



# Council Meeting

---

**Wednesday, 19th  
July, 2023**

---

## HASTINGS BOROUGH COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Hastings Borough Council to be held at the Council Chamber, Muriel Matters House, Breeds Place, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 3UY. Please enter the building through the Contact Centre entrance via the seafront, on Wednesday, 19th July, 2023 at 6.00 pm at which meeting the business specified below is proposed to be transacted.

Yours sincerely,

Chief Legal Officer

Muriel Matters House  
Breeds Place  
Hastings

11 July 2023

---

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence
2. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last meeting
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Announcements from the Mayor and Leader
5. Questions (if any) from:
  - a) Members of the public under Rule 11
  - b) Councillors under Rule 12
6. Motion (Rule 14)  
Councillor Collins to propose:

The world is witnessing a colossal decline in global biodiversity with one million animal and plant species threatened with extinction.

In 2019, a State of Nature report by the UK State of Nature Partnership presented an overview of how UK wildlife is faring, looking back over 50 years of monitoring. It found the UK to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world where 41% of all UK species surveyed have declined, with 15% of species in the UK threatened with extinction.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, RSPB, estimate that the UK breeding population of one of our most iconic birds, the swift, has more than halved in the last 20 years due to loss of nesting sites on buildings.

British Standard, BS42021:2022 'Integral Nest Boxes, selection and installation for new developments' specifies requirements for the selection and installation of integral nest boxes in buildings within new developments for residential, commercial, industrial and public buildings.

The British Standard covers the design and installation principally for the following species, swift, starling, great tit, blue tit, and house sparrow, the numbers of which are in decline in the UK.

The Environment Act 2021 strengthened the duty for local authorities to agree policies and specific objectives to conserve and enhance biodiversity. In November 2023 the concept of Biodiversity Net Gain will become mandatory for local authorities when considering planning applications, to ensure habitats for wildlife are in a better state than before development.

Local authorities are therefore uniquely placed to ensure local planning policies and decisions contribute to and enhance the natural environment by minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity.

Hastings Borough Council commits to developing policies and procedures to help to reverse the decline in biodiversity by ensuring:

1. Our new local planning policies for development set out a robust policy framework to protect and enhance biodiversity;
2. our local plan sets out the criteria for adopting British Standard BS42021:2022, Integral nest boxes, for all relevant planning permissions and approvals; and
3. developing, where appropriate, supplementary planning guidance on how development can incorporate features beneficial for the natural environment.

7. Motion (Rule 14)

Councillor Carr to propose:

This Council wishes to send its support to Trans Pride Hastings on the launch of their first festival which has been organised by members of the local transgender and non-binary community with a focus on community building, support, and celebration for trans, non-binary and gender expansive residents from Hastings, St Leonards, & beyond.

This Council celebrates the successes of the transgender community but also recognises that additional support is sometimes needed by them as a section of our society that is too often marginalised, a victim of hate crime, or who may struggle to access the help they need due to other barriers that occur in relation to their status as a trans or non-binary person.

To turn our words of support into meaningful action, this council resolves:

- That the Equalities Working Group is asked to make recommendations on appropriate equalities training to be considered by the Senior Leadership Team and Cabinet, in consultation with the Member Training and Development Group;
- to continue to fly the trans flag during notable dates such as Trans Day of Remembrance and Trans Pride Hastings each year; and
- to continue to foster a culture of safety, acceptance, and inclusion for the trans and non-binary community in our actions as a council.

8. Membership of Committees

To give effect to any request received from a political group for a change in their representation on committee(s).

9. Reports of Committees

- a) To resolve that the public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion of any items considered while the public were excluded by the relevant committee 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 respective paragraphs of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 referred to in the minutes of the relevant committee.
- b) To receive and consider the recommendations and any decisions of the following committees.

<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Cabinet Member / Chair</b>
<b>CABINET – 5 JUNE 2023</b>		
4.	Response to council motion re: Hastings United Football Club proposal	Willis
5.	Revision of Financial Assistance Policy	Rogers
6.	Internal Audit Arrangements 2023-24	Barnett
7.	Cabinet Appointments to Committees, Working Groups and Partnerships	Barnett
<b>CABINET – 3 JULY 2023</b>		
11.	White Rock Theatre Options	Batsford
12. (C)	Treasury Management Outturn Report for 2022/23	Barnett
13.	Financial Monitoring Outturn Report for 2022/23 - to end of March 2023 (Period 12)	Barnett
15. (E)	Unit at Bexhill Road Retail Park	Barnett

C= Council decision

E= Exempt from publication

Notes:

1. The Mayor will call over the minutes and members will rise and indicate those items which they wish to have discussed.
  2. No discussion shall take place at this stage upon part II minutes covered by the resolution 9a) above. Any such discussion shall be deferred to item 10 on the agenda.
10. To consider the recommendations and decisions of committees (if any) which the Council has resolved should be discussed after the exclusion of the public from the meeting.

Note: Nothing contained in this agenda or in the attached reports and minutes of committees constitutes an offer or acceptance of an offer or an undertaking or contract by the Borough Council