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FULL COUNCIL

19 APRIL 2017

Present: The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Councillor Judy Rogers) in the Chair, Councillors Sinden, Batsford, Cartwright, Chowney, Clark, Cooke, Davies, Forward, Howard, Dowling, Poole, Roberts, Sabetian, Scott, Street, Turner, Webb, Westley, Wincott, Beaver, Charman (from 6.40pm), Lee, Fitzgerald, Beaney, Atkins (from 8.35pm), Edwards, Clarke, Dowling, Bacon, Patmore and Rankin

57. TO APPROVE AS A CORRECT RECORD THE MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 15 FEBRUARY 2017 AND THE BUDGET COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2017

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15 February 2017 and the Budget Council meeting held on 22 February 2017 be signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared their interest in the minutes indicated:

Councillor	Committee	Minute	Interest
Fitzgerald	Cabinet, 6 March 2017	78 – Potential Sports Village Development	Prejudicial – his partner works for the Education Futures Trust
Forward	Cabinet, 6 March 2017	78 – Potential Sports Village Development	Prejudicial – she is a Trustee of the Education Futures Trust
Rankin	Council, 19 April 2017	62 – Motion (Rule 14)	Personal – his son attends a local academy

59. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

The Mayor announced that the council would be trialling a new layout of the council chamber for Full Council. Any comments on the new layout from members were to be forwarded to the Mayor in the first instance.

60. QUESTIONS FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC UNDER RULE 11

A written question had been received from Mr C Hurrell regarding Ecclesbourne Glen. Councillor Chowney, the Leader of the Council, answered the question. Mr Hurrell

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had submitted a supplementary question by email, and the Leader of the Council would respond in writing.

61. QUESTIONS FROM 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 and Councillor	Subject	Reply Given By Councillor
Lee	<p><u>Change of Parking Arrangements</u> will the Leader of the Council agree to investigate changes to parking arrangements at Pelham Place car park? Charges in the car park have been extended from 6.00pm until 9.00pm and this has adversely affected volunteers working at St Mary in the Castle.</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the changes to the parking arrangements had been included as part of the budget proposals approved by Full Council in February. No comments had been made objecting to the proposals at the time the budget was set. He added that it would not be possible to reinstate the previous arrangements, without achieving savings elsewhere, which would affect council services.</p>	Chowney
Wincott	<p><u>Stade Saturdays</u> what events will be taking place in Hastings over the summer on Saturday evenings?</p> <p>Councillor Poole replied that the Stade Staurdays programme would begin again on Saturday, 3 June. The ambitious programme of events included live music, a jazz festival, circus acts and a range of other performances. The team had compiled the programme using very little funding from the council. A range of other events would also be taking place across the summer, in addition to the Stade Staurdays programme, including the Seafood and Wine Festival and Fish Fair.</p>	Poole
Patmore	<p><u>Rock-a-Nore Road</u> the car parking arrangements at Rock-a-Nore Road are chaotic and causing disruption to people using the car park. Will the Leader of the Council agree to work with all stakeholders to find a solution?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that work was already</p>	Chowney

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	<p>underway to find a solution to the delays on Rock-a-Nore Road. He explained that traffic management and dealing with illegally parked cars was primarily the responsibility of East Sussex County Council and the Police. Councillor Chowney had written to the District Commander regarding this matter and arranged for a site visit from a senior officer at East Sussex County Council.</p>	
Cooke	<p><u>Heritage Strategy</u> many aspects of the council's new Heritage Strategy are to be welcomed, but will the lead member provide an assurance that no parking spaces will be lost in the seafront car parks? Councillor Poole replied that there was no intention to remove any car parking spaces from the seafront car parks as a result of the new Heritage Strategy. She added that many of the seafront car parks were owned by the Foreshore Trust, not the council.</p>	Poole
Lee Clark	<p><u>Fresh Water Tap</u> in the response to a previous question, the Leader of the Council advised that a fresh water tap located at Harold Place public toilets would be relocated if the conveniences were closed. Now the toilets have been closed, will the Leader of the Council confirm where this well-used resource will be relocated to? Councillor Chowney confirmed that the tap could be relocated. He suggested that it may be possible to site the tap on Highways land, with a smart meter.</p>	Chowney
Street	<p><u>Hastings Country Park Visitor Centre</u> following the excellent news of a successful external funding bid to support the development of a new visitor centre at Hastings Country Park, will the lead member advise of the timescale for the works? Councillor Fitzgerald said that was an excellent example of partnership working between the council and Groundwork South, learning from the project would also be shared with other authorities and partners. Funding of £1.5 million had been secured via EU Interreg and National Heritage Grant to develop a suitable visitor and interpretive centre at Hastings Country Park. The new building would be sympathetic to the surrounding countryside and around 40 volunteers would be involved in the construction project. Local school and nursery children would also be involved in developing the interpretive facilities. The project</p>	Fitzgerald

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	<p>also included additional pathways through the park. Councillor Fitzgerald paid tribute to the work of Councillor Davies and Poole, the previous portfolio holders and the council's Environment and Natural Resources Manager. He added the project highlighted the council's commitment to effective stewardship of the country park.</p>	
Rankin	<p><u>Council Budget</u> the council's budget expenditure is listed as £15,000,000. However, actual expenditure on the town is likely to be in the region of £30,000,000, can the Leader of the Council explain this?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney explained that the difference between the council's actual expenditure and the figures reported in the budget was due to the requirements for the accounting of public money. Income from grants, fees and charges and rates are used to offset the cost of services. The council complied with the guidelines set out by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. Councillor Chowney commented that these guidelines may need to be revised as councils generate more income for themselves and are less reliant on funding from central government.</p>	Chowney
Batsford	<p><u>Street Cleansing</u> how are the arrangements for street cleansing likely to change at the end of the present contract?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald said that the joint waste partnership authorities had recently agreed an early mutual termination of the current waste and street cleansing contract in June 2019. The council will continue to work with its contractor for the remainder of the contract to ensure high standards for waste collection and street cleansing are maintained. Consideration is already being given to a variety of options for street cleansing, bulky waste collection and fly tipping, after the existing contact has come to an end. Councillor Fitzgerald thanked the previous portfolio holder, Councillor Davies, for his work on this matter.</p>	Fitzgerald
Martin Clarke	<p><u>Hastings Embroidery</u> the Hastings Embroidery, which was made in 1965, is currently in storage and not available for the public to view. How much is the cost of storage to the council and how can the tapestry be made available for the public to enjoy?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney replied that the cost of storing the tapestry was £1,800 per year. The tapestry</p>	Chowney

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	<p>had originally been displayed in the Sussex Room at the White Rock Theatre, however, it had been placed in storage after concerns that its condition was deteriorating. Two panels of the tapestry are currently on display in the Town Hall, but the council would be keen to find a venue to display the entire piece. Discussion has taken place with a number of potential venues in the past, but unfortunately none had been able to accommodate the piece. However, the council would still be willing to explore potential alternative options in the future.</p>	
Atkins	<p><u>Missed Brown Bin Collections</u> a number of residents in Conquest ward have reported repeated missed collections of their brown bins. What is being done to address this? Councillor Fitzgerald said that this matter had recently been brought to his attention. He agreed to contact officers for advice and respond in writing to Councillor Atkins' question.</p>	Fitzgerald
Bacon	<p><u>Coastal Communities Fund</u> it is excellent news that the council's recent bid to the Coast Communities Fund (CCF) was successful. How will the funding be spent? Councillor Poole welcomed the news that the council's bid for CCF had been successful. She explained that funding would be used for a range of improvements on the seafront, including the refurbishment of the dis-used fountain at White Rock. A new project would also take place the Source, based on the theme of the Battle of Hastings. Funding had also been allocated to develop a community space at Rock House and in the alley way at the side of the building. The funding could support up to 180 local jobs and introduce 12 new events to the town.</p>	Poole

62. MOTION (RULE 14)

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

RESOLVED (by 24 votes for, to 0 against, with 8 abstentions) that:

This council notes that the Government's promise to maintain school funding per pupil in cash terms during this Parliament will lead to real-

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terms cuts in school budgets. The impact of inflation and extra costs such as higher employer National Insurance and pension contributions means that the actual value of funding per pupil in real terms will fall by as much as 8 per cent or more. The National Audit Office has said that, as a result, schools will have to make £3 billion in cuts by 2020. The House of Commons Public Accounts Committee agrees.

According to calculations published recently, in East Sussex this would mean budget cuts totalling £22 million, an average of £311 per pupil, the equivalent of 590 teachers. In Hastings, it would mean cuts averaging £360,000 for each secondary, equivalent to £389 per pupil or the loss of 10 teachers and £90,000 for each primary, equivalent to £248 per pupil or 3 teachers.

The council calls on the Government to put extra money into education to protect schools and colleges against real terms cuts per pupil and compensate them for additional costs created by Government policy such as increased employer National Insurance and pension contributions. We further call on the Government to conduct an urgent, independent, objective, comprehensive and transparent assessment of the resources needed by our schools and colleges that is unconstrained by the current inadequate funding envelope.

The council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Education, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Amber Rudd MP to express these views and also to share them with other interested parties to include local media, schools, teachers' associations and school governors.

63. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Webb proposed an amended motion, as set out in the resolution.

The amendment reflected that Full Council would call upon the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approach the Post Office as to the reasons for the closure.

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The council would call upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Government Minister for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) and the Chief Executive of the Post Office.

Councillor Lee seconded the amended motion.

RESOLVED (unanimously) that:

This council condemns the closure of St Leonards Crown Post Office and the decision of the Post Office to downgrade the status and service of the St Leonards Crown Post Office by attempting to franchise it into retail business. We are also concerned that for branches where the Post Office cannot find a franchise partner, it is now seeking to introduce the scaled back Post Office Locals service in its place. The council notes the opposition to these proposals by the residents of St Leonards and Hastings and believes that this proposal would lead to:

- **The downgrading of vital services to the community.**
- **The loss of dedicated highly skilled knowledgeable workers.**
- **A detrimental impact on local businesses and the local economy in St Leonards.**

We call upon the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the new municipal year to instigate the scrutiny committee to approach the Post Office for full details as to the reasons for the closure of the St Leonards Crown Post Office with a view to developing a proposal to keep the current Crown Office open.

We call upon the Leader of the Council to:

- **Write to Margot James, Government Minister BEIS with responsibility for Post Offices, to raise our concerns about the potential franchise of the St Leonards Crown Post Office.**
- **Write to the Chief Executive of the Post Office, Paula Vennells, requesting that the Post Office reverse its decision, by protecting and investing in our cherished St Leonards Crown Post Office.**

The terms of this motion will be sent to the local press.

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64. MOTION (RULE 14)

Councillor Edwards proposed a motion, seconded by Councillor Martin Clarke, that the council notes the absence of any public conveniences in the immediate town centre where there is an established demand from amongst many others, the elderly and disabled and, recognising its civic responsibility, will seek to make such a vital facility available at the earliest possible date.

During the debate, Councillor Wincott proposed a procedural motion, seconded by Councillor Street, that the council proceed to the next business.

RESOLVED (by 23 votes, to 9 against, with 0 abstentions) that the council proceed to the next business.

A vote then took place on the motion proposed by Councillor Edwards. The proposed motion was lost by 9 votes in favour to 22 against, with 1 abstention.

65. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Councillor Chowney announced that Councillor Davies had resigned from Cabinet. Councillor Chowney thanked Councillor Davies for his efforts during his time as Lead Member for Environment and Place.

Councillor Chowney 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 Fitzgerald be appointed as Lead Member for Environment and Place, and;
2. Councillor Beaney be appointed as Chair of Charity Committee, in place of Councillor Fitzgerald

66. 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, 6 March 2017	78 – Potential Sports Village Development	Beaver
Cabinet, 6 March 2017	80 – Public Space Protection Order for Hastings	Westley
Cabinet, 6 March 2017	81 – Improving the Hastings Street Scene	Lee
Cabinet, 3 April 2017	84 – 12/13 York Buildings	Patmore
Cabinet, 3 April 2017	88 (E) – 12/13 York Buildings	Patmore

Councillors Forward and Fitzgerald, having declared a prejudicial interest in minute 78 of Cabinet on 6 March 2017, Potential Sports Village Development, left the chamber during the debate on this item.

Minute number 88 of Cabinet on 3 April 2017 was an exempt item. When this minute was reached, Councillor Street proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, seconded by Councillor Lee, and unanimously agreed as follows:

RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minute number 88 of the Cabinet meeting held on 3 April 2017, 12/13 York Buildings, 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. 9.30 pm)

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