

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 18 OCTOBER 2011 at 10.00 am.

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

30 Minutes of last meeting

30.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 19 July 2011 as a correct record.

31. Apologies for absence

31.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Heaps, Pragnell, D. Shing, St Pierre and Waite.

32. Chairman's Business

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

32.1 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the Hastings interfaith event in St Leonards, the 69th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid commemorations in Dieppe at which I lay wreaths on behalf of the Council, the launch of the Sussex Sports Awards at the Amex Community Stadium, the memorial service for our former colleague Maurice Skilton and the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service to the Bexhill Community Bus Service. I visited the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service headquarters and the RNLI at Newhaven and joined the crew on a training exercise. The Vice Chairman and I visited the County Record Office. The Vice Chairman attended a number of events including the Mayor of Rye's Civic Service and lunch, the Royal Sussex Regimental Association Annual Dinner at Lewes Town Hall and the Royal British Legion's joint East Sussex, West Sussex and Surrey 90th Anniversary Service at Guildford Cathedral. He has also generously attended a number of events with me and undertook a considerable number of engagements on my behalf while I was on holiday.

PRAYERS

32.2 The Chairman thanked the Imam Dr Abduljalil Sajid, Chairman of the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony, for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

PETITIONS

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

Councillor Barnes - calling on the County Council to consider as a matter of urgency, the hardship caused, particularly to those people living in Etchingham, Hurst Green and Burwash whose children are already settled at Uplands School, as a result of the County Council's decision to almost treble the travel charges for those pupils who have chosen schools other than those designated for them.

Councillors Birch - calling on the County Council to improve pedestrian safety in the High Street, Hastings

Councillor Healy - calling on the County Council to make better provision for cyclists in Eastbourne including a seafront cycle route

Councillor B Tidy - calling upon the County Council to continue the 20 mph Mayfield High Street restoration work into Fletching High Street

33. Questions from Members of the Public

33.1 Copies of a question asked by Councillor John Stockdale (from Lewes) and the answer by Councillor Maynard (Lead Cabinet Member for Economy, Transport and Environment) is attached to these minutes. A supplementary question was asked by Councillor Stockdale and was responded to.

34. Declarations of Interest

34.1 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 Bennett	Member of the South Downs National Park Authority	Cabinet report (11-10-11), paragraph 2	No
Councillor Daniel	Chairman of the Hastings Borough Council Planning Committee	Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment report, paragraph 1	No
Councillor Dowling	Member of a Chamber of Commerce	Notice of Motion (Item 10a)	No
Councillor Freebody	Employee of the NHS	Cabinet report (11-10-11), paragraph 1	No
Councillor Hughes	Member of Rother District Council	Cabinet report (11-10-11), paragraph 2	No
Councillor Kenward	Member of Rother District Council	Cabinet report (11-10-11), paragraph 2	No
Councillor Maynard	Leader of Rother District Council	Cabinet report (11-10-11), paragraph 2	No
Councillor O'Keeffe	Has a disabled son	Cabinet report (26-07-11), paragraph 1	No
Councillor Stogdon	Landowner of a site for which there is a consent for the depositing of inert waste	Cabinet report (11-10-11), paragraph 2	Yes (Councillor Stogdon left the meeting room while this item was considered)

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Tutt	Leader of Eastbourne Borough Council	Cabinet report (11-10-11), paragraph 2	No

35. Reports

CALLOVER

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

Cabinet (26 July 2011)	- paragraph 1
Cabinet (11 October 2011)	- paragraphs 1 and 2
Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment	- paragraph 1

36. Cabinet Report (11 October 2011) – Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources – Policy Steers

36.1 Councillor Jones moved paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report.

36.2 The following amendment moved by Councillor Webb and seconded was LOST:

to add a new Policy Steer 6 in the Strategic Management and Economic Development Portfolio as follows "Continue to improve equity and equality of opportunity for all through our service delivery and as an employer"

36.3 The following amendment moved by Councillor Webb and seconded was LOST:

to add a new Policy Steer in the Children and Families Portfolio as follows "promote the benefits of young people making a positive contribution to their community and decisions affecting their own lives"

36.4 Councillor Jones moved the adoption of paragraph 1 and this motion was CARRIED.

37. Cabinet Reports (26 July 2011 and 11 October 2011) – other reserved paragraphs

37.1 Councillor Jones moved the reserved paragraphs of the Cabinet's reports.

37.2 The motions were carried after debate.

38 Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment Report – Reserved paragraph

38.1 Councillor Maynard moved the reserved paragraph of the Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment's report.

38.2 The following amendment moved by Councillor Scott and seconded was CARRIED:

to add at the end of recommendation 1 in the Lead Member's report "a timescale for completion of all planned works will be offered to the local members, residents and the North St Leonards Management Board all of whom have expressed their concern"

38.3 The motion as amended was CARRIED after debate.

39. Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Ost	Councillor Bentley	The future use of the accommodation at Hookstead, Crowborough
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Jones	Plans to address the level of unemployment for 16 – 24 year olds, particularly in relation to young women in Lewes
Councillor Harris	Councillor Jones	Future of County Hall and possible relocation
Councillor Webb	Councillor Jones	County Council's representation on the Health and Well Being Board
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Maynard	Compensation for residents living near the waste facilities at Newhaven and Pebsham
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Bennett	Scope for development of Free Schools in East Sussex
Councillor Scott	Councillor Freebody	Refurbishment of the Hastings Library

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Glazier	Future use of 32 Gilda Crescent, Polegate
Councillor B Tidy	Councillor Jones	Use of technology (County Hall being WiFi enabled, use of electronic devices etc)
Councillor Field	Councillor Bentley	Action to minimise disruption to vulnerable service users following the closure of care homes given delay in disposing of some sites following the closure of the home.
Councillor O’Keeffe	Councillor Elkin	Quality of ink use on disabled person parking badges
Councillor Stogdon	Councillor Bentley	Provision of emergency and short stay respite provision in Crowborough area
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Maynard	Plans to repair loose kerb stones in the county
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Jones	WiFi access for members in public meeting rooms, Cabinet room and members’ room at County Hall
Councillor Scott	Councillor Bennett	Closure of children’s centres in East Sussex
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Belsey	The implications of the Neary report on adoption, with particular regard to racial matching
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Maynard	Planting policy on roundabouts and policy to replace metal posts used for road signs

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

39.2 A written question was received from Councillor St Pierre for the Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness. The answer is attached to these minutes.

40. Notice of Motion

40.1 The following motion moved by Councillor Tutt and seconded by Councillor Lambert was LOST:

That in order to ensure that local Small and Medium Sized Enterprises have every opportunity to bid for tenders issued by East Sussex County Council the Council will commit to a proactive approach of providing the local Chambers of Commerce and The Federation of Small Businesses with details of all tenders as soon as they are issued.

40.2 The following motion moved by Councillor Freeman and seconded by Councillor Harris was LOST;

In order to enable a pupil over eight years old to walk alone to school safely, on particular routes where there are no pavements or step offs and no restricted speed limits, this Council will:

- i) ask national government to change the statutory framework to enable young people to walk alone safely to school; and
- ii) undertake a review of such routes currently deemed safe.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 1.13 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Councillor John Stockdale, Lewes, East Sussex

In the Tender Document for the new Parking Enforcement Contract in a section headed “East Sussex – our vision for parking”, the Council states: “our vision is for a first class parking service that serves the public, [and] is sensitive to local need.” It goes on “We want to deliver parking controls and enforcement in a reasonable, fair and accountable way; and we are committed to reviewing controls to make sure they are fit for purpose and meet the needs of residents, businesses and road users in general.” NSL announced they had won the contract on 10 August, the day before the Council conducted its last surgery in Lewes.

a) Would ESCC identify the benefits of signing a new 5 – 7 year contract before the completion of the public consultation in Lewes; how it can be ‘sensitive to local need’; and how the contracted service can be ‘fair and accountable’ or ‘fit for purpose and meet the needs of residents, businesses and road users’, before that purpose and those needs have been defined by consultation?

b) Should the consultation exercise being conducted by Atkins report that not only is the parking scheme unsupported by local businesses and residents, and further there is no economic advantage of such a scheme, and thus concede the whole parking scheme be withdrawn, what measures are in place for ESCC to withdraw from the above contract with NSL and what penalties may be incurred by ESCC?

Response by Councillor Maynard

a) The existing contract expired in August and having already been extended, we have no option but to seek tenders for a new contract. However, the award of the new contract was not dependent on any potential changes to the parking controls in Lewes that may be finally approved following the completion of the current parking review. The contract is sufficiently flexible and allows for any changes that may arise as a result of the parking review.

As there is already a controlled parking scheme in Lewes that requires managing and enforcing to make it a workable scheme this forms the basis for the new contract. The contractor priced this and set out their provisions for managing the scheme, resource levels, patrol frequencies and equipment to be used and this is the tender that the County Council has accepted.

If, as a result of the parking review or during the life of the contract, the type of controls and/or the areas of control are adjusted there are mechanisms built into the contract that enables revised resource levels, enforcement regimes and prices to be agreed with the contractor. These mechanisms combined with adjustments to the day to day operational management of the scheme will provide the flexibility required to respond to changes in residents, businesses and road users needs over the 5-7 years of the contract.

The new parking contract is very different from the previous contract, with far greater emphasis placed on reducing operating costs, greater value for money; and in providing a much improved customer experience. More emphasis is being placed on reducing congestion, keeping traffic moving and eliminating pavement and other inconsiderate parking, rather than on simply issuing penalty notices. The new contract has also been developed to encourage the Civil Enforcement Officers to provide services beyond just those directly related to parking enforcement by encouraging NSL staff to be far more community minded, recognising their presence in the town and the provision of other services for residents and visitors such as basic tourist and visitor information, guidance on how/where to park safely and playing an active role in public welfare and community safety.

b) The Lewes parking review is not a consultation on whether the current parking scheme should continue or not. The purpose of the review is to understand if and where the current controls may need adjustment to better reflect users needs, to determine if any other areas of Lewes have parking issues and if there is sufficient support to consider introducing controls to help manage them.

Lewes is a popular place and the County Council believes that the parking scheme is necessary to manage competing demands for parking space in the town from residents, commuters and visitors. Evidence suggests that the scheme has on the whole been successful by reducing peak time traffic and increasing the amount of parking available for visitors and shoppers during the day. The consistent and continued occupancy of the high street shops reflects this given the effects the severe economic situation has had on many other towns in the area.

WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor St Pierre to Councillor Bennett, Lead Member for Learning and School Effectiveness

- a) How many mobile/temporary classrooms are in place in East Sussex schools? Of these:
- how many are in primary schools and how many in secondary schools?
 - how many were installed as new classrooms for September 2011?
 - what date were others installed?
- b i) What has been the total cost, (to include purchase or lease, installation, plumbing and similar costs) that has been incurred for those classrooms installed in 2011?
- ii) What are the costs associated with the older temporary classrooms in bringing these up to adequate use (for example the work done at South Malling primary school)? Please identify these costs for the years 2006-11.
- iii) What have been the planning costs associated with the installation of temporary classrooms from 2006 to date? (to include officer time, consultation exercises and legal fees).
- c) Which school in East Sussex has the largest number of temporary classrooms?
- d) How old is the oldest temporary/mobile classroom in the County?
- e) Given that primary school numbers for Reception entry in September 2012 are expected to rise, what plans are in place to accommodate these children?
- f) What plans are in place to build permanent brick classrooms and which schools have been identified for this build?

Answer by Councillor Bennett

- a) 138
- Primary schools – 72, Secondary schools – 43, Special schools – 12, Nursery provision – 11
 - New installation – 4
 - The remaining units have been installed as part of the previous Temporary Accommodation Programmes carried out each year through the Capital Programme
- bi) £489,897
- ii) 18 refurbishments have been carried out between 2006-11 at approximately £50,000 per unit totaling £900,000

iii) Between April 2006 and March 2011 we have spent approximately £3.5 million which covers all aspects of the installation of a mobile classroom as well as removals, demolitions and refurbishments.

Planning fees are based on the total square metre measurements of a building e.g. single unit: £1270 Double Mobile: £1855.

c) Claverham Community College – 6 doubles
Helenswood School – 6 doubles (2 at the lower site and 4 at the upper site)

d) The oldest unit dates back to 1987 (Jarvis Brook School) but we do have 11 timber framed buildings dated pre-1975 which are exempt from planning approval.

e) Like other Authorities, the Council will continue to use temporary accommodation to provide additional school places in areas of demand, for example Eastbourne. Officers are visiting schools which are likely to be affected in September 2012 during the current term to discuss the issues and options.

f) The Council will begin work at The Haven CE/Methodist Primary School, Eastbourne in November 2011 to provide additional permanent capacity. The Council is also carrying out a number of feasibility studies at schools during the 2011/12 academic year to look at options for further permanent expansion in the future if required. This will depend on whether the rising Reception entry numbers prove to be a short term blip or a longer term trend, and on how much capital funding the Council is likely to receive for Basic Need (additional places) in future capital settlements.