

MINUTES

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

MINUTES of a MEETING of the EAST SUSEX COUNTY COUNCIL held at Council Chamber, County Hall, Lewes on 22 MARCH 2016 at 10.00 am

Present Councillors John Barnes, Colin Belsey (Chairman), Nick Bennett, Bill Bentley, Mike Blanch, Ian Buchanan, Frank Carstairs, Tania Charman, 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, Philip Howson, Laurence Keeley, Carolyn Lambert, Carl Maynard, Michael Phillips, Peter Pragnell, Mike Pursglove, Pat Rodohan, Phil Scott, Jim Sheppard, 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 and Francis Whetstone

59 Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2016

59.1 RESOLVED - to confirm the minutes of the meeting of the County Council held on 9 February 2016 as a correct record

60 Apologies for absence

60.1 Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Carla Butler, Peter Charlton, Ruth O'Keeffe MBE, Daniel Shing and Michael Wincott

61 Chairman's business

JOHN HODGES

61.1 The Chairman, Group Leaders and other members paid tribute to John Hodges following his death on 11 February 2016. John Hodges was a respected councillor both at Hastings Borough and at the County Council where he served since 2013. His knowledge and commitment will be greatly missed. On behalf of the County Council, the Chairman offered condolences to John's family and friends.

61.2 The Council stood in silence as a mark of respect for their former colleague John Hodges.

CHAIRMAN'S ACTIVITIES

61.3 The Chairman reported that he had attended a number of engagements since the last meeting of the County Council including: the winter graduation ceremony at Brighton University, the Build East Sussex Annual Marketplace event, the Lewes and Wealden Business Awards 2016 Launch event, the opening of the Hastings Register Office, the 21st anniversary reception

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for the Friends of Sussex Hospices, the Hall and Woodhouse Community Chest launch, the East Sussex Community Choir concert and the finals evening of the local heat of the Rotary International in Britain and Ireland Young Writer Competition. The Vice Chairman also attended a number of events.

61.4 The Chairman notified that the Council that a CD in memory of Jeremy Birch called 'One Hastings, Many Voices' was available from Councillor Webb. Proceeds from the sale were going to the Hastings Friendship Group a charitable trust in Hastings

PRAYERS

61.5 The Chairman thanked Senior Minister Ian White at Victoria Baptist Church, Eastbourne for leading the prayers before the Council meeting

PETITIONS

61.6 The Chairman informed the Council that immediately before the meeting he had received the following petition from members as follows:

Councillor Barnes	- calling on the County Council to conduct a review of speed limits in the village of Dallington
Councillor Carstairs	- calling on the County Council to install traffic lights at Exceat Bridge
Councillor Daniel	- calling on the County Council to extend the current yellow line parking restriction on the corner of Hopgarden Close by 25m outside Nos 2 and 4
Councillor Galley	- calling on the County Council to improve road safety on the one way section of Horsted Lane, Danehill
Councillor Lambert	- objecting to the proposed expansion of Cradle Hill Primary School, Seaford and requesting an open consultation and robust and sustainable traffic management and parking plan

62 Questions from members of the public

62.1 There were no questions from the public

63 Reports

63.1 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
Governance Committee	-	paragraph 2
Lead Member for Transport and Environment	-	paragraph 1

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NON-RESERVED PARAGRAPHS

63.2 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.

64 Report of the Cabinet – Reserved Paragraphs

64.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraphs of the Cabinet report.

64.2 The motions were CARRIED after debate

65 Report of the Governance Committee – Reserved Paragraph

65.1 Councillor Glazier moved the reserved paragraph of the Governance Committee report

65.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate

66 Report of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

66.1 Councillor Maynard moved the reserved paragraph in the report of the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

66.2 The motion was CARRIED after debate

67 Questions from County Councillors

ORAL QUESTIONS TO CABINET MEMBERS

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

Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Field	Councillor Glazier	Democratic input into consideration of proposals to close schools and democratic accountability of such decisions
Councillor Ungar	Councillor Bentley	Involvement of voluntary organisations and in particular hospices in the Better Together Programme
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Elkin	Cost to the County Council of schools that are not currently academies becoming so
Councillor Forward	Councillor Bennett	Proposals to turn every school into an academy by 2020 and how assets, particularly land and playing fields' will be protected
Councillor Daniel	Councillor Maynard	Representations to Highway England to remove non-biodegradable rubbish from verges and hedgerows on A259 and A27

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Questioner	Respondent	Subject
Councillor Shing	Councillor Glazier	Paperless meetings from April 2016
Councillor Tutt	Councillor Glazier	Request that no political material is inserted into Your County by the organisation delivering the document
Councillor Galley	Councillor Maynard	Cleaning of road signs
Councillor Whetstone	Councillor Maynard	Communication with parish councils regarding priority for cleaning road signs

WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

67.2 Two written questions were received from Councillors Lambert and St Pierre for the Lead Member for Transport and Environment and the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability. The questions and answers are attached to these minutes.

67.3 The Lead Members responded to supplementary questions.

THE CHAIRMAN DECLARED THE MEETING CLOSED AT 11.46 am

The reports referred to are included in the minute book

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WRITTEN QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 44

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

Can the Lead Member please state how many visits by Civil Enforcement Officers were carried out in the last calendar year to each of the primary and secondary schools in East Sussex and how many Penalty Charge Notices were issued for parking infringements as a result of these visits?

Answer by the Lead Member for Transport and Environment

The total number of visits to schools in the Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) areas of Eastbourne, Hastings and Lewes during 2015 was 1,028 with 176 PCNs being issued. The breakdown per CPE area is as follows:

<u>CPE Area</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>PCNs</u>
Eastbourne	267	41
Lewes	428	15
Hastings	333	120

Of the above numbers, the breakdown of visits by type of school is:

<u>School type</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>PCNs</u>
Primary	924	174
Secondary	70	1
Combined	34	1

2. Question by Councillor St Pierre to the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

- a) How many children are being home educated in this local authority and proportionally is this in line with other authorities?
- b) Of these, how many are educated at home while awaiting specialist school placement?
- c) How many times are these children visited to ensure they have an appropriate level of education?
- d) How is the issue of safeguarding these children from physical or emotional abuse dealt with by Children's Services?

Answer by the Lead Member for Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability

- a) Number of open cases is 614 as of 8 March 2016. Local authorities do not publish numbers of electively home educated (EHE) therefore we are not able to compare.
- b) Children awaiting a specialist school placement are not electively home educated unless the parents send a letter to the school where they are on roll to explicitly state that they wish to home educate their children. We are not aware of any children at the moment where this is the case.

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c) All families who EHE are offered a supportive visit. If the education being delivered is judged to be suitable then they are visited annually. If the education is not deemed to be suitable then parents are given advice and guidance and links to resources and revisited until the provision is improved.

d) ISEND Teaching & Learning Provision (T&LP), who make the visits to families, adheres to East Sussex Children's Services Authority safeguarding policy and practice. Staff making the EHE visits access regular training. Prior to making a visit the Children's Index is consulted and any other available information e.g. concerns expressed by previous school or other professionals involved with the family. Joint visits with social care may be made if there is an identified risk and appropriate. Any concerns following a visit are reported to the Duty and Assessment Team and dealt with in the normal way. The visits by T&LP are primarily concerned with establishing that a suitable education is being delivered. It should be noted that they are not safeguarding visits. Please note that parents do not have to agree to a visit but can elect to send evidence that a suitable education is being delivered. Where a parent refuses a visit, fails to send evidence or education being delivered is deemed to be unsuitable then an attendance order may be served on the parent requiring them to register their child at a school. Link to national guidelines below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/288135/guidelines_for_las_on_elective_home_educationsecondrevisedv2_0.pdf