

## FULL COUNCIL

15 FEBRUARY 2017

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

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Sinden and Scott

45. **TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 14 DECEMBER 2016 AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2017**

**RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 14 December 2016 and the Special Council meeting held on 18 January 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings**

46. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

| Councillor | Committee                      | Minute                               | Interest  |
|------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Bacon      | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14)                | Personal – he used to teach at a local academy                    |
| Batsford   | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14)                | Personal – his children attend a local academy                    |
| Cooke      | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14)                | Personal – his two sons attend an academy in Hastings             |
| Davies     | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14)                | Prejudicial – he is a teacher at a local school                   |
| Fitzgerald | Cabinet, 6 February 2017       | 65 – The Firs Former Football Ground | Prejudicial – his wife is employed by the Education Futures Trust |
| Forward    | Cabinet, 6 February 2017       | 65 – The Firs Former Football Ground | Prejudicial – she is a Trustee of the Education Futures Trust     |
| Poole      | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14)                | Prejudicial – she is a Governor of                                |

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|         |                                |                       | an academy in Hastings                                    |
| Rankin  | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14) | Personal – his son attends an academy in Hastings         |
| Roberts | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14) | Prejudicial – he is Chair of Governors at a local academy |
| Turner  | Full Council, 15 February 2017 | 50 – Motion (Rule 14) | Personal – his two grandsons attend a local academy       |

### 47. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Mayor announced that the Deputy Mayor was representing the council at a ceremony in Hastings, Sierra Leone to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of it's twinning with Hastings.

### 48. QUESTIONS FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNDER RULE 11

A written question had been received from Mr C Hurrell regarding Ecclesbourne Glen. Councillor Chowney, the Leader of the Council, answered the question. Copies of the question and the reply were circulated at the meeting.

### 49. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12

A written question had been received from Councillor Lee Clark regarding the provision of a fresh water tap at Harold Place public conveniences. Councillor Chowney, the Leader of the Council, 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: -

| Questioner and Councillor | Subject   | Reply Given By Councillor |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| Lee                       | Harold Place Public Conveniences the decision at Budget Cabinet to delete the closure of Ore Village public conveniences from the draft budget proposal is to be welcomed. Is it not possible to extend this, | Chowney                   |

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|         | <p>so that the public conveniences at Harold Place can also remain open?<br/>                 Councillor Chowney replied that this was a matter for the Budget Council meeting to decide. He added that, given the severity of reductions to its funding, it would be necessary for the council to take some difficult decisions over the coming years.</p>   |         |
| Roberts | <p><u>Fisheries Local Action Group 2 (FLAG 2)</u> will the lead member update on plans for FLAG 2 and explain the benefits the first programme brought to the town?<br/>                 Councillor Poole explained that the FLAG was EU funded initiative which aimed to secure the long term sustainability of the town's fishing fleet. The project undertaken during the first round of funding included improvements to the wynch road and the development of Classroom on the Coast. The second round of funding, which had been announced last week, was worth approximately £800,000. Eight initial ideas had been developed, including the purchase of a new ice-maker and a number of new environmental research projects. The projects would benefit both the local fishing fleet and tourism to the town.</p> | Poole   |
| Street  | <p><u>Public Conveniences at Priory Meadow</u> the decision not to close Ore Village public conveniences has been welcomed by the local community. Priory Meadow recently closed a set of public toilets, what measures can the council put in place to ensure they are re-opened?<br/>                 Councillor Chowney said that the council had contacted the operator of Priory Meadow and had been advised that the closure of these toilets was temporary. A notice would be placed on the toilets to confirm this.</p>   | Chowney |
| Clarke  | <p><u>Office of National Statistics (ONS) findings</u> will the Leader of the Council join with him in welcoming the recent findings by the ONS that the local economy in East Sussex has grown by 5.2%. Would he also confirm what the council is doing to contribute to this growth?<br/>                 Councillor Chowney welcomed these findings. He added that all the local authorities in East Sussex worked closely together to support economic growth. This included the Team East Sussex initiative, which enabled the area to secure funding from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP). The council also supported local business, a new factory unit was recently built for BD Foods, which would enable the expansion of the company. The council</p>   | Chowney |

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|        | also contributed to Locate East Sussex, which encouraged businesses to relocate to the area.  |         |
| Howard | <p><u>Illegal Parking on Council-Owned Land</u> the council has recently introduced a number of measures to prevent illegal parking in Sea Road and Grosvenor Gardens. However, there is a persistent problem with illegal parking at the former bathing pool site. What is being done to address this?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney acknowledged that this had been a longstanding problem, and work was already underway to address this issue. The caravans currently parked on the site had been served notice to leave. A traffic order was awaited for the area, which would enable the council to charge for parking on the land and prevent the issue re-occurring.</p>  | Chowney |
| Turner | <p><u>Retention of Business Rates</u> what are the implications for Hastings and East Sussex of recent negotiations between the government and Surrey County Council regarding the retention of business rates?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the government announced some time ago that councils would retain 100% of business rates from 2020. What was not clear, however, was the system of tariffs and top ups which would be put in place to re-distribute this income between authorities across the country. The outcome of the negotiations between the government and Surrey County Council were still unclear.</p>   | Chowney |
| Beaney | <p><u>Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA)</u> will the lead member update on the outcome of a bid for Hastings to become a Local Alcohol Action Area (LAAA) and explain what this will mean for the town?</p> <p>Councillor Davies explained that the investment secured under phase 1 of this scheme had enabled the council to review and refresh it's licensing policy, support educational projects for young people around responsible drinking and work with the Community Alcohol Partnership to engage with local people. The LAAA was delivered in partnership with 33 other districts around the country. The second phase of the project would support further work around licensing, enforcement and education. The aim of this work was to reduce alcohol dependency and misuse. The Community Alcohol Partnership in St Leonards worked closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group to work with local schools around alcohol awareness.</p> | Davies  |

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| Clark   | <p><u>Employment Opportunities in the Financial Sector</u><br/>what can the council do to encourage employers in the financial sector to create higher value jobs locally?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney explained that the council worked closely with employers in the financial sector to encourage them to provide high quality jobs in Hastings. Sussex Coast College Hastings were in the process of setting up a University Centre, and this was likely to offer degree level courses relevant to this sector. The college were also preparing new marketing materials for the University Centre, which would help develop a positive profile of the town.</p> | Chowney |
| Wincott | <p><u>Music Month</u> live music is an important part of the identity of the town. How will the council support events during music month?</p> <p>Councillor Poole agreed that the town was very lucky to have a vibrant music scene. The council continued to work with the Cultural Leaders Group to develop this further. A launch event for music month took place at the Source BMX park. Music month will build on the success of the well-established Fat Tuesday celebrations. The council has also received funding from the Arts Council to carry out a review of live music venues, which will help inform future developments within the town.</p>    | Poole   |

**50. MOTION (RULE 14)**

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

Councillors Davies, Roberts and Poole, having declared a prejudicial interest in this matter, left the chamber during the debate.

**RESOLVED (24 votes for, to 2 against, with 0 abstentions) that:**

**This council notes with concern the continued conversion of all schools in Hastings to academies. We believe that by taking schools out of local authority control, and reducing the powers and responsibilities of governing boards, educational performance are not necessarily improved and a less rewarding educational experience for students can be created through a narrower curriculum.**

**There are now currently only two schools left in Hastings that have not converted to academies, and at one of these, Castledown Primary, there is now a proposal to convert this school to an academy too.**

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**Parents are concerned about this for two reasons: firstly, because many parents chose Castledown because it was not an academy, and the conversion of this school to an academy reduces further the choice available to parents; and secondly, because only one academy sponsor chain is being considered, which again limits any choice parents might wish to make over the future of the school.**

**This council therefore supports parents in their campaign to oppose the academisation of Castledown School without any alternatives being presented, and calls for the current plans to be to be halted immediately so that parents, governors, staff, and other stakeholders can explore all possible options to improve standards and effectiveness of teaching at the school. We further call upon the Leader of the Council to write to Amber Rudd MP and the Lead Member for Children's Services at ESCC to raise these concerns, and ask ESCC if further support can be given to Castledown to restore the high standards and good Ofsted results it had in the recent past.**

**51. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

No motions for a change in representation on committees were proposed by either group leader.

**52. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

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

**RESOLVED under rule 13.3 that the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda be received. Only those items which were reserved were discussed, as follows: -**

| Meeting                  | Minute  | Councillor |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| Cabinet, 7 November 2016 | 49(E). Commercial Property Purchase – Retail Park | Patmore    |
| Cabinet, 6 February 2017 | 65. The Firs Former Football Ground               | Turner     |

Councillors Forward and Fitzgerald, having declared a prejudicial interest in minute 65 of Cabinet on 6 February 2017, The Firs Former Football Ground, left the chamber during the debate on this item.

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.

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(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 8.21 pm)