

# EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

---

**MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2013 at 10.00 am.**

**Present** Councillors Barnes, Belsey, Bennett, Bentley, Birch, Blanch, Buchanan, Butler, Carstairs, Charlton, Daniel, Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Elkin, Ensor, Field, Forward, Galley, Glazier, Hodges, Howson, Keeley, Lambert, Maynard, O'Keeffe, Phillips, Pragnell, Pursglove, Rodohan, Scott, D Shing, S Shing, Shuttleworth, Simmons, Standley, Stogdon, St Pierre, Taylor, Tidy, Tutt, Ungar, Wallis, Webb, Whetstone and Wincott.

## **23. Apologies for absence**

23.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clark, Earl and Sheppard.

## **24. Chairman's Business**

### OFSTED INSPECTION RESULTS

24.1 The Chairman reported that in OFSTED Inspection results published since 2 May, the following schools had retained their status of good or outstanding: Claverham Community College (Outstanding), Ratton School, Robertsbridge, Beacon and Hailsham Community Colleges and Whitehill Infant School (all rated as good). The following schools had all improved a category: Firle Primary School, the Hastings and St Leonards Academies and Park Mead Primary School.

### AWARD

24.2 On behalf of the County Council the Chairman congratulated Olivia Mustafa, a pupil at Chailey School, who had been crowned an environmental champion after winning a national competition. Olivia shared her views on bycatch, overfishing and marine pollution with MEPs in the European Parliament

### I-GO

24.3 On 4 July 2013, we celebrated the launch of I-Go a new scheme to improve access to leisure activities for children and young people with disabilities and special needs across the county. I-Go is a partnership between the County Council and the Rockinghorse Children's Charity and has received funding from the Big Lottery Fund. Already more than 20 leisure partners have joined from leisure centres and activity clubs to galleries.

## CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

23.4 The Chairman announced that he had attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the Eastbourne Sea Cadets' Awards, the visit of the Duchess of Cornwall and the Duchess of Gloucester to Chailey Heritage School, a Citizenship Ceremony at Uckfield Civic Centre, a Hastings Piano competition winners recital at Fairlight Hall, the Ratton School Gala concert at the Congress Theatre, Eastbourne, the 'Let's Do Business' exhibition, the Armed Forces Day Drumhead Service at the Redoubt Fortress, Eastbourne, the 249 Squadron Air Training Corps' Awards at Hailsham and the Active Sussex Schools' Summer Games at Crawley, the Respond Academy's workshops in St Leonards and a jazz concert in Hastings. The Vice Chairman and I have undertaken 31 engagements in total since the annual County Council meeting in May

## PRAYERS

23.5 The Chairman thanked Mr Steve Blaber of the King's Church, Eastbourne for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

## PETITIONS

24.6 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting the following petitions had been received from members:

Councillor Dowling (on behalf of Councillor Sheppard)	- calling upon the Council to introduce measures to reduce the volume, speed and size of vehicles on Oxbottom Lane and Cinder Hill, Chailey
Councillors Galley and Whetstone	- calling on the County Council to introduce a new speed limit of 40mph on the A26 at Heron's Ghyll from Barnsgate Manor to Ashdown Place
Councillor O'Keeffe	- calling on the County Council to resurface the path known as Cabbage Walk, between the Landport and Pells areas of Lewes
Councillor O'Keeffe	- calling upon the County Council to find funding to implement the Offham Road Scheme from 'Lewes Street Ahead 2006' to provide the pedestrian safety improvements it describes
Councillor Whetstone	- Calling upon the County Council to improve road safety at St Michael's Primary School, Withyham

## 25 Questions from Members of the Public

25.1 There were no questions from members of the public

## 26. Declarations of Interest

26.1 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	Conservator of Ashdown Forest	Cabinet report, paragraph 4	No
Councillor Blanch	Member of Church of England	Cabinet report, paragraph 1	No
Councillor Galley	Chairman of Board of Conservators of Ashdown Forest	Cabinet report, paragraph 4	No
Councillor Glazier	Director and Governor of the Hastings Academy Trust	Cabinet report, paragraph 1	No
Councillor St Pierre	Conservator of Ashdown Forest	Cabinet report, paragraph 4	No
Councillor Whetstone	Conservator of Ashdown Forest	Cabinet report, paragraph 4	No

## 27. Reports

CALLOVER

27.1 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, 3 and 4
Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee	- paragraph 1

## NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

27.2 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.

NOTE: As agreed at the County Council meeting in May 2013, the Leader of the Council's delegations to officers were tabled in the Chamber. These had been updated following changes to the officer structure and will take effect on the arrival of the Chief Finance Officer.

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

28.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 2 of the Cabinet report with the report of the Economy, Transport and Environment's Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Glazier moved the remaining reserved paragraphs of the Cabinet's report.

28.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate

### **29. Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee – Reserved paragraph**

#### SCRUTINY REVIEW OF STREET WORKS

29.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 2 of the Cabinet's report.

29.2 Councillor Stogdon moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee report.

29.3 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 2 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED.

29.4 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.

### **30. Questions from County Councillors**

#### ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor Shuttleworth	Councillor Bennett	Impact of Free School initiative on school admissions in Eastbourne
Councillor Field	Councillor Maynard	Impact on recycling targets and waste disposal of Veolia's proposals to remove recyclables and precious metals from waste
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Glazier	Proposed land exchange (the Maltings and Southover Grange) with Lewes District Council
Councillor Birch	Councillor Glazier	Letter sent to Secretary of State from Council Leaders regarding reductions in funding for local government
Councillor Hodges	Councillor Maynard	Standard manual for repairs to footpaths and pavements to be referred to Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Barnes	Councillor Simmons	Result of bid, made in partnership with the 'Let's do Business Group', for funding from the Regional Growth Fund
Councillor O'Keeffe	Councillor Maynard	Quality of plastic used for bus passes
Councillor O'Keeffe	Councillor Maynard	Review of allocation of parking permits to car clubs, including multi zone permits
Councillor Scott	Councillor Maynard	Funding for installation of dropped kerbs and work with boroughs and districts to identify a priority list
Councillor Webb	Councillor Bentley	Visits by the Lead Member to day centres during the current consultation
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Bennett	Proposals for free schools and potential demand

#### WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

31.2 Two written questions were received from Councillor St Pierre for the Lead Member for Community Services. The questions and answers are attached to these minutes.

31.3 The Lead Member responded to supplementary questions by the questioner for the purposes of clarification.

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

32.1 Members commented on paragraph 3 of the East Sussex Fire Authority's report and Councillor Howson, the nominated spokesperson for the Fire Authority, responded

## **33. Notice of Motion**

33.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Blanch and seconded by Councillor Rodohan:

That in recognition of the high degree of public concern, East Sussex County Council adds £2 million to the Highways Capital Programme for 2013 – 2015, funded from reserves, further to enhance the pot hole repair programme across the County.

33.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Maynard:

To delete the words [That in recognition of] [insert] [The Council recognises] the high degree of public concern [insert] [regarding potholes and in supporting continued investment in the County's road infrastructure recommends that this be considered as part of the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources process] [delete], East Sussex County Council adds £2 million to the Highways Capital Programme for 2013 – 2015, funded from reserves, further to enhance the pot hole repair programme across the County.]

33.3 The following amendment was moved by Councillor O'Keeffe and seconded by Councillor S Shing:

To delete the words [That in recognition of] [insert] [The Council recognises] the high degree of public concern [insert] [regarding road surface condition including potholes and in supporting continued investment in the County's road infrastructure recommends that consideration be made of an additional sum being allocated to this as part of the Council's Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources process as a matter of urgency and be taken to the Cabinet in this financial year and to be reported back to the County Council for decision] [delete], East Sussex County Council adds £2 million to the Highways Capital Programme for 2013 – 2015, funded from reserves, further to enhance the pot hole repair programme across the County.

33.4 The Council considered the amendment proposed by Councillor O'Keeffe. The amendment was accepted by Councillors Blanch, Rodohan, Elkin and Maynard and was CARRIED.

33.5 Following debate the following Motion was CARRIED:







## WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

### **1. Question by Councillor St Pierre to the Lead Member for Community Services**

The agenda for Cabinet, Friday 5 July states (item 8):

*Para 2.2 There is an increasing range of provision of day services for older people in East Sussex being delivered by the independent, voluntary and community services.*

A further range of services which appear on the ESCC website for those seeking voluntary posts as unpaid workers are directed to ESCC projects which include:

Volunteer in the Countryside

Elm protection

Tree wardens

Volunteer administration assistants

Community Club database volunteers

Gardeners

Bexhill Museum

Home from Hospital

Welfare of the elderly in Seaford community.

- a) How many paid former ESCC staff have been made redundant and the post replaced by unpaid volunteers?
- b) What is the approximate number of unpaid volunteers working on projects which arise from ESCC schemes?

### **Answer by the Lead Member for Community Services**

No staff have been made redundant and replaced with unpaid volunteers.

As you will be aware we use Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources (RPPR) to develop our strategic plans and any review of services is undertaken within this framework. Where a restructure of services is identified there is a suite of Managing Change personnel policies that define the processes to be followed. This includes consultation with affected employees and negotiation with Trade Unions. Any changes to service delivery are considered carefully and would not include making positions redundant with a view to filling these posts with volunteers.

As an Authority we have built and maintained a strong working relationship with the local Voluntary and Community Sector through a range of workstreams. This includes giving clear guidance to managers through the Council's Policy and Guidance for Engaging Volunteers. This policy is intended to provide Council staff with good practice guidance on volunteering in general and as a reference document for use when we are developing any formal agreements with volunteer and community organizations. The ESCC policy and guidance for working with volunteers also recognises that individual schools, departments and teams within the Council have policies for specific

volunteering opportunities. The advice to managers when working with volunteers includes information on how to establish a good understanding of what is needed by considering;

§ What results are you seeking?

§ How is that activity currently undertaken? Is it a core activity that should be delivered by paid staff? Is this an enhancement or enrichment which may be suitable for volunteers?

§ Are there policies and procedures for working with volunteers, if not, who will work on developing these before volunteers are recruited. This will need to cover areas like:

- Identifying volunteer roles;
- Establishing the likely time period for the activity and number of volunteers required;
- Recruitment and placement; and
- Health and safety, including risk assessments, Child and Adult Protection, Criminal Records Bureau checks and insurance.

The full document is available at:

<http://intranet.escc.gov.uk/personnel/Documents/other/Recruitment/engagingvolunteerspolicy.doc>

There are a wide range of volunteers that we work with and as they are not employees, we do not hold any personal data on our systems and we do not maintain a central record of volunteers engaged in our services or for projects which arise from ESCC schemes. We do not therefore have exact figures of the number of volunteers that ESCC works with.

In the Autumn we will be reviewing on a cross departmental basis, how ESCC engages with and involves volunteers and through this process we will be able to quantify the numbers and have a clearer picture of the roles of volunteers in the delivery of ESCC services.

This will not include the number of volunteers that are involved in the delivery of services contracted or grant funded to the voluntary and community sector, nor will it include the number of volunteers involved in the wider voluntary and community sector.

In 2010 the three CVS operating in East Sussex undertook research on 'Valuing the Voluntary Sector'. The findings showed that there are 60,130 volunteers involved in voluntary and community organisations across the county, (12% of the total population).

The full document is available at: <http://www.3va.org.uk/content/economic-value-research>

## **2. Question by Councillor St Pierre to the Lead Member for Community Services**

- a) How does ESCC monitor the good working practices of those voluntary groups which undertake work on behalf of the county and use unpaid volunteers?
- b) What measures are taken to ensure there is not exploitation of unemployed people?

### **Answer by the Lead Member for Community Services**

To answer this question it is best to define the relationship ESCC has with external agencies (voluntary and community organisations).

1. ESCC as an investor (via contracts or grant funding) in the voluntary and community sector to deliver statutory or non-statutory services on behalf of the council.

With ESCC as an investor in the voluntary and community sector, commissioners and officers will have agreed specific principles for involving volunteers, specifically the [Compact Code of Practice on Volunteering](#).

The ESCC Policy and Guidance for engaging volunteers can also be used as a reference document for use when developing any formal agreements with volunteer and community organisations.

ESCC can also specify outcomes and impacts that can be used to monitor delivery of services and involvement of volunteers.

2. ESCC as a partner with the voluntary and community sector in jointly developing and delivering services.

Where ESCC is a partner, [Volunteer Centre East Sussex](#) can be called upon to support partners in developing and adhering to good working practice.

Along with agreeing to adhere to the [Compact Code of Practice on Volunteering](#), and referencing the ESCC Policy and Guidance for engaging volunteers.

It is clearly understood within East Sussex that where Public Sector organisations directly manage volunteers, they will act on relevant undertakings for the Voluntary and Community Sector. They will not expect volunteers to do work that should be undertaken by paid staff.

With regards to unemployed people it is recognised that people in receipt of welfare benefits can volunteer and receive out of pocket expenses. Claimants must tell the Benefits Agency before volunteering.

Both ESCC and the voluntary and community sector are supported by [Volunteer Centre East Sussex](#) to ensure that unemployed people are not exploited.