



Seaford Town Council

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Full Council held at the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford on Thursday 20th April 2017 at 7.00pm.

Present:

Councillor L Freeman (Mayor), Councillor M Brown (Deputy Mayor)
Councillors S Adeniji, D Argent, P Boorman, D Burchett, B Burfield, N Freeman, T Goodman, R Hayder, O Honeyman, A Latham, A McLean, L Wallraven, M Wearmouth, B Webb and C White.
Tom Exley, Deputy Young Mayor of Seaford
James Corrigan, Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council
Georgia Raeburn, PA to the Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council (minutes)
9 members of the public.

C95/04/17 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor A McLean.

C96/04/17 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interest.

C97/04/17 Public Participation

Christine Brett

*Passed her condolences to the family of late Councillor Worcester.
Requested that the two councillors that have recently joined the Conservative party formally make this known at the meeting tonight.
Feels that as the councillors were not elected under this banner that if a by-election is to be held, they should stand again under this new banner.*

Town Clerk

Confirmed that the Council is a corporate body and therefore not involved with the political parties; this is a matter for individual councillors to address if they so wish.

Sylvia Dunn

Queried the amount of overpaid salary on item 7, section 1.9 of the Clerk's Report.

Encouraged the Council to continue with the NALC model Standing Orders when the review of the document takes place, as per section 1.12 of the Clerk's Report.

Asked whether the pricing and design of the Martello Toilets would be brought before the Full Council in May for approval.

Expressed her strong objection to the proposal to re-establish the role of Leader of the Council. The role is not a legal requirement, is not recommended by NALC at town/parish level, principal authorities as executive bodies will have a Leader but not a town/parish council as a corporate body and is usually a political position.

Hoped that the notification requirements of Standing Order 9 had been met for this proposal.

Town Clerk

Confirmed that the overpayment of salary was around £630 having double checked the figure.

LJF

Confirmed that the Martello Toilets would not be on the agenda for the May Council meeting due to the amount of work to be done. Works are planned to start around September time.

Bob Gower

When considering agenda item 8, queried who holds the Town Clerk accountable in between Council meetings.

Questioned how the Council hoped to get planning approval for the solar panels given the struggles with original approval for The View project. Highlighted that the area proposed is within the National Park and on an allotments site.

Town Clerk

Confirmed that the Town Clerk is accountable to the Full Council. Individual councillors have no executive powers.

Confirmed that the proposed site for the solar panels is not on the allotment site but on an area to the rear of The View. If the Council decide to approve the project then the necessary planning application process will need to be followed.

Ian White

Queried aspects of the person specification for the Leader of the Council at agenda item 8. While some of the requirements would be advantageous feels they are by no means necessity and deny the opportunity to some councillors, which does not reflect well on the Council and its diversity. Feels this would be a political position, as most councillors are elected under political banners. Feels the position would not work changing every year with the Deputy Mayor. Feels the authors of the report have a distinct advantage.

Sylvia Dunn

(on behalf of Sarah McStravick)

Expressed her concern with item 8 on the agenda. The role of Leader was removed to ensure there were less political issues in the Council. Concerned that the role being reinstated would bring about a return of party whipping and voting. Expressed worry that the description of the role is unfair to those who may not meet the proposed requirements. Feels it would be a detrimental step for the Council Requested a written response.

C98/04/17 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the following minutes and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations therein:

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------------------------|
| C98.1 | Personnel | 9 th March 2017 |
| | <i>(The policies recommended for adoption at PE09/03/17 were discussed separately under agenda item 10.)</i> | |
| C98.2 | Planning & Highways | 16 th March 2017 |
| C98.3 | Finance & General Purposes | 23 rd March 2017 |
| C98.4 | Full Council | 28 th March 2017 |

C99/04/17 Mayor's Report & Engagements

The Council considered report 140/16 presenting the Mayor's Report and details of Mayoral engagements for the period on January to April 2017. The Mayor also provided a verbal update on the events attended, noting that the St George's Day celebrations are at St Andrews Church in Alfriston, not Bishopstone as stated in the report.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

C100/04/17 Young Mayor's Report

The Council heard a verbal update report from the Deputy Young Mayor, Tom Exley, in the absence of the Young Mayor. The defibrillator project is progressing very well; the first of 6 potential locations has been confirmed at Blatchington Tennis Club. St Leonard's Church, St Luke's Church, the Library, Martello Tower and The View are the other potential sites being discussed.

On behalf of the project, Tom gave special mention to St Leonard's Church and Seaford Lions Club, both of which had donated £1k towards the project.

On 5 May free CPR and defibrillator training is being offered at the Council offices, at 7pm.

The Council thanked the Young Mayor, Jessica Batchelor, and Deputy Young Mayor, Tom, for their continued work in their roles and on this particular project.

C101/04/17 Clerk's Report

The Council considered report 145/16 presenting the Clerk's update report. The Clerk gave a verbal update on some items, including the recently issued Scoping Report for the Neighbourhood Plan which is available on the Plan's website, the steady membership at the golf course, the use of The View increasing, the marketing strategy for The View, roadside banners/marketing for the Street Markets, the policy to be created for the use of the Martello Entertainments Area and the inclusion of street naming ideas within the Neighbourhood Plan or making suggestions direct to developers.

The Council is still waiting for the announcement of when Lewes District Council will be considering the planning application for the former Newlands School site. A press release will be made on this once known, it is hoped the meeting will be held at a venue in Seaford. The release will also include guidelines for public attendance and participation at District Council planning meetings.

The Council is currently disputing the service charges for utilities at 37 Church Street demanded by the Police. If the matter is not resolved then it may go to arbitration; a report would be brought to the May Council meeting if this is the case.

The Council requested that the Clerk chase up Lewes District Council regarding the planning conditions being fulfilled at Eversley Court.

An update was given on the Brooklyn Road and Steyne Road flooding issues; new pumps are to be installed at Brooklyn Road by Southern Water and the gulleys and combined sewers at Steyne Road have been cleared, which should alleviate any issue.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report and to require the Town Clerk to formally write to Lewes District Council to request the Eversley Court social housing supply is fully pursued.

C102/04/17 Proposal for position of 'Leader of Seaford Town Council'

The Council considered report 141/16 presenting a proposal from Councillors Latham and Brown for the Council to establish the position of 'Leader of Seaford Town Council'.

The Council discussed the item in great detail, including potential amendments to the job description and person specification, the implications of the role and the potential of micro-management, severing relationships between councillors and the Clerk/Officers and inequality amongst councillors.

It was **PROPOSED** to reject the proposal that the role of Leader of Seaford Town Council be created. **A RECORDED VOTE** was requested;

Councillor S Adeniji	For
Councillor D Argent	Against
Councillor P Boorman	Against
Councillor M Brown	Against
Councillor D Burchett	For
Councillor B Burfield	For

L JF

Councillor L Freeman	Abstained
Councillor N Freeman	For
Councillor T Goodman	Against
Councillor R Hayder	For
Councillor O Honeyman	For
Councillor R Honeyman	For
Councillor A Latham	Against
Councillor P Lower	For
Councillor L Wallraven	For
Councillor M Wearmouth	For
Councillor B Webb	For
Councillor C White	For

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED** and the proposal was therefore **REJECTED**.

C103/04/17 Financial Regulations

The Council considered report 142/16 presenting the revised Financial Regulations for adoption.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the revised Financial Regulations as presented, noting that the page indexing is to be corrected.

C104/04/17 Adoption of Personnel Policies

The Council considered report 143/16 presenting the Personnel Policies for adoption.

- C104.1** It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Maternity, Paternity and Adoption Leave Policy as presented;
- C104.2** It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Parental Leave Policy as presented;
- C104.3** It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Equal Opportunities Policy as presented;
- C104.4** It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Training & Development Policy as presented;
- C104.5** It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Sickness Absence Policy as presented.

C105/04/17 Solar Panels at The View

The Council considered report 144/16 regarding a lease for the installation of solar panels at The View, discussing items of the terms and conditions of the contract including early termination, excess energy produced and credit, the payment terms and the system capacity versus estimated output. Councillors discussed any potential environmental and visual impact; the Clerk confirmed this would be reviewed as part of the planning application process.

- C105.1** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to the exclusivity contract with Renewable Energy Investments being entered into;
- C105.2** It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to the installation of solar panels on the land to the rear of The View, subject to satisfactory financial reward for Seaford Town Council being secured.

C106/04/17 Coat of Arms

The Council considered report 147/16 presenting a report regarding Seaford Town Council's Coat of Arms and registering it as a trademark.

It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to protect the Seaford Town Council Coat of Arms through trademark registration in the name of Seaford Town Council.

LJF

C107/04/17 Salts Cottage

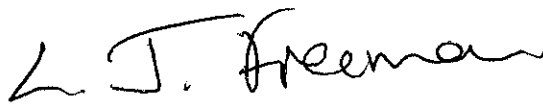
The Council considered report 146/16 regarding the offer from Lewes District Council to transfer ownership of the Salts Cottage to Seaford Town Council, discussing the right of Seaford taxpayers to ownership of the property and the potential use of the property.

It was **PROPOSED** to **INSTRUCT** the Clerk to contact Lewes District Council and request that this matter be formally considered at the next available Cabinet or Council meeting, whichever is most appropriate.

Councillors S Adeniji, O Honeyman and L Wallraven abstained from voting due to being District Councillors.

The **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. J. Freeman', written in a cursive style.

Councillor Lindsay Freeman
Mayor of Seaford