

## MINUTES

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# EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

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**MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 14 JULY 2015 at 10.00 am**

**Present** Councillors John Barnes, Colin Belsey (Chairman), Nick Bennett, Bill Bentley, Mike Blanch, Ian Buchanan, Carla Butler, Frank Carstairs, Charles Clark, Godfrey Daniel, Angharad Davies, Chris Dowling, Claire Dowling, Stuart Earl, David Elkin, Michael Ensor (Vice Chairman), 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, 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

### **19 Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2015**

19.1 RESOLVED – to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 12 May 2015 as a correct record

### **20 Apologies for absence**

20.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Peter Charlton and Alan Shuttleworth

### **21 Chairman's business**

BERYL HEALY AND DAVID BELLOTTI

21.1 The Chairman paid tribute to 2 former colleagues, Beryl Healy and David Bellotti, following their recent deaths. Beryl was a highly respected councillor both at Eastbourne Borough where she was Leader of the Council for 2 years and Mayor for 3 years and at the County Council where she served from 1996 to 2013. David was a County Councillor from 1981 to 1997, was Chairman of the Council from 1993 to 1994 and served as Chair of the Education Committee and Sussex Police Authority. On behalf of the County Council, the Chairman offered condolences to Beryl and David's family and friends.

21.2 The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect for their former colleagues Beryl Healy and David Bellotti

### **CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES**

21.3 I have attended a number of engagements since the last County Council meeting including: the East Sussex Girl Guiding annual review at Hertsmonceux, a service and reception for Her Majesty's Judiciary at Ditchling, the Bishop of Chichester's evening reception, the memorial events for Jeremy Birch and Beryl Healy, the opening of new community facilities at Etchingham and the Grand Opening of Gildredge House in Eastbourne. I hosted Summer Civic

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reception in Eastbourne and presented awards at the Support with Confidence award ceremony. The Vice Chairman also attended a number of events

### PRAYERS

21.4 The Chairman thanked Reverend Martin Miller, St Michael's Church, Newhaven for leading the prayers before the Council meeting.

### PETITIONS

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

Councillors Daniel and Hodges	- calling on the County Council to re-schedule the No. 7 bus in Hastings
Councillor Galley	- calling on the County Council to lower the speed limit to 40 mph on Coopers Green Road, Uckfield from Ringles Cross to Five Ash Down Village
Councillor Hodges	- calling on the County Council to re-surface pavements in Ashford Road, Hastings.
Councillor O'Keeffe	- calling on the County Council to look at the timetabling of the 129 bus service in Lewes and consider amending the route of the Malling buses in order to better serve the Winterbourne area

### 22 Declarations of Interest

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

<i>Member</i>	<i>Position giving rise to interest</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>	<i>Whether interest was prejudicial</i>
Councillor Daniel	Holder of A Blue Badge	Agenda item 8(b) – written questions	No

### 23 Reports

23.1 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, 2 and 3
Governance Committee	-	paragraph 1 (10 July 2015 meeting)
East Sussex Fire Authority	-	paragraph 1

### NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

23.2 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.

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### **24 Questions from members of the public**

24.1 There were no questions from the public

### **25 To receive notice by the Returning Officer certifying the election of a County Councillors for the Old Hastings and Tressell electoral division**

25.1 The Council agreed to receive the Notice of the Returning Officer certifying the election of a County Councillor for the Old Hastings and Tressell division at the by-election held on 9 July 2015

### **26 Report of the Cabinet - Reserved Paragraphs**

26.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraphs of the Cabinet's report.

26.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate.

### **27 Report of the Governance Committee - 10 July 2015 - Reserved Paragraph - Allocation of places on Committees**

27.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph of the Governance Committee report.

27.2 The following amendment moved by Councillor Daniel and seconded was CARRIED:

Insert at the end of paragraph 1.8

2) to agree appointments to Committees as follows:

Regulatory Committee – Councillor Charman

Standards Committee – Councillor Daniel

Music Service Management Committee – Councillor Charman (replacing Councillor Daniel)

27.3 The Motion, as amended, was CARRIED.

### **28 Questions from County Councillors**

#### ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor Lambert	Councillor Glazier	Council policy regarding the release of staff to act as retained fire fighters
Councillor St Pierre	Councillor Maynard	Mitigations in relation to the impact of climate change
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Bentley	Update regarding the current position in relation to Home Care Contracts
Councillor Charman	Councillor Elkin	Projected impact of future service reductions on the most vulnerable people in East Sussex.
Councillor Forward	Councillor Bennett	Promotion of breastfeeding

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<b>Questioner</b>	<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Bennett	Number of pupils from East Sussex allocated places at West Sussex schools and Sackville College and impact of county boundary on home to school transport
Councillor Pragnell	Councillor Bentley	Update in relation to day care provision for older people
Councillor Field	Councillor Glazier	Consideration of any difference between average male and female pay in companies who might be awarded contracts
Councillor S Shing	Councillor Glazier	Lobbying of Government for greater powers to local authorities to introduce traffic orders

### WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

28.2 Two written questions were received from Councillors Daniel and Hodges for the Lead Member for Adult Social Care and the Lead Member for Transport and Environment. The questions and answers are attached to these minutes.

28.3 The Lead Members responded to supplementary questions.

### **29 Report of the East Sussex Fire Authority**

#### PARAGRAPH 1 – QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HONOURS

29.1 Members commented on paragraph 1 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 12.48pm

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

**WRITTEN QUESTION PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44**

**1. Question by Councillor Daniel to the Lead Member for Adult Social Care**

How effective was the Blue Badge amnesty held from 8 to 22 June, as advertised in "Your County" (Spring Edition). How many badges were handed in and how is it proposed to deal effectively with this issue in the future?

**Answer by the Lead Member for Adult Social Care**

During the Blue Badge Amnesty a total of 36 badges were handed in across East Sussex, these ranged from expired badges to deceased persons badges and one or two of the older style that should not have been in use since the end of last year. The two week amnesty was part of a wider initiative called Operation Bluebird which has this year removed or seized a further 91 badges that were being inappropriately used within the County.

To help deal with this issue in the future traffic wardens and parking attendants in East Sussex have received training on how to identify any misuse of Blue Badges. In addition we have an Investigator which is funded from a successful bid to the Department of Communities and Local Government for two years. The Investigator works closely with enforcement officers who provide daily intelligence regarding suspect badges and also provide sworn statements of any seizures for use in court. The Investigator also receives concerns from members of the public from our dedicated e-mail address. All concerns are looked into and the Investigator is able to carry out interviews under caution, seize Blue Badges and collate information for any cases that require further action, including prosecution.

**2. Question by Councillor Hodges to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment**

Ashford Road in Hastings lies within the St. Helens and Silverhill Division of East Sussex that I represent. It is a road built in the early sixties of concrete construction and without any further surface coating. This in itself creates a significant ambient noise problem from passing vehicles that have increased by an order of magnitude since its date of construction. However whilst the noise problem remains at a nuisance level, the far more serious problem is the continuing deterioration of the pavements in terms of the misalignment of the paving flags. Where the misalignment of adjacent flags exceeds the County Council's intervention standard, our excellent Highway Steward has previously effected the necessary repairs, and continues to do so. The rate of deterioration, which is adversely affected by the hydrology of a clay subsoil, many adjacent trees, and inferior reinstatement works by the utility companies, exceeds the frequency at which subsequent inspections take place. This has had the effect of leaving much of the pavement in a condition that is not conducive to the passage of the significant percentage of elderly and infirm residents who have retired to this area. I have attempted through Overview and Scrutiny to ask for a reduction in the intervention criteria for misaligned paving flags when the population of a particular street has a skew in its demography towards those who would be adversely affected by such a set of conditions as now exist in Ashford Road. Apparently this is too difficult to manage, although ESCC boast one of its priorities as "helping people to help themselves" with another subset of preventing trips and falls in the elderly population. There have been

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several instances of trips and falls in this area, with the resultant broken bones that not only affect an elderly population physiologically, but psychologically as well.

My question is in the form of a request to instigate a programme of paving flag replacement with black top, which does not present the same level of trip hazard to the elderly and the infirm. This programme can stretch over an extended period, geared against both need and the availability of capital investment. The immediate problems can continue to be rectified by the Highway Steward on an ad hoc basis, whilst the longer term plan is implemented. The use of black top in this area will be regarded by the utility companies as a definite advantage, and the need for constant calls upon the Highway Steward time will be all but eliminated. Such that you may have the opportunity to gauge the support for this request, it is the intention of the Borough Councillor to petition ESCC along these lines.

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

Responsibility for determining the maintenance requirements for all local roads rests with your local Highway Steward in accordance with our agreed policies for maintenance. As Lead Member for Transport and Environment I do not get involved in operational matters, but importantly I leave these matters to the local Highway Stewards and to the Asset Management Team who are best placed to look after local roads and determine maintenance priorities.

With regard to Ashford Road itself, I am aware that it is a concrete road and I am advised it is in a serviceable condition. As such applying a thin layer of asphalt to reduce the level of road noise would not be a priority for the County Council with all of the other competing calls upon the highways budget. Your local Highway Steward will however continue to monitor the condition of this road until such time as it reaches sufficient priority in the Highways Asset Plan for resurfacing.

The matter of the pavements in Ashford Road is something that was considered by the Economy, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Committee last year and you will recall it was agreed that the Highways Maintenance Policy relating to pavements and the intervention levels would not be altered. It is not a question of being too difficult to manage, simply a matter of maintaining a consistent approach across the county and ensuring maintenance priorities are determined objectively from the Highways Asset Plan. The Highway Steward will continue to keep an eye on these pavements and has agreed for you to accompany him on an inspection. As and when the condition of these pavements warrants whole scale replacement, an appropriate solution will be identified.