

## COUNCIL

22 OCTOBER 2014

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Bruce Dowling (Chair), Rogers (Vice-Chair), Batsford, Birch, Cartwright, Charlesworth, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Hodges, Howard, Poole, Pragnell, Sabetian, Scott, Sinden, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Lock, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins and Edwards

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Roberts

7. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 JULY 2014**

**RESOLVED** – that the minutes of the council meeting held on 23 July 2014 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

8. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following Councillors declared their interests in the minutes indicated: -

Councillor	Committee	Minute	Interest
Batsford and Birch	Council, 22 October 2014	10 – questions from councillors under rule 12	Personal – they had accounts with Hastings Credit Union
Cartwright	Council, 22 October 2014	10 – questions from councillors under rule 12	Personal – his partner works for Hastings Credit Union
Charlesworth	Council, 22 October 2014	10 – questions from councillors under rule 12	Personal – she is Honorary President of the Hastings Week Committee
Clark	Council, 22 October 2014	11 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – his great uncle was included on the list of possible persons to be recognised as new street names
Hodges	Cabinet, 6 October 2014	30 – Street Trading Policy	Personal – he is a member of the board of Let's Do Business and a member of the Town Centre Management Committee

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Hodges	Cabinet, 6 October 2014	34 – Hastings Country Park Interpretive Centre	Personal – Chair of the Hastings Country Park Forum
Howard	Council, 22 October 2014	10 – questions from councillors under rule 12	Personal – he is a member of the Borough Bonfire Society
Poole	Cabinet, 6 October 2014	34 – Hastings Country Park Interpretive Centre	Personal – she is Chair of the Hastings Country Park Interpretive Centre project board and a member of the Hastings Country Park Forum
Sinden	Council, 22 October 2014	11 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – his great great uncle was included on the list of possible persons to be recognised as new street names

### **9. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER**

There were no announcements from the Mayor or Leader at the meeting.

### **10. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM: -**

No written questions had been received.

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

Questioner and Councillor	Subject	Reply Given By Councillor
Cooke	<u>950<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings</u> would the Lead Member give an update on plans to mark the 950 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of Hastings in 2016? Councillor Poole replied that efforts were continuing to develop a programme of events to mark the anniversary. She agreed to provide a more detailed response in writing. Councillor Chowney added that a cultural specialist had been recruited to co-ordinate	Poole

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	<p>these activities. The planned events may include an international collaboration between Denmark, Normandy and Hastings. Funding opportunities were being explored from the arts council and private sector. A conference event, to be held at the De La Warr Pavilion, was planned to bring key partners together and further develop the programme.</p>	
Turner	<p><u>New Doctors Surgery in Ore Valley</u> last year the council wrote to NHS England in support of a proposed new Doctor's surgery in the Ore Valley area. The council had since been advised by NHS England that the proposal would not be progressed due to lack of funding. Would the Leader of the Council write to NHS England again to reaffirm the council's support for a new surgery in the area? Councillor Birch confirmed that he had written to NHS England to support the proposal, in response to a question raised at an earlier council meeting. He commented that Hastings currently had a lack of GP's. A new centre would improve healthcare provision in the town and may attract new GP's to the area. Councillor Birch agreed to write to NHS England and the local Member of Parliament in support a new health centre in Ore Valley.</p>	Birch
Lock	<p><u>Rocklands Caravan Park</u> will the Lead Member advise if a deadline has been set for a new planning application to be submitted by Rocklands Caravan Park, before enforcement action is taken by the council? Councillor Birch commented that there was already a live planning permission in relation to Rocklands Caravan Park. The council had commissioned an independent survey of the site, which had found that the new building was of a different size and orientation to the planned structure. The applicant intended to submit a new planning application for the building by the end of November 2014, which would then be considered by the Planning Committee. The council had been advised by an independent consultant to defer any enforcement action until after the outcome of the second planning application was known. The council had also commissioned an independent report, which made recommendations on the council's performance regarding planning matters. A</p>	Birch

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	<p>copy of the report would be published on the council's website and the recommendations would be considered by Cabinet at its meeting in December.</p>	
Wincott	<p><u>Hastings Bonfire Effigy</u> the Hastings Bonfire weekend was extremely successful, would the Leader of the Council comment on the bonfire societies' choice of effigy?</p> <p>Councillor Birch said that an estimated twenty five thousand had watched the procession and firework display. All of the town's hotel rooms were also fully occupied. He added that this successful community lead event helped to create a positive image of the town for residents and visitors. Hastings Bonfire Society had chosen the proposed cuts to bus services as the subject for the effigy.</p> <p>Councillor Birch commented that the bonfire societies' choice reflected the strength of community feeling on this issue, and the concern of residents about the impact of a reduced bus service on the town. Councillor Birch added that the campaign had led to plans to operate certain bus routes within the town on a commercial basis, however, some routes to the surrounding villages were still under threat.</p>	Birch
Lee	<p><u>White Rock Theatre</u> will the new manager of the White Rock Theatre be following a similar plan for improvement as the previous manager outlined at an earlier meeting of Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Resources?</p> <p>Councillor Poole agreed to circulate theatre attendance figures to Members. There had recently been an effort to reduce the number of shows, to enable the theatre to attract higher quality acts. Councillor Poole commented that the previous manager had made a valuable contribution to the theatre, and she was positive about the efforts of the new manager.</p>	Poole
Howard	<p><u>Hastings Week 2014</u> would the leader of the Council give an update on the events which had taken place over Hastings Week?</p> <p>Councillor Birch commented that a number of successful events had taken place over Hastings Week. He added that many of the events were organised by the local community, with support from the council. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor had attended a number of</p>	Birch

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	<p>engagements across the week, including a concert for Hastings' twin town in Sierra Leone. Councillor Birch also congratulated Owen Thompson on receiving the Order of 1066 Award which recognised his efforts to support community cohesion in the town.</p>	
Pragnell	<p><u>Landslip in Ecclesbourne Glen</u> when will the results of the geotechnical survey of Ecclesbourne Glen be available? Councillor Birch explained that the council had commissioned a geotechnical survey to examine a landslip which had impacted on council-owned land at Ecclesbourne Glen. A second survey had been commissioned to understand how best to arrest the landslip and prevent a reoccurrence. Councillor Birch commented that significant engineering works may not be possible, given the environmental significance of Ecclesbourne Glen. However, it was intended to re-open the public footpaths in the area.</p>	Birch
Rogers	<p><u>Hastings Pier</u> could the Lead Member provide an update on the refurbishment of the pier? Councillor Chowney responded that significant progress had been made towards the refurbishment of the pier, ahead of the planned re-opening next year. The demolition of the former ballroom had been completed ahead of schedule. The council had also recently submitted a bid to Coastal Communities Fund, to support the improvement of the area at the entrance to the pier.</p>	Chowney
Atkins	<p><u>Rocklands Caravan Site Inspection Report</u> when will the Rocklands Caravan Site inspection report, carried out by environmental consultants, be available? Councillor Birch replied that the report would be published by Friday, 24 October 2014.</p>	
Charlesworth	<p><u>Photographs of previous Mayors</u> will the photographs of previous Mayors be re-hung at the Town Hall, once the works to the new lift have been completed? Councillor Cartwright agreed to reply to Councillor Charlesworth's question in writing.</p>	Cartwright
Charman	<p><u>Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)</u> has all the FLAG funding now been committed, what are the outcomes of the projects and how will these be progressed in the future? Councillor Chowney replied that the FLAG</p>	Chowney

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	<p>initiative had generated over one million pounds in funding to support the local fishing industry and associated projects for tourism and the arts. All of the FLAG funds have now been committed. The initiative had brought together a variety of partners from the fishing community, education sector and the council and it was intended to further develop these links in the future.</p>	
Beaver	<p><u>Hastings Credit Union</u> given the recent drop in the number of residents using pay day loan companies, does the Leader of the Council agree that more should be done to support the Hastings Credit Union?</p> <p>Councillor Birch welcomed the work of Hastings Credit Union, he added that the council supports this activity by making meeting space available at Town Hall every Friday. The credit union also carried out outreach work around the town. Councillor Birch encouraged people to open an account with the credit union.</p>	Birch
Fitzgerald	<p><u>White Ribbon Day</u> could the Lead member provide an update on arrangements for White Ribbon Day?</p> <p>Councillor Cartwright explained that the council was seeking to achieve the white ribbon town award, which aimed to tackle issues associated with domestic violence. A number of events were planned for white ribbon day, including information stalls around the town and public speeches by the Mayor, Police and members. Residents would also be invited to sign a pledge not to commit or remain silent about domestic violence.</p>	Cartwright
Edwards	<p><u>White Rock Theatre</u> the White Rock Theatre receives a subsidy towards running costs from the council. The theatre is due to host a promotional event for Sarah Owen, the Labour Party candidate in next year's parliamentary election, would the Lead Member confirm that correct booking procedures have been followed?</p> <p>Councillor Poole confirmed that the booking between the Labour Party and HQ Theatres, the management company for the White Rock Theatre, was a purely commercial matter and subject to the usual booking procedures.</p>	Poole

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### 11. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Clark proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Davies, as set out in the Council book.

Councillor Pragnell moved an amendment to the motion, as follows: -

“That the people of Hastings remember the courage and sacrifice of those who serve the United Kingdom during World War One and that this be recognised by 1) the current list of possible persons to be recognised as new street names to be supplemented with a list of those who were awarded the Victoria Cross or Gallantry Cross for their actions and others who contributed during those years. 2) The paths around the war memorial in Alexandra Park be named on a World War One theme. 3) The names of World War One battles within which the Royal Sussex regiment served to also be included within the list of possible street names”.

The Mayor ruled that the amendment effectively created a new motion.

Councillor Clark moved approval of the original motion, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Davies.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that the current list of possible persons to be recognised as new street names be supplemented with a list comprised of those from Hastings and St Leonards who served the United Kingdom during World War One and were awarded a Gallantry medal for their actions and others who made a contribution during those years”.**

### 12. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Birch announced that Councillor Westley had recently resigned from the Cabinet, the responsibilities of the Environment and Safety Portfolio had been reallocated between Cabinet Members. Councillor Birch thanked Councillor Westley for her efforts during her time on Cabinet. Councillor Birch proposed a motion regarding the membership of committees, as set out in the resolution below.

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

- 1) Councillor Westley be appointed to Audit Committee, in place of Councillor Webb**
- 2) Councillor Cartwright be appointed to Charity Committee, in place of Councillor Westley**

Councillor Lock announced that he had been appointed as Leader of the Conservative Group, following Councillor Cooke’s resignation. Councillor Atkins had been appointed as Deputy Leader of the Conservative Group. Councillor Lock proposed a motion regarding the membership of committees, as set out in the resolution below.

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

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- 1) Councillor Cooke be appointed to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for Resources, in place of Councillor Atkins
- 2) Councillor Cooke be appointed to Licensing Committee, in place of Councillor Atkins
- 3) Councillor Atkins be appointed to Cabinet, in place of Councillor Cooke
- 4) Councillor Lock be appointed to Council Appointments Committee, in place of Councillor Cooke
- 5) Councillor Lock be appointed to Standards Committee, in place of Councillor Cooke

### 13. 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. Minute number 24 of Cabinet on 1 September 2014 and minute number 35 of Cabinet on 6 October 2014, which were matters for Council decision, were approved without being called for discussion. Only those items which had been reserved were discussed, as follows: -

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 1 September 2014	25 – New Factory Unit	Batsford
Cabinet, 6 October 2014	30 (C) – Street Trading Policy	Webb
Cabinet, 6 October 2014	32 (C) – ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014	Clark
Cabinet, 6 October 2014	33 – Coastal Communities Fund	Lock
Cabinet, 6 October 2014	34 – Hastings Country Park Interpretive Centre	Street

Minute number 30 of Cabinet on 6 October 2014 was a matter for Council decision. Councillor Cartwright proposed the following amendment: -

“Council agrees the street trading and highways licensing policy, attached to the Director of Environmental Services’ report with the deletion of point 4 and the delegation to the Director of Environmental Services and the Lead Member for Licensing to agree a discount for an initial transitional year for street trading consent fees applied for approved markets”.

Councillor Cartwright moved approval of the amended minute, seconded by Councillor Webb, which was unanimously agreed.



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Minute number 32 of Cabinet on 6 October 2014 was a matter for Council decision. Councillor Cartwright moved approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Clark, which was unanimously agreed.

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

(The Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm)