

## FULL COUNCIL

26 OCTOBER 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, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins, Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Beaver

23. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 JULY 2016**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 July 2016 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

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

A written question had been received from Miss H Caglayan regarding compulsory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for Councillors. Councillor Cartwright, the Lead Member for Corporate Services, answered the question. Copies of the question and the reply were circulated at the meeting.

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

A written question had been received from Councillor Patmore regarding the Let's Start Letting scheme. Councillor Forward, Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Housing, Communications and Equalities, answered the question. Copies of the question and reply were circulated at the meeting.

Councillor Patmore asked Councillor Forward a supplementary question about the potential impact on the cost of the scheme if the additional £60.00 subsidy paid to Local Authorities as part of the Temporary Accommodation Management Fee (TAMF) was withdrawn. Councillor Forward replied that the government was currently reviewing temporary accommodation funding streams, as a precaution the council was not taking on any further leases until the review is complete. Councillor Forward agreed to keep Councillor Patmore updated on future plans for the scheme.

A written question had been received from Councillor Beaver regarding the Hastings Trust. Councillor Chowney, the Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Finance, answered the question. Copies of the question and reply were circulated at the meeting.

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

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Questioner and Councillor	Subject	Reply Given By Councillor
Lee	<p><u>Let's Start Letting</u> the Deputy Leader of the Council and Lead Member for Housing, Communications and Equalities leases a property to the Let's Start Letting Scheme. She declared a prejudicial interest in the matter at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting on 13 September 2016, but this is not reflected on her Register of Interest. Given this conflict of interest will she resign from her portfolio?</p> <p>Councillor Forward replied that she would not resign from her portfolio and had taken legal advice with regard to managing any potential conflict of interest.</p>	Forward
Street	<p><u>Committee of Regions</u> earlier this month a Committee of Regions seminar took place at St Mary in the Castle. The seminar included a number of excellent presentations by local speakers about initiatives taking place in the town. Will the Lead Member join with him in thanking Councillor Westley, who is a member of the Committee of Regions, for her efforts?</p> <p>Councillor Poole thanked Councillor Westley for her efforts serving on the Committee of Regions. She added that excellent feedback had been received from the recent seminar, particularly from members of the local fishing community. The seminar attracted around 40 additional visitors to the town, which helped to support the local economy.</p>	Poole
Rankin	<p><u>Supporting Job Creation</u> an article recently appeared in the local newspaper about a new factory unit the council was building for BD Foods. The Leader of the Council has previously stated that the council would pursue opportunities to create jobs locally. Therefore, why has the Leader not responded to an email from a software company, who is considering relocating to the area?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney said that the council remained committed to supporting job creation opportunities in the town; he often met with companies who were considering moving to Hastings. Councillor Chowney added that he had not received the email Councillor Rankin referred to, but he would be happy to arrange a meeting with the company.</p>	Chowney
Charman	<u>Southern Rail</u> workers have the right to withdraw	Chowney

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	<p>their labour if they have been unfairly treated by their employer. Southern Rail is currently consulting on a revised timetable, which could see services reduced by up to 50% in some areas. Would the Leader of the Council comment on the impact of reduced rail services to Ore train station on the regeneration of the Ore Valley area? Councillor Chowney said that the planned reductions would have a detrimental effect on the regeneration of the area, particularly as there were a number of sites in the Ore Valley that would be suitable for development. Currently, 4000 journeys per week take place from Ore train station, any reductions to this service would disproportionately affect residents living in some of the most deprived parts of the town. Councillor Chowney encouraged all members to respond to the consultation opposing the proposed reductions.</p>	
Clarke	<p><u>Seafront Improvements</u> will the Leader of the Council provide an update on the ongoing improvements to the seafront outside the pier and advise when the cycle lane will be reinstated? Councillor Chowney replied that the cycle lane markings would not be reinstated, as part of the seafront improvements, the promenade between the Pier and Rock-a-Nore had become a shared cycle route. This approach had proved successful elsewhere in the town, and was considered to be safer in busy areas.</p>	Chowney
Turner	<p><u>Nye Bevan Programme</u> does the leader of the council agree that the Nye Bevan Programme, which was recently launched by the NHS as part of a strategy to develop leadership skills, covers up the reductions to funding many NHS Trusts are facing? Councillor Chowney expressed concern at the reduction to funding for the NHS, adding that the NHS Trust for Hastings and Rother had recently been placed in special financial measures. He noted that only Trusts who operated without a budget deficit were eligible to participate in the Nye Bevan Programme. These Trusts tended to be based in areas with low levels of deprivation.</p>	Chowney
Cooke	<p><u>Labour Party</u> in his letter of resignation from the Labour Group, Councillor Clark stated that the National Labour Party interfered too much in local matters. Will the Leader of the Council provide an assurance that this will not happen again? Councillor Chowney replied that this was not a</p>	Chowney

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	matter for Full Council to consider.	
Clark	<p><u>Free Parking in Council Car Parks over Christmas</u> will the Leader of the Council offer free parking in council-run car parks over the festive period, as in previous years? Councillor Chowney agreed to look into this further and respond to Councillor Clark directly.</p>	Chowney
Atkins	<p><u>Footpath between Sandrock Park and St Helens Church</u> a recent competition organised by the council and a local school to design new signage for the footpath between Sandrock Park and St Helens Church is to be welcomed. However, some residents have expressed concern at the wording included on the new signs, was legal advice sought before the project was completed? Councillor Davies explained that the project had originally come about to help promote the safety of young people, who regularly use the footpath to travel to and from school. Legal advice had been taken on the wording to be included on the signs and no issues were raised. Further consideration would be given to the wording included on any new signage when the competition is re-run in the new year.</p>	Davies
Sabetian	<p><u>ROOT1066 Festival</u> does the Leader of the Council agree that the ROOT1066 Festival was an exciting and imaginative celebration of the town's history and pass the council's thanks to all those involved? Councillor Chowney noted that the festival had originally been the idea of the late Councillor Birch. Over 40 projects had taken place as part of the festival, ranging from a spectacular lazer light show on the seafront to a number of smaller community events around the town. The festival had been very successful and Councillor Chowney thanked all those involved in organising the events. Further analysis of visitor numbers and feedback would be undertaken over the coming months and reported back in due course.</p>	Chowney

**26. MOTION (RULE 14)**

Councillor Bacon proposed a motion, set out in the resolution below, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Hastings Borough Council notes that:**

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- corporate tax evasion and avoidance are having a damaging impact on the world's poorest countries to such a level that it is costing them far more than they receive in aid
- this is costing the UK as much as £30bn a year
- this practice also has a negative effect on small and medium-sized companies who pay more tax proportionately.

Hastings Borough Council further notes that the UK Government has taken steps to tackle the issue of tax avoidance and evasion by issuing Procurement Policy Note 03/14 (PPN 03/14). This applies to all central government contracts worth more than £5m.

Hastings Borough Council also notes the existence of voluntary schemes promoting tax compliance such as the Fair Tax Mark, which can serve as an independent means of verification.

Hastings Borough Council notes the 2015 Public Contract Regulations which state (in section 4) that local government can choose to adopt Procurement Policy Note 03/14. This council believes that bidders for council contracts should be asked to account for their past tax record, using the higher standards in PPN 03/14.

Hastings Borough Council therefore calls for procurement procedures to be amended to require all companies bidding for service contracts worth more than £25,000 and for works contracts worth more than £25,000 to self-certify that they are fully tax-compliant in line with central government practice using the standards in PPN 03/14, applying to contracts of the size specified above.

This Full Council asks the Cabinet to publicise this policy and to report on its implementation annually

### 27. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor T Dowling proposed a motion, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald.

**RESOLVED (by 30 votes for, 1 against with 0 abstentions) that this Council notes that hundreds of thousands of women including many residents in Hastings had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes. Some women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age.**

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- gives its full support to the campaign by Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) to address this problem;
- calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born between 6th April 1951 and 5th April 1953 who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification;
- instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and the Member of Parliament for Hastings and Rye to express this view and ask them to support WASPI's campaign and meet with their Hastings representatives.

**28. MOTION (RULE 14)**

Councillor Atkins proposed a motion, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Wincott.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Hastings Borough Council believes the safety of our children is of paramount importance as they travel to and from school within our Borough. Parents parking irresponsibly and illegally at school time is a real danger to children's safety across Hastings and it is our duty to ensure our children are safe.**

**We therefore urge every school to include reminders to parents in their weekly newsletters to parents about parking safely around the school, alongside calling the County Council to deploy more enforcement officers at school peak times to help prevent illegal and irresponsible parking and to explore every other enforcement option and safety policy at their disposal to maintain the safety of our children.**

**29. MOTION (RULE 14)**

Councillor Patmore proposed a motion, set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Lee.

During the debate it was noted that funds were already in place to complete the project, and the Blue Plaque would be installed at no cost to Hastings Borough Council.

**RESOLVED (unanimously) that Hastings Borough Council will support the placing of a new Blue Plaque on 447 Bexhill Road, St. Leonards on Sea to commemorate Claude Nunney, the most decorated ordinary private soldier in the Canadian Army in World War 1 and the only Great War soldier who was born in this town to be awarded the Victoria Cross**

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### 30. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Chowney 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 Webb to be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Audit Committee, in place of Councillor Clark**

Councillor Lee 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 Atkins to be appointed to Overview and Scrutiny Committee, in place of Councillor Patmore**
- 2. Councillor M Clarke to be appointed to Standards Committee, in place of Councillor Lee**
- 3. Councillor Rankin to be appointed as Chair of the Audit Committee in place of Councillor Beaver**

### 31. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS

The report of the Chief Legal Officer on the appointment of Independent Persons was submitted. In accordance with the requirements of the Localism Act 2011, the council had appointed two Independent Persons to assist with the Standards process. The term of office of the current Independent Persons expired on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016. The report sought approval to re-appoint the Independent Persons for a further year, until 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

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

**RESOLVED to appoint Margaret Sandra and Andrew Colquhoun as Independent Persons to assist with the Standards process from 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2017**

The reason for this decision was:

The Localism Act 2011 requires the council to appoint at least one Independent Person to assist with the Standards process. Further, changes in employment legislation requires and Independent Person to be involved in any disciplinary action against any of the three statutory officers, those being the Head of Paid Service, the Chief Finance Officer and the Monitoring Officer.

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**32. 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 31 of Cabinet on 5 September 2016, which was a matter for Council decision. Only those items which were reserved were discussed, as follows: -**

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 8 August 2016	20 – European Maritime Fisheries Fund Community Led Local Development (Hastings FLAG 2)	Lee
Cabinet, 5 September 2016	25 – Planning Service Review Report	Lee
Cabinet, 5 September 2016	26 – Anti-Poverty Strategy Refresh	Lee
Cabinet, 5 September 2016	30 – Final Accounts 2015/16	Lee
Cabinet, 5 September 2016	32 – Coastal Medium Term Plans	Lee
Cabinet, 5 September 2016	34 – Procurement of Cleaning Contracts	Lee
Cabinet, 10 October 2016	38 – Land on Churchfields Estate	Scott

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. 9.09 pm)