

FULL COUNCIL

13 FEBRUARY 2019

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

39. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillors Charman and Forward.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 19th December 2018 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

Councillors	Committee	Minutes	Interest
Lee	Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	148 (E) – Commercial Property Purchases	Prejudicial – Knows the proposed developers
S Beaney	Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	148 (E) – Commercial Property Purchases	Prejudicial – Involved with Hastings older women community housing
Rankin	Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	148 (E) – Commercial Property Purchases	Personal – works in the property sector

42. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

There were no announcements made by the Mayor or the Leader.

43. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

43(a). MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC UNDER RULE 11

A written question was received from Mr Ian Sier regarding funding for sustainable transport infrastructure and the setting up of a local task group to work with other

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agencies on this issue. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

Mr Sier asked a supplementary question inquiring if alternative resources, such as the EU Desti-Smart funding, could be allocated to support a small task group. Councillor Chowney replied that the Council does not currently have the resources to do this but would explore the possibility of alternative funding.

A written question was received from Mr Mat McDonnell regarding air pollution. Councillor Chowney replied to the question. Copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

In a supplementary question Mr McDonnell asked if the Council could monitor local air pollution. Councillor Chowney replied that this is a statutory duty of the Council and figures can be supplied to the questioner and members of the Council.

A written question was received from Mr Ken Davies regarding the Hastings and St Leonards Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. Councillor Chowney replied and copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

In a supplementary question Mr Davies asked what Hastings Borough Council will do to pressure East Sussex County Council, and local businesses, to support rapid decarbonisation. Councillor Chowney responded that he will be looking to setup a working group to report back to the Council on action being taken on decarbonisation.

A written question was received from Mr Tony Palin regarding the repealing of bye-laws on proposed cycling routes. Councillor Chowney replied and copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

A written question was received from Ms Julia Hilton regarding Hastings and St Leonards share of the carbon budget. Councillor Chowney replied and copies of the question and response were circulated to Councillors and members of the public.

In a supplementary question Ms Hilton asked if the Council will bring a report back to Full Council in 6 months to provide an update on action being taken to reduce carbon emissions and what resources the Council will allocate to this task. Councillor Chowney responded the Council can only use the resources of the committee and scrutiny process and this is why a scrutiny working group has been suggested. There are no funds available to allocate officers and staff.

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43(b). 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	Subject	Reply given by
Councillor Lee	<p><u>Jerwood gallery</u> - Could you provide an update on the Council's mediation role and what is happening at the Jerwood gallery?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that negotiations with the Jerwood gallery are ongoing.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Patmore	<p><u>Corporate peer challenge</u> - Still to see the results of the 2017 Local Government Association Corporate Peer Challenge. In response to a Freedom of Information request it was said the report would come to Cabinet last October, but we still haven't seen it.</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the recommendations have been circulated. The final report has not been agreed and therefore will not be published.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Rankin	<p><u>Homelessness</u> – The Leader of the Council promised to resign if he didn't meet his targets for the Hastings Housing Company. Can the Leader provide an update on the numbers?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that he didn't have the numbers available but can share them with Councillors at a later date.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Turner	<p><u>Emergency shelters</u> - We have seen coldest weather of the year over past weeks. Can Councillor Batsford provide an update of the use of the emergency shelter and other services available in Hastings?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that the Council is set to spend additional funds on temporary accommodation.</p>	Councillor Batsford
Councillor Levane	<p><u>Local Government cuts</u> – Would the Leader agree that Council cuts are falling more heavily on the most vulnerable areas and how bad do you think this will be under the</p>	Councillor Chowney

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	<p>Government's Fair Funding Formula?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney agreed and replied that Labour councils are disproportionately affected by cuts and highlighted that proposals are being consulted on removing the deprived area adjustment.</p>	
Councillor Davies	<p><u>Safety on our streets</u> – Austerity has meant the decomposition of safety on our streets. The precept announced by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex will mean an additional 5 officers in Hastings. Can the Leader outline what we are doing, and have done, as a Council to try to fill the gap?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald replied that Hastings is lucky to have an award winning community safety manager. It is to be seen if the precept increase will lead to a fall in crime.</p>	Councillor Fitzgerald
Councillor Barnett	<p><u>Council Tax Reduction Scheme</u> - How can the Council provide support to those most in need in the town through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme?</p> <p>Councillor Rogers replied that the Council is retaining the 100% council tax reduction for those most in need.</p>	Councillor Rogers
Councillor Bacon	<p><u>Food bank usage</u> - Our MP has admitted the correlation between Universal Credit and the increase in food bank usage. Is the Leader as angry as myself about how long it has taken for the Government to announce its failure in this policy area?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that he was angry and that within the first few months of Universal Credit rollout Hastings foodbank saw an 85% increase in use.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Edwards	<p><u>Country Park visitor centre</u> – We were informed last year that a preferred bidder was selected. Can you confirm the bidder has been awarded the contract and the name of the preferred bidder?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald replied that he is unable</p>	Councillor Fitzgerald

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	to announce the name of the preferred bidder at this stage.	
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44. MOTION (RULE 14)

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

Councillor Lee proposed an amendment to the motion seconded by Councillor Rankin, as follows:

“We will measure the carbon reducing impact of planting trees on Council land and where appropriate plant trees or managed hay meadows to increase carbon sequestration as set out in the Royal Society greenhouse gas removal report of October 2018.

Where planting trees is the most effective carbon reduction method we will prioritise tree planting over renewable energy installation and we call on East Sussex County Council to implement this policy on a wider scale”

The amendment was rejected by Councillor Chowney, as the proposer of the original motion.

The Mayor suspended rule 16.6b of Council procedure rules, allowing the proposed amendment to be debated at the same time as the main motion. Seconded by Councillor Rankin.

Councillors debated the motion and the proposed amendment. In response the Leader of the Council thanked all the contributors to the debate.

A vote took place on the amendment proposed by Councillor Lee. The proposed amendment was lost by 22 votes against to 8 for, with no abstentions.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the Council do accept the motion as set out below:

“On the 8th of October 2018 the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) warned that “rapid, far-reaching, and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society” will be required in order to limit global temperature to 1.5C above pre-industrial level and that we have only 12 years in which we can realistically accomplish this. Even half

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a degree above that will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, mass extinctions of animal species, and extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people.

Within the current financial and regulatory framework, addressing this is primarily a matter for governments – local authorities have limited influence over the development of the local economy, transport, and human behaviour. Councils need significantly increased powers to make real change locally, and significantly greater intervention by central government to reduce climate change and reduce dependency on fossil carbon.

Nevertheless, there are actions the council can take, to limit our own use of fossil carbon and encourage others to do the same, although this is limited by available resources and the scale of government cuts the council is having to cope with. Hastings Council takes this matter so seriously that we're committed to taking a lead on this and set a target for Hastings to become carbon neutral.

To this end, we will:

- Establish an ongoing Climate Change working group (as a panel of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee), which will scrutinise the council's policies and actions to make sure they take into account the climate change impact of everything we do;
- Develop a procurement policy that reduces our carbon emissions, procuring locally where possible, prioritising goods and services that are less dependent on fossil carbon, and prioritising companies who are taking steps to reduce their impact on climate change;
- Use whatever powers and influence we have, taking advantage of any new powers as they are made available to us by central government, to aim to make Hastings carbon neutral by 2030 aiming for the borough to become energy self-sufficient through local sustainable energy generation, and call on East Sussex County Council to adopt a parallel commitment for Hastings;
- Press ahead with a programme of sustainable energy generation on council-owned and other land and buildings, investigating every viable council-owned site, as well as other sites, aiming towards supplying 30% of the town's electricity by 2030;
- Use the current review of the Local Plan to introduce policy requirements that new buildings should meet the most rigorous possible energy efficiency standards (for example, the 'Passivhaus' standards), include electric vehicle charging points in new housing and commercial developments, minimise the

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impacts of climate change (for example, by making sure contribution to flooding is minimised) and include solar arrays or other sustainable energy generation wherever possible;

- Ensure council land is maintained in a way that maximises species diversity and mitigates species extinction;
- Encourage existing supermarkets to install EV charging points, lobby ESCC to take up existing government grants to install on street EV charging points, and press for a properly co-ordinated national EV charging network;
- Include an evaluation of climate change implications in all reports to council committees;
- Build on our existing single use plastic policy by not only eliminating single use plastics in council buildings, but also at festivals and events held on council land. We will also strongly encourage local businesses to cut back on their use of SUPs;
- Use s.106 funding and planning conditions (and any available future powers) to continue the development of an off-road walking and cycling network as specified in the council's Local Plan;
- Appoint a member-level 'Climate Change Champion' to oversee the implementation of the above commitments and monitor the progress of the council's progress towards doing all it can to make Hastings a carbon-neutral town;
- Work with voluntary, statutory and community organisations in the borough wherever we can to achieve the above commitments;
- Maximise the resources the council dedicates to combatting climate change when national government restores council funding to a sustainable level."

The Mayor adjourned the meeting at 7.33pm and the meeting was reconvened at 7.46pm.

45. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

There were no proposed amendments to the membership of any committees.

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46. 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
Cabinet, 7 th January 2019	128 – Ground Mounted Solar	Patmore
Cabinet, 7 th January 2019	129 – Treasury Management Mid-Year Report 2018-19	Rankin
Cabinet, 7 th January 2019	135.1 – Business Rate Pilot – 75% Retention	Lee
Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	139 – Flexible Homelessness Grant	Levane
Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	140 (C) – Amendments to the Council's Constitution	Lee
Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	141 – Delivering Efficient Sustainable Mobility, Accessibility and Responsible Travel (DESTI-SMART)	Davies
Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	144 – Site at West Marina	Beaver
Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	146 – Approval of the Pay Policy Statement for 2019/20	Sabetian
Cabinet, 4 th February 2019	148 (E) - Commercial Property Purchases	Lee

Minute 130 of Cabinet on 7th January 2019, Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2019/20, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Under rule 13.3, the minutes were approved without being called for discussion.

Minute 140 of Cabinet on 4th February 2019, Amendments to the Council's Constitution, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Rogers, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

Minute 143 of Cabinet on 4th February 2019, High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Plan, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Under rule 13.3, the minutes were approved without being called for discussion.

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Minute 146 of Cabinet on 4th February 2019, Approval of the Pay Policy Statement was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Rogers, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

Councillors debated minutes 128, 129 and 135.1 of Cabinet on 7th January 2019 and minutes 139, 141, 144 and 148 of Cabinet on 4th February 2019. These matters did not require approval of Full Council.

Councillors S Beaney and Lee, having declared a prejudicial interest in minute 144 of Cabinet on 4th February 2019, Site at West Marina, left the Council Chamber during debate on this item.

Minute number 148 of Cabinet on 4th February 2019 was an exempt item. When debate moved to this item Councillor Roberts proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, seconded by Councillor Beaver.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minute 148 of the Cabinet meeting held on 4th February, Commercial Property Purchases, because it is likely that if members of the public were present there would be disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in the paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the relevant report.

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 9.01pm)