
EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2009 at 10.00 am.

Present Councillors Barnes, Bentley, Birch, Daniel, Dowling, Elkin, Ensor, Field, Forster, Freeman, Garvican, Glazier, Gubby, Harris, Healy, Howson, Jones, Kirby, Kramer, Lacey OBE (Chairman of the County Council), Livings, Lock, Maynard, Murphy, O'Keeffe, Ost, Reid, Rogers OBE, Scott, Shing, Simmons, Sparks, Stogdon, St Pierre, Stroude, Taylor, Thomas, Tidy, Mrs Tidy, Tunwell, Tutt, Waite, Webb, Whetstone, Wilson and Woodall.

47 Minutes of Last Meeting

47.1 RESOLVED - to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 9 December 2008 as a correct record.

48 Apologies for absence

48.1 Apologies were received from Councillors Martin and Skilton MBE.

49 Chairman's Business

FORMER-COUNCILLOR HARRY PAYNE

49.1 Members of the Council stood as a remark of respect following the recent death of former Councillor Harry Payne at the age of 98. Mr Payne had been a County Councillor representing Salehurst between 1977 and 1982

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

49.2 The Chairman thanked all members of staff for maintaining services during the adverse weather that had occurred in the previous week.

WEBSITE ACCREDITATION

49.3 The Royal National Institute for the Blind combined with AbilityNet had recently conducted an audit of our website in conjunction with users with disabilities and had given the site the 'See it Right' and Useability' accreditation. The Chairman welcomed the accreditation and congratulated all staff involved.

TIDEWAY SCHOOL

49.4 In April 2005, Tideway School in Newhaven had been subject to an arson attack and large parts of the school had burnt down. The Chairman announced that the school would be ready for occupation on the 23 February as scheduled. On behalf of the Council, he thanked officers and the staff and governors of the school who had all worked as a team to secure this great achievement.

COUNCILLOR JOHN GARVICAN

49.5 The Chairman highlighted the work that Councillor John Garvican and his family had done with the East Sussex based charity 'The Quicken Trust' working in Uganda. At the

MINUTES

end of last year, Councillor Garvican had visited Uganda as a volunteer worker in a village called Kabubbu just north of Kampala.

COUNCILLOR STEPHEN SHING

49.6 The Chairman congratulated Councillor Shing on his recent invitation to become an honorary member of the 48 Group Club. The Club was an independent business network committed to promoting positive links with China.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

49.7 The Chairman listed some of the visits that he had made since the Council last met. These had included a number of Christmas events including the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards at Herstmonceux Castle, the Chairman's Christmas Civic Reception at the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill and the traditional annual carol service at County Hall. He had also attended the Chinese New Year celebrations in Eastbourne on the 1 February. The Chairman had also continued his visits to East Sussex schools including William Parker in Hastings and West Rise Junior School in Eastbourne.

PRAYERS BEFORE COUNCIL MEETINGS

49.8 The Chairman thanked Major Squirrell of the Salvation Army in Eastbourne for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

PETITIONS

49.9 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting he had received petitions from members as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Councillors Bentley and Thomas | - Calling upon the County Council to introduce a number of restrictions on Wartling Road in the interests of safety and in order to maintain the country nature of the location. |
| Councillor Daniel | - Calling upon the County Council to replace immediately the inappropriate modern street lighting in Wellington Square, Hastings with more traditional fittings of an appropriate design, height and colour. |
| Councillor O'Keeffe | - Calling upon the County Council to put a double yellow line on the left hand side of the spur of Montacute Road as it approaches the Brighton Road in order to make this entrance to the Barons Downs area safe for emergency vehicles and to increase the safety of road users approaching and negotiating the junction with the main road. |
| Councillor Stroude | - Whilst welcoming the introduction of a 30 mph speed limit through Wivelsfield Green, the petitioners object to the proposed traffic speed reduction measures. |
| Councillor Tutt | - Calling upon the County Council to remove the single yellow line in Willingdon Road so that residents can legally and safely park outside their own homes. |

MINUTES

- Councillor Tutt - Calling upon the County Council to retain the school crossing patrol officer who serves both Roselands and Stafford Schools at St. Philips Avenue.

50 Questions from Members of the Public

50.1 No questions had been received from members of the public.

51 REPORTS

INTERESTS

51.1 The following members declared personal interests in the paragraphs indicated:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Freeman	Member of Cuckmere Valley Partnership	7	No
Councillor Lock	Member of the South Downs Joint Committee	7	No

CALLOVER

51.2 The Chairman of the County Council, having called over the reports set out in the agenda, reserved the following paragraphs for discussion:

Cabinet	- paragraphs 1 and 2
Children's services Scrutiny Committee	- paragraph 1
Sussex Police Authority	- paragraph 4
Sussex Fire Authority (15 January 2009)	- paragraph 2

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

51.3 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council ADOPTED those paragraphs in the reports of the Committees that had not been reserved for discussion.

52 CABINET REPORT – RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

52.1 Under Standing Order 23, the Council agreed that the speeches of the Leaders of the three political groups (or their nominees) on paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report should be extended beyond five minutes.

52.2 The following amendment moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded was LOST:

Delete paragraph 1.7(3) and replace with the following:

1.7(3) Approve the revenue budget estimates for 2009/10 as set out in Annex C of the commentary on the Revenue Budget circulated to all members (Appendix 2), which includes the use of budget flexibility set out in Annex C1, but with the following changes:

MINUTES

(i) add an additional £800,000 of base funding to Children's Services Department to make the total risk provision for 'Baby P affects' all ongoing. This to be financed by base reductions in the relevant budgets for:

- Training (£600,000);
- Attendance and expenses associated with conferences (£100,000);
- Subscriptions and publications (£100,000).

(ii) allocate the £800,000 of one off monies now released to one off additions for pavement repairs (£400,000) and road repairs (£400,000).

(iii) add a further £200,000 of base funding for additional respite care services under Adult Social Care, and to finance this by a base reduction of £200,000 in the communications budget.

(iv) allocate the recently announced LABGI award of £173,000 as one off grants to voluntary organisations who are assisting victims of the current economic climate;

(v) allocate an additional one off sum of £16,700 as further pump priming monies for the East Sussex and Brighton Credit Union financed by the assumption that all members will choose not to take the inflationary increase otherwise in the budget for Members allowances in 2009/10.

Insert new paragraph 1.7(7) as follows:

1.7(7) To request the Cabinet to conduct an urgent review of all S106 funds, and to report back to the Council, with a view to releasing these for the benefit of the community and the stimulate a renewal of the construction industry during the current recession.

52.3 The following amendment moved by Councillor Birch and seconded was LOST:

Delete paragraph 1.7(3) and replace with the following:

1.7(3) Approve the revenue budget estimates for 2009/10 as set out in Annex C of the commentary on the Revenue Budget circulated to all members (Appendix 2), which includes the use of budget flexibility set out in Annex C1, but with the following changes:

(i) delete the high impact savings shown in relation to Children's (£145,000) and Transport and Environment (£65,000) and finance these changes by a permanent reduction in the annual contribution to the redundancy reserve of £210,000.

(ii) add a further £173,000 of one-off spending on street lighting and finance this by the use of the recently awarded £173,000 of LABGI grant.

52.4 The following motion moved by Councillor Reid, duly amended and seconded, to adopt paragraph 1 of the cabinet report was CARRIED:

1.7(1) Approve the Capital Programme in relation to schemes in progress or about to start and those to start in 2009/10 and 2010/11 and to note the schemes provisionally included in the capital Programme in future years as set out in Annex D of Appendix 1;

1.7(2) note the prudential indicators as set out in Annex E of Appendix 1;

MINUTES

1.7(3) Approve the revenue budget estimates for 2009/10 as set out in Annex C of the commentary on the Revenue Budget circulated to all members (Appendix 2), which includes the use of budget flexibility set out in Annex C1, but with the following changes:

(i) add, on a one off basis, an additional £100,000 for 'County Transport Initiatives' and an additional £73,000 for 'Activities for Young People'. This should be financed by the recently announced LABGI grant of £173,000.

1.7(4) in accordance with the Local Government Finance Act 1992 to agree that:

(i) the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as its net budget requirement for the year 2009/10 is £327,984,000;

(ii) the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as the basic amount of its council tax (ie for a band D property) for the year 2009/10 is £1,127.49 and represents a 3.5% increase on the previous year;

1.7(5) the borough and district councils be advised of the relevant amounts payable and council tax in other bands in line with the Regulations, and as set out in Annex C2 of Appendix 2, and to issue precepts accordingly; and

1.7(6) to note the medium term challenge and task as outlined in Annex G1 of Appendix 2

53 CABINET REPORT – RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

53.1 Councillor Jones moved the reserved paragraphs of the Cabinet's report.

53.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate.

54 CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESERVED PARAGRAPH

54.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking this with paragraph 2 of the Cabinet's report

54.2 Councillor Maynard moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report.

54.3 Councillor Elkin moved the adoption of paragraph 2 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED.

54.4 The motion to adopt paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

MINUTES

55 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

55.1 The following members asked questions of the Lead Cabinet Members indicated and they responded:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Ost	Councillor Lock	Implications of the Pitt report and impact on the reduced risk of flooding
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Lock	Proposals for the Lewes-Uckfield railway line
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Lock	Levels and use of salt stocks in East Sussex for the rest of the winter
Councillor Kramer	Councillor Elkin	Changes to the arrangements for appointment of supply teachers
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Lock	Co-ordination of road gritting and street cleaning between the County Council and District and Borough Authorities
Councillor Thomas	Councillor Lock	Delay in introduction of the 'Flood and Water Bill'
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Lock	Responsibility for clearing road-side ditches
Councillor Harris	Councillor Lock	Road safety schemes in Larkspur Drive, Eastbourne
Councillor Freeman	Councillor Lock	ESCC involvement in the planned maintenance of the Cuckmere estuary
Councillor Shing	Councillor Tidy	Remote access to the Council's ICT systems for staff during the bad weather
Councillor Shing	Councillor Elkin	Closure of schools during bad weather and the availability of alternative childcare arrangements
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Lock	Amacom project carried out by the University of Brighton relating to E-Coli and bacterial infestation of rivers and beaches
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Lock	Council action to require landowners to clear road-side ditches
Councillor O'Keeffe	Councillor Lock	Parish and Town Council funding to support requests for road safety schemes
Councillor Howson	Councillor Lock	Completion of the Brighton and Hove element of the A259 bus corridor

MINUTES

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Freeman	Councillor Lock	Timetable for the decision regarding the establishment of the South Downs National Park
Councillor Harris	Councillor Elkin	School requests for voluntary contributions paid towards free swimming lessons
Councillor Livings	Councillor Lock	Use of the A259 bus corridor during non-peak hours
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Lock	Repairs to damage to the Forest Way country path.
Councillor Shing	Councillor Lock	Review of potholes in Eastbourne and the agency agreement with Eastbourne Borough Council to manage repairs

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

55.2 Written questions were received from Councillor Tutt for the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development; Councillor Rogers for the Lead Member for Community Services; Councillor Freeman and Tutt for the Lead Member for Corporate Resources; Councillor Sparks for the Lead Member for Learning and School effectiveness; Councillors Barnes and Tutt for the Lead Member for Transport and Environment and Councillors Rogers and Tutt for the Lead Member for Children's and Adults' Services. The answers are included in the minute book.

55.3 The Lead Members responded to supplementary questions by the questioners for the purpose of clarification.

56 Report of the Sussex Police Authority

56.1 Members commented on paragraph 4 of the Sussex Police Authority's report and Councillor Jones, the nominated spokesperson for the Sussex Police Authority, responded.

57 Report of the East Sussex Fire Authority

57.1 Members commented on paragraph 2 of the East Sussex Fire Authority's report of the 15 January 2009 and Councillor Murphy, the nominated spokesperson for the East Sussex Fire Authority, responded.

58 NOTICES OF MOTION

58.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor Tutt –

Sustainable Communities Act

East Sussex County Council

(i) supports the bottom up process in the Sustainable Communities Act, designed to allow local authorities and their communities to drive the action and assistance that central government gives in promoting thriving, sustainable communities

MINUTES

(ii) notes that the Act gives local authorities the power to

- make proposals to government on the action and assistance government must take or give to promote sustainable communities, and that
- those proposals can be for a transfer of public money and function from central to local control;

(iii) notes that the Act defines sustainable communities broadly, including

- the improvement of the local economy
- protection of the environment
- promotion of social inclusion and
- participation in civic and political activity

(iv) notes that reasons for a local authority choosing to use the Act include gaining new assistance from government, determining that assistance, transferring public monies from central to local control and involving citizens in democracy

(v) resolves to use the Act by preparing and submitting proposals on how central government can help by 31st July 2009 and

(vi) further resolves to inform all East Sussex MPs and the local media of this decision

58.2 The following amendment, moved by Councillor Tidy and seconded by Councillor Murphy was CARRIED –

to delete points (v) and (vi) and to replace them with:

(v) resolves to consider with local authorities in the County and with the ESSP, whether there are any proposals it would wish to make under the Act, once local spending plans are published and a complete business case can be established.

58.3 The following motion was moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded by Councillor Ost –

New Nuclear Facilities at Dungeness

East Sussex County Council notes that British Energy intends to nominate the Dungeness site, close to the county's border with Kent, under the Government's Strategic Siting Assessment for new nuclear facilities. The council does not believe that there should be a "next generation" of nuclear power stations built in this country, at Dungeness or elsewhere, given that safety and long-term waste storage issues remain unresolved.

58.4 The following amendment, moved by Councillor Tunwell and seconded by Councillor Maynard was CARRIED –

to delete all words after 'facilities' and substitute:

MINUTES

'The Council believes that should there be a "next generation" of nuclear power stations built in this country, at Dungeness or anywhere, Government must first ensure that all issues relating to safety and long term waste storage are fully resolved.'

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 13.40pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book