



Seaford Town Council

MINUTES of a **Meeting** of the **Full Council** held at the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford on **Thursday 28th April 2016** at **7.00pm**.

Present:

Councillor D Argent (Mayor) and Councillor R Hayder (Deputy Mayor).
Councillors S Adeniji, P Boorman, M Brown, D Burchett, B Burfield, C Campbell, L Freeman, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, A Latham, P Lower, A McLean, I Murray, L Wallraven and L Worcester.

James Corrigan, Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council

Georgia Raeburn, PA to the Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council (minutes)

Inspector Robert Lovell – Sussex Police

14 members of the public.

C100/04/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors R Chambers, M Lambert and D Silvey-Adam.

C101/04/16 Disclosure of Interests

Councillor L Wallraven declared a pecuniary interest in item 18 on the agenda under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and Localism Act 2011, due to being a resident of a property in discussion.

C102/04/16 Public Participation

Anthony White Questioned what was being done by the Police with monitoring the Salts Recreation Ground, in particular the Café area, as this is something he has raised with the local Police for a period of time now.

Questioned what impact the draft plans by East Sussex County Council to outsource the management of the Seven Sisters Country Park would have on the Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve.

Asked when an announcement would be made on a completion date for the works on the play area at The Salts.

Town Clerk

Confirmed that the ESCC plans to outsource the Seven Sisters Country Park will not include any of the Town Council owned land on the Nature Reserve. The Clerk is not aware of the specific ESCC land the plans cover or the third party that it is proposed to outsource management to as the announcement of the draft plans had only been received that day.

Confirmed that Officers are visiting The Salts play area daily and that the contractors are also carrying out some work outside of the original contract, such as the safety surfacing on one of the mounds to make this more user-friendly and sustainable. The contractors still have not been fully paid and Council officers continue to pursue them for a completion date.

Police
Inspector
Lovell

Stated that he would speak with Mr White after the meeting to get more details regarding any issues at The Salts and speak also with the local Police Sergeant to better understand the situation.

*Eric
Woodward*

Requested that all Councillors declare which way they will be voting in the EU Referendum.

Sylvia Dunn Wished to thank Councillors O Honeyman and Adeniji for their work with the Flood Action Group and its Flood Fair event on 23rd April, Ben King for his support and those other councillors that attended on the day.

Questioned whether there was a time limit on the recovery period for an overpayment of salary as per agenda item 6, 1.3.

Asked whether solar panels for The View had been in the original design and if so why the Council now had to bear the cost.

Asked for an update with Seaford in Bloom; whether there had been a response from East Sussex County Council and whether a new group was to be set up.

Expressed concerns that the public do not get to see the Police report. Asked whether there was any truth behind rumours regarding Newhaven and Seaford Police stations shutting. If so, asked how a 15 minute response time would be met if officers have to travel from Lewes.

Town Clerk Confirmed that solar panels were included in the original design of The View but integrated solar panels that would just be used for hot water. The option being looked in to was retrospective solar panels that would be used for electricity but due to having to be weighted, these are not a viable option on The View's grass roof. It may be a possibility to look at solar panels on the roof of a new shed when purchased for the Greenkeeper's yard.

Confirmed that the time frame to recover a civil debt is six years. While this recovery is not considered a priority task, it will be commenced in due course.

Confirmed that there have been no discussions with Police regarding the closure of the Police station at Seaford. Seaford Town Council does have a lease for a part of the building, which would stay in force.

Police Inspector Lovell Stated that there are no plans to close Newhaven or Seaford Police stations. Newhaven town has recently seen the opening of the new multi-force premises, with the Police, Lewes District Council and Fire Service occupying it together.

Confirmed that Seaford station has not had Response Officers for three years now; Response Officers are now based out of Lewes. Confirmed that the 15 minute response target is currently met 80% of the time and that there are no plans afoot to close either Police station.

Christine Brett *Expressed that she was pleased to see the meeting attendance figures published and hopes that these will be published online.*

In the spirit of transparency and improved communication, questioned whether councillors would consider doing a short statement each following their first year in office, how they have helped residents, events they have attended etc as a follow up to the Councillor profiles published after the elections.

Expressed her like of the seating outside the library and her support of a sculpture trail around the town, something grants can be sought for.

- Vanessa Lawrence* Stated that the new hours for the Seaford Tourist Information Centre on the report at item 11 are not correct and questioned whether in light of these reduced hours, residents are now paying more for less service.
- Town Clerk Advised that the question regarding the Tourist Information Centre would need to be raised with Lewes District Council.
- Sally Staples* Introduced herself to the meeting as the East Sussex County Council officer for the library seating project and that she would be happy to answer any questions on item 15 of the agenda.
- Roger Foxwell* Provided the Town Clerk with supplier's details for the previously mentioned request to have British butter at The View.
- Questioned why the new trees on Sutton Avenue have been planted so close to the pavement and the quality of the staking.*
- Expressed his concern that the Council does not have enough information to make a decision on leasing the Nature Reserve to Sussex Wildlife Trust on a long term arrangement. Asked who has submitted proposals for South Hill Barn and what the associated costs are given that there are no utilities on site.*
- Town Clerk Confirmed that he would pass the butter supplier details on to the Restaurant & Bar Manager at The View.
- Explained that the newly planted trees are part of a project by the volunteer Tree Wardens but that he would pass on the comments to the wardens.
- Confirmed that the report was seeking indication from councillors if they are willing to look at entering a lease with Sussex Wildlife Trust, not making an agreement. The next step would then be to come back with a more detailed proposal and lease agreement.
- Confirmed that South Hill Barn is not part of the above proposed lease as it is not on the Nature Reserve. Explained that there is a water supply at the Barn but no electricity, however there are alternative methods such as a generator, wind or solar that can be looked in to.

C103/04/16 Minutes

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

- C103.1** Council – 28th January 2016
- C103.2** Planning & Highways – 4th February 2016
- C103.3** Community Services – 11th February 2016
- C103.4** Planning & Highways – 25th February 2016
- C103.5** Finance & General Purposes – 3rd March 2016
- C103.6** Planning & Highways – 10th March 2016
- C103.7** Golf – 15th March 2016
- C103.8** Planning & Highways – 24th March 2016
- C103.9** Planning & Highways – 7th April 2016
- C103.10** Community Services – 14th April 2016

C104/04/16 Police Report

Members **NOTED** the written report provided by Police Sergeant Mullins.

Police Inspector Lovell was in attendance to give members a verbal update on the planned changes to local policing in line with the five year Local Policing Programme aiming by 2020 for Sussex Police to have made the necessary savings (around £35m) and efficiency cuts whilst maintaining the delivery of services.

The Programme covers response policing, neighbourhood policing, investigations, linking with criminal justice and custodial functions.

Inspector Lovell explained the first stage to be implemented from the Programme; the changes to neighbourhood policing that take effect from 4th July 2016. The role of PCSO has been revised since first being introduced in 2002 and upskilled, making PCSOs better equipped for crime and problem solving.

PCSOs will be working as Prevention Teams rather than named individuals. In the Lewes District there will be three teams of four PCSO's. Based from Lewes the teams will be deployed flexibly as required. One benefit of the team based approach is that it is not just one or two PCSOs with specific local knowledge but whole teams.

Across Sussex the current number of PCSOs is 259 which needs to be reduced to 200 under the Programme; in Lewes District this is just a reduction of one PCSO. Current PCSOs are able to apply for the upskilled PCSO roles and it is also open for external applicants.

Inspector Lovell was able to confirm that there will be no reduction in the number of Response Officers.

Inspector Lovell took questions from the meeting and public, he was able to confirm;

- that there will remain a presence in Seaford police station, just not permanently (as is currently the case);
- that the savings and cuts do stretch to across the whole Force including the Lewes District Commander merging responsibility to include Wealden and Eastbourne, and certain back office functions merging with Surrey;
- recruitment has been opened for 100 new Police recruits in Sussex;
- that Police response times can and will be given if requested;
- that whilst Lewes, Wealden and Eastbourne policing is merging, the Community Safety Partnership's Joint Action Groups will remain separate to enable them to focus on local issues.

Members thanked Inspector Lovell for attending and providing the meeting with an update.

(Police Inspector Lovell left the meeting)

*(Members **AGREED** to bring forward item 15 of the agenda)*

C105/04/16 Seaford Library – Public Seating

The Council considered report 177/15 and **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** transfer of ownership and future maintenance responsibility for the new public seat/art project 'Transparent Seaford' outside Seaford Library to Seaford Town Council, after a 12 month maintenance period during which it will remain as East Sussex County Council property.

C106/04/16 Mayor's Report & Engagements

The Council considered report 176/15 and **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** its contents.

C107/04/16 Clerk's Report

The Council considered report 161/15 and the verbal updates the Clerk provided. These included a meeting with the new Chief Executive of Lewes District Council to be held soon where the Clerk hopes among other things to discuss the 2015 election costs, a Council Tax leaflet and the request from the Town Council for the District to devolve the management responsibilities of Street Trading in the town.

The Clerk also updated members on income generation by Officers, the Neighbourhood Plan, Hurdis House and interest from private investors in the Salts Café.

C107.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the Clerk's report and **AGREE** to the priorities therein, with the addition of the Clerk reporting back to Council on the General Power of Competence; how this is achieved and the benefit this would have on the Council if achieved.

C107.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** voluntary donations to the Mayor's Charities being sought in exchange for the Town Clerk signing resident's pension forms.

C108/04/16 District & County Council Update

Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council)

Provided the meeting with an update on the roles of those in the East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, the draft proposal for changes to the boundaries within East Sussex (effecting County Council boundaries, not District or Town boundaries) and the parking review consultation that has been extended for those residents of Brooklyn Road, Chichester Road and Claremont Road due to the impact of the development works on Claremont Road.

Councillor Linda Wallraven (Lewes District Council)

Confirmed that the District Council have instructed contractors to clear the rubbish on the A26.

Councillor Olivia Honeyman (Lewes District Council)

Informed the meeting that District Councillors receive a weekly publication called 'Members First' giving updates on the District Council.

Extended her thanks to all of those involved in the Flood Action Group, many of whom are volunteers.

Councillor Sam Adeniji (Lewes District Council)

Confirmed that the male toilets are now open on Place Lane further to the refurbishment.

Informed the meeting that Veolia are having an open day on 13th May 2016 between 10am and 2pm to raise awareness of where recycled food goes and the process undertaken.

Encouraged members to look at the details of the Lewes District Business Awards at www.lewesdistrictbusinessawards.co.uk to recognise the achievements of local businesses.

Town Clerk

Informed the meeting that Lewes District Council have informed the Council that it has secured a grant to investigate the provision of business incubator units within Seaford on disused land at the industrial estate, or somewhere else if this is not suitable; a similar scheme to that introduced in Newhaven.

C109/04/16 Amendment to Meeting Dates

The Council considered report 169/15 and **RESOLVED** to **DELEGATE** authority to the Town Clerk to arrange an alternate date for the next Council meeting in order to meet the requirement for the Annual Return to be approved, on the understanding that this may also involve changing other meeting dates to accommodate this.

C110/04/16 Interim Meeting Attendance Record

The Council considered report 170/15 and **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report and Interim Attendance Record.

Councillor Richard Honeyman asked that the final attendance record include his attendance as a substitute at the Community Services meeting on 11th February 2016.

C111/04/16 New Opening Hours; 37 Church Street

The Council considered report 162/15 and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** changing the opening hours of Seaford Town Council to 9.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9.30am to 4.30pm Friday with effect from 1st May 2016.

C112/04/16 Adoption of Time Off In Lieu Policy

The Council considered report 174/15 and **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the revised draft Time Off In Lieu Policy with a review date of April 2019.

C113/04/16 Sussex Wildlife Trust Proposal to Lease Seaford Head Nature Reserve for 25 years

The Council considered report 171/15 and discussed the implications in detail, including the length of lease, other alternatives available and financial implications.

It was **PROPOSED** that the Town Clerk negotiate with Sussex Wildlife Trust to draft Heads of Terms on the basis of a ten year lease and bring this back to Council to consider.

A **RECORDED VOTE** was requested:

Councillor S Adeniji	Against
Councillor D Argent	Against
Councillor P Boorman	Against
Councillor M Brown	For
Councillor D Burchett	For
Councillor B Burfield	Against
Councillor C Campbell	Abstained
Councillor L Freeman	For
Councillor R Hayder	Against
Councillor O Honeyman	Against
Councillor R Honeyman	Against
Councillor A Latham	For
Councillor P Lower	Against
Councillor A Mclean	Against
Councillor I Murray	Against
Councillor L Wallraven	For
Councillor L Worcester	Against

The **MOTION** was **NOT CARRIED**.

It was **PROPOSED** to take the **RECOMMENDATION** as per the report, to agree in principle to entering in to a 25 year lease for Seaford Head Nature Reserve with Sussex Wildlife Trust, with the condition that the final proposals are first approved by a future Council meeting.

A **RECORDED VOTE** was requested:

Councillor S Adeniji	For
Councillor D Argent	For
Councillor P Boorman	For
Councillor M Brown	Against
Councillor D Burchett	Against
Councillor B Burfield	Against
Councillor C Campbell	Against
Councillor L Freeman	Against
Councillor R Hayder	For
Councillor O Honeyman	For
Councillor R Honeyman	Against
Councillor A Latham	Against
Councillor P Lower	For
Councillor A Mclean	For
Councillor I Murray	For
Councillor L Wallraven	Against
Councillor L Worcester	For

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

C114/04/16 Newhaven Port & Properties Authority Transfer of Land

The Council considered report 175/15 and **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the offer from Newhaven Port & Properties Authority to transfer a portion of land to the Town Council free of charge and to **INSTRUCT** the Town Clerk to process this land transfer.

C115/04/16 Adoption of Mission Statement and Strategic Objectives

The Council considered report 180/15.

C116.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Mission Statement “Working together for Seaford” and the five strategic objectives, namely;

1. To develop the cultural and economic well-being of the Town
2. To improve the environment of the Town
3. To improve and maintain the recreational facilities of the Town
4. To help represent the needs of the community
5. To practice good governance and fiscal responsibility

C116.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Strategic Plan with the following two amendments;

1. Both the Golf Course and The View will have a target to generate a profit of £30k (agenda page 68);
2. Along with the introduction of the new Brown Sign scheme the redundant and excess signs will also be removed (agenda page 66).

C116/04/16 Flood Defence Working Group Update

The Council considered report 178/15 and the recommendations therein.

C117.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the update report.

C117.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **EXTEND** the Council's gratitude to Ian Hodgson, Emergency Planning Officer, for his tireless support with the groups work so far.

(Councillor L Wallraven exited the meeting having declared a pecuniary interest in the following agenda item.)

C117/04/16 Bishopstone United Charities

The Council considered report 179/15 and verbal update provided by the Town Clerk.

It was **PROPOSED** to take the **RECOMMENDATION** as per the report , to agree to Officers approaching Bishopstone United Charities with the offer to take over the Administration of the Charity initially at a charge of £35 per hour on condition that the charity moves towards a new constitution and undertakes a full due diligence review as outlined in the report. This will include surveyor report on properties, financial review and financial plan for the future.

A **RECORDED VOTE** was requested;

Councillor S Adeniji	Abstained
Councillor D Argent	Against
Councillor P Boorman	For
Councillor M Brown	Against
Councillor D Burchett	Abstained
Councillor B Burfield	Against
Councillor C Campbell	For
Councillor L Freeman	Abstained
Councillor R Hayder	Against
Councillor O Honeyman	Abstained
Councillor R Honeyman	For
Councillor A Latham	Against
Councillor P Lower	For
Councillor A Mclean	For
Councillor I Murray	Abstained
Councillor L Worcester	For

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

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

Councillor Dave Argent
Mayor of Seaford