



Seaford Town Council

MINUTES of the meeting of the **Full Council** held at the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford on **Thursday 9th April 2015** at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Councillor M Brown (Mayor) and Councillor T Goodman (Deputy Mayor).
Councillors S Adeniji, R E Allen, B Burfield, G Cork, S Dunn, P Franklin, A Hayder, A Latham, S McStravick, B Warren, A White and I White.
James Corrigan, Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council
Georgia Raeburn, PA to the Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council (minutes)
Police Sergeant Stuart Mullins
13 members of the public.

C133/04/15 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Gauntlett, B Groves, P Heseltine, L Lord and R Needham, and the Young Mayor, Millie Hemsley.

C134/04/15 Disclosure of Interests

Councillors L Wallraven, A White and I White all declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 17 of the agenda.

C135/04/15 Public Participation

- Debbie Ward* With reference to item 17 on the agenda raised concerns regarding the Code of Conduct complaint continuing to this stage and in her view the apparent failure to take certain factors in to account during the initial investigation. Expressed her wish that the recommendations from Lewes District Council's Standards Committee be not upheld.
- Roger Foxwell* Hopes that the next Council will treat the matter of a Neighbourhood Plan as urgent and engage with the Seaford community to get things started.
- Mayor Brown Confirmed that the Council had established a Neighbourhood Plan Working Group who have held one meeting and decided it best to wait until after the upcoming elections before continuing. The next meeting will be arranged shortly after the elections.
- Bob Gower* Asked that it be minuted of his appreciation for the work done by the Councillors on a voluntary basis over the last four years.

C136/04/15 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** and **ADOPT** the following minutes:

- C136.1** Planning & Highways Committee – 8th January 2015
- C136.2** Full Council – 15th January 2015
- C136.3** Community Services Committee – 22nd January 2015
- C136.4** Planning & Highways Committee – 19th February 2015

C136.5 Finance & General Purposes Committee – 26th February 2015

C136.6 Golf Committee – 3rd March 2015

C136.7 Planning & Highways Committee – 12th March 2015

C136.8 Community Services Committee – 19th March 2015

C137/04/15 Mayor's Report

Members considered report 243/14.

Mayor Brown updated members that the process for electing a Deputy Young Mayor is underway with the schools hoping to have held ballots ready for an announcement at the Town Forum on Tuesday 28th April.

Other events not reported are: Seaford Head Golf Clubhouse Formal Opening on Saturday 18th April; Seahaven Scouts St Georges Day Parade on Sunday 19th April (Deputy Mayor attending); St Georges Day 'Ringing of the Bells' across the country at 6pm on Thursday 23rd April; Town Forum on Tuesday 28th April and the Mayor's Charity Ball on Saturday 2nd May.

Members **NOTED** the contents of the Mayor's Report and details of the Mayoral Engagements.

C138/04/15 Clerk's Report

Members considered report 216/14.

The Clerk provided a verbal update on the Salts Play Area consultation being underway, the upcoming formal opening of the Seaford Head Golf Clubhouse on Saturday 18th April and the few alterations and landscaping works being done, the highway works on Southdown Road and the situation regarding the Section 38 agreement.

Members **NOTED** the contents of the Clerk's Report and **AGREED** to the priorities.

C139/04/15 District & County Council Update

C139.1 Councillor Paul Franklin (Lewes District Council) -

Lewes District Council has been working on a Green Waste Pilot Scheme for the residents of Seaford and how to recycle more, moving away from the outdated bin and box scheme. Confirmed that LDC now get more money back from recycled materials; waste is a resource. LDC is looking towards introducing single stream recycling.

Confirmed that LDC would be supplying green waste bins free of charge to those households wishing to opt in to the scheme. There will be a small annual cost to take part in the scheme, which includes fortnightly collections of the green waste.

Other Councils may not charge a separate fee for households wishing to use the scheme but the costs of the scheme are built in to the budget and therefore rolled up in the council tax demands for the towns.

Confirmed that the review of bin emptying in open spaces is ongoing. LDC are having to look at the commercial viability of the plans. Seaford seafront bins should be included in the review. The review documentation should be made available to the public once completed.

Confirmed that it was not possible to change the system of the household waste & recycling site so monies generated from recycling came to LDC as it is a basic transfer site; Veolia operate the site so therefore obtain the credits and any monies from the recyclable materials.

C139.2 Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council) –

Negotiations are still underway with regards to where and when the speed survey on Vale Road will be taking place.

Has submitted written questions to the Lead Member for Transport and Environment, Councillor Carl Maynard, regarding some concerns residents are experiencing further to the changes at the household waste & recycling site in Seaford.

Has requested an update on the planning application for the garage site off Place Lane as this has been refused once already.

Des Pritchard, Chief Fire Officer and Chief Executive at East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, has announced that he will be leaving at the end of September after 40 years with the Fire Service. Recruitment will be underway soon to find a replacement.

Welcomes the work being done by the Working Group on a Neighbourhood Plan and would be happy to support this process going forwards.

Confirmed that ESCC has already announced its budget cuts and that there will be no changes to the Fire Service provided in Seaford.

(Councillor S Adeniji entered the meeting at 7.34pm)

C140/04/15 Police Report

Police Sergeant Stuart Mullins gave a verbal presentation of his Police Report that had been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting.

He advised that the youths responsible for the spate of car crime in January are being dealt with, with two having being charged. Similarly two men are being investigated, with one being charged, for the burglaries that took place in February.

Sussex Police announced its aim to reduce police officer and staff posts by several hundred over the next 5 years. This will inevitably have an effect on the size and structure of local policing teams. Very little detail about what local policing will look like in the future is known yet, though there is no doubt it will have some effect on the way Seaford is policed. The work to thrash out this detail is taking place over the rest of the year and no changes are expected until 2016 at the earliest. Assurances have been made that whatever happens there will be no reduction in the numbers of Response Officers, who deal with emergency and quick response incidents, and that every ward will have a named point of contact.

Councillor Brown informed members of the Sussex Elders Commission that has been established providing an opportunity for older residents to support, challenge and inform the work of Sussex Police. Any residents with concerns regarding the changes to policing in Sussex may bring these to the attention of the Seaford representative, Mark Brown, to bring to the attention of the Elders Commission.

Sgt Mullins confirmed that he is happy for his team to assist and support the District Council with their works to combat the dog fouling issues in Seaford.

Sgt Mullins confirmed that Seaford Speed Watch team have offered to help carry out the monitoring of the effectiveness of the 20mph speed zone in Seaford. The results of which will be reported back to East Sussex County Council.

Thanks were relayed to Steve O'Connell and his Speed Watch team for all the work they have carried out in Seaford.

A request was made for more Police presence at 1.30/2am in the centre of town during the holidays, when drinkers are finishing their nights. Thankfully the number of shop windows being smashed has decreased over the last two years however Police presence does act as a deterrent.

Sgt Mullins confirmed that the gentleman who was involved in an accident with a vehicle on Sutton Park Road last year has recovered fully from his leg injury.

It was stressed that if ever looked in to Seaford Town Council would fight strongly against any temptation to close the Police facility at Seaford.

C141/04/15 Meeting Timetable 2015/16

Members considered report 229/14.

The Clerk was requested to look at creating a brief Petitions Policy as part of the Corporate Governance Review being undertaken.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the proposed meeting timetable for the 2015/16 Municipal Year.

(a short break was held from 8.03 to 8.11pm – County Councillor Carolyn Lambert and Sgt Mullins both exited the meeting)

C142/04/15 Freedom of the Town Update

Members considered report 228/14.

The Clerk was requested to look at the Honorary Freedom of the Town Policy as part of the Corporate Governance Review; considering the necessity of the requirement for a two-thirds vote for a nomination to be successful and whether nominations be considered first under an exclusion of the press and public to allow councillors the opportunity to discuss each nominee in more detail.

Members **NOTED** the content of the report providing an update on the Freedom of the Town process.

C143/04/15 Flood Defence Working Group Report

Members considered report 239/14.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations as set out in the Working Group's report:

C143.1 For the Planning & Highways Committee to note the Seahaven Flood Plan and to assess the impact of the flood risk on future planning applications in the flood risk zone. Possibly having training arranged if deemed necessary.

C143.2 For the working group to continue in its current membership, adding new group members after the election if required to ensure a Councillor Representative remains on the group and allow additional members that are

interested in joining the group to get involved. Review membership in July 2015.

C143.3 To continue to work in partnership with ESCC and LDC to reassure, educate and engage the public into the risks and contingency plans.

C143.4 To plan an education/action day.

C143.5 To look into the possibility of training Flood defence volunteers.

C143.6 For the Working Group to reconvene in May following the elections.

C144/04/15 Annual Report

Members considered report 247/14 presenting the draft 2014/15 Annual Report.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the draft annual report as presented with a few amendments as discussed.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the Annual Report being provided free of charge in hard copy where requests are made; at a limit of one per individual.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the spend of £495.00 to have the Annual Report professionally printed.

C145/04/15 Corporate Governance Review

Members considered report 246/14.

The Clerk elaborated on the concept of the Balanced Scorecard Approach to the Corporate Governance Review.

Members **NOTED** the contents of the report and were pleased with the approach that is to be taken.

C146/04/15 Adoption of New Financial Regulations

Members considered report 245/14.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the new Financial Regulations with any uses of 'Chairman' being amended to 'Mayor'.

C147/04/15 Grants Policy

Members considered report 248/14.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Grants Policy as presented, retaining the maximum grant level of £3,000 and stipulating that all organisations requesting grants must go through the grants process. There will be two existing grant applicants that are exempt from the maximum grant limit and their applications will therefore be considered by Full Council, with a £5,000 limit in place. The review date of the Grants Policy is to be set as April 2018.

C148/04/15 The Salts Play Area – Contractor Selection

Members considered report 244/14.

It was **RESOLVED** to **GRANT** delegated power to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman of the Community Services Committee to appoint the selected contractor for the design and build of The Salts Play Area.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ALLOCATE** up to £15,000 from the projects revenue budget to this project to cover any shortfalls.

C149/04/15 Lewes District Council Standards Committee Minutes

Members considered and discussed report 230/14.

It was **PROPOSED** not to adopt the recommendations of the Standards Committee.

A **RECORDED VOTE** was requested;

Cllr S Adeniji	For
Cllr R E Allen	For
Cllr M Brown	Abstained
Cllr B Burfield	Against
Cllr G Cork	Abstained
Cllr S Dunn	For
Cllr P Franklin	Against
Cllr T Goodman	For
Cllr A Hayder	For
Cllr A Latham	For
Cllr S McStravick	For
Cllr B Warren	Abstained
Cllr L Wallraven	Against
Cllr A White	For
Cllr I White	Against

The proposal was **CARRIED**; 8 for, 4 against, 3 abstentions.

C150/04/15 Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the discussion on items 19 and 20 on the agenda as the items concern confidential Council matters.

(All remaining members of the public and Councillor I White exited the meeting at 9.34pm)

C151/04/15 Hurdis House

Members considered exempt report 242/14.

It was **RESOLVED** to **SUSPEND** Standing Order 3w to allow the meeting to exceed three hours duration.

It was **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** in principle to the letting of the building to Mr Jenkins, subject to due diligence being undertaken, a five year rent review being included and an annual rental increase in line with RPI.

FURTHERMORE, it was **AGREED** to offer a rent free period to cover repayment of the 50% of the costs paid by the tenant for the works plus 5%.

It was **RESOLVED** to **INSTRUCT** Officers to secure loan agreement approval to cover 50% of the costs of the works, but not to draw down on the loan until the pending litigation is known and the Council finances are more certain.

C152/04/15 Local Development Framework

Members considered exempt report 249/14.



It was confirmed that the Local Development Framework will be addressed and consulted on at different stages; this report is regarding identifying the bits of land that are suitable, others will include exact number of houses and the impact on infrastructure.

Lewes District Council provided a confidential consultation document for consideration by the Council as to proposed plots of land suitable for development. After members considered each plot individually it was **RESOLVED** that Council Officers respond as detailed during the meeting on each parcel of land.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.



Councillor Mark Brown
Mayor of Seaford

