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FULL COUNCIL

24 APRIL 2019

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

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were noted for Councillor Scott

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

53.1 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 13th February 2019 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

53.2 **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Budget Full Council meeting held on 20th February 2019 be approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record of the proceedings.

54. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Councillors declared an interest in the minutes:

| Councillors | Committee | Minutes | Interest |
|-------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Lee | Cabinet – 4th March 2019 | 158 – Site at West Marina | Prejudicial – Knows the proposed developers |
| S Beaney | Cabinet – 4th March 2019 | 158 – Site at West Marina | Prejudicial – Hastings older women's community housing |
| Forward | Cabinet – 4th March 2019 | 158 – Site at West Marina | Personal – has a beach hut at West Marina |

55. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR AND LEADER

There were no announcements made by the Mayor.

The Leader of the Council announced the appointment of Councillor Maya Evans as the Council's Climate Change Champion.

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56. QUESTIONS (IF ANY) FROM:

56.1 Members of the public under rule 11

A written question was received from Ms Sherry Clark regarding how the Council can mobilise local residents to help achieve the Council's carbon reduction targets.

Councillor Chowney's written response was that the biggest contribution to tackling climate change will be the actions of individuals; driving less, walking and cycling more, avoiding air travel and single use plastics. The Council will be looking at ways to encourage people to commit to these actions.

A written question was received from Chris Saunders regarding Hastings Borough Council's position on applications for fracking within the Borough.

Councillor Chowney's written response was that the Council agreed to ban fracking on Council owned land some years ago. Any fracking application would be dealt with by East Sussex County Council (ESCC) as the Mineral and Waste Authority. Hastings Borough Council would oppose any application for fracking within the Borough, although such an application is unlikely as the geological conditions in Hastings don't support shale gas or other kinds of fossil fuel deposits.

Neither questioner was in attendance to ask a supplementary question.

56.2 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 | Subject | Reply given by |
|---------------------|---|-----------------------|
| Councillor Lee | <p><u>Harold Place public toilets</u> – It has been over a year since the public toilets at Harold Place were demolished. Can the Leader provide an update on the situation at this site?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that the Council had put in an application to the Coastal Community Fund to develop the site but this wasn't successful. The site has been on the market for some time and there has not been a lot interest recently. The Council are looking at other possibilities for the site.</p> | Councillor Chowney |
| Councillor Sabetian | <p><u>Local Elections</u> – In view of the current disorder in the Conservative party nationally how does the Leader view the outcome of the elections in Rother and their impact on Hastings?</p> | Councillor Chowney |

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| | <p>Councillor Chowney responded that Hastings would like to do more in partnership with Rother. A change in leadership or philosophy could introduce more opportunities for partnership working.</p> | |
| <p>Councillor K Beaney</p> | <p><u>Bexhill Road development</u> - Residents have noticed that there is not a lot of work on the Aldi development on Bexhill Road. Does the Leader have an update and will there be any cost implications for the Council if there is a delay?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that to his knowledge there are no delays to the development.</p> | <p>Councillor Chowney</p> |
| <p>Councillor Bishop</p> | <p><u>Hastings Country Park</u> - Can you provide an update on the Hastings Country Park visitor centre and whether the bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund was successful?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald responded that specialist straw build companies are in place and construction is anticipated to begin in late May. The Council has been successful in the National Lottery Heritage Fund bid. This grant will allow the Council to get school children and other groups up to the site to take part in heritage projects.</p> | <p>Councillor Fitzgerald</p> |
| <p>Councillor Edwards</p> | <p><u>Hastings Country Park</u> – The Country Park Management Forum meeting on 4th March didn't take place, on the agenda was a visit to the potential site of the ground mounted solar array. Can an alternative date be arranged?</p> <p>Councillor Fitzgerald confirmed a visit to the site will go ahead at the next scheduled meeting, if colleagues can't attend they can send substitutes. A date will also be arranged for all Councillors to attend the site with officers.</p> | <p>Councillor Fitzgerald</p> |
| <p>Councillor Barnett</p> | <p><u>Seaside regeneration</u> – The House of Lords Regenerating Seaside Towns Committee published a report this month. What relevance does this report have to Hastings and how could the recommendations benefit</p> | <p>Councillor Chowney</p> |

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| | <p>the Borough?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that Hastings is mentioned in the report which outlines concerns around transport, educational attainment and employment opportunities for seaside towns. The report does recognise the way funding is offered to seaside towns is not sustainable.</p> | |
| Councillor Patmore | <p><u>Litter in town</u> – There was a lot of litter in town over the Easter weekend, can the Leader provide an update on the DSO, and when it will start?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that pictures of Bournemouth and Brighton over the Easter weekend were much worse than Hastings, but there is always more we can do. The new DSO will start in June and we will have more control over the service and more people working.</p> | Councillor Chowney |
| Councillor Turner | <p><u>Personal Independence Payments</u> – Research studies have criticised the Department for Work and Pensions handling of Personal Independence Payments. What does the Leader think about this and will he write to the Secretary of State to say this is not good enough?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney confirmed he would be happy to write to the Secretary of State about Personal Independence Payments. There are a lot of case studies on this done by Sussex CAB's.</p> | Councillor Chowney |
| Councillor O'Callaghan | <p><u>Section 21 notices</u> – One of my residents recently had a Section 21 notice to quit their property. They have been moved to Eastbourne. Can the Council intervene, and what support can the Council provide?</p> <p>Councillor Batsford replied that no fault Section 21 notices are becoming a national crisis. 27% of homelessness cases in the Borough are due to no fault Section 21 notices. The Government consultation on this issue is welcome. Scotland and Wales have</p> | Councillor Batsford |

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| | already banned Section 21. A motion will be brought to Full Council in July on this issue. | |
| Councillor Rankin | <p><u>Hastings Housing Company</u> – Could the Leader give an update on Hastings Housing Company (HHC) and specifically how many units does HHC own?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney confirmed that the Council is mainly buying houses directly in order to reduce the spend on B&B's. The most effective way to purchases houses currently is to buy directly and use them as temporary accommodation. It is estimated this will save £300,000 net this year.</p> <p>Should the homelessness crisis diminish we could transfer units to Hastings Housing Company. There are a total of 16 units owned by Hastings Housing Company and 8 units acquired directly by the Council. A further 9 units are currently under offer.</p> | Councillor Chowney |
| Councillor Webb | <p><u>Brexit</u> - Does the Leader share my worries that Government confusion and resources directed to Brexit are harming the Borough?</p> <p>Councillor Chowney responded that commercial property lettings have slowed and this may be due to uncertainty around Brexit. There is a lot of Brexit planning across East Sussex. Uncertainty is a worry and it is affecting businesses in Hastings.</p> | Councillor Chowney |

MOTION (RULE 14)

No motions to Council were received.

58. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

There were no proposed amendments to the membership of any committees.

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59. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

| Meeting | Minute | Councillor |
|-------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| Cabinet, 4 th March 2019 | 158 - Site at West Marina | Beaver |
| Cabinet, 4 th March 2019 | 159 (C) - Animal Welfare licensing policy | Rankin |
| Cabinet, 4 th March 2019 | 163 - Insurance and cash collections contracts | Lee |
| Cabinet, 4 th March 2019 | 164 – Development opportunities on Churchfields estate | Evans |
| Cabinet, 4 th March 2019 | 165 (E) – Development opportunities on Churchfields estate (part 2 report) | Lee |
| Cabinet, 8 th April 2019 | 170 - Rough sleeping update | Roberts |
| Cabinet, 8 th April 2019 | 173a – Temporary accommodation update | Levane |
| Cabinet, 8 th April 2019 | 173b (E) - Commercial property purchases | Lee |

Minute 159 of Cabinet on 4th March 2019, Animal Welfare Licensing Policy, was a matter on which the Council was required to make a decision. The recommendations were proposed by Councillor Fitzgerald, seconded by Councillor Turner and agreed unanimously.

Councillors debated minutes 158, 163, 164 and 165 of Cabinet on 4th March 2019 and minutes 170, 173a and 173b of Cabinet on 8th April 2019. These matters did not require approval of Full Council.

Councillors S Beaney and Lee, having declared a prejudicial interest in minute 158 of Cabinet on 4th March 2019, Site at West Marina, left the Council Chamber during debate on this item.

Minute number 165 of Cabinet on 4th March 2019 and minute number 173b of Cabinet on 8th April 2019 were exempt items. When debate moved to these items Councillor Beaver proposed a motion for the exclusion of the public from the meeting, seconded by Councillor Roberts.

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RESOLVED that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of minute 165 of Cabinet on 4th March 2019, Development Opportunities on Churchfields Estate (Part 2) and minute number 173b of Cabinet on 8th April 2019, Commercial Property Purchases, 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 reports.

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 7.31pm)

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