1 Election of Chairman

1.1 Daphne Bagshawe (out-going Chairman of the County Council) in the Chair.

1.2 The following motion was moved by Councillor Jones and SECONDED -

to elect Councillor Barnes to serve as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

1.3 There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Councillor Barnes elected as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year. Councillor Barnes made a declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

1.4 Councillor Barnes thanked the Council for electing him as Chairman.

1.5 The Chairman and members paid tribute to the way in which Daphne Bagshawe had carried out her duties as Chairman of the County Council over the last year, acting as an excellent ambassador for the County. Daphne was also commended for her role in promoting democratically elected organisations and her work to strengthen links with Faith Communities in East Sussex. The Chairman’s comments were endorsed by other members who thanked Daphne for her outstanding contribution to the work of the County Council since she was elected in 1997.

2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

2.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Jones and SECONDED -

to appoint Councillor Livings to serve as Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year.

2.2 There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Councillor Livings appointed as Vice-Chairman and Councillor Livings made a declaration of acceptance of office and took his seat as Vice-Chairman.

2.3 Councillor Livings thanked the Council for appointing him to this position.

2.4 Councillor Simmons was thanked for the tireless work he had undertaken on behalf of the County Council in his role as Vice-Chairman, particularly in relation to economic regeneration.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting
3.1 RESOLVED - to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 5 April 2005 as a correct record.

4 Apologies for absence

Councillor Woodall.

5 Notice by Returning Officer of Election of County Councillors

5.1 The Council received the notice by the Returning Officer certifying the election, on 5 May 2005, of County Councillors for the various electoral divisions.

6 Chairman’s Business

WELCOME

6.1 The Chairman congratulated and welcomed all members to this the first meeting of the County Council following the elections.

DEATH IN SERVICE

6.2 The Chairman reported the death of two Officers, Ian Pettitt and Sally Greenfield, who had died recently while in service. The Council stood as a mark of respect.

APPOINTMENTS

6.3 The Chairman congratulated Keith Hinkley on his appointment as Director of Adult Social Care and Matt Dunkley on his appointment as Director of Children’s Services.

RETIREMENT

6.4 The Chairman reported that Chris Walker would be retiring on 3 June. Chris was Assistant Director (Operations) in the Transport and Environment Department and had been with the Council since 1975. He was thanked for his many years of service on behalf of the County Council.

PETITIONS

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

Councillor O’Keeffe - calling for a 20 mph speed limit along the Offham Road and the introduction of a green man crossing

Councillor Freeman - calling on the County Council to reconsider the decision to withdraw funding for the ESDA bluebird buses.

WEBCAST

6.6 The Chairman welcomed those members of the public to the meeting who were watching on the webcast.

PRAYERS
6.7 The Chairman confirmed that the practice of holding prayers before each Council meeting would continue.

7 Reports of Committees

7.1 INTERESTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Position giving rise to interest</th>
<th>Paragraph</th>
<th>Whether interest was prejudicial</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Taylor</td>
<td>Co-owner of Care home in Eastbourne</td>
<td>Cabinet report, paragraph 1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Birch</td>
<td>Non-Executive Director of Hastings and St Leonards PCT</td>
<td>Cabinet report, paragraph 1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Tidy</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Lead Member report, paragraph 1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Glazier</td>
<td>Non-Executive Director of Hastings and Rother PCT</td>
<td>Cabinet report, paragraph 1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Mrs Tidy</td>
<td>Farmer</td>
<td>Lead Member report, paragraph 1</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Gubby</td>
<td>Rother District Council representative on SEERA</td>
<td>Cabinet report, paragraph 3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Gubby</td>
<td>Employee of Sussex Police</td>
<td>Report of the Sussex Police Authority</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor St Pierre</td>
<td>Member of Sussex Conservation Society</td>
<td>Cabinet report, paragraph 2</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Freeman</td>
<td>Officer in the Probation Service</td>
<td>Cabinet report, paragraph 3</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Governance Committee - 1
- Cabinet - 1, 2, 3 and 4
- Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee - 1
- Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee - 1
- Sussex Police Authority - 1

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAHS

7.3 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council ADOPTED the reports of the Committees with the exception of those reserved for discussion.

8 GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE REPORT, PARAGRAPH 1

8.1 Councillor Jones moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Governance Committee’s report.

8.2 The motion was CARRIED.

9 Appointment of Leader of the Council (and Chairman of the Cabinet)
9.1 Councillor Jones was proposed as Leader of the Council (and Chairman of the Cabinet). The motion was seconded and, there being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Councillor Jones appointed as Leader of the Council (and Chairman of the Cabinet) for the ensuing year.

10 Appointment of Deputy Leader of the Council (and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet)

10.1 Councillor Reid was proposed as Deputy Leader of the Council (and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet). The motion was seconded and, there being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Councillor Reid appointed as Deputy Leader of the Council (and Vice-Chairman of the Cabinet) for the ensuing year.

11 Appointment of Members of the Cabinet in addition to the Leader and Deputy Leader

11.1 Councillors Bentley, Glazier, Lock, Simmons, Stroude and Tidy were proposed as the members of the Cabinet, in addition to the Leader and Deputy Leader. The motion was seconded and, there being no other nominations, the Chairman declared these six Councillors appointed as members of the Cabinet for the ensuing year.

12 Portfolios to be allocated by the Cabinet to its Members

12.1 Councillor Jones proposed that the following portfolios be allocated by the Cabinet to its members for 2005/06 and this was seconded -

- Economic Regeneration – Councillor Jones
- Corporate Resources – Councillor Reid
- Community Services – Councillor Tidy
- Transport and Environment – Councillor Lock
- Children’s and Adults’ Services – Councillor Glazier
  - Including portfolios with specific responsibilities for:
    - Learning and School effectiveness – Councillor Simmons
    - Children and Families – Councillor Stroude
    - Adult Social Care – Councillor Bentley

12.2 The motion was CARRIED.

(Items 10, 11 and 12 were taken together)

13 Appointment of Committees and Sub-Committees

13.1 Councillor Tidy moved, and it was seconded, that appointments be made to the Committees and Sub-committees, listed in item 10 of the agenda, in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which were circulated in the Council Chamber.

13.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Webb and seconded -

To substitute the name of Councillor Webb on the Children’s Services Scrutiny for Councillor Kramer.

13.3 Councillor Tidy accepted the amendment and the original motion as amended was CARRIED.

14 Appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Committees and the Planning and Highways Sub-Committee
14.1 The following motion, moved by Councillor Tidy and seconded, was CARRIED:

To appoint the following members to positions listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chairman</th>
<th>Vice-Chairman</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regulatory</td>
<td>Tunwell</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>Tutt</td>
<td>Murphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community Services Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>Dowling</td>
<td>Howson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children’s Services Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>Gadd</td>
<td>Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult Services Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>Mrs Tidy</td>
<td>Taylor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport and Environment Scrutiny</td>
<td>Daniel</td>
<td>Waite</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Committee</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>Lacey</td>
<td>Rogers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Governance Committee</td>
<td>Jones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning and Highways Scrutiny Committee</td>
<td>Tunwell</td>
<td>Dyason</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15 Appointment of Members to other Committees and Panels

15.1 The following motion moved by Councillor Tidy, was seconded and CARRIED

To appoint members to serve on the Committees and Panels listed in item 12 of the agenda, in accordance with the political balance provisions and the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

16 Appointments to bodies to which political balance provisions do not apply

16.1 The following motion, moved by Councillor Tidy and seconded, was CARRIED (with no member voting against) -

To agree that the political balance provisions shall not apply to the memberships of the groups listed in agenda item 13 and to appoint members to those groups in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

16.2 The following amendment was moved by Councillor Rogers and seconded -

To delegate the appointment of members to the Adoption and Permanence Panels to the Director of Law and Performance Management, in consultation with the Leader.

16.3 Councillor Tidy indicated that he accepted the amendment and the original motion as amended was CARRIED.

17 Confirmation of Continuation of Other Bodies

17.1 The following motion, moved by Councillor Tidy and seconded, was CARRIED (with no member voting against) -

To confirm the continuation of the bodies listed in agenda item 14 and that the political balance provisions shall not apply to the Panels.
18 Appointment of Chairman of the Pension Fund Investment Panel

18.1 Councillor Reid was proposed as Chairman of the Pension Fund Investment Panel and the motion was seconded. There being no other nominations, the Chairman declared Councillor Reid appointed as Chairman of the Pension Fund Investment Panel for the ensuing year.

19 Questions from Members of the Public

19.1 Copies of questions asked by Mrs Joan Pearce of Bishopstone and Mrs Rebecca Meitlis of Hamsey and the answers by Councillor Lock, the Lead Cabinet Member for Transport and Environment are attached to these minutes. Supplementary questions were asked by the questioners and responded to.

20 Cabinet Priorities for the forthcoming year

20.1 Councillor Jones outlined the Cabinet's priorities for the forthcoming year. The other Group Leaders commented on these, following which there was a debate.

21 CABINET’S REPORT – RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

21.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that paragraphs 2 and 4 of the Cabinet’s report would be taken with the relevant Scrutiny Committee report.

21.2 Councillor Jones moved, in order, each reserved paragraph of the Cabinet’s report.

21.3 The motions were CARRIED.

22 Reports of the Scrutiny Committees

Audit and Best Value Scrutiny Committee

22.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking with this paragraph, paragraph 2 of the Cabinet’s report.

22.2 Councillor Tutt moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee’s report.

22.3 Councillor Jones moved the adoption of paragraph 2 of the Cabinet’s report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED.

22.4 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.

Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee

22.5 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking with this paragraph, paragraph 4 of the Cabinet’s report.

22.6 Councillor Daniel moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee’s report.

22.7 Councillor Lock moved the adoption of paragraph 4 of the Cabinet’s report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED.
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.

23 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Questioner</th>
<th>Respondent</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Rogers</td>
<td>Councillor Jones</td>
<td>Relocation of County Hall and accountability and scrutiny processes in place</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Tutt</td>
<td>Councillor Reid</td>
<td>Engagement of the opposition members in the budget setting process for 2006/07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Field</td>
<td>Councillor Glazier</td>
<td>ESDA removal of funds and rescue package</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Scott</td>
<td>Councillor Tidy</td>
<td>Community Safety and the funding of PCSOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Birch</td>
<td>Councillor Jones</td>
<td>Expenditure on asylum seekers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Garvican</td>
<td>Councillor Lock</td>
<td>Progress on Chiddingly petition regarding traffic lights on the A22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Dyason</td>
<td>Councillor Lock</td>
<td>Progress on petition requesting traffic calming in Bexhill area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor O'Keeffe</td>
<td>Councillor Lock</td>
<td>Alternative sources of funding for crossings and road safety schemes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Councillor Kramer</td>
<td>Councillor Simmons</td>
<td>Heath and Safety measures relating to the use of ICT in schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

23.2 Copies of written questions submitted by Councillors Lacey, Field and O’Keeffe and the answers by the relevant Lead Cabinet Members are included in the minute book.

23.3 Lead Members responded to supplementary questions by the questioners for the purpose of clarification.

24 Report of Sussex Police Authority

24.1 Members commented on paragraph 1 of the Sussex Police Authority’s report and Councillor Jones, the nominated spokesperson for the Sussex Police Authority, responded.

(The Chairman closed the meeting at 16.05)
The reports referred to are included in the minute book.
QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Joan Pearce, Chairman, Seaford & District Committee of ESDA

Proposed cuts to the support for ESDA coaches

Concerning the proposed cuts to the support for ESDA coaches I would like to ask, on behalf of more than 1500 members of ESDA, if councillors are aware that these coaches are more than a means of transport but enable essential preventative services such as social networks, holidays, respite, information and advice to disabled people, many of whom are totally reliant on ESDA volunteers and coaches for their only means of social contact?

Answer by Lead Member for Adult Social Care

The County Council recognises that the provision of accessible transport is an important issue to disabled people as it provides the gateway to many essential services and activities. It is also acknowledged that the joint County Council and ESDA Coach Service is a unique resource for disabled people and groups within the County.

We have to accept the fact that the service in its current format does not make best use of the limited resources that both the County Council and ESDA has at its disposal. We also need to understand that ESDA have been unable to afford to replace the vehicles in a timely manner and, as the vehicles have become older, their reliability has reduced and costs to the County Council have increased.

Furthermore the current service is only available free of charge to ESDA members and groups whereas other groups have to pay a daily rate.

In the context of the current financial pressures a range of proposals will be presented to the Lead Member Meeting on 20th June that deliver the savings necessary to balance the County Council’s budget and still provide cost effective, affordable and accessible transport for the disabled residents of East Sussex.

Rebecca Meitlis, on behalf of Hamsey, Offham & Cooksbridge Parish Council

Funding of RDH Taxibus Services

Could you please explain what the County Council intends to do to build on the great success of the RDH taxibus services that are being funded by rural bus challenge money from central government and the Countryside Agency? This funding runs out at the end of November 05 and this could mean that the now hourly services between Lewes and the villages of Barcombe and Chailey, via Cooksbridge (121/122) enjoyed, and well used on weekdays will return to their previous two hourly timetable. Also, the fully demand responsive 164, available to residents between Ditchling, Plumpton and Cooksbridge, which provides a much needed link to Haywards Heath and its hospital the Princess Royal, would be curtailed. At the last CountryLinks Project Board Meeting, 19/4/05, (where there was no representative from the County Council) it was agreed that further funding should be sought not only to support the existing services but also to develop these services for evenings and weekends so helping young people in the area, encouraging traffic-free tourism, and most importantly providing a service for those residents who do not have a car. If such funding is to be applied for it is important to have a lead and support from the County Council which, given the priorities of the proposed Local Transport Plan, we should expect the County Council to be in agreement with.
Rural Bus Challenge funding was introduced by the Government to kick start additional bus services in rural areas. The funding was always time limited on the basis that new services should become self supporting as the number of people using the buses increased.

The improvements to bus routes 121 and 122 serving Cooksbridge, Barcombe, Chailey and Newick followed from the County Council's successful bid for funding. The project involved the collaboration and cooperation of local community partners, including RDH Services. Unfortunately, usage of Countrylinks route 122 has not grown sufficiently to be commercially sustainable by a bus company. However, it may meet the criteria for financial support used by the County Council. This requires a service to meet at least 40 per cent of its costs from fares income. This can be explored.

The Countrylinks route 164 was funded from an application by RDH Services to the Countryside Agency, who provided the operator with a new accessible minibus. This service has been far less successful in terms of passenger use, and would not meet the County Council's funding criteria. The County Council will continue to work with local community partners to improve transport accessibility. Officers are in contact with RDH Services and will liaise with the Countrylinks Project Board in reviewing the future of these services and assist in trying to identify sources of funding and bidding opportunities. One potential opportunity is for the Countrylinks Project Board to consider whether the County Council funded Village Rider Service 824 might be altered better to serve local needs, as a demand responsive service.