

# 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, 25 MARCH 2014 at 10.00 am.**

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

### **63 Minutes of last meeting**

63.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 11 February 2014 as a correct record.

### **64. Apologies for absence**

64.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bentley, Clark, Keeley and Ungar

### **65. Chairman's Business**

#### **OFSTED INSPECTION**

65.1 All members joined the Chairman in congratulating staff within Children’s Services and partner agencies on a very good outcome from the Ofsted inspection that was published last week. Ofsted has judged the Council ‘good’ at safeguarding children at risk and at supporting and planning for children in care. The Local Safeguarding Children Board was also judged to be good. It is the first inspection for the Council under Ofsted’s tougher new inspection rules that came into force last November, using a single inspection framework to bring together judgment on child protection (including early help), services for looked after children and care leavers, as well as adoption services. The overall ‘good’ grading highlighted the need for the Council to continue to improve the experiences and progress of some young people leaving care but also featured the rare accolade of an ‘outstanding’ judgement for Adoption and permanence planning for children. Of those reports published East Sussex has received the only ‘outstanding’ to date. The THRIVE transformation programme received particular recognition in the report, with inspectors citing how it is ‘clearly having a positive impact on improving outcomes for children and families.’ Lead members were praised for the way in which they work with senior managers and act as ‘champions’ for Children’s Services. Members were also recognised for their acute awareness of the challenges faced by looked after children and care leavers and how they work well with ‘senior managers and social workers to ensure all East Sussex children and families receive the right level of support to help them, including those who live out of the county in placements some distance from home.’

The inspectors highlighted areas where improvement could and should be made and Children's Services will continue to work to make further progress. Overall this is a fantastic result though and a real boost to the morale of staff who work so hard day in and day out to do their very best for the children of East Sussex. Councillors Glazier and St Pierre also spoke and congratulated all involved.

65.2 On behalf of the Council the Chairman thanked Ged Rowney for his work as interim Director of Children's Services and in particular for his contribution to working with the Ofsted Inspection Team. The Chairman stated that the authority was looking forward to welcoming the new Director, Stuart Gallimore, at the end of April

#### LEXEL INSPECTION

65.3 Following the recent Lexel Inspection the assessor is recommending that the Law Society continues Legal Services accreditation for Lexel for another year. The assessor identified 18 areas of Good Practice which is more than ever before. On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated all staff in Legal Services

#### PUBLIC RELATIONS CONSULTANTS ASSOCIATION

65.4 The Council has been working with Medway Council to seek the Public Relations Consultants Association communications management standard, an accreditation used worldwide. On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated all staff in the Communications Team as, following the recent audit, the assessor had indicated that the accreditation was successful. The auditor was impressed with the evidence presented and the professional approach that is in place in East Sussex.

#### CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

65.5 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the launch of the Uckfield Business Awards, the Royal visit by HRH The Prince of Wales and The Duchess of Cornwall to Batemans, the National Hydration week promotion with the Community Meals team at RNLI, Newhaven, Eastbourne Business Lunch Club and the Pestalozzi International Celebration Day at Sedlescombe as guest speaker. I opened the Build East Sussex event at the Amex stadium and attended the raising of the flag at County Hall on Commonwealth Day. The Vice Chairman also attended a number of events. The Vice Chairman and I undertook 14 engagements in total since the last County Council meeting

#### PRAYERS

65.6 The Chairman thanked Reverend Martin Miller for leading the prayers before the meeting.

#### PETITIONS

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

Councillor Chris Dowling

- calling on the County Council to introduce traffic calming measures in

	The Street, Framfield in the vicinity of Framfield School
Councillor Ensor	- calling on the County Council to carry out a new review of traffic and parking in the Collington area of Bexhill on Sea to prevent inappropriate parking, facilitate safer access to the highway and improve living and driving conditions
Councillor Ensor	Calling upon the County Council to make permanent the Temporary Order prohibiting the overnight parking of camper vans and caravans on East Parade and to extend the prohibition to West Parade, Bexhill on Sea
Councillor Pragnell	Calling upon the County Council to extend the yellow lines for 10 yards in Cockrow Wood, St Leonards on Sea
Councillor Rodohan	Calling upon the County Council to introduce residential parking in Bedford Grove, Eastbourne
Councillor Rodohan (on behalf of Councillor Ungar)	Calling upon the County Council to look again at the traffic situation at the junction of Victoria Drive, Green Street/Albert Parade and Beechy Avenue, Eastbourne in light of the proposal for a Sainsbury's supermarket where the Drive Pub is currently situated
Councillors Stogdon and Tidy	Calling upon the County Council to lower the speed limit on the Beacon Road from 40 mph to 30 mph from Crowborough Golf Club to the start of the existing 30 mph limit
Councillor Whetstone	Calling upon the County Council to make access safer to Ashurst sports ground and train station for pedestrians by the provision of a pavement between the villages of Blackham and Ashurst

## 66 Questions from Members of the Public

66.1 There were no questions from members of the public

## **67. Declarations of Interest**

67.1 There were no declarations of interest

## **68. Reports**

CALLOVER

68.1 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 2
Lead Member for Transport and Environment	- paragraph 1
East Sussex Fire Authority	- paragraphs 1 and 2

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

68.2 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.

## **69. Cabinet Report – Reserved Paragraph - Council Monitoring Quarter Three**

69.1 Councillor Glazier moved this reserved paragraph of the Cabinet's report.

69.2 The motion was Carried after debate.

## **70. Cabinet Report – Reserved paragraph – Notice of Motion: Mountfield and Whatlington Church of England Primary School**

70.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph of the Cabinet's report.

70.2 The following amendment moved by Councillor Field and seconded was LOST

*To replace paragraph 2.6 (1) with:*

*This Council will take the necessary steps in conjunction with all partners to mothball Mountfield & Whatlington school until such time as the true need for places is established after the proposed expansion of surrounding villages has taken place*

70.3 The motion moved by Councillor Glazier was CARRIED after debate

## **71 Lead Member for Resources report – Notice of Motion: Green Waste Collection in Seaford**

71.1 Councillor Maynard moved the reserved paragraph of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment report.

71.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate

## 72. Questions from County Councillors

### ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor Blanch	Councillor Maynard	Dualling of the A27
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Maynard	Action to prevent parking on pavements
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Glazier	Correspondence regarding the sale of the site at Harvard Road, Ringmer
Councillor Webb	Councillor Maynard	Future of the School Crossing Patrol at Christchurch Primary School, St Leonards on Sea following an incident in which 2 young children were injured
Councillor Forward	Councillor Tidy	Proposals for de-designation of 7 children's centres, 5 of which were located in Hastings and St Leonards on Sea
Councillor Howson	Councillor Maynard	Repair of potholes on the C7
Councillor Pragnell	Councillor Maynard	Use of additional Government funding for pothole repair to roads in East Sussex
Councillor Taylor	Councillor Maynard	Implementation of cycling schemes in Eastbourne
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Tidy	Ofsted Inspection report to be provided in Members' Room
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Glazier	'Sweating of ICT assets and network' across East Sussex
Councillor Davies	Councillor Tidy	Details regarding number of children who are sexually exploited/abused in East Sussex, the work being undertaken to protect looked after children and the work being undertaken with Sussex Police

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Cost of court costs in relation to recent case regarding eviction of protesters from the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road site
Councillor O’Keeffe	Councillor Maynard	Surcharge payable in relation to cashless parking
Councillor Forward	Councillor Glazier	Discretionary East Sussex Support Scheme and the Social Welfare Assistance Fund
Councillor Butler	Councillor Maynard	Repairs to the C7

**WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44**

72.2 One written question was received from Councillor Lambert for the Lead Member for Transport and Environment. The question and answer are attached to these minutes.

**72 Report of the East Sussex Fire Authority**

**PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 – SERVICE PLANNING UPDATE 2014/15 AND BEYOND AND INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT REVIEW OF PREVENTION, PROTECTION AND RESPONSE**

72.1 Members commented on paragraphs 1 and 2 of the East Sussex Fire Authority’s report and Councillor Howson, the nominated spokesperson for the Fire Authority, responded.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.01 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 Lambert to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment**

At its meeting on 28 January 2014, Cabinet considered a report on the Newhaven Household Waste Recycling Site – Capacity and Operating level. The report stated that the Newhaven HWRS is a large site with a permitted capacity for 75,000 tonnes of waste annually. The HWRS Service Review 2013 Evidence Base states that in line with the development and use of the Energy Recovery Facility in Newhaven, residual waste to landfill has decreased and waste sent for energy recovery has increased. Approximately 60,000 tonnes of waste was dealt with across all HWRS in 2011/12. The annual waste tonnage at Newhaven was 6,489 tonnes.

The HWRS built in Newhaven for some £2 million therefore appears to have been massively over-specified as it was already capable when opened in July 2011 of handling the entire County's waste although the operating level is currently a mere 9% of capacity.

Can the Lead Member explain why capital investment was made by the County Council in the Newhaven HWRS to create an apparently un-necessarily large facility?

### **Answer by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment**

The Newhaven Household Waste Recycling Site (HWRS) has an annual 'permitted capacity' of 75,000 tonnes. This is the maximum amount of waste that the site is permitted to accept under its Environment Agency permit. This is not the same thing as the operational capacity of the site, i.e. the amount of waste that the site can physically handle, given the infrastructure on site and the site design and layout.

There is no defined operational capacity for the Newhaven HWRS, and the amount of waste it can handle is largely dependent on the overall size of the site, number of containers on site, how the site is laid out within its footprint, how many people use the site, and how often it is serviced for container emptying.

The site at Newhaven has not been massively over specified, however the site does have some space to accommodate additional waste and recycling containers if needed. As part of the consultation on HWRS closures, we estimated that the Newhaven HWRS could comfortably handle waste from Seaford and Newhaven, equivalent to around 12,000 tonnes per year. The figure of 75,000 tonnes permitted capacity was included only to show that there would be no restrictions from the Environment Agency in regard to handling waste from Seaford and Newhaven at the site.