

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 16 OCTOBER 2012 at 10.00 am.

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

31 Minutes of last meeting

31.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 20 July 2012 as a correct record.

32. Apologies for absence

32.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Freeman, Gadd, Ost, Pragnell, D Shing and Waite

33. Chairman's Business

HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT

33.1 The Chairman reported that Countryliner Bus Services went into administration last week which could have impacted on approximately 1000 children in relation to home to school routes. On behalf of the Council he thanked Rupert Clubb, Karl Taylor and the rest of the team who arranged to have home to school routes covered by other operators the next morning thereby minimising any impact on school children and also ensuring that other routes were covered in order that any inconvenience to the public was minimised.

YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

33.2 On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated Laura van de Heijdon, a cellist and former pupil of Forest Row Primary School on winning the BBC Young Musician of the Year competition

MAJOR JUSTIN STENHOUSE

33.3 The Chairman congratulated Major Justin Stenhouse, from Hartfield, who had recently been awarded the Distinguished Service Order for leadership in battle in Afghanistan.

HAZEL CUNNINGHAM

33.4 The Chairman reported that Hazel Cunningham was leaving the County Council this month, after 6 ½ years of service in Children's Services as Assistant Director (Resources). She was taking up a post as Finance Director with First Community Health and Care CIC in Redhill. Hazel was responsible for creating and maintaining the first Children's Services budget from the Education and Social Services departments. Her technical expertise and professionalism had been outstanding, and she has brought excellent leadership of resources across the whole Children's portfolio. Hazel has also contributed to many corporate activities. On behalf of the Council the Chairman wished Hazel all the very best for the future. Other members also paid tribute to Hazel's contribution.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

33.5 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the East Sussex Youth Orchestra concert at the De La Warr Pavilion, the University of Brighton Academic Awards, the 70th Anniversary of the Dieppe Raid in Dieppe and the presentation by the Lord Lieutenant of the Queen's Award for Enterprise to Scientifica Ltd, Uckfield. I hosted afternoon tea for 100 volunteers from across the county who had been nominated by county councillors and Town and Parish councils. I also jointly hosted, with the Chairman of West Sussex County Council, a reception at Sussex County Cricket Club to celebrate sport. This event also launched the Sussex Sports Awards. The Vice Chairman attended a number of events including the opening of the new affordable housing units in Newick and the RAF Service of Thanksgiving at Eastbourne. The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman for her continuing support.

PRAYERS

33.6 The Chairman thanked the Reverend Martin Miller, Vicar of St Michael's Church, Newhaven for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

PETITIONS

33.7 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 convert the U7705 Crouch Lane, Ninfield to a one way road with traffic to travel from the A269 Bexhill Road to the B2095 Hooe Road

Councillor Elkin - calling on the County Council to investigate and come forward with

measures to alleviate the traffic problems in Wade Close, Langley Point, Eastbourne at school drop off and pick up times

Councillor Healy - calling on the County Council to review the proposed traffic regulations in Eastbourne because of the large number of objections.

Councillor St Pierre - calling upon the County Council to review the plans to construct part of the Lewes-Ringmer cycle path along Mill Road, Lewes because it is felt to be a totally unsuitable place, and to seek an alternative route

34 Questions from Members of the Public

34.1 There were no questions from members of the public

35. Declarations of Interest

35.1 There were no declarations of interest

36. Reports

CALLOVER

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

Cabinet (24 July 2012)	- paragraphs 1, 2 and 3
Cabinet (11 October 2012)	- paragraph 1
Governance Committee	- paragraphs 1 and 3
East Sussex Fire Authority	- paragraph 1

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

36.2 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.

37 Cabinet report (11 October 2012) – Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources – Policy Steers

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

37.2 The following amendment moved by Councillor Glazier and seconded was CARRIED.

To delete Policy Steer 3 in the Strategic Management and Economic Development Portfolio as set out in the Cabinet report to the Council:

3. To enhance customer focus across the Council by improved engagement and dialogue with local people and redesigning our working practices to improve efficiency and effectiveness.

~~*5. Ensure that residents, staff and key stakeholders are engaged in and informed about the key changes impacting on them.*~~

And replace with a new Policy Steer 3:

3. Enhance customer focus across the Council to improve efficiency and effectiveness by redesigning our working practices and ensuring that local people, businesses, stakeholders and staff are engaged in and informed about key changes and impacts.

37.3 Councillor Jones moved adoption of paragraph 1 as amended and this motion was CARRIED.

38 Cabinet Reports (24 July 2012 and 11 October 2012) – other reserved paragraphs

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

38.2 The motions were carried after debate.

39. Governance Committee Report – Reserved paragraphs

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

39.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate.

40. Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Jones	Opportunity for non executive members to request that items are reserved for debate at Cabinet meetings

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Freebody	Signage for temporary library at Seaford and possibility of artwork being displayed on the hoarding at site of new library
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Jones	Possible opt out by the Government of European Union police and justice measures.
Councillor Scott	Councillor Maynard	Modelling along The Ridge corridor in Hastings regarding measures to minimise traffic congestion and flow of vehicles in relation to the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Freebody	Progress in relation to the expansion of the Hastings Library.
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Maynard	South Wealden Transport Study
Councillor O’Keeffe	Councillor Freebody	Future provision of Registration Services in Lewes
Councillor Birch	Councillor Maynard	Requesting a report on the Road Safety Foundation report naming the A21 highest risk ‘A’ road in the country
Councillor Barnes	Councillor Maynard	Future responsibility for the A21

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

40.2 A written question was received from Councillor Rogers for the Lead Members for Adults’ and Children’s Services, The question and answer are attached to these minutes.

40.3 The Lead Member responded to a supplementary question from Councillor Rogers for the purposes of clarification.

41. Report of the East Sussex Fire Authority

PARAGRAPH 1 – REVIEW OF SERVICE PROVISION WITHIN THE BOROUGH OF HASTINGS

41.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Lock and seconded by Councillor Maynard:

This Council requests that the Fire Authority responds to the concerns raised by residents [and others] during the consultation, and in making a decision, ensure that the best fire cover possible is provided for the people of Hastings, Ore and surrounding villages.

41.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Scott and seconded by Councillor Webb:

~~To delete the words [This Council requests that the Fire Authority responds to the concerns raised by residents [and others] during the consultation, and in making a decision, ensure that the best fire cover possible is provided for the people of Hastings, Ore and surrounding villages.]~~

~~To insert [That this Council fully supports the campaign to retain a full time crewed fire station at The Ridge, Hastings]~~

41.3 The following amendment was moved by Councillor O’Keeffe and seconded by Councillor S Shing:

This Council requests that the Fire Authority responds to the concerns raised by residents [and others] during the consultation [insert] [on the review of services within the Hastings Borough], and in making a decision, ensure that the best fire cover possible is provided for the people of Hastings, Ore and surrounding villages [insert] including consideration of the option of retention of a full time crewed fire station at The Ridge, Hastings as well as their current preferred option].

41.4 The Council considered the amendment proposed by Councillor O’Keeffe. The amendment was accepted by Councillor Lock and Councillor Maynard.

41.5 The amendment moved by Councillor Scott was LOST.

41.6 Following debate the following Motion was CARRIED:

This Council requests that the Fire Authority responds to the concerns raised by residents [and others] during the consultation on the review of services within the Hastings Borough, and in making a decision, ensure that the best fire cover possible is provided for the people of Hastings, Ore and surrounding villages including consideration of the option of retention of a full time crewed fire station at The Ridge, Hastings as well as their current preferred option.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 13.32 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor Rogers to Councillor Elkin, Lead Member for Adults and Children's Services

Of the 138 Church of England clergy in the Diocese of Chichester said by the Archbishop's recent report to be lacking CRB checks,

- a) how many serve on governing bodies of schools within East Sussex? and
- b) how many otherwise have access to children within East Sussex schools, for example by conducting assemblies?

What advice has been given to heads and chairs of governors about this issue?

Answer by Councillor Elkin

In general terms Councillor Rogers will know that these matters are the responsibility of the Diocese of Chichester, and not the County Council. However, the Director of Children's Services, and the Chair of the East Sussex Safeguarding Children's Board, have been in correspondence with the Diocese and Lambeth Palace about their concerns about safeguarding practice in the Diocese, and these concerns are in the public domain.

The answers provided by the Diocese to his specific questions are:

"a) The Diocese of Chichester advises that there are now no clergy in the diocese who have not had a CRB check. Every church school has a place available for the local clergy to take up, however this does not happen with every school. It is a matter for individual schools and clergy to determine between them. The Diocese do not currently keep records of which clergy are on Governing Bodies. [When the local authority is notified of any new governor at a school, a List 99 Check is carried out. While it is not a statutory requirement, many schools additionally choose to also carry out their own CRB Checks of Governors.]

b) The Diocese, does not have records of ad hoc visits by Governors to schools of the nature described. The vetting and barring scheme (VBS) was created by Government to help safeguard children and adults by introducing new measures, including monitoring and registration requirements for individuals going into schools. However the frequency, intensity and timings of visits required before registration and checks are necessary mean that it is very unlikely that any governor or individual conducting the occasional assembly would be subject to its provisions. "

The Diocese does not provide safeguarding advice to its clergy who become Governors. [The Local Authority provides a full induction and training programme for all Governors which includes face to face and online courses on their role in safeguarding children.]

In addition, the Director of Children's Services is discussing with the diocesan authorities how he can support them in improvements to their safeguarding practice identified as necessary in the recent Visitation report.”