

FULL COUNCIL

9 FEBRUARY 2022

Present: Councillors Cox (Chair), Arthur, Batsford, Battley, Barnett, K Beaney, Beaver, Bishop, Carr, Cooke, Chowney, Edwards, Evans, Forward, Hay, Hilton, Marlow-Eastwood, Patmore, Pragnell, Rankin, Roberts, Roark, Rogers, Scott, Sinden, Webb and Williams.

225. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence received from Councillors Bacon, S Beaney, Fernando, Foster and Turner. Apologies for lateness received from Councillor Cooke.

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

RESOLVED (unanimously) that the minutes of the Full Council meetings held on 15th December 2021 and 6th January 2022 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

227. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor	Meeting	Minute	Interest
Webb	Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	398 - Part of Bowls Pavilion and Bowling Green at Alexandra Park	Personal – Member of East Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board & Trustee, His Place Church
Webb	Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	397 - Afghan Relocation Programme	Personal – Member of East Sussex County Council People's Scrutiny Committee
Chowney	Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	396 - Fees and Charges	Personal - Pays for parking permit
Forward	Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	396 - Fees and Charges	Personal – Pays for beach hut
Batsford	Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	396 - Fees and Charges	Personal – Pays for beach hut

228. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Leader of the Council invited the Managing Director to give an update on the Covid-19 situation in Hastings.

Covid infections in Hastings are currently at 1083 per one 100,000 and rates have plateaued at this high level.

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The Sussex-wide NHS system is still experiencing extremely high levels of demand and this, coupled with sickness and the challenges of segregating covid-patients from others, continues to cause significant operational issues.

The rates of un-vaccinated people continues to be a concern as protection is significantly greater with two vaccinations and a booster. The percentage of unvaccinated people in Hastings is still high at 18.7%.

229. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

The Leader of the Council proposed a motion regarding the reallocation of committee seats, seconded by Councillor Roberts.

Councillor Beaver requested a recorded vote on the proposal, which was agreed.

Councillors Arthur, Barnett, Batsford, Battley, Bishop, Chowney, Cox, Evans, Forward, Roark, Roberts, Rogers, Scott, Sinden and Webb voted in favour. Councillors K Beaney, Beaver, Carr, Edwards, Hay, Hilton, Marlow-Eastwood, Patmore, Pragnell, Rankin and Williams voted against.

RESOLVED (by 15 votes for, to 11 against):

1. Following the formation of the Green Party Group and the change in political balance the Council agrees the reallocation of seats on the Overview and Scrutiny, Licensing and Museum Committees as shown in Schedule A

2. Councillors be appointed to those committees, and to the vacant seat on the Standards Committee, in accordance with the nominations of the political groups as shown in Schedule A

230. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The Deputy Mayor adjourned the meeting at 6.56pm and the meeting resumed at 7.07pm.

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:

Meeting	Minute	Councillor
Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	395 - Neighbourhood Planning – Scheme of Delegation	K Beaney
Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	396 - Fees and Charges	Patmore

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Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	397 - Afghan Relocation Programme	Sinden
Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	398 - Part of Bowls Pavilion and Bowling Green at Alexandra Park	Roark
Cabinet, 4 th January 2022	400 - Agreeing the delivery model for Building Cleaning Services from April 2022	Edwards
Emergency Decision, 14 th January 2022	403 - Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Chowney Grant Policy	Battley
Emergency Decision, 26 th January 2022	405 - Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) Scheme Policy (Tranche 4)	Battley
Cabinet, 31 st January 2022	409 - Reviewing the Council's Licensing Act 2003 Licensing Policy Statement	Roberts

Minute 398 of Cabinet on 4th January 2022, Part of Bowls Pavilion and Bowling Green at Alexandra Park, was a matter requiring Full Council approval. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Chowney, seconded by Councillor Roark and agreed unanimously.

Minute 400 of Cabinet on 31st January 2022, Reviewing the Council's Licensing Act 2003 Licensing Policy Statement, was a matter requiring Full Council approval.

Councillor Evans clarified that an amendment to the policy was made at the Cabinet meeting on 31st January 2022 as set out in the minutes of that meeting. It was confirmed that the amendment was in order to correct a typo in the policy.

The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Sinden and agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

To progress with the proposal from Art on Prescription and delegate authority to the Estates Manager to agree Heads of Terms for a lease.

Reasons:

1. While the proposal is not the highest rent offered it provides the widest community benefit, so the potential financial loss is outweighed by the benefit.
2. The proposal from Art on Prescription is not the highest rent offered so the decision to proceed will need to be considered and approved at Full Council.

RESOLVED (unanimously):

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Full Council agrees the updated licensing policy statement at appendix A as amended by Cabinet.

Reason:

There is a statutory requirement for local authorities to fully review their licensing policy at least every 5 years. Failure to do so could result in judicial review proceedings against the authority and call in to doubt the decisions made by the Licensing Committee under the Act.

Councillors discussed minutes 395, 396, 397, 403 and 405. These items did not require Full Council approval.

Minute 400 of Cabinet on 4th January 2022, Agreeing the delivery model for Building Cleaning Services from April 2022, was an exempt item. When this item was reached the Deputy Mayor proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, seconded by Councillor Battley.

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minute number 400 of the Cabinet meeting held on 4th January 2022 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.

Councillor Evans proposed approval of the recommendations, seconded by Councillor Batsford.

Councillor Edwards proposed an amended to the motion, to appoint contractor five as set out in the Cabinet report, seconded by Councillor Patmore.

Councillor Evans did not accept the amendment.

The Deputy Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8pm and the meeting reconvened at 8.16pm.

The amendment proposed by Councillor Edwards was rejected by 12 votes for, to 15 against.

RESOLVED (by 15 votes for, to 12 against):

To bring the building cleaning services in-house and to be added to the Hastings Direct Service Organisation (HDSO).

Reason:

A full procurement exercise has been undertaken to establish the market rate of carrying out building cleaning through a contractor. Simultaneously, a price to add

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building cleaning to the Hastings Borough Council Direct Services Organisation (HDSO) has been provided.

(The Deputy Mayor declared the meeting closed at 8.33pm)