

MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 12 MAY 2015 at 10.00 am

Present Councillors John Barnes, Colin Belsey, Nick Bennett, Bill Bentley, Ian Buchanan, Carla Butler, Frank Carstairs, Peter Charlton, Charles Clark, Godfrey Daniel, Angharad Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Stuart Earl, David Elkin, Michael Ensor, Kathryn Field, Kim Forward, Roy Galley, Keith Glazier, John Hodges, Philip Howson, Laurence Keeley, Carolyn Lambert, Carl Maynard, Ruth O'Keeffe, Michael Phillips, Peter Pragnell, Mike Pursglove, Pat Rodohan, Phil Scott, Jim Sheppard, Daniel Shing, Stephen Shing, Alan Shuttleworth, Rupert Simmons, Rosalyn St. Pierre, Bob Standley, Richard Stogdon, Barry Taylor, Sylvia Tidy, David Tutt, John Ungar, Steve Wallis, Trevor Webb, Francis Whetstone and Michael Wincott

1 To elect a Chairman of the County Council

Councillor Michael Ensor (Vice-Chairman of the County Council) in the Chair.

1.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Glazier and **SECONDED**

–

‘To elect Councillor Belsey to serve as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year’.

1.2 In moving his motion, Councillor Glazier paid tribute to the excellent work that Councillor Belsey had undertaken during the past 2 years as Chairman of the County Council.

1.3 There being no other nominations, the Vice-Chairman put the motion to the vote and declared Councillor Belsey elected as Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year. Councillor Belsey made a declaration of acceptance of office and took the Chair.

Councillor Belsey in the Chair.

1.4 The Chairman thanked the Council for electing him as Chairman.

2 To appoint a Vice-Chairman

2.1 The following motion was moved by Councillor Glazier and **SECONDED** –

‘to appoint Councillor Ensor to serve as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year’.

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2.2 There being no other nominations, the Chairman put the motion to the vote and declared Councillor Ensor appointed as Vice Chairman of the County Council for the ensuing year. Councillor Ensor made a declaration of acceptance of office and took his seat as Vice-Chairman.

3 Minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2015

3.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 24 March 2015 as a correct record.

4 Apologies for absence

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Blanch.

5 Chairman's business

JEREMY BIRCH

5.1 The Chairman, Group Leaders and other members paid tribute to Jeremy Birch following his death on 6 May 2015. Jeremy Birch was a highly respected councillor both at Hastings Borough where he was Leader and at the County Council where he served since 1995. His knowledge, passion and commitment will be greatly missed. On behalf of the County Council, the Chairman offered condolences to Jeremy's family and friends.

5.2 The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague Jeremy Birch.

ELECTIONS

5.3 On behalf of the Council the Chairman congratulated those in the Chamber who were elected in the recent District and Borough Council elections. The Chairman also congratulated the MPs in East Sussex who were elected on 7 May 2015.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

5.4 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the unveiling and dedication of SS Barn Hill Interpretation Board at Sovereign Harbour, the Ore Centre Opening Ceremony, the High Sheriff's Lunch, the Royal visit of the Duke of Gloucester to the Southern Water Plant at Peacehaven, the formal opening of the new Seaford Head Golf Clubhouse, the production of Il Travatore and the pre-show reception at the White Rock Theatre. The Vice Chairman has also attended a number of events.

PRAYERS

5.5 The Chairman thanked Don Smith, former Lead Elder at King's Church (Eastbourne and Hastings) for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

PETITIONS

5.6 The Chairman informed the Council that he had not received any petitions from members immediately before the meeting.

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6 Declarations of Interest

6.1 There were no declarations of interest

7 Reports

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

Governance Committee	-	paragraph 1
Lead Member for Transport and Environment	-	paragraph 1

NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

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

8 Report of the Governance Committee - Reserved Paragraph - Appointments to Committees

8.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph of the Governance Committee's report as amended by the revised version of Appendix 1 that had been tabled at the meeting

8.2 The motion was CARRIED

9 Record of Delegation of Executive Functions

9.1 In accordance with the Constitution, Councillor Glazier presented a written record to the Council of his appointments to the Cabinet, their portfolios and his delegations of executive functions. A copy of the Leader's report is attached to these minutes.

10 Appointments to Committees and Sub Committees

10.1 Councillor Bennett moved, and it was seconded, that appointments be made to the Committees and Sub-committees, listed in item 8 of the agenda, in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

10.2 The motion was CARRIED.

11 Appointment of Members to other Committees and Panels

11.1 Councillor Bennett moved, and it was seconded, that members be appointed to serve on the Committees and Panels listed in item 9 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.

11.2 The motion was CARRIED

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12 Appointments to the Transport and Student Support Panel and the Education Performance Panel

12.1 Councillor Bennett moved, and it was seconded, that the political balance provisions would not apply to the membership of the Transport and Student Support Panel and the Education Performance Panel and that members be appointed to the Panels in accordance with the list of nominations from political groups which was circulated in the Council Chamber.

12.2 The motion was CARRIED (with no member voting against).

13 Confirmation of Continuation of Other Bodies

13.1 Councillor Bennett moved and it was seconded, that the bodies listed in agenda item 11 be continued, that the political balance provisions shall not apply to these Panels and that members be appointed by the Chief Executive as the need arises.

13.2 The motion was CARRIED (with no member voting against).

14 Appointment of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Committees and Sub Committees

14.1 The following motion, moved by Councillor Bennett and seconded, was CARRIED:

'To appoint the following members to positions listed below':

Committee	Chair	Vice-Chair
Regulatory	Stogdon	
Adult Social Care and Community Safety Scrutiny Committee	Pragnell	Webb
Audit, Best Value and Community Services Scrutiny Committee	Blanch	Barnes
Children's Services Scrutiny Committee	Field	S Shing
Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Ensor	O'Keeffe
Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee	Stogdon	Pursglove
Governance Committee	Glazier	
Planning Committee	Daniel	Stogdon
Pension Committee	Stogdon	
Standards Committee	Stogdon	

15 Questions from members of the public

15.1 There were no questions from members of the public

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16 Cabinet's priorities for the forthcoming year

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

17 Report of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

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

17.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate

18 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Ungar	Councillor Maynard	Update on discussions regarding possible provision of shuttle bus between Eastbourne District General Hospital and the Conquest Hospital, Hastings.
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Additional cost resulting from legal challenge regarding the Queensway junction with the Bexhill to Hastings Link Road.
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Glazier	Engagement with opposition Group Leaders prior to meeting with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Maynard	Removal of abandoned, untaxed vehicles from un-adopted roads.
Councillor Pursglove	Councillor Simmons	Estimated cost of Queensway Gateway and likely opening date
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Maynard	Highway maintenance standards following works to highways and footways
Councillor Webb	Councillor Glazier	Request that when meeting with the East Sussex MPs the Leader raises the issue of deprivation in the County

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Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Wincott	Councillor Bennett	Governance arrangements of academies in East Sussex

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

18.2 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.

18.3 The Lead Member for Transport and Environment responded to a supplementary question from Councillor Lambert.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 12.49 pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

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Delegations approved by the Leader of the Council – 12 May 2015

(a) *names of the County Councillors appointed to the Cabinet*

The Cabinet comprises the following members

Portfolio	Appointment
Strategic Management and Economic Development	Councillor Keith Glazier
Resources	Councillor David Elkin
Community Services	Councillor Chris Dowling
Economy	Councillor Rupert Simmons
Transport and Environment	Councillor Carl Maynard
Adults Social Care	Councillor Bill Bentley
Children and Families (designated statutory Lead Member for Children's Services)	Councillor Sylvia Tidy
Learning and School Effectiveness	Councillor Nick Bennett

(b) *the extent of any authority delegated to cabinet members individually as portfolio holders is set out in the Constitution of the County Council and below.*

In overall terms the areas of responsibility for each portfolio holder includes the following (subject to any subsequent amendment by the Leader at his discretion) principal services to be interpreted broadly. In accordance with the wishes of the Leader, principle services are not to be construed restrictively. In the event of any doubt in connection to a decision made by a Lead Member, the Leader confirms that he has delegated full executive authority to that decision maker:

Portfolio	Scope
Strategic Management and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairing and managing the executive and its work • Overall strategy and policy for the Council • Principal service area responsibilities: Communications Economic Development/LEP Policy and Performance Public Health Equalities South East Seven Partnership Democratic Services all ancillary activities

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Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy and policy for all corporate resources matters• Principal service area responsibilities: Financial Management Property asset management Risk management Procurement Internal audit ICT Personnel and Training Legal all ancillary activities
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy and policy for all Community Services matters• Principal service area responsibilities: Archives and records Coroner services Libraries Registration Services Strategic Partnerships Culture Voluntary Sector all ancillary activities
Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy and policy for all economic development and regeneration projects and all ancillary activities• Principal service area responsibilities Trading Standards
Transport and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Strategy and policy for all Transport and Environmental matters• Principal service area responsibilities: Operational services Planning and developmental control Transport strategy and road safety Environmental and waste strategy Emergency Planning Gypsies and travellers all ancillary activities

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Adult Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and policy for all Adult Social Care and Community Safety matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Services for vulnerable adults including older people, learning disability, physical disability, mental health and all ancillary activities Community Safety
Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overall strategy and policy for all Children's Services (social care) matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Child protection and family support Fostering and adoption for children Residential care for children Other aspects of social care for children Special educational needs Youth justice Youth service all ancillary activities
Learning and School Effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy and policy for all Children's Services (education) matters • Principal service area responsibilities: Quality and standards in educational establishments School admissions and transport Early years and childcare School organisation and place planning all ancillary activities

(c) *appointment to the position of Deputy Leader*

Councillor Elkin to be appointed Deputy Leader of the County Council

(d) *the terms of reference and constitution of the Cabinet and any executive committees together with the names of cabinet members appointed to them*

Delegations to each of these positions will remain as currently set out in the Constitution of the Council

(e) *the nature and extent of any delegation of executive functions to local committees*

There is no delegation of executive functions to local committees

(f) *the nature and extent of any delegation to officers*

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The delegations of executive functions to Officers will be as set out in the Constitution. The delegations to Officers can be viewed via the following link:

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/yourcouncil/about/keydocuments/constitution/>

or alternatively hard copies are available at County Hall, Lewes (please contact Andy Cottell – 01273 481955)

Councillor Keith Glazier
Leader of the Council

12 May 2015

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WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

1. Question by Councillor Lambert to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

When the Seaford Household Waste Recycling site (HWRS) was closed for four days a week, residents understood that servicing of the site by Veolia would take place on these four days to avoid any further lack of access to these facilities.

I understand that Veolia are in fact emptying the site during the three days that it is open to the public, resulting in temporary closure and long queues. One resident was forced to return to the site four times before he could get in. Another resident tried to visit the site on Bank Holiday Monday, a day when many people might wish to use the site, only to find it closed. He then went to Newhaven which apparently was busy with a line of queuing cars almost back to the road. His total journey time was just over an hour and he commented to me "Great for the carbon footprint!"

Can you take the necessary action to ensure that any servicing of the site is done outside of Friday, Saturday and Sundays to avoid residents losing any further access to this well-used facility? Can you further assure residents that both Household Waste sites will be open on Bank Holidays?

Answer by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

Following public feedback on the original closure proposals, Cabinet approved the retention of the Seaford HWRS but reduced the opening days to Friday to Sunday. Currently there are no plans to open the site on Bank Holidays.

During the week when the site is closed, the management contractor, Veolia, aims to service (usually on a Wednesday) as many of the containers present on site as possible, with priority being given to the most popular material streams, so that there is maximum useable storage capacity available on the site prior to the next weekend's opening.

During any given weekend opening, the containers located on the site can become full (again certain materials, e.g. black bag and green waste, fill particularly quickly), meaning that to maintain availability, from time to time, these containers need to be removed and emptied. The Environmental Permit for the site requires materials to be containerised and the Planning Consent limits the permitted operating hours for the site. Therefore, if the containers are not able to be emptied during the weekend opening hours, there is a strong likelihood that they would soon become full, which would lead to the site closing early due to a lack of available container capacity. To avoid this scenario, during the weekend itself, Veolia aim to replace full containers as soon as possible with empty ones. The Seaford HWRS is a more rudimentary 'single-level' site, (and does not benefit from the user / operator separation provided by a 'split-level' arrangement as at the newer, purpose-built Newhaven HWRS), and unfortunately this invariably means that container exchanges require users to be excluded from the site for their own health and safety. A typical container exchange takes in the order of 20 minutes.

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Veolia and the County's Waste Management Team are monitoring the situation with regards to queuing in the locality and are actively seeking to identify measures to increase on-site container capacity for the high demand materials such as green and black bag waste. Nevertheless, householders in Seaford also have the option of using the Newhaven HWRS, located approximately 4 miles away. This site is larger, more accessible, is open 7 days per week, and due to its split-level design, is far less likely to have to temporarily close when container exchanges are required.