

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 18 MAY 2010 at 10.00 am.

Present Councillors Barnes, Belsey, Bennett, Bentley, Birch, Daniel, Dowling, Elkin, Ensor, Fawthrop, Field, Freebody, Freeman, Gadd, Glazier, Harris, Healy, Heaps, Howson, Hughes, Jones, Kenward, Lambert, Livings, Lock, Maynard, O'Keeffe, Ost, Pragnell, Reid, Rodohan, Rogers OBE, Scott, D Shing, S Shing, Simmons, Sparks, Stogdon, St Pierre, Stroude, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Tidy, Mrs Tidy, Tutt, Waite, Webb and Whetstone.

1 Minutes of Last Meeting

1.1 RESOLVED - to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 30 March 2010 as a correct record.

2 Election of Chairman

Councillor Dowling (Vice-Chairman of the County Council) in the Chair.

2.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Jones and SECONDED –

‘To elect Councillor Simmons to serve as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year’.

2.2 In moving his motion, Councillor Jones paid tribute to the excellent work that Councillor Simmons had undertaken during his year as Chairman of the County Council.

2.3 There being no other nominations, the Chairman put the motion to the vote and declared Councillor Simmons elected as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year. Councillor Simmons made a declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

Councillor Simmons in the Chair.

2.4 The Chairman thanked the Council for electing him as Chairman and set out his priorities for the coming year.

3 Appointment of Vice Chairman

3.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Jones and SECONDED –

‘to appoint Councillor Dowling to serve as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year’.

3.2 There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Councillor Dowling appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council and Councillor Dowling made a declaration of office and took his seat as Vice Chairman

3.3 Councillor Dowling thanked the Council for appointing him to this position

MINUTES

4 Minutes of last meeting

4.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 30 March 2010 as a correct record.

5 Chairman's Business

MICHAEL TUNWELL

5.1 The Chairman and other members paid tribute to one of the most respected former Councillors, Michael Tunwell following his death on 20 April 2010. Michael Tunwell had been a highly respected and very experienced councillor serving on the County Council from 1975 to 2009 when he stood down and on Eastbourne Borough Council for 24 years. Michael held a number of senior positions including Chairman of the County Council, Mayor of Eastbourne Borough and on a number of committees and Panels including the County Council's Planning Committee. The Chairman stated that all would remember with great fondness Michael's enthusiasm, knowledge, humour, diligence and wisdom. On behalf of the County Council, the Chairman sent best wishes to Michael's wife, Joan and all his family.

5.2 The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague Michael Tunwell.

WELCOMES

5.3 The Chairman welcomed Becky Shaw to her first County Council meeting as Chief Executive, Bill Murphy who recently took up post of interim Director of Governance and Community Services for a six month period, Philip Baker the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services and lastly, welcomed back Councillor Bob Tidy following his recent poor health.

HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

5.4 The Chairman wished Mary Clarke a speedy recovery following her recent operation.

RECENT ELECTIONS

5.5 The Chairman congratulated those MPs elected in East Sussex at the recent General Election. In particular, he congratulated Charles Hendry and Gregory Barker (who had been appointed as Ministers of State with the Department for Energy and Climate Change) and Norman Baker (appointed as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State with the Department for Transport). The Chairman congratulated Councillors Birch, Daniel and Waite who were re-elected in the recent Hastings Borough Council elections.

MINUTES

EMBRACE LIFE ADVERT

5.6 The Chairman congratulated all involved in the Embrace Life advert that had recently featured in Your County and was a finalist in the New York International Advertising Awards.

CHARTER FOR MEMBER DEVELOPMENT

5.7 The Chairman announced that following the assessment on 17 May 2010, the Council had been awarded the Charter for Member Development for a further three years.

THE KEEP

5.8 The Chairman announced that public consultation was being undertaken in relation to the design of the new historical resource centre for East Sussex and Brighton & Hove. The Chairman encouraged all members to view the exhibition at the top of the staircase and talk to members of the project team.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

5.8 The Chairman highlighted some of the visits he had attended and hosted since the last meeting including: the opening of Peacehaven Skate Park, the exhibition opening at Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, Mayor Making Ceremonies at Winchelsea, Rye, and Lewes, a 'Build East Sussex event at Brighton Racecourse, the Youth Offending Team's Exhibition Launch 'Wish you could hear...' at the Towner Art Gallery, Eastbourne, along with many colleagues had attended Michael Tunwell's funeral at Eastbourne, the University of Brighton inaugural Lecture by Professor of Fine Arts Matthew Cornford, Cheryl Miller's retirement party at Lewes Town Hall and attended Sedlescombe Primary School Film launch dealing with the vulnerable transition to Secondary School. Together with Deputy Lieutenant Debbie Scott of Tomorrow's People the Chairman visited the Young Pioneers charity in Rother and the YMCA's Inner Journey project in Eastbourne. The Chairman indicated that he had addressed Citizenship Ceremonies at Eastbourne Town Hall & Bexhill High School and attended a Royal visit by HRH The Princess Royal to Sussex Police's Detainee Handling Centre, Eastbourne and had attended a Royal visit by HRH Princess Alexandra to St George's Retirement Village Care Homes, Ditchling. The Chairman reported that he had hosted a lunch for retiring and new High Sheriffs, a Farewell Reception for Cheryl Miller at Pelham House, a Long Service Awards ceremony in Westfield House for East Sussex Association for the Blind Volunteers and presented Awards at East Sussex Sports County Awards at the Winter Gardens in Eastbourne and Uckfield Civic centre. The Vice Chairman had attended an Army Presentation Team event at White Rock Theatre, Hastings, an Art exhibition at Rocks Park Primary School, Uckfield and the Mayor of Eastbourne's Farewell Reception and had also attended a number of events with the Chairman.

PRAYERS

5.9 The Chairman thanked the Archdeacon the Very Revd Jones for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

MINUTES

PETITIONS

5.10 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting he had received a petition from members as follows:

- Councillors Ensor and Hughes - Calling upon the County Council to provide a pedestrian crossing on Turkey Road, Bexhill-on-Sea to enable the safe passage for children walking to and from Bexhill High School and All Saints Primary School

MINUTES

Declarations of Interest

The following members declared personal interests in items on the agenda as follows:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Barnes	Trustee of Etchingam Under 5's	Item 13	No
Councillor Bentley	Governor at school in Hailsham which had applied for Schools Foundation Status	Item 17 (a)	No
Councillor Daniel	Associate Hospital Manager with the Sussex Partnership Trust	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No
Councillor Field	Husband is Business Manager at a Special School at which agency placements are made	Item 13	No
Councillor Freebody	Employee of the Sussex Partnership Trust	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No
Councillor Glazier	Non-executive Director of the Hastings and Rother PCT	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No
Councillor Lock	Independent custody visitor	Sussex Police Authority report, paragraph 1	No
Councillor O'Keeffe	Trustee of special needs playgroup	Item 13	No
Councillor Webb	Member of the Hastings Links Project	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No

MINUTES

6 The Cabinet

6.1 In accordance with the Constitution, Councillor Jones presented a written record to the Council of his appointments to the Cabinet and his delegations of executive functions.

7 Appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees

7.1 Councillor Tidy moved, and it was seconded, that appointments be made to the Committees and Sub-committees, listed in item 7 of the agenda, in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which were circulated in the Council Chamber.

7.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Shing and seconded

–
The appointment of Liberal Democrat Group members and Independent Group members on Scrutiny Committees be delegated to the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services.

7.3 The amendment was carried.

7.4 The original motion as amended was CARRIED.

8 Appointment of Members to other Committees and Panels

8.1 Councillor Tidy moved, and it was seconded, that members be appointed to serve on the Committees and Panels listed in item 8 of the agenda, in accordance with the political balance provisions and the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber subject to Councillor Elkin replacing Councillor Lock on the County Consultative Committee.

8.2 The motion was CARRIED.

9 Appointments to the Transport and Student Support Panel and other bodies

9.1 Councillor Tidy moved, and it was seconded, to agree that the political balance provisions would not apply to the membership of the Transport and Student Support Panel and that members be appointed to that group in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

9.2 The motion was CARRIED (with no member voting against).

10 Confirmation of Continuation of Other Bodies

10.1 Councillor Tidy moved and it was seconded, that the bodies listed in agenda item 10 be continued, that the political balance provisions shall not apply to these Panels and that members be appointed by the Director of Governance and Community Services as the need arises.

10.2 The motion was CARRIED (with no member voting against).

MINUTES

11 Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees Sub-Committees

11.1 The following motion, moved by Councillor Tidy and seconded, was CARRIED:

'To appoint the following members to positions listed below':

Committee	Chairman	Vice-Chairman
Regulatory	Gadd	
Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	Waite	Scott
Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee	Sparks	Bennett
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	Ensor	Field
Community Services Scrutiny Committee	Taylor	Howson
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Tidy (Sylvia)	Rogers
Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Stogdon	Belsey
Governance Committee	Jones	
Planning Committee	Daniel	Stogdon
Pension Fund Investment Panel	Reid	

12 Questions from Members of the Public

12.1 Copies of a question asked by Mrs Susan Burton of Battle and the answer by Councillor Lock, Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment are attached to these minutes. A supplementary question was asked by Mrs Burton and Councillor Lock responded.

13 Cabinet Priorities for the forthcoming year

13.1 Councillor Jones outlined the Cabinet's priorities for the forthcoming year. The other Group Leaders commented on these, following which there was a debate.

14 Reports

CALLOVER

14.2 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, 2 and 3
Governance Committee	- paragraphs 3 and 4

MINUTES

Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	- paragraph 1
Sussex Police Authority	- paragraph 1

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

14.3 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.

15 Cabinet Report – Reserved paragraphs

15.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report would be taken with the report of the Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee

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

15.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate.

16 Governance Committee – Reserved paragraphs

16.1 Councillor Jones moved the reserved paragraphs of the Governance Committee's report.

16.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate.

17 Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee – Reserved paragraph

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND FINANCIAL ASSESSMENT PROCESSES

17.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report.

17.2 Councillor Waite moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

17.3 Councillor Bentley moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED.

17.4 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.

18 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

MINUTES

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Thompson	Councillor Lock	Consistency of parking enforcement in Eastbourne
Councillor Freeman	Councillor Lock	Consideration of petitions in relation to land raise
Councillor Birch	Councillor Elkin	Prospect of 'free schools' being established in East Sussex
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Lock	Hastings Local Area Transport Strategy
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Jones	Signage at County Hall
Councillor O'Keeffe	Councillor Lock	Parking enforcement
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Tidy	Proposed new Library for Newhaven and possible need for a plan B.
Councillor Field	Councillor Elkin	Monitoring of pupils' progress at schools not participating in Key Stage 2 SATS
Councillor Shing	Councillor Lock	Parking provision at Willingdon Library
Councillor Ost	Councillor Elkin	Applications for schools foundation status

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

18.2 No written questions had been received.

19 Report of the Sussex Police Authority

19.1 Members commented on paragraph 1 of the Sussex Police Authority's report and Councillor Jones, the nominated spokesperson for the Sussex Police Authority, responded.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 2.40 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

MINUTES

WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Susan Burton, Battle, East Sussex

The traffic and congestion in Battle has become a significant problem which is growing year on year. Pupils who attend the primary and secondary schools in the town generally live within a small radius of the town but many of them do not travel to school on foot or by bike because there are few safe routes for them to use. ESCC will have the evidence of this contained in the schools' travel plans. Cycle Battle carried out a survey of the town and submitted a proposal for a network of routes which would have considerable benefit for walkers, cyclists and people with mobility difficulties. It would also provide a significant step towards easing congestion. This proposed network was submitted for assessment under the Balanced Score Card system for inclusion with the Integrated Capital Transport Programme 2011 onwards. Unfortunately, Battle's proposed Network was not included in the Programme.

What actions does ESCC propose for easing congestion in the town and how can the network proposal be taken forward in a timely manner?

Response by Councillor Lock, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

The County Council welcomes the continued involvement of Cycle Battle with our work to improve the transport system in Battle. I understand from officers that we have been working with Cycle Battle, Battle Town Council and Sustrans to develop proposals for a cycle route linking the Abbey to Battle and Langton Primary School. The scheme was assessed through the Balanced Scorecard Process, along with a proposal to develop a network of cycle routes for the town and provision of more cycle parking. Due to increasing pressure on the limited amount of funding available for local transport scheme across the County, these cycling proposals for Battle did not secure funding through the Integrated Transport Capital Programme this year. However, we will continue to include the proposals on our list of schemes for potential funding in future years. As a matter of course, we will continue to seek possible sources of external funding that could be used to develop these schemes.

On a positive note, Battle will shortly benefit from the introduction of roundabout at Powdermill Lane to ease congestion at this junction. In addition, work is currently underway to improve the pedestrian crossing in the High Street. Both of these schemes were identified as priorities in the Battle Local Area Transport Strategy and together will cost £90,000, which represents a substantial investment in the town's transport system.