

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2014 at 10.00 am.

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

39 Minutes of last meeting

39.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 21 October 2014 as a correct record.

40. Apologies for absence

40.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pursglove, Scott and Whetstone

41. Chairman's Business

JOAN MONT

41.1 On behalf of the Council the Chairman paid tribute to a former colleague, Joan Mont, following her death in November. Joan was a respected and experienced councillor serving on the County Council from 1975 to 1992 and was Chairman of the Council from 1989 to 1991.

41.2 The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

41.3 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the Remembrance Parade and Services at Eastbourne War Memorial and Lewes Town Hall, the Friends of Hampden Park Armistice Day Service, the Salvation Army's annual lifeboat service, the Chapter Dinner at Chichester Cathedral and the Sussex Sports Awards in Brighton. I also attended the South East Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association presentation of Service Awards by the Lord Lieutenants of East and West Sussex in Crawley, the East Sussex Association of Blind and Partially sighted People AGM in Hailsham, the Uckfield Business Awards, the Lewes Bonfire Celebrations and the Queens Award for Enterprise ceremony. I also hosted a tea for community volunteers at the De La Warr Pavilion Bexhill. The Vice Chairman also attended a number of events

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PRAYERS

41.4 The Chairman thanked the Reverend Judith Egar for leading the prayers before the meeting.

PETITIONS

41.5 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting he had received one petition from a member as follows:

Councillor St Pierre	- calling on the County Council to release the site known as the Hamsey Old Brickworks from the properties and sites protected in the Safeguarding Waste Sites published in the East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove Waste and Minerals Plan
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42 Questions from Members of the Public

42.1 Copies of question asked by Colin Frost-Herbert from Lewes and the answer by Councillor Maynard (Lead Member for Transport and Environment) are attached to these minutes. A supplementary question was asked and responded to.

43. Petition

43.1 Sarah Owen (petitioner organiser) addressed the County Council prior to the Council debate of the petition. The Council agreed to vary procedure to enable all councillors who indicated that they wished to speak to do so.

43.2 The following motion was moved by Councillor Hodges and seconded:

This council recommends that the cabinet reject the current proposals to significantly reduce the level of financial support that facilitates a number of bus services that operate to serve everyday life in an acceptable manner across many parts of East Sussex. Council appreciates the support from thousands of ordinary citizens, businesses, and those who through advancing years, infirmity and potential isolation, depend totally upon this level of financial support that allows for the provision of those services now under threat.

43.3 The following amendment moved by Councillor Tutt and seconded was LOST:

This council recommends that the cabinet [insert] [delay the signing of contracts until this issue is urgently considered as part of the Reconciling Policy, Performance and Resources process and in the meantime party groups are invited to bring forward proposals as to how this can be funded]. [delete] [reject the current proposals to significantly reduce the level of financial support that facilitates a number of bus services that operate to serve everyday life in an acceptable manner across many parts of East Sussex. Council appreciates the support from thousands of ordinary citizens, businesses, and those who

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~~through advancing years, infirmity and potential isolation, depend totally upon this level of financial support that allows for the provision of those services now under threat].~~

43.4 The following amendment moved by Councillor Barnes and seconded was LOST

This council [insert] acknowledges the work done by officers to secure maintenance of as many routes as possible. It [delete]-[and] recommends that the cabinet [insert] reviews [delete-[reject]-] the current proposals to significantly reduce the level of financial support that facilitates a number of bus services that operate to serve everyday life in an acceptable manner across many parts of East Sussex, [insert] taking into account all the information and evidence, including the views expressed in the petitions but also the need to find a fully costed alternative reduction in expenditure. [delete] ~~[Council appreciates the support from thousands of ordinary citizens, businesses, and those who through advancing years, infirmity and potential isolation, depend totally upon this level of financial support that allows for the provision of those services now under threat.]~~

43.5 The following motion was moved by Councillor Hodges and seconded:

This council recommends that the cabinet reject the current proposals to significantly reduce the level of financial support that facilitates a number of bus services that operate to serve everyday life in an acceptable manner across many parts of East Sussex. Council appreciates the support from thousands of ordinary citizens, businesses, and those who through advancing years, infirmity and potential isolation, depend totally upon this level of financial support that allows for the provision of those services now under threat.

43.6 A recorded vote on the motion was requested and taken. The motion was CARRIED, the votes being cast as follows:

FOR THE MOTION

Councillors Birch, Blanch, Buchanan, Butler, Carstairs, Charlton, Clark, Daniel, Field, Forward, Hodges, Keeley, Lambert, O'Keeffe, Phillips, Rodohan, D. Shing, S Shing, Shuttleworth, St Pierre, Tutt, Ungar, Wallis, Webb and Wincott

AGAINST THE MOTION

Councillors Barnes, Belsey, Bennett, Bentley, Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Earl, Elkin, Ensor, Galley, Glazier, Howson, Maynard, Pragnell, Sheppard, Simmons, Standley, Stogdon, Taylor and Tidy

44. Declarations of Interest

44.1 The following member declared a personal interest in items on the agenda as follows:

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<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Lambert	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme	Governance Committee report, paragraph 1	No
Councillor Ungar	Member of the Local Government Pension Scheme	Governance Committee report, paragraph 1	No

45. Reports

CALLOVER

45.1 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 Resources	- paragraph 1
Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee	- paragraph 1

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

45.2 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.

46. Cabinet Reports – Reserved Paragraphs

46.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of the Cabinet report with the report of the Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Glazier moved the remaining reserved paragraph of the Cabinet report.

46.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate.

47 Lead Member for Resources – Notice of Motion: Provision of shuttle bus service between Eastbourne District General Hospital and the Conquest Hospital, Hastings

47.1 Councillor Elkin moved the reserved paragraph of the Lead Member for Resources report.

47.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate

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48. Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee – Reserved paragraph

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL ALTERNATIVE FUNDING

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

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

48.3 Councillor Glazier moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate.

48.4 The motion to adopt paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report, including the recommendations, was CARRIED after debate on the basis that implementation would be in accordance with the recommendations of the Cabinet.

49. Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Bennett	Number of schools in county where the clerk to the Governing Body has resigned in past 24 months and how many schools are currently without a permanent clerk to the Governing Body
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Tidy	Safeguards for quality of service following change in service provider for medical services for looked after children and adoption services
Councillor Field	Councillor Maynard	Consultation on Rights of Way and action in relation to unused and neglected rights of way
Councillor Webb	Councillor Bentley	Number of East Sussex residents with learning difficulties or mental health issues who are in residential or long term hospital settings
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Maynard	Plans for winter gritting and snow clearance

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Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Stogdon	Councillor Simmons	Decisions taken by the authority in relation to a possible second runway at Gatwick Airport.
Councillor Howson	Councillor Maynard	Quality control policy in relation to work to footways.
Councillor Barnes	Councillor Maynard	Lobbying of Government regarding improvements to the A21 south of Pembury
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Progress on the Bexhill to Hasting Link Road

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 13.02 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

QUESTION FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

1. Question from Colin Frost-Herbert, Lewes, East Sussex

In the mid 1960s a bus fare for about a half mile ride through my Sussex town cost about the same as a box of matches or a Daily Mirror, about 2d (old currency). Today those items cost 30p and the bus fare is £2.40. This is 8 times more than the 1960s equivalent. Does the Lead Member believe that this is a contributory reason that buses do not attract all the passengers they might?

Response by Councillor Maynard, Lead Member for Transport and Environment

9.7 billion passenger journeys were made by bus in Great Britain in 1968, according to the Office of National Statistics.

Last year there were 5.2 billion passenger journeys.

Fare levels are a matter for the commercial bus operators. Fares have to be set at a level necessary to cover the cost of provision. Reducing fares, we understand, rarely attracts sufficient additional passengers to cover the fares income lost.

The biggest reason why bus use has declined is undoubtedly the increase in car ownership level compared to 1960 levels. Inflation in fuel prices since the 1960s also contributes to the increase in costs.