor Barnett gave a personal commitment to the venues remaining open and successful. There is a tender process ongoing for both venues. The White Rock Theatre will not close in January, there will be another operator in place to take over.</p>	Councillor Barnett
Councillor Hilton	We had a schedule of cross-party working groups to look at the Local Plan, which have since been cancelled. Can you give	Councillor Rogers

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	<p>an assurance that those workshops will take place as soon as possible?</p> <p>Councillor Rogers gave an assurance that there will be time for all councillors to view the draft Local Plan and for the workshops to take place.</p>	
Councillor Turner	<p>Can you give us an update on the programme of improvements to local sporting facilities?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that key areas for improvement are Hollington and Broomgrove. Work is underway to look into installing a Multi-Use Games Area in Hollington. Shared prosperity funding will support infrastructure improvements for young people in the Broomgrove area. There will also be redevelopment of the beach playground at Pelham.</p>	Councillor Batsford
Councillor Carr	<p>A report on St Mary in the Castle was promised for this meeting. Can you tell us when we will see this report and how much it is costing the Council to maintain the venue?</p> <p>Councillor Barnett replied that negotiations are ongoing, and a report cannot come forward until this process has been completed. Councillor Barnett said he would investigate the costs and write to Councillor Carr with the figure.</p>	Councillor Barnett
Councillor Roberts	<p>Can you tell us about the new tennis courts in Alexandra Park?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that the tennis courts are a real success and well used. Annual membership is only £35, making them accessible to all communities. There are also free community tennis sessions for young children.</p>	Councillor Batsford
Councillor Collins	<p>There is a consultation underway regarding expanding permitted development rights. The deadline for responses is 25th September. Has the Council responded to</p>	Councillor Rogers

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	<p>this consultation?</p> <p>Councillor Rogers said she would check and write back to Councillor Collins.</p>	
Councillor Jobson	<p>With World Car Free Day coming up, what actions can the Council take to tackle air pollution?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that there is a cross-party group committed to low traffic neighbourhoods. The Council wants to make Hastings a safe place to be a pedestrian.</p>	Councillor Batsford
Councillor Sinden	<p>At the last Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting we received answers to questions on the Finance Peer Review. The Committee also met the new Head of Housing. Do you wish to add anything on either of those items?</p> <p>Councillor Barnett replied that he thought there was a good discussion with up-to-date figures that were very helpful to demonstrate progress on housing initiatives.</p>	Councillor Barnett

25. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

No changes to membership of committees were proposed.

Councillor Hilton announced that Councillor Haffenden was replacing Councillor Carr as Deputy Leader of the Green group. Councillor Hilton thanked Councillor Carr for her support in her time as Deputy Leader.

26. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED that under rule 13.3 the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda, including those items on which a council decision was required, be received, and agreed. Only those items which were reserved were discussed as follows:

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Meeting	Minute
Cabinet, 7 th August 2023	20 – Finance Peer Review
Cabinet, 7 th August 2023	21 – Land and Property Disposal Programme
Cabinet, 7 th August 2023	22 – Treasury Management Update
Cabinet, 4 th September 2023	29 – Cornwallis Street Hotel (Part 1)
Cabinet, 4 th September 2023	32 – Cornwallis Street Hotel (Part 2)

Minute 22 of Cabinet on 7th August, Treasury Management Update, was a decision requiring Full Council approval. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Barnett, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To note the report, the treasury activity and recommend approval of any changes to the prudential indicators.

Reasons:

To ensure that Members are fully aware of the activities undertaken in the last quarter, that Codes of Practice have been complied with and that the Council's strategy is effective and doesn't currently need revising. Under the Code adopted the Full Council are required to consider the report and any recommendations made. There will be a further report forthcoming on Treasury Management for 2023/24 including the Mid-year Review, Quarter 3 Treasury Management Update Report and Outturn Report.

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a comfort break at 7.04pm and the meeting resumed at 7.16pm.

Councillor Barnett proposed a motion without notice to adjourn debate on minutes 29 and 32 of Cabinet on 4th September 2023 as the financial details in the report need to be revised. Councillor Roberts seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED (by 18 votes for, to 11 against):

Discussion of minutes 29 and 32 of Cabinet on 4th September be adjourned to a future meeting.

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.19pm)

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