

FULL COUNCIL

19 DECEMBER 2018

Present: Councillors Rogers, Sinden (Chair), Batsford, Chowney, Davies, Forward, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Turner, Webb, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Edwards, Bacon (Vice-Chair), Patmore, Rankin, Barnett, Battley, Beaney, Berelson, Bishop, Cox, Evans, Foster, Louise, Marlow-Eastwood and O'Callaghan

Apologies for absence were notes for Councillor Levane

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Leah Levane.

30. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2018

RESOLVED that the minutes of the council meeting held on the 17 October 2018 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

31. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillors	Committee	Minute	Interest
Rankin	Cabinet, 23 July 2018	96 New Property development & purchase – Bexhill Road (part 2 report)	Personal – he works in the property industry
Lee	Cabinet, 3 September 2018	100 Site at West Marina (Part II)	Personal – he knows potential developers of the site

32. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

There were no announcements made by the Mayor or the Leader

33. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

5(a); QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC RULE 11

A written question had been received from S M Ali regarding climate change and making Hastings Carbon Neutral by 2030. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

A written question had been received from Mr Richard Stevens regarding the closure of the Isabel Blackman Centre and the development of a joint venture. Councillor

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Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

A written question had been received from Ms Patricia Stephenson regarding badger culling within Hastings boundaries. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

A written question had been received from Ms Barbara Lowe regarding the development of a sustainable energy plan. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated

Ms Lowe asked a supplementary question as to whether there were any plans to include and invest in alternative fuels such as biofuels, or to use wave energy within the energy plan. Councillor Chowney replied there is a lot more we would like to do and that the Council will be updating its planning policy to identify where we might be able to use wind energy within the borough. Wave and tidal energy opportunities will be kept under review as technology advances. The Council is investing in solar energy at the moment to generate power and will be looking at wind too. He advised he would add the potential to use biofuels into the energy plan.

A written question had been received from Ms Amanda Jobson regarding the proposed development of a Marina at Rock a Nore and the importance of the natural environment. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated

Ms Jobson asked a supplementary question regarding how important it is to include the community's voice and how important it is to think about climate change as a community. A 'community hub' could be a place where people could talk about the environment and sustainable living. Councillor Chowney replied that he thought a community hub was a good idea and that he would like to participate if one were established. He stated that the more people are involved the better.

A written question had been received from Mr Tim Godwin regarding improving cycling and walking levels locally. Councillor Forward replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

Mr Matt McDonald asked a supplementary question on behalf of Mr Godwin regarding why the Council has not used section 106 agreements for cycling infrastructure and gave an example of the Asda site agreement which was 10 years old. Councillor Kim Forward replied that East Sussex County Council were being lobbied for improvements for the route from Silverhill to the town centre via Alexandra Park, and that the new cycle route through the park would be created shortly.

A written question had been received from Julie Hilton regarding recognised climate change risks. Councillor Fitzgerald replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

Ms Judy Scott on behalf of Julie Hilton asked a supplementary question also what plans does the Council have in place to manage and reduce these risks to the Council, the town and its people? Councillor Fitzgerald referred to his written answer and also added that additional robust Government policy was needed and more action was needed on keeping fossil fuels in the ground.

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A written question had been received from Laurie Temple regarding a deposit scheme for single use plastic. Councillor Fitzgerald replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

A written question had been received from Sam Kinch regarding Sea Space and Sea Change to provide annual reports. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

Sam Kinch asked a supplementary question regarding the sale of the land in the Ore Valley and who would be scrutinising the sale of this land which has a community housing development scheme being planned for the site 'Heart of Hastings'. Councillor Chowney replied and referred Mr Kinch to talk to the Councils chair of Scrutiny Committee.

A written question had been received from Chris Petts regarding encouraging the population to become a carbon neutral town. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

A written question had been received from Matt McDonnell regarding commitments to sustainable transport. Councillor Fitzgerald replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

Mr McDonald asked a supplementary question regarding when we can expect to see the money to make the cycle path. Councillor Fitzgerald replied and referred Mr McDonald to the written response provided.

A written question had been received from Chrys Brook regarding where does our recycling go and how is it processed. Councillor Fitzgerald replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated.

5(b); QUESTION FROM COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12

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>Supporting local retailers</u> what was the Council doing to support local retailers especially at Christmas time? Councillor Chowney replied giving examples such as: free car parking was being provided on Thursday evenings to support late night shopping. In addition, that the council had delivered the Business Rate transitional relief scheme and supported the Business Improvement District 'Love Hastings' initiative.	Chowney
Battley	<u>MyHastings sign up and statistics</u> what were the statistics showing with regard to MyHastings sign ups and usage for Council services? Councillor Rogers that she could share	Rogers

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	<p>detailed statistical analysis after the meeting but that the figures are very positive. There are 31,000 registered self accounts for My Hasting and 55% self-service transactions were undertaken in November. In total 136,039 reports had been made – which represented a huge number of avoided calls going via the contact centre. This includes 3965 missed bin reports and 3042 on line reports about street litter.</p>	
Beaver	<p><u>Subletting of privately owned beach huts</u> at the Beach hut association AGM members were not happy about the Councils proposal that they should be allowed to sublet their huts as the Council thought they would. Councillor Chowney agreed that the Council was wrong in making this assumption.</p>	Chowney
Turner	<p><u>Proposed movement of Childrens ENT services from the Conquest Hospital to Eastbourne Hospital</u> is the Leader concerned about the proposed closure of the local childrens ENT services in Hastings and that the towns deprivation is a relevant issue to be considered in this decision? Councillor Chowney replied this is an issue for Hastings children and families and that deprivation is relevant as many local families cannot either afford a car or public transport costs to travel to Eastbourne for medical appointments. He will campaign to keep the services in Hastings.</p>	Chowney
Callaghan	<p><u>Universal Credit impacts on Hastings residents and families</u> the impact of Universal Credit is having an impact on the people of Hastings. What is the Council doing so that we do not penalise local people who cannot afford to pay their Council tax bill? Councillor Chowney replied that over 5200 people were on UC locally and that many had experienced long delays in payment and benefit sanctions. Residents being made homeless had a direct impact on the Council. The local Food bank has seen over an 80% increase in demand. Over 9800 people are still to be migrated to UC in Hastings and the foodbank has stated they do not know how they will respond if that results in additional demand for their service. The Council will be recommended in January</p>	Chowney

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	to continue with the Council tax reduction scheme which sees 100% discount for our poorest residents – we are only one of nine local authorities in the country maintaining this scheme, and potentially will be the only one next year – a fact that he is very proud of	
Patmore	<p><u>New MRI scanners at Conquest hospital</u> would the leader like to welcome the news about two new MRI scanners arriving at the Conquest? Councillor Chowney welcomed the news and replied the NHS is a very special service we all value. We should all celebrate this achievement.</p>	Chowney
Bacon	<p><u>Local Fish Quota's</u> the local fisheries are having a hard time currently due to the low fish quotas. Councillor Chowney replied the fleet receive 4% of the overall quota for the fish species they catch. Quota calculations and distribution is very complex, but that the Labour Party would increase the quota to the under 10 m fleet.</p>	Chowney
K Beaney	<p><u>Development of land on Bexhill Road 'Lower Tier site' for Housing</u> The Council has previously made a commitment not to sell park land for developments. The Lower Tier site has been agreed to be developed for housing. Does this area not fall within the countryside park land? Councillor Chowney replied this area of land is not park land and can be used for housing . Other similar types of land such as the recreation ground on Harrow Lane are also being considered for housing development. Football pitches which are not being used for example can be used for other purposes including housing.</p>	Chowney
Davies	<p><u>Dissemination of the Cemetery Grounds - vandalism and fly tipping</u> What is the Council doing to rectify the damage created by the vandals and to prevent such events happening again? Councillor Fitzgerald confirmed that a vehicle had driven across the cemetery and across graves and dumped waste over the cemetery</p>	Fitzgerald

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	wall into Ivy house Lane affecting Rother DC land. An investigation is underway and the 2 Councils were working together with the Police. If anyone has any information please contact the Police or Crime Stoppers.	
Foster	<p><u>Harold Place Toilets</u> with reference to the Seafront strategy, whereby the Council are committed to making improvements to our seafront, can the Leader give reassurances that the state of the Harold Place toilets will be resolved before the summer season and won't be an eyesore next year?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied he cannot promise any changes to the site by next summer, it had been hoped that a bid to an external funding pot (CCF5) would be successful, unfortunately it was not . The Council are therefore currently marketing the site and looking at funding options to develop it for commercial use. Cllr Chowney reminded the meeting that the decision to close the toilets was due to the councils worsening financial position.</p>	Chowney
Sabetian	<p><u>Impact of a 'no deal' Brexit on local manufacturing companies</u> What does the Leader think the local impact will be of a no deal Brexit on local manufacturing companies will be?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that local businesses he had spoken with were very concerned about a no deal Brexit and wanted the same trade relationships to be available.</p>	Chowney
Rankin	<p><u>Rough Sleeping in Hastings</u> Following last year's rough sleeping tragedies can an update be provided about the rough sleepers initiative, how is the funding is being applied so that we avoid rough sleepers ending their days on our streets this winter?</p> <p>Councillor Basford replied that during last weekend's cold snap both Snow Flake and the Councils emergency night shelter were in operation. Snowflake currently has 12 users per night. The Rough Sleeper project is fully staffed and 18 people across the project are being assessed to support their transition off the streets.</p>	Batsford

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34. MOTION (RULE 14)

No motions to Council were received.

35. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

There were no proposed amendments to the membership of any committee's

36. AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 2017/18

The annual audit is a review of the effectiveness of Internal Audit to Council. Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit regulation (England) 2005 requires relevant bodies to conduct an annual review, the findings of which are reported directly to Council without being presented to Cabinet.

Under Rule 13.3 this item was agreed without being called for discussion The Chair of the Audit Committee thanked the Finance team, recognising the much tighter timetable and changes to the procedure for creating this year's Audit Report. Special thanks were asked to be passed on to the Assistant Director of Financial Services and revenues and colleagues in the finance team and the Chief Auditor.

37. PREVIOUS CABINET MEETINGS

38. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Special Cabinet 23 rd July 2018	96 (E)– New property Development & Purchase – Bexhill Road	Chowney
Cabinet 3 rd September 2018	100 (E) – Site at West Marina	Chowney
Cabinet 5 th November 2018	112 (C) – Review of Statement of Principles under the Gambling Act 2005	O'Callaghan
Cabinet 3 rd December 2018	119 (C) – Members Allowance Index review	Rogers
Cabinet 3 rd December 2018	120 – Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre	Fitzgerald
Cabinet 3 rd December 2018	121 (C) Joint Waste Contract	Fitzgerald
Cabinet 3 rd December 2018	123 (E) – Commercial Property Purchase	Chowney
Cabinet 3 rd December 2018	124 – Provision of cash Flow Loan to White Rock	Chowney

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	Neighbourhood Ventures ti Support the Purchase Process of the Observer building	
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Minute number 112 of Cabinet on 5th November 2018, Review of Statement of Principles Under the gambling Act 2005, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Council agreed to vote on each of the recommendations in turn.

RESOLVED (unanimously) recommendation 1 “To agree the updated Gambling Act Statement of Principles at appendix B and recommend that Full Council approve it for publication by 3 January 2019 in order that it can take effect on 31 January 2019”
and (by 27 votes for and 4 against) recommendation 2 “To recommend that Full Council should reaffirm the current “No Casino” resolution”

Minute 119 of Cabinet on the 3rd December 2018, Member Allowance Index Review, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously) the findings of the Independent Remuneration Panel review regarding the Members Allowances Index Review.

Minute number 121 of Cabinet on the 3rd December 2018, Joint Waste Contract Tenders, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Fitzgerald proposed approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously) the appointment of Contractor A for the Waste Collection, recycling, Street and Beach Cleaning an Associated Services Contract (excluding Street and Beach Cleaning and Bulky Household Waste Collection for Hastings B C)

When discussions on the Part II confidential items was received, the Right Worshipful The Mayor, proposed a Motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minute 96, 100 and 124 of the Cabinet meetings held on the 23rd July, 3rd September and 3rd December 2018, concerning land developments and a cash flow loan, because it was likely that if members of the public were present there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant reports.

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 Mayor declared the meeting closed at 850pm)