

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at COUNTY HALL, LEWES on TUESDAY, 22 JULY 2008 at 10.00 am.

Present Councillors Barnes, Bentley, Birch, Daniel, Dowling, Elkin, Ensor, Field, Forster, Freeman, Gadd, Garvican, Glazier, Gubby, Harris, Healy, Howson, Jones, Kirby, Kramer, Lacey OBE (Chairman of the County Council), Livings, Lock, Martin, Maynard, Murphy, O'Keeffe, Ost, Reid, Rogers OBE, Scott, Shing, Simmons, Skilton MBE, Sparks, Stogdon, St Pierre, Stroude, Taylor, Thomas, Tidy, Mrs Tidy, Tunwell, Tutt, Waite, Webb, Whetstone and Wilson.

20 Minutes of Last Meeting

20.1 RESOLVED - to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 20 May 2008 as a correct record.

21 Apologies for absence

21.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Woodall.

22 Chairman's Business

BEXHILL KING OFFA BY-ELECTION

22.1 The Chairman welcomed Councillor Ensor and congratulated him on his recent election to the Council.

RETIREMENT OF THE LORD LIEUTENANT

22.2 The Chairman announced that the Lord Lieutenant would be retiring at the end of July. Phyllida Stewart-Roberts OBE had been appointed Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex in 2000 and had been a wonderful ambassador for East Sussex. On behalf of the County Council the Chairman wished her a long and happy retirement.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

22.3 The Chairman highlighted some of the events that he had attended since the last meeting. These had included visits to the Royal Garden party where he had been introduced to the Duke of Edinburgh and to the South of England Show. The Chairman had also hosted a dinner in the Royal Pavilion in Brighton to mark the retirement of the Lord Lieutenant and held a welcome reception for all the new Mayors and Chairmen from East Sussex authorities. He had also visited Chailey School with the Duchess of Gloucester for a citizenship ceremony.

The Chairman also announced that he had been to Battle for the National Volunteers event; to Peacehaven for the Business Fair; to Bexhill for the re-opening of the Library; to Hastings young people's One-Stop shop and to Alfriston where he had met with the East Sussex Disability Association.

PRAYERS BEFORE COUNCIL MEETINGS

22.4 The Chairman thanked Keith Hayden, Chaplain to the Mayor of Hastings, for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

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PETITIONS

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

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| Councillors Bentley and Thomas | - Calling upon the County Council to build a footpath linking Lion House Park, Mill Road, Hailsham with the existing footpath that runs out only a few hundred yards from Lion House Park. |
| Councillor Freeman | - Calling upon the County Council to introduce traffic calming measures to slow down traffic in Belgrave Road, Seaford |
| Councillor Garvican | - Calling upon the County Council to reduce the speed limit through Laughton to 30 mph. |
| Councillor Healy | - Calling upon the County Council to carry out a full inspection of the roads and pavements on the Little Ratton estate and also look into the safety of the public right of way through an archway from Willingdon Road. |
| Councillor Rogers | - Calling upon the County Council to keep open the West Beach at Newhaven which provides a vital service to the community. |
| Councillors Mrs Tidy and Stogden | Calling upon the County Council to take action in respect of Green Lane, Crowborough to (a) reroute lorries because of noise, vibration and close proximity of the houses to the road; and (b) remove the road humps, resurface the road and install speed cameras. |

23 Questions from Members of the Public

23.1 Copies of questions asked by Irene Rowland, Sylvia Gray and Valerie Moffett, all of Seaford and the answers by the relevant Lead Cabinet Members are attached to these minutes. Supplementary questions were asked by two of the questioners and responded to.

24 Reports

INTERESTS

24.1 The following members declared personal interests in the paragraphs indicated:

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Barnes	Chairman of the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust	Item 5, paragraph 4	Personal

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Field	Chairman of Action in Rural Sussex	Item 9, paragraph 1	Personal
Councillor Harris	Employee of BT	Item 5, Paragraph 7	Personal
Councillor Kramer	Chairman of Bridge Community Centre	Item 9, paragraph 1	Personal
Councillor Lock	Governor of Grove School	Item 10	Personal
Councillor O'Keeffe	Director of Lewes Town Partnership	Item 9, paragraph 1	Personal
Councillor O'Keeffe	Trustee of Pippa's Group	Item 9, paragraph 1	Personal
Councillor Wilson	Governor of Grove School	Item 5, Paragraph 7	Prejudicial

CALLOVER

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

Cabinet	- paragraphs 2, 3 and 7
Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee	- paragraph 1
Community Services Scrutiny Committee	- paragraph 1

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAHS

25.3 On the motion of the Chairman of the County Council, the Council ADOPTED those paragraphs in the reports of the Cabinet and Committees that had not been reserved for discussion.

26 CABINET REPORT – RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

26.1 Paragraphs 2 and 3 of the Cabinet report were dealt with later in the agenda (see minutes 27 and 28 below).

26.2 Councillor Jones moved the remaining reserved paragraph of the Cabinet's report.

26.3 The motion was CARRIED after debate.

27 TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESERVED PARAGRAPH

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF DROPPED KERBS IN EAST SUSSEX

27.1 The Chairman reminded the Council that he was taking paragraph 1 of this report with paragraph 3 of the Cabinet's report.

27.2 Councillor Daniel moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report.

27.3 Councillor Lock moved the adoption of paragraph 3 of the Cabinet's report. The motion, including the recommendations, was CARRIED.

27.4 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.

28 COMMUNITY SERVICES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – RESERVED PARAGRAPH

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE VOLUNTARY AND COMMUNITY SECTOR

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

28.2 Councillor Taylor moved the adoption of paragraph 1 of the Scrutiny Committee's report.

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

28.4 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.

29 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Lock	Update on the incinerator project and in particular on the activities at the Newhaven site on the 22 July 2008
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Jones	Application of grant funding to support tourism in East Sussex

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Elkin	Personal opinion of the transfer of schools to the private sector for a profit
Councillor Kramer	Councillor Elkin	Designation of William Parker Secondary School as having a religious character under the 'School Standards and Framework Act'
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Lock	Report in the Evening Argus about the £2m improvements to the Cuilfail Tunnel in Lewes
Councillor Birch	Councillor Elkin	Management of homophobia in Schools and the production of the 'Fear and Loving' DVD
Councillor Thomas	Councillor Jones	The strategic leadership of the retail trade through a retail champion
Councillor Thomas	Councillor Lock	Suggested plan to develop a bicycle delivery strategy for Hailsham
Councillor Livings	Councillor Lock	Submission of letters for consideration by the Planning Committee relating to the southern water application
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Tidy	Recommendations following the implementation off the recent Sustainable Communities Act
Councillor Ost	Councillor Elkin	Cost of making legal challenges to Special Education Needs assessments
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Jones	Participation in the LGA 'My Council' campaign
Councillor Howson	Councillor Lock	Signage on the A259 Saltdean bus corridor
Councillor Kramer	Councillor Stroude	Progress on the Youth Development service and response to consultation from the District and Boroughs in East Sussex
Councillor Scott	Councillor Elkin	Support available for students suffering from Dyspraxia
Councillor O'Keeffe	Councillor Lock	Distribution of Shopmobility schemes
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Lock	Funding and responsibility for grass cutting

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Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Lock	Provision of information to Parish Council's regarding the sponsorship of roundabouts
Councillor Field	Councillor Kirby	Plans for Olympic Games and resulting regeneration opportunities
Councillor Waite	Councillor Lock	Update on the Hastings to Bexhill link road
Councillor Harris	Councillor Lock	The CO2 emissions of the Council's pool cars and the impact on the Carbon Management Plan
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Kirby	London role in preparing for the Olympic Games
Councillor Rogers	Councillor Bentley	Participation of residents in 'Older People's Day' and details of events taking place at a local level
Councillor Mrs Tidy	Councillor Lock	Impact of the proposed increased housing requirement in Wealden identified in the South East Plan
Councillor Freeman	Councillor Lock	Progress on the implementation of 'Welcome' signs in Seaford

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

29.2 Written questions were received from Councillor Freeman to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment, the Lead Member for Adult Social Care, and for the Lead Member for Strategic Management and Economic Development. The answers are included in the minute book.

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

30 Notice of Motion

30.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Birch and seconded by Councillor Daniel –

'This Council declares its fundamental opposition to the remarks of LGA Chair Sir Simon Milton that local authorities should not be involved in the provision of education and that private business should be encouraged to run state schools at a profit.

It agrees to write to the LGA expressing its opposition to these views especially as they come from the individual occupying the position of leading councillor in the country.'

30.2 The following amendment, moved by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Glazier was CARRIED -

‘This Council notes the reported remarks of LGA Chairman Sir Simon Milton that local authorities should not be involved in the provision of education and that private business should be encouraged to run state schools at a profit. It is understood that any comments were made in a personal capacity; they do not reflect the policy of the LGA. Regardless of what Sir Simon Milton (the out-going Chairman of the LGA) may or may not have said, East Sussex County Council will continue to be responsible for and involved in providing the best possible education opportunities available for the young people of East Sussex as appropriate to individual needs.’

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 13.20pm

The reports referred to are
included in the minute book
