

FULL COUNCIL

14 APRIL 2021

Present: Councillors Sinden (Chair), Bacon (Vice-Chair), Barnett, Battley (from 18:17), Batsford, Beaney, Beaver, Berelson, Bishop, Chowney, Cox, Davies, Edwards, Evans, Fitzgerald, Forward (from 18:57), Foster, Lee, Levane, Marlow-Eastwood, O'Callaghan, Patmore, Rankin, Rogers, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Turner and Webb

172. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies received from Councillor Louise and Councillor Charman

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

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th February 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 17th February 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd February 2021 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

174. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

175. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Mayor held a minute's silence in tribute to His Royal Highness Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Mayor gave thanks to councillors which are standing down next month. Councillor Fitzgerald, Councillor Lee, Councillor Charman, Councillor Levane, Councillor Louise and Councillor Sabetian.

Councillor Sinden proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Rogers, as follows:
RESOLVED that in order for the Managing Director to update the Full Council, under Rule 16(14) of council procedure the council proceed as if in committee.

The Managing Director provided a brief update on the Covid-19 pandemic. Hastings is currently 311 out of 315 lower tier authorities in England for COVID-19 cases. East Sussex weekly rolling average rate is 7.4. The weekly rate for Hastings is 3.2.

Restart grants are now being paid out to non-essential retail, hospitality, accommodation, leisure, personal care and gym businesses. The Council has

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received 802 applications and has already paid out £2m of the grant. It is taking longer to process these applications because the government requires additional anti-fraud checks for all payments before they are made.

Council officers are also planning for a very busy summer starting with the May Day weekend. Although the main events have been cancelled, this is traditionally a popular time to visit Hastings so contingency plans are being put in place if large numbers do visit.

The meeting returned to Full Council mode.

176. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

a) Members of the public under Rule 11

Questioner	Subject	Reply given by
Mr Struys	<p>Obviously, we're all hoping the vaccine roll-out and the Government's Road Map will enable us to all come out of full lock-down as planned in June. However, if this happens it's almost inevitable that in the summer months thousands of people from outside the town will want to visit for weekend breaks or longer 'staycations' and many local people, who normally would be away in the summer, may not venture abroad this year.</p> <p>The temporary significant increase in population, whilst excellent for local businesses will likely put a tremendous strain on our infrastructure, for</p>	<p>Councillor Barnett:</p> <p>Last Summer the council experienced some increased demand along the lines you describe, and service managers have already given this some consideration ahead of this Summer. For example, late last Summer we trialled an extended operating schedule for our street and beach cleansing team along the seafront, and we will be rolling this out again this Summer. The Parks service will also be monitoring pressure on our parks and open spaces, such as in relation to litter bin emptying, and responding accordingly. We will also continue to use social media to urge</p>

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	<p>example public toilets, car parking etc., In addition, sadly there will inevitably be an impact on the cleanliness of our streets, parks and beaches.</p> <p>What plans has the local council considered or put in place for mitigating the unfortunate negative impacts of this likely scenario?</p>	<p>and encourage residents and visitors to the town to deal with the waste they generate responsibly.</p>
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b) Councillors under Rule 12

Questioner	Subject	Reply given by
Councillor Foster	<p><u>Disabled Facilities Grant</u> Could the Councillor please confirm how many Disabled Facilities Grant applications have been made in the past 12 Months and how many, if any, of those did not attract grant funding after means testing?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied for the 2020/2021 year there were 75 referrals from ESCC of which all but one resulted in an application for a DFG being successful. The one which was later closed was as a result of inaccurate information initially being provided by the applicant.</p>	Councillor Batsford
Councillor Lee	<p><u>Hastings Housing company</u> Is there a councillor on the board of Hastings housing company?</p> <p>In reply, Councillor Batsford acknowledged that his statement to the last council meeting was incorrect, and whilst there had previously been a councillor on the board, there is not one now.</p>	Councillor Batsford
Councillor Bishop	<p><u>Safety in the park</u> Please update on safety in the park and the petition which</p>	Councillor Evans

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	<p>has been circulated.</p> <p>Councillor Evans advised she is working with the petitioners and the petition had over seventeen thousand signatures. Work is underway with council officers to explore options and planning to meet again in late May/June. The key proposal is an indigo path which would be an identified safe route through the park. The main theme is to make the park safe and welcoming for everybody.</p>	
Councillor Sabetian	<p><u>Restart Grants</u> Local business grants were confusing. Are restart grants simpler to apply for?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney agreed that the original grants were confusing. New restart grants started April 1st and a new form has to be completed to apply for the grant. Further anti-fraud checks are required by the Government for the new grant which has made it a slower process to distribute.</p>	Councillor Chowney
Councillor Bacon	<p><u>Foreshore Trust</u> Can an update be given on the Foreshore Trust and Charity Committee?</p> <p>Councillor O'Callaghan gave an update regarding grants received with £525,000 to be paid by 2024. Smaller grants of £52,499 were also paid out.</p> <p>A contract for operating lifeguard services in the town with the RNLI has been extended for three years and they were recognised for their excellent work over the last couple of years as well as saving 8 lives.</p> <p>A new rollercoaster is being constructed as a new attraction for the seafront.</p>	Councillor O'Callaghan
Councillor K. Beaney	<p><u>Old bathing site</u> Can an update be given on agreement for the Old Bathing site and acknowledge the petition handed in 13/04/21 with 3000 signatures against the development?</p>	Councillor Chowney

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	<p>Councillor Chowney stated the Heads of Terms has been signed and that we are going through the legal process to finalise the lease. He also expressed frustration with the time this albeit complex project is taking to finalise. A more detailed feedback will be given once relevant officers return from leave.</p>	
<p>Councillor Davies</p>	<p>Achievements Can the Deputy Leader give his reflection of what has been achieved and what he believes are the opportunities and means to sustain an economic and cultural regeneration?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald highlighted The Creative Media Centre, Enviro 21 business park, The Sussex Exchange, a new railway station, Station Plaza, and the Hastings – Bexhill link road. Moving the DSO inhouse is also a big achievement that he is proud of. Looking forward the Town Deal is a massive undertaking but also a large opportunity to bring investment into the borough.</p>	<p>Councillor Fitzgerald</p>

177. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Lee informed the Council in leadership of the Conservative Group – Councillor Patmore is now the new Leader and Councillor John Rankin the new Deputy Leader.

Councillor Lee gave thanks to officers and councillors for his time as a councillor.

RESOLVED that the council notes the following arrangements for the membership of committees:

1. Councillor Patmore is the new leader of the Conservative Group

178. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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Cllr Rogers reported during the Covid Pandemic the Government removed the legal requirement for Local Authorities to hold public meetings in person thereby enabling remote meetings. The emergency legislation which was passed only applies to meetings held before 7th May 2021.

The report updated Councillors on the provisions regarding remote meetings and requested that Full Council reinstate the emergency powers given to the Managing Director to enable decision making in emergency situations.

Councillor Rogers proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Roberts.

Councillor Patmore proposed to go into committee mode, seconded by Rankin.

The Mayor proposed to go into committee mode.

Councillor Beaver proposed an amendment to recommendation one, that would change the duration of time the emergency powers were granted from twelve to six months, this was seconded by Councillor Foster. Councillor Rogers accepted the amendment, which then included as part of the substantive motion.

The council debated the merits of virtual meetings.

The Mayor proposed that the meeting return to Full Council mode which was agreed.

RESOLVED (votes for 29, votes against 1)

Recommendation(s)

- 1. Full Council agrees to reinstate the emergency powers given to the Managing Director as set out in the Paragraph 8 of this Report with immediate effect for a period of no more than 6 months.**
- 2. Full Council adopts the amendments to Paragraph 26.22 of Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.**

Reasons for Recommendations

During the Covid 19 Pandemic it has been necessary to adapt our procedures to be able to continue the Council's business.

The Mayor stopped the meeting for a comfort break.

179. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED that under rule 13.3 the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda, including those items on which a council decision was required, be received and agreed. Only those items which were reserved were discussed as follows:

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Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 11 th February 2021	317. Local Restrictions Support Grant (Open) Scheme	Chowney
Cabinet, 23 rd February 2021	319. Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme Policy (Tranche 2)	Chowney
Cabinet, 1 st March 2021	323. Reducing Rough Sleeping	Batsford
Cabinet, 1 st March 2021	324. Transfer of the Joint Waste and Recycling Committee Administering Authority from Rother District Council to Wealden District Council	Barnett
Cabinet, 1 st March 2021	Proposals to make public space protection orders in relation to alley gating to address serious community safety issues raised by members of the local community	Barnett
Cabinet, 5 th March 2021	329. Council Tax – Discretionary Hardship (Covid-19) Policy	Chowney

Councillors debated minutes 319 of Cabinet on 23rd February 2021. These matters did not require approval of Full Council.

Councillors debated minutes 323 and 325 of Cabinet on 1st March 2021. These matters did not require approval of Full Council.

Councillors debated minutes 329 of Cabinet on 5th March 2021. These matters did not require approval of Full Council

(The Chair declared the meeting closed at. 8.28 pm)