

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 15 MAY 2012 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, Reid, Rodohan, Rogers OBE, Scott, S Shing, Simmons, Sparks, Stogdon, St Pierre, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Mrs Tidy, Tidy MBE, Tutt, Waite, Webb and Whetstone.

1 Election of Chairman

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

1.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Jones and **SECONDED**
–

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

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

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

Councillor Dowling in the Chair.

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

2 Appointment of Vice Chairman

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

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

2.2 There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Councillor Stroude appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council.

2.3 The Chairman announced that as Councillor Stroude was not present at the meeting she could not undertake the role of Vice Chairman until she had made the declaration of office, which she would do, witnessed by the Assistant Director, Legal and Democratic Services when she was next at County Hall.

2.4 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council agreed to Councillor Lock continuing as Vice Chairman until the point at which Councillor Stroude made her declaration of office.

3 Minutes of last meeting

3.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 27 March 2012 as a correct record.

4. Apologies for absence

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pragnell, D. Shing and Stroude.

5. Chairman's Business

ADOPTION SERVICE

5.1 On behalf of the Council the Chairman passed on congratulations and thanks to all staff working in the Adoption Service which had been judged as outstanding following the recent Ofsted inspection. Following the inspection of the Fostering Service last year Children's Services now had two services judged as outstanding by Ofsted. The Chairman thanked staff in the Adoption, Fostering and Permanence teams, and all councillors serving on the Corporate Parenting, Fostering and Adoption Panels for this significant achievement.

BOROUGH AND DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTIONS

5.2 On behalf of the County Council the Chairman passed on congratulations to those in the Chamber who were elected in the recent Hastings Borough Council elections.

PRAYERS

5.4 The Chairman thanked the Venerable Philip Jones, Archdeacon of Lewes for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

5.5 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: visiting Age UK's Day Centre at Brede Village Hall, attending the Royal Marine Commando Final Service of Remembrance, the Eastbourne Samaritans' AGM and I hosted tea to thank the Ashdown Forest

staff and volunteers at Duddleswell. The Vice Chairman attended a number of events including the Creative Partnerships event and the Bulverhythe Coastal Link celebration at Glyne Gap. He has also attended a number of events with me.

PETITIONS

5.5 The Chairman informed the Council that no petitions had been received before the meeting

6. Declarations of Interest

6.1 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 Barnes	Director of Hastings and Bexhill Renaissance Ltd	Cabinet report, paragraph 1	No
Councillor Bentley	As a carer	Cabinet report, paragraph 3 and Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny report paragraph 1	No
Councillor Daniel	Chairman of Hastings Borough Council Planning Committee	Cabinet report, paragraph 1	No

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor O’Keeffe	As a carer	Cabinet report, paragraph 3 and Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny report paragraph 1	No
Councillor Rodohan	Officer of the Federation of Small Businesses	Item 18(a) – oral questions	No
Councillor Scott	Wife is an employee of the East Sussex Hospitals Trust	Item 14 – Cabinet priorities	No
Councillor Simmons	Council’s representative on the Board of East Sussex Energy and Infrastructure Development Ltd	Cabinet report, paragraph 1	No
Councillor Tutt	Representative of a cross party group on the save Eastbourne DGH campaign	Item 14 – Cabinet priorities	No

7. Reports

CALLOVER

7.1 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 and 3
Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee	- paragraph 1

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

7.2 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.

8 The Cabinet

8.1 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. It was noted that Councillor Lock would not be taking up his Cabinet responsibilities until Councillor Stroude had made her declaration of office as Vice Chairman.

9 Appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees

9.1 Councillor Tidy moved, and it was seconded, that appointments be made to the Committees and Sub-committees, listed in item 8 of the agenda, in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which were circulated in the Council Chamber.

9.2 The motion was CARRIED.

10 Appointment of Members to other Committees and Panels

10.1 Councillor Tidy moved, and it was seconded, that members be appointed to serve on the Committees and Panels listed in item 9 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.

10.2 The motion was CARRIED.

11 Appointments to the Transport and Student Support Panel

11.1 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 the Panel in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

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

12 Confirmation of Continuation of Other Bodies

12.1 Councillor Tidy moved and it was seconded, that the bodies listed in agenda item 11 be continued, that the political balance provisions shall not apply to these Panels and that members be appointed by the Chief Executive as the need arises.

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

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

13.1 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	Fawthrop	
Adult Social Care Scrutiny Committee	Pragnell	Scott
Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee	Sparks	Barnes
Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee	Ensor	Field
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Simmons	Rogers
Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Stogdon	Fawthrop
Governance Committee	Jones	
Planning Committee	Daniel	Stogdon
Pension Fund Investment Panel	Reid	
Standards Committee	Stogdon	

14 Questions from Members of the Public

14.1 There were no questions from members of the public

15 Cabinet Priorities for the forthcoming year

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

16. Cabinet Report – Reserved paragraphs

16.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 3 of the Cabinet report with the report of the Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Jones moved the remaining reserved paragraph of the Cabinet’s report.

16.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate.

17. Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee – Reserved paragraph

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF IDENTIFYING CARERS

17.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 3 of the Cabinet's report.

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

17.3 Councillor Jones moved the adoption of paragraph 3 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:

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Rodohan	Councillor Jones	Percentage of payments made to small businesses by the County Council within 10 working days.
Councillor Healy	Councillor Maynard	Response in relation to the 'Free after Three' parking initiative
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Jones	Application process and criteria in relation to the Economic Intervention Fund
Councillor Scott	Councillor Maynard	Measures to alleviate the anticipated increase in traffic levels on The Ridge, Hastings as a result of the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Maynard	Publication of findings of CPO enquiry in relation to the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Stogdon	Councillor Jones	Possible location of a nuclear waste facility at Dungeness
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Jones	Working patterns of Police Community Support Officers and in particular their availability during the evening
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Possibility of the Council exploring the partnership working with post offices
Councillor Field	Councillor Jones	Transportation of nuclear waste to Dungeness if waste facility was located there
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Glazier	Funding of additional Cabinet post

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

18.2 A written question was received from Councillors Rogers for the Lead Member for Community and Resources. The question and answer are attached to these minutes.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.51 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor Rogers to Councillor Glazier, Lead Member for Community and Resources

Given that

- (i) smoking remains the single biggest preventable cause of ill-health and premature death;
 - (ii) that therefore it continues to be the number one public health challenge;
 - (iii) that public health responsibilities are moving to local authorities including East Sussex County Council; and
 - (iv) that helping our residents and visitors not to embark on an addiction pathway may well be the best method of prevention,
- what response has the County Council made to the current Department of Health consultation process on standardised packaging of tobacco products?
- If no response has been made to date, please indicate whether it is intended to do so before the closing date of 12 July 2012, and if so, an outline of what that response will contain.

Answer by Councillor Glazier

The County Council has not yet made a response to the consultation which was issued the day this question was submitted. Like the Government, the County Council has not formulated a view on this matter, so it would have been wrong for a response to have been submitted.

I will ask relevant officers to prepare a draft response on those areas of the consultation where the County Council can add to the debate and bring a suggested response to a lead member meeting, in time to meet the deadline for submissions in July.