

Public Document Pack

FULL COUNCIL

14 DECEMBER 2016

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Judy Rogers) in the Chair, Councillors Sinden, Batsford (until 8.45pm), Cartwright, Chowney, Clark (from 6.24pm until 8.45pm), Cooke, Davies, Forward, Howard, Dowling, Poole, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Charman, Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins (until 9.00pm), Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

33. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL AND FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON 26 OCTOBER 2016

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Council and Full Council meetings held on 26 October 2016 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared their interest in the minutes indicated: -

| Councillor | Committee | Minute | Interest |
|------------|--------------------------------|--|---|
| Beaney | Full Council, 14 December 2016 | 38 – Motion (Rule 14) | Personal - she has been appointed as the council's Mental Health Champion |
| Rankin | Cabinet, 7 November 2016 | 47 (C) – Treasury Management – Mid Year Report 2016/17 | Personal – he owns a property company which operates in the town |

35. QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS UNDER RULE 12.1

No written questions had been received from members of the public or Councillors.

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>Congratulations to Councillor Clark</u> would the Leader of the Council join with him in congratulating Councillor Lee Clark on the money he raised recently by taking part in a charity boxing | Chowney |

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| | <p>match? Would the Leader of the Council also confirm if free parking would be available during the month of December in council-owned car parks?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney congratulated Councillor Clark on the money he raised for charity. Councillor Chowney confirmed that free parking would be offered in council-owned car parks on the same days that East Sussex County Council offered free on-street parking, which was the same arrangement as previous years.</p> | |
| Scott | <p><u>Investment of Council Reserves</u> the recent purchase of a commercial retail property by the council is to be welcomed. Would the Leader of the Council confirm if the same prudent approach to investing council resources will continue in the future?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney confirmed that the council had recently purchased the retail property units occupied by Dunelm Mill and Pets At Home. This would generate a net income to the council of £150,000 per year. He explained that the council would need to continue to explore new income generation opportunities in the future as the funding it received from other sources reduced over time.</p> | Chowney |
| Patmore | <p><u>Local Housing Company</u> when the proposal to set up a local housing company had been discussed by Cabinet, members were advised that the company would be used to develop new properties on council owned land. However, in a recent newsletter issued by the Leader of the Council it is stated that the company will be used to purchase poor quality housing, refurbish it and then make it available for rent. Which model for property investment will be used?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney said that the new housing company the council was setting up would be used to purchase existing properties and then make them available for rent as stated in the Cabinet report. The company may be used to develop properties on council owned land in the future, however, this was considered to be a higher risk option.</p> | Chowney |
| Batsford | <p><u>Play Strategy</u> the council is rightly committed to providing good quality play spaces and has a robust policy in place to support this. Would the lead member provide an update on work undertaken since the Play Strategy was adopted to</p> | Poole |

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| | <p>ensure these facilities are maintained in the future?</p> <p>Councillor Poole explained that the council owned approximately 30 play parks around the borough, plus a number of multi-use games area. A comprehensive review was underway to assess how these facilities could be maintained in the future. As part of this review, it was important to consider the impact on the communities in which each of these play parks were located, as well as broader efforts to tackle anti-social behaviour and alleviate the effects of deprivation. Individual ward members would also be engaged in the review process.</p> | |
| Cooke | <p><u>Motion to Council</u> the council approved a motion last year to encourage and protect bee habitats within Alexandra Park. Would the Lead Member give an overview of the work that has been undertaken since the motion was approved?</p> <p>Councillor Davies advised that works had been undertaken in Alexandra Park to cultivate a wildflower meadow. Similar initiatives were also being considered for other green spaces around the town.</p> | Davies |
| Rankin | <p><u>Street Drinking</u> a number of residents have expressed concern at the level of street drinking taking place, particularly in the town centre. Will the lead member provide an update on what is being done to tackle this issue?</p> <p>Councillor Davies explained that the council had been working closely with its partner agencies, including the Police and East Sussex County Council, to address the issue of street drinking. The issue had also been identified as a high priority by the joint Hastings and Rother crime reduction partnership. He added that it was important to address both the anti-social effects of street drinking, but also the underlying cause of the issue. Residents were encouraged to report any issues they experience directly to the Police. An all-member briefing on efforts to tackle street drinking would be held in 2017.</p> | Davies |
| Charman | <p><u>Alcohol Enquiry</u> I attended a meeting recently with the lead member as part of a local alcohol enquiry. Would the lead member provide an overview of how the recommendations of the enquiry will be implemented?</p> <p>Councillor Davies commented that the enquiry had resulted in a number of recommendations around</p> | Davies |

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| | improved education and alcohol awareness which would be implemented in partnership with local schools. A mentoring scheme would also be set up to help young people who may be at risk of developing an unhealthy relationship with alcohol. The council was working in partnership with other local organisations, including the Clinical Commissioning Group, St Johns Ambulance and the Street Pastors to set up safe zones within the town. The council would also review its own policies in respect of licensing and the provision of taxi marshals in the town. Councillor Davies added that two members of the enquiry had been co-opted onto the Community Alcohol Partnership. | |
| Atkins | <u>Ecclesbourne Glen</u> a recent report by the Local Government Ombudsman had recommended improved communication in respect of planning and licensing issues at Ecclesbourne Glen. What will be done to implement these recommendations? The time allocated for questions from Councillors had expired at this point. A written response to this question would be supplied to Councillor Atkins by the Leader of the Council. | Chowney |

36. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Wincott proposed a motion, which was seconded by Councillor Roberts.

Councillor Clarke proposed an amendment to the motion, as set out in the resolution below, which was seconded by Councillor Edwards. The amendment was accepted by Councillor Wincott, as the proposer of the original motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that: -

This Council notes:

- 1. That the House of Lords has amended the Bus Services Bill passing through Parliament to remove Clause 21 that would effectively “prohibit a local authority from forming a company for the purposes of providing a local bus service”.**
- 2. That the Localism Act (2011) provides general powers of competence to local authorities.**
- 3. That municipal bus companies like Reading and Nottingham provide some of the best bus services in the country and have a successful track record of increasing bus passenger numbers and providing high quality**

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bus services.

4. That polling by We Own It found that a majority of the public (57%) oppose clause 21, whilst just 22% support it. The opposition to Clause 21 is consistent across voters from all political parties.

This Council believes:

1. If there is a need and a demand from their public, then Councils should be able to provide their own bus services.

2. Should they wish, councils should be legally able to follow the model developed by Reading and Nottingham.

3. Consequently we support Clause 21 being omitted from the Bus Services Bill.

This Council resolves:

1. To write to the Secretary of State Chris Grayling MP at the Department for Transport urging him to support the Lord's amendment and omit Clause 21 from the final legislation.

2. To write to Amber Rudd MP to express our opposition to clause 21 and ask her to write to Chris Grayling MP at the Department of Transport to raise concerns about Clause 21.

3. To work with any organisations such as We Own It to publicise our opposition to clause 21 in local media.

4. To investigate the possibility of Hastings Borough Council providing its own bus services by setting up a fact finding mission to Reading and Nottingham local authorities by the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition together

37. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Edwards proposed a motion, which was seconded by Councillor Clarke.

Councillor Poole proposed an amendment to the motion, which was seconded by Councillor Fitzgerald, as follows:

“Remove:

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This demonstrates yet again the success of the government's long term economic plan.

Replace with:

This success demonstrates how Hastings Borough Council, working alongside Town Centre Management, businesses in Hastings and the BID steering group has achieved a positive result for the town centre retailers, not only raising funds to improve the retail offer but also help give businesses a stronger, collective voice.”

The proposed amendment was approved by 23 votes for to 8 against with 1 abstention.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

This Council applauds the outcome of the recent Hastings Business Improvement District election when the business community voted to invest up to £1m of their own money over the next five years in the town centre.

This success demonstrates how Hastings Borough Council, working alongside Town Centre Management, businesses in Hastings and the BID steering group has achieved a positive result for the town centre retailers, not only raising funds to improve the retail offer but also help give businesses a stronger, collective voice

38. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Cooke proposed a motion, which was seconded by Councillor Patmore.

Councillor Forward proposed an amendment to the motion, as set out in the resolution below. The amendment was accepted by Councillor Cooke, as the proposer of the original motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

Hastings Borough Council recognises that 1 in 4 people will suffer from some form of mental illness in their lifetime and as a caring organisation will do all it can to help them through these difficult periods.

The council also notes the support mechanisms in place within it's organisation to support employees with mental health issues.

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The council further resolves to sign up to the Time to Change Employer Pledge to end mental health stigma which many companies and public bodies have already done to publicly show its commitment that in no way does it discriminate in the workplace against people who suffer from mental health issues and further to this demonstrate the same to those seeking employment with Hastings Borough Council.

39. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Patmore proposed a motion, which was seconded by Councillor Rankin as follows:

“On the 21st April 2016 it was the 90th birthday of our Queen, Elizabeth II of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Given that this is indeed a year to remember for our esteemed and much loved monarch and given the fact that we used to have a portrait of the Queen in the old council chamber, would Hastings Borough Council action and agree to have a portrait of the Queen reinstated in the new Council chamber at Aquila House.”

The proposed amendment was lost by 9 votes for to 10 against with 8 abstentions.

40. MOTION (RULE 14)

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

RESOLVED (by 24 votes for, to 8 against) that:

This council expresses its profound concerns about NHS Sustainability and Transformation Plans (STPs), and opposes them as currently formulated. We believe they will lead to cuts and further damaging privatisation of local health services, particularly for trusts that are in deficit, such as the Conquest Hospital Trust.

We strongly support the British Medical Association’s ‘five asks’ that:

- the plans need to be made public as soon as possible;
- all proposals within the plans need to be realistic and evidence based;
- proposals to close hospitals, and to consolidate services across an area, should only be considered where there is clear evidence that such changes maintain or improve the quality of care patients receive;
- there needs to be a commitment to full consultation with clinicians, patients and the public on any proposed changes as early as possible;

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- the plans need to be fully and properly funded;
- patient care, and not savings, needs to be the priority of each and every plan.

We also believe that district councils should be fully involved in the development of the plans, and call on the government to include district councils in design and implementation of the plans.

We further believe that the proposed 'footprint' for the Sussex and East Surrey STP is illogical. We believe all plans should be coterminous with county or unitary boundaries, to ensure better integration of health and social care.

We call on East Sussex County Council (ESCC) to reject the STP for Sussex and East Surrey unless the footprint is redesigned to be coterminous with county boundaries, and unless it clearly fulfils the BMA's 'five asks'.

We further instruct the leader of Hastings Council to write to Amber Rudd MP, Cllr Keith Glazier (Leader, ESCC), and the Secretary of State for Health to make them aware of our concerns.

41. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Lee proposed a motion regarding the membership of committees, as set out in the resolution below.

RESOLVED that the council adopt the following arrangements for the membership of committees: -

1. Councillor Beaver to be appointed as a member of Planning Committee, in place of Councillor Cooke

42. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

RESOLVED under rule 13.3 that the reports and minutes of committees set out in the agenda be received. Only those items which were reserved were discussed, as follows: -

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| Meeting | Minute | Councillor |
|--------------------------|---|------------|
| Cabinet, 7 November 2016 | 45 (C) – Council Tax Support Scheme | Lee |
| Cabinet, 7 November 2016 | 47 (C) – Treasury Management – Mid-Year Report 2016/17 | Rankin |
| Cabinet, 7 November 2016 | 44 - EU Funding Application Approval – New Visitor Centre at Hastings Country Park Nature Reserve | Westley |
| Cabinet, 7 November 2016 | 46 – Medium Term Financial Strategy | Cooke |
| Cabinet, 5 December 2016 | 52 – Petition in relation to Dog Control Orders and Public Space Protection Orders | Lee |
| Cabinet, 5 December 2016 | 53 – Hastings Local Plan – Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) Update | Cooke |
| Cabinet, 5 December 2016 | 54 – Financial and Legal Business Case for Local Housing Company | Patmore |

Minute number 45 of Cabinet on 7 November 2016 was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney moved approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Lee and agreed unanimously.

Minute number 47 of Cabinet on 7 November 2016 was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. Councillor Chowney moved approval of the minute, seconded by Councillor Street and agreed by 23 votes for, to 9 against.

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 Chair declared the meeting closed at. 9.32 pm)

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