

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 4 DECEMBER 2012 at 10.00 am.

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

42 Minutes of last meeting

42.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 16 October 2012 as a correct record.

43. Apologies for absence

43.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Gadd, Heaps, Ost, Reid, Thomas and Whetstone

44. Chairman's Business

NATIONAL CHILDREN AND ADULT SERVICES CONFERENCE

44.1 On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked all those involved in the organisation and running of the National Children and Adult Services Conference that was held in Eastbourne in October. In particular, the Chairman passed on his thanks and appreciation to the stewards used at the Conference who helped to ensure the Conference was a success. The stewards were provided by ChoicES, an employment service for people with learning disabilities, and volunteer staff from Children’s Services and Adult Social Care. The Chairman also thanked all the volunteers who helped on the ESCC stand, which showcased our involvement and engagement work in Children's Services and Adult Social Care, and all those involved in providing the music for the Civic Reception.

PRISON LIBRARY

44.2 On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated the Library and Information Services team which won the inaugural Prison Library of the Year Award from the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals. This national award recognises the outstanding work by library staff at Lewes Prison in relation to improving literacy among prisoners.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR APPOINTMENTS

44.3 The Chairman announced that there had recently been three appointments to Assistant Director posts. On behalf of the Council he congratulated Melanie Griffin (Assistant Director of Property and Capital Investments), Mo Hemsley (Assistant Director for Service Finance) and Geoff Mee (Assistant Director of Environment) on their recent appointments.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

44.4 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the Go e–Sussex Broadband event at Uckfield, the enthronement of the new Bishop of Chichester and I attended and laid wreaths at Remembrance Day Services in Eastbourne and Lewes. I also presided at the AGM of East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially sighted People. The Chairman announced that this was a selection of the 37 engagements undertaken by the Vice Chairman and himself since the last County Council meeting.

PRAYERS

44.5 The Chairman thanked Councillor Belsey, Lay Preacher at The King's Church, Eastbourne.

PETITIONS

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

Councillors Belsey	- calling on the County Council to reduce the speed limit in Park Avenue, Eastbourne from the current 30 mph limit to a 20 mph
Councillor Howson	- calling on the County Council to introduce road safety measures in Kirby Drive, Telscombe Cliffs
Councillor O'Keefe	- calling on the County Council to retain Southover Grange as premises for The Register Officer to perform ceremonies and register births and deaths and to keep the Grange and gardens as a public resource for the people of Lewes
Councillor O'Keefe	- calling upon the County Council to identify the best location for a pedestrian crossing in Southover, Lewes on Priory Street or Southover

High Street in view of the high number of vulnerable pedestrians crossing these roads

Councillor O’Keeffe

- calling upon the County Council to take steps to reduce the volume and speed of traffic in Sun Street, Lewes

Councillor Stroude

- calling upon the County Council to progress, as soon as possible, its revised consultation proposals (phase 2) on a traffic calming scheme for Wivelsfiled Green

Councillor B Tidy

- calling upon the County Council to introduce a 40 mph speed limit on the B2099 from the railway bridge to Frant

45 Questions from Members of the Public

45.1 There were no questions from members of the public

46. Declarations of Interest

46.1 There were no declarations of interest

47. Reports

CALLOVER

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

Cabinet

- paragraph 1

Governance Committee

- paragraph 3

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

47.2 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.

48. Cabinet report – Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources – savings options, revenue and capital plans, priority outcomes

48.1 Councillor Jones moved paragraph 1 of the Cabinet’s report.

48.2 The motion was carried after debate.

49. Governance Committee Report – Reserved paragraph – Notice of Motion – amendment to the Constitution

49.1 Councillor Jones moved the reserved paragraph of the Governance Committee's report.

49.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate.

50. Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Jones	Term of appointment of the Leader of the Council
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Jones	Opportunity for councillors to attend meetings of the South East Seven Partnership as observers
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Jones	Arrangements for councillors to question the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board from April 2013 if the Chairman was a non executive member.
Councillor Webb	Councillor Bennett	Actions to raise educational attainment in East Sussex and potential sponsors for academies in East Sussex.
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Maynard	Cost of replacing defective street light sensors in Newhaven, Peacehaven, Telscombe and Seaford.
Councillor Scott	Councillor Maynard	Response regarding 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 Rogers	Councillor Bentley	Local Government Association 'Show us you care' campaign

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Maynard	Defective street light sensors in Newhaven, Peacehaven, Telscombe and Seaford.
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Suspension of on street parking charges over the Christmas period

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

50.2 Written questions were received from Councillors St Pierre, Field and Lambert for the Lead Members for Adults' and Children's Services, Strategic Management and Economic Development and Transport and Environment. The questions and answers are attached to these minutes.

50.3 The Lead Members responded to supplementary questions by the questioners for the purposes of clarification.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.52 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

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

The national changes in relation to the work of the Adoption and Permanence Panel, which have been implemented, restrict the access to cases for Panel members, which include County Councillors and independent members.

How many cases within the Adoption and Permanence team have been delayed at the court stage due to:

- a) paperwork not completed in time by social workers;
- b) cases have been found wanting by the courts and had to be resubmitted;
- c) delays caused by the failure of guardians to complete reports; and
- d) delays due to issues raised by family lawyers which are later over-ruled?

Answer by Councillor Elkin

Information is not collated in this way within the Council but staff in the Legal Services Team have been asked to indicate whether they are aware of any delays to planning for children as a result of these issues in the past year.

No problems of this nature have been found, however there have been two cases this year where the late filing of reports by Independent Social Workers instructed by parents caused delay to proceedings. There is another case at present where a further assessment is being sought by parents which if approved by the court will cause delay for a child.

2. Question by Councillor Field to Councillor Jones, Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development

What is the total cost to date to this authority of the South East Seven?

Answer by Councillor Jones

Since the South East Seven Partnership was formed in early 2010, £7,572 has been spent on the quarterly meetings of Leaders and Chief Executives

In recognition and support of the successful bid to take part in the Department for Education's and Department of Health's Special Educational Needs and Disability Pathfinder programme from September 2011 until March 2013, ESCC has received £225,000. It is anticipated that the Pathfinder programme will be extended until September 2014 with commensurate levels of funding but this is still to be confirmed.

The Economy, Transport and Environment department has set aside £50,000 of existing departmental resources to contribute to a draw down fund to support the waste workstream secure maximum levels of savings (current estimates are for £600m by 2020/21 if the full ambition of the proposals are realised). To date, approximately £30,000 of the ESCC contribution has been drawn down. Our involvement in the waste workstream has produced savings of £224,000 since 2010.

3. Question by Councillor Lambert to Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

The Argus for Saturday 10 November 2012 reported an incident in which a 12 year old boy was thrown into the air when he was hit by a 4 x 4 on his way to school.

Councillor Maynard is aware that the Liberal Democrat group has consistently campaigned for improvements to road safety. It is our view that the Council should do more to ensure the safety of all our residents on the roads. In other parts of the country, the introduction of 20 mph speed limits has done much to reduce the number of accidents and casualties, in particular for child pedestrians.

In the light of this most recent accident, will he now join us in seeking to implement a policy to impose 20 mph speed restrictions around all schools and colleges in the county, regardless of accident rates?

Answer by Councillor Maynard

Many schools throughout the County would like to see a 20 mph limit but we need to ensure that we give greater priority to those with an ongoing history of casualties particularly those that involve the most serious injuries. To that end, we have undertaken a comprehensive review of the casualty record at all schools and they have all been ranked as high, medium or low priority for treatment.

All of the schools which have been identified as high priority will be considered against our current procedures to determine if they can be considered for funding as part of our annual programme of capital schemes. Medium priority schools will be investigated in more detail but funding for these is unlikely to be available in the short term due to the number of higher priority schools that have been identified. Funding is unlikely to be available for the lower priority schools in the foreseeable future. Of course, schools which are not being considered for funding through our own capital programme will be reconsidered whenever other schemes are proposed in the local area or if external funding were to become available.

We are currently looking into the possible introduction of a 20 mph speed limit covering the roads outside both Seaford Head Community College and Ancey Primary School in Seaford.

The scheme would be funded through a contribution secured from a local housing development. Subject to the outcomes of a safety audit process and public consultation on the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders, the scheme could be in place for September 2013.