

## MINUTES

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# EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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**MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 7 FEBRUARY 2012 at 10.00 am.**

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

### **50. Minutes of Last Meeting**

50.1 RESOLVED - to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 6 December 2011 as a correct record.

### **51. Apologies for absence**

51.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gadd, Ost and D Shing.

### **52. Chairman's Business**

#### NEW YEAR'S HONOURS

52.1 On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated all who worked or lived in East Sussex who had been recognised in the New Year's Honours. In particular, the Chairman congratulated Councillor Bob Tidy who had been awarded an MBE for services to local government and the community, to Hilary Lane who retired in 2011 from the post of the Council's Cultural Strategy Manager and who was awarded an MBE, and Des Prichard (Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive of the East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service) who was awarded an OBE.

#### ADVERSE WEATHER

52.2 On behalf of the Council, the Chairman expressed his thanks to all officers who had ensured that services had been maintained during the snow and ice that had been seen over the previous few days.

#### CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

52.3 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: attending the carol service at Lewes Prison, the Albion in the Community Reception at the House of Commons, Heathfield Works! Presentation by Tomorrow's People and the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards at which I welcomed the guests. I visited the Respond Academy, an alternative education and youth project in Hastings and hosted a

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Christmas Civic Reception at Towner, Eastbourne. The Vice Chairman attended a number of events including the Big Christmas Sing at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne, the Mayor of Lewes' carol service and visited the Pestalozzi International Village Trust. He has also attended a number of events with me including the Essex Chairman's regional meeting and lunch and undertook a number of other engagements on my behalf.

### CHINESE NEW YEAR

52.4 The Chairman indicated that the Chinese New Year began on 23 January and that this year is the year of the Dragon. The Chairman wished all present a very happy Chinese New Year.

### PRAYERS

52.5 The Chairman thanked the Reverend Stuart Davison for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

### PETITIONS

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

Councillor Simmons on behalf of Councillor Dowling - calling upon the County Council to address the concerns of residents in Forge Rise, Forge Close, Farriers Way and Bridge Farm Road, Uckfield regarding parking issues on the Ridings Estate

### 53. Questions from Members of the Public

53.1 There were no questions from members of the public.

### 54. Declarations of Interest

54.1 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 Maynard	Leader of Rother District Council	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No
Councillor Pragnell	Parents had used CRESS	Cabinet report, paragraph 1	No

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<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor St Pierre	Member of the Ouse and Adur Rivers Trusts	Cabinet report, paragraph 2	No

### 55. Reports

#### CALLOVER

55.1 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 4
East Sussex Fire Authority	- paragraphs 2 and 3

#### NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

55.2 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.

### 56. CABINET REPORT – RECONCILING POLICY AND RESOURCES

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

56.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Tutt and seconded was LOST:

*Replace paragraphs 1.7 (1) and 1.7 (3) of the Cabinet's report with the following:*

- (1) *Approve, subject to (1) (i) to (1) (iv) below, the Capital Programme in relation to schemes in progress or about to start and those to start in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and to note the schemes provisionally included in the capital Programme in future years as set out in Annex 5 of Appendix 1;*
  - (i) *commence roll out of 20 mph speed limits outside schools (£500,000)*
  - (ii) *provide additional funding of programme of permanent repairs to pot holes (£1,000,000)*
  - (iii) *provide further resources for Footway Maintenance (£500,000)*
  - (iv) *fund the above one off additions with a reduction in the Council un-earmarked general balances (£2,000,000)*

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- (3) *approve, subject to (3) (i) to (3) (ix) below, the revenue budget estimates for 2012/13 as set out in Annex 3 (a) of the commentary on the Revenue Budget circulated to all members (Appendix 2);*
- (i) *Reduce planned savings for older people arising out of the “Redefining the service offer” action within Adult Social Care – assuming a better understanding of high impact customer changes (£150,000 p.a.)*
- (ii) *Reduce planned savings for Working Age Adults arising out of the “Redefining the Service Offer” actions within Adult Social Care – assuming a better understanding of high impact customer changes (£550,000 p.a.)*
- (iii) *Limit the maximum – increase on implementation of Fairer contributions within Adult Social Care to £20 per week; recognising that only a very broad estimate of the resultant cost is possible pending specific income assessment experience (£200,000 p.a.)*
- (iv) *Continue the previous support to families with children in receipt of after school support activities; within the Disability Service areas of the Children Services proposals (£350,000 p.a.)*
- (v) *Reduce the impact of proposed changes in supported Bus Services within Economy, Transport and Environment (£75,000 p.a.)*
- (vi) *Recruit an additional post for Travel Planning to support further community traffic initiatives within Economy, Transport and Environment (£40,000 p.a.)*
- (vii) *Limit the proposed reduction in Rights of Way Maintenance and staffing within Economy, Transport and Environment (£100,000 p.a.)*
- (viii) *Extend the reach of youth support with the Children’s Services area (£500,000 p.a.)*
- (ix) *Finance the above total resultant cost of £1.965m p.a. by:*
- Reduce the amount spent on publication and paper documents across the Council by £120,000 p.a.*
  - Reduce the amount spent on external venues across the Council by £50,000 p.a.*
  - Reduce the amount spent on Temporary and Agency staff and consultants, across the Council by £1,000,000 p.a.*
  - Propose that the Leader remove a Cabinet post, within the Community and Governance Service area, saving £15,000 p.a.*
  - Assume additional ongoing savings in 2012/13 onwards, from the various South East 7 action plans, of £280,000 p.a.*
  - Property based savings of £500,000 p.a.*

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

*Replace paragraph 1.7 (3) of the Cabinet’s report with the following:*

*(3) approve, subject to (3) (i) to (3) (iv) below, the revenue budget estimates, for 2012/13 as set out in Annex 3 (a) of the commentary on the Revenue Budget circulated to all members (Appendix 2):*

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*(i) provide a sum of £1.5m to help mitigate and smooth high impact effects over the next 3 years, arising from the planned changes in the Adult Social Care service offer*

*(ii) provide a sum of £0.5m over the next 2 years as an investment in street lighting refurbishment to help compensate for the Cabinet announced proposed annual reduction in street lighting maintenance*

*(iii) to provide the sum of £0.5m to use over the next three years, to help mitigate and smooth any high impact reduction in the Children's Services care offer*

*(iv) to finance the above with an additional £2.5m reduction in the total of earmarked reserves.*

56.4 The following motion moved by Councillor Glazier, to adopt paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report was CARRIED:

*(1) approve the Capital Programme in relation to schemes in progress or about to start and those to start in 2012/13 and 2013/14 and to note the schemes provisionally included in the capital Programme in future years as set out in Annex 5 of Appendix 1;*

*(2) note the prudential indicators as set out in Annex 4 of Appendix 1;*

*(3) approve the revenue budget estimates for 2012/13 as set out in Annex 3 (a) of the commentary on the Revenue Budget circulated to all members (Appendix 2);*

*(4) in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 to agree that:*

*(i) the net budget requirement is £356.351m and the amount calculated by East Sussex County Council as its council tax requirement for the year 2012/13 is £240.824m;*

*(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 2012/13 is £1158.30 and represents a 0% increase on the previous year*

*(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 to issue precepts accordingly in accordance with the Agreed schedule of instalments (Appendix 2 Annex 3B)*

### **57. Cabinet Report – Reserved paragraphs**

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

57.3 The motions were CARRIED after debate.

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### 58. Questions from County Councillors

#### ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Possible bid for funding from the Better Bus Area Fund
Councillor Field	Councillor Elkin	School closures due to adverse weather
Councillor Scott	Councillor Maynard	Setting of quotas by NSL for the issue of parking tickets
Councillor Healy	Councillor Maynard	'Free after three' parking initiative
Councillor Webb	Councillor Bennett	Potential impact of Free Schools in East Sussex on children and other schools
Councillor Fawthrop	Councillor Freebody	Update in relation to new Hastings Library
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Glazier	Individuals providing services/working for the County Council who are paid in a similar way to the Head of the Student Loans Company
Councillor Harris	Councillor Bennett	Number of young people engaged with the Youth Service in 2011/12 and 2010/11
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Emergency gas repairs at Malling Hill, Lewes
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Glazier	Future use of Hindslands Playing Fields, Polegate
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Glazier	Disposal of county council property in 2011/12 and capital receipts generated
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Jones	Review of process in relation to oral questions at County Council meetings

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### WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

58.2 Written questions were received from Councillor Rogers for the Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment and the Lead Member for Community and Resources. The answers are attached to these minutes.

58.3 The Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment responded to a supplementary question for the purposes of clarification.

### **59. Report of the East Sussex Fire Authority**

59.1 Members commented on paragraphs 2 and 4 of the East Sussex Fire Authority's report and Councillor Livings, the nominated spokesperson for the Fire Authority, responded.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 15.16 pm

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The reports referred to are included in the minute book  
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### WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

#### 1. Question by Councillor Rogers to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Economy, Transport and Environment

What are the arrangements for making appointments to the East Sussex Local Access Forum? To include:

- a) term of appointment;
- b) current range of interests represented;
- c) next round of appointments;
- d) how advertised;
- e) criteria for selection;
- f) interviewed or otherwise chosen by whom;
- g) impact of South Downs National Park Local Access Forum;
- h) any other relevant information.

#### Answer by Councillor Maynard

a) The minimum term of appointment to the Forum is 1 year. Members can join for up to three years with a potential renewal of membership past that point and pending Forum approval.

b)

<b>East Sussex Local Access Forum – Members January 2012</b>	
<b>Member</b>	<b>Group</b>
Patrick Wallace (Chair)	User Interests (Motorcycling)
Tony Kempster (Vice Chair)	User Interests (Motoring)
Jackie Rowland	User Interests (Horse riding)
Roger Foxwell	Land Interests (Farmer)
Gale Goddard	Land Interests (Farming and kennels)
Chris Wheeler	Other Interests (Rural)
Helen George	Other Interests (Rural)
Zena Gibbs	Other Interests (Access/disabled access)
John Gordon	User Interests (Walking)
Jerry Kind	User interest (Ramblers)
Monty Worssam	Land interest (Country Land and Business Association)
Robert Cheesman	User interest South Downs Society

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- c) The Forum is currently looking to recruit off-road cycling and land interest representatives.
- d) Vacancies on the Forum are advertised either with press release (in local press/ESCC publications) or by approaching relevant interest organisations directly.
- e) The selection of successful applicants is based on them meeting the following criteria:
1. Their commitment to working within the terms of reference and achieving the aims of the Forum through constructive working with other members.
  2. An ability to attend quarterly daytime meetings and other working-group meetings where necessary.
  3. Members must have sufficient experience of the countryside in East Sussex to be able to make an informed and constructive contribution to improving access provision.
- f) The selection of a successful candidate is initially made by application form. If there are several applicants to choose from, then the final decision is usually made by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Forum. This approach has worked well to date. (Interviews have not yet been necessary as applicants are usually relatively few in number.)
- g) The ESLAF and SDLAF have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding which defines how the two Forums will work together to manage their respective areas of interest. Since the National Park came into being, the SDLAF is now the statutory Forum for the National Park area in East Sussex. They will therefore take a lead on providing the relevant authorities on countryside access in their area.
- The ESLAF's strict remit is to advise on access in the area of East Sussex outside of the SDNP. However, the ESLAF (and SDLAF) can also comment on access across wider areas – this enables effective cross-border working. The ESLAF and SDLAF have also nominated cross-Forum representatives who attend meetings of the other Forum.
- h) The next ESLAF meeting is at Seven Sisters Country Park on the 7 March from 2-4.30 pm. (Buffet lunch from 1.30pm.) If you need more information, please contact Andy Le Gresley, Team Manager, Rights of Way on 01273 335225.

Agendas and minutes of the Forum's meetings are also available online at:

[www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localaccessforum](http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/localaccessforum)

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### **2. Question by Councillor Rogers to Councillor Glazier, Lead Member for Community and Resources**

- a) On what dates and times is it intended that the shadow Health & Wellbeing Board will meet this year?
- b) At what venues will it meet?
- c) Is it intended that these will be public meetings, and if not, why not?
- d) If the answer to c) is positive, what arrangements will be put in place to publicise the meetings?
- e) Please give similar details for the intended wider forum.

### **Answer by Councillor Glazier**

- a) The dates of the meetings until December 2012 are:

6 March  
12 June  
9 October  
11 December

All meetings start at 2.30pm and end at 4.30pm

- b) The meetings are booked to be held in the Council Chamber, County Hall Lewes.
- c) The meetings from and including 6 March 2012 will be held in public and will also be webcast.
- d) Agenda and papers will be published on the County Council's website. The Shadow Board already has a webpage, setting out the board's remit and membership.

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/committees/meetings/healthwellbeing.htm>

The Autumn 2011 edition of Your County provided an overview of the changes that were being proposed to the way health services were provided nationally and the implications for local people. It signposted people to the East Sussex Strategic Partnership (ESSP) website for more information and regular updates.

(<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/86C2AE03-3C1A-478B-857E-097156B65AAD/0/YourCountyAutumn2011.pdf>

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The ESSP website contains, among other health related material regular Health Updates e-bulletins and links back to the Health and Wellbeing Board section of our website.

<http://www.essp.org.uk/what-we-do/Pride-of-Place/Health.aspx>

- e) Proposals for the development of the wider forum are not yet developed and are programmed to be considered by the Board in June.

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