

Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council held on 13 December 2017 from 7.00 pm to 7.45 pm.

Present: Councillors:

Bruce Forbes (Chairman)
Phillip Coote (Vice-Chairman)

Jonathan Ash-Edwards
Andrew Barrett-Miles
Edward Belsey
John Belsey
Margaret Belsey
Liz Bennett
Michelle Binks
Anne Boutrup
Pete Bradbury*
Heidi Brunsdon*
Cherry Catharine
Richard Cherry
Rod Clarke*
Ruth de Mierre
Tony Dorey*
David Dorking*
Sandy Ellis
Claire Fussell

Steven Hansford
Sue Hatton*
Ginny Heard
Chris Hersey
Margaret Hersey
Colin Holden
Anne Jones MBE
Jim Knight
Jacqui Landriani
Andrew Lea*
Anthea Lea
Judy Llewellyn-Burke*
Andrew MacNaughton
Gordon Marples*
Gary Marsh
Edward Matthews

Norman Mockford
Pru Moore
Howard Muddin
Kirsty Page
Geoff Rawlinson
Peter Reed
Robert Salisbury
Linda Stockwell*
Dick Sweatman
Mandy Thomas-Atkin
Colin Trumble
Neville Walker
Garry Wall
Anthony Watts Williams
Norman Webster
Rex Whittaker
John Wilkinson
Peter Wyan

*Absent

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Chairman held a minutes silence in remembrance of two former Councillors, Carole Preston and Leslie Fairweather O.B.E.

1. OPENING PRAYER

The opening prayer was read by the Vice-Chairman.

2. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 9

None

3. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 1 NOVEMBER 2017

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 1 November 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS IN RESPECT OF ANY MATTER ON THE AGENDA

None.

5. TO CONSIDER ANY ITEMS THAT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL AGREES TO TAKE AS URGENT BUSINESS

None.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman noted with thanks to Councillor Mockford that a recent event had raised £525 for the Chairman's chosen charity, Sullivan's Heroes. He also noted that the Chairman's Civic Service at St Leonard's Church was well attended and he drew Members attention to the Carol Singing being held by Officers on 20th December at 12.30 which Members are invited to participate in.

7. REVIEW OF THE INDEPENDENT PANEL ON MEMBERS ALLOWANCES FOR 2018/19.

Neil Gershon, Chairman of the Independent Remuneration Panel introduced the report and expressed thanks to Officers and Members who had contributed to discussions on the subject. He felt that the recommendations were in line with inflation and the four year plan for consistency, and within sensible limits given the Council's financial position. In future years the Panel will work towards a more structured system for Special Responsibility Allowances, linking them to the basic allowance by the use of multipliers.

The report was proposed by Councillor Thomas-Atkin who thanked the Panel and the Members who met with them. The report and thanks was seconded by Councillor Ash-Edwards who noted that the Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Resources and Economic Growth would consider the financial implications of the report during their budget considerations to ensure they are incorporated for 2018/19.

The Chairman took Members to the recommendations which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- (i) thanked the Panel for their work;
- (ii) considered the recommendations of the Panel, summarised below, and
- (iii) agreed the recommended scheme of allowances for the financial year 2018/19.

8. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2018/19.

The Chairman introduced the report detailing the proposed programme of meetings for 2018/19. As there were no Members wishing to speak, he took Members to the recommendation which was approved unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Council approved the Programme as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

9. MID SUSSEX DISTRICT COUNCIL SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND ADULTS POLICY.

Councillor Walker proposed the report, drawing Members attention to the policy context outlined on p.34 and the need for revisions to be made. He thanked the Scrutiny Committee, Members and Officers for their help and support in progressing the policy to this stage. Members commented that it was good to see the active promotion of the welfare and protection of Children and Adults throughout the district and welcomed the Safeguarding training anticipated in the New Year. It was suggested that the training could be sourced through the Integrated Prevention and Earliest Help Service.

The report was seconded by Councillor Webster who emphasised that safeguarding is a responsibility that falls to everyone and that every Officer or Member who comes into contact with the public needs to be sufficiently trained to respond. He thanked the Safeguarding Officer Rachel Wright for her work on updating the policy and in staying on after her notice period to continue training. Recruitment is now underway for her successor.

The Chairman took Members to the recommendations which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Council:

- (i) Agreed the revised Mid Sussex District Council Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy and Training Strategy.
- (ii) Noted the publication and response to the West Sussex Serious Case Review Findings.

10. COUNCIL TAXBASE 2018/19

Councillor Ash-Edwards proposed the report drawing Members attention to the recommendation under item 3. He highlighted the context to the changes in the taxbase detailed in paragraph 12, in particular the decrease in council tax support discounts. The report was seconded by Councillor Wall.

The Chairman took Members to the recommendations which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

That Council agreed:

- (a) Pursuant to the Head of Corporate Resource's report and in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Tax Base) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2003, the amounts calculated by Mid Sussex District Council as its tax base for the whole area for the year 2018/19 shall be 59,983.3 and for each parish area for the year 2018/19 shall be:

| | |
|---------------------|-------|
| Albourne | 304.5 |
| Ansty & Staplefield | 979.0 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|----------|
| Ardingly | 738.3 |
| Ashurst Wood | 745.8 |
| Balcombe | 823.1 |
| Bolney | 637.3 |
| Burgess Hill | 11,731.8 |
| Cuckfield | 1,671.6 |
| East Grinstead | 11,314.9 |
| Fulking | 145.3 |
| Hassocks | 3,364.9 |
| Haywards Heath | 11,759.8 |
| Horsted Keynes | 691.3 |
| Hurstpierpoint and Sayers Common | 2,965.5 |
| Lindfield | 2,827.0 |
| Lindfield Rural | 1,412.3 |
| Newtimber | 42.7 |
| Poynings | 131.3 |
| Pyecombe | 121.3 |
| Slaugham | 1,293.8 |
| Turners Hill | 600.6 |
| Twineham | 134.8 |
| West Hoathly | 928.2 |
| Worth | 4,618.2 |

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CABINET MEETING OF 20 NOVEMBER 2017.

The Chairman introduced the report and as there were no Members wishing to speak he took Members to the recommendations which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

Council agreed:

- (i) That £32,549 be transferred to the IER Specific Reserve as detailed in paragraph 24;
- (ii) That windfall income as set out in paragraph 25 of this report be transferred to General Reserve;
- (iv) The variations to the Capital Programme contained in paragraph 39 in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure rule B4.

12. TO RECEIVE THE LEADERS REPORT

The Leader drew Members attention to a number of strategic meetings he had recently attended where he was able to promote the Council's ambitions and discuss the challenges associated with growth across the District and the wider region. He has recently met with the Leaders from all the West Sussex authorities, colleagues, and with the Greater Brighton Economic Board. He acknowledged that being a member of such strategic partnerships has enabled the Council to engage with Government Ministers and two Secretaries of State and he appreciated the support of MPs, in particular Sir Nicholas Soames MP in facilitating such meetings.

Following a meeting in October with the Rt. Hon. Matt Hancock MP, Minister for

Digital Service the Leader confirmed that the Council has received a very encouraging letter from the Minister asking the Council to bring forward a bid to deliver upgrades to the District's digital infrastructure. . A meeting has also been held with the Secretary of State for Transport, Rt Hon. Chris Grayling M.P. where the Leader was able to demonstrate the Council's commitment to deliver growth and highlight the necessary support required from Government to assist in bringing forward supporting infrastructure. The Secretary of State demonstrated a deep understanding of the problems faced in Mid Sussex.

The Leader also attended a private meeting with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Rt. Hon Sajid Javid MP, the three local MPs and the Leader of Horsham District Council, Cllr Ray Dawe and Mims Davis M.P. The Secretary of State was knowledgeable about this area and the Council's concerns regarding growth and infrastructure. He was also aware of concerns regarding the Ashdown Forest and its impact on potential growth. The Leader hopes to meet again in the New Year with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Rt. Hon Greg Clark MP regarding supporting the local economy.

The Leader also attended the second meeting of the South East Transport Shadow Board to discuss strategic and major road network priorities. Finally he reported that he would also be attending a meeting with colleagues from the Government, County and the LEP to work towards a sensible outcome regarding the sixth form college site at Harlands Road.

He concluded by thanking members for their representation of the Council at a number of moving and memorable Remembrance Services throughout the District.

13 REPORT OF CABINET MEMBERS, INCLUDING QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.1.

Report of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth

On 8 December the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth chaired the CenSus Joint Committee where it resolved to recommend that each Council disband the Committee by the end of the financial year. This will be reported to Council as part of changes to the Constitution. He acknowledged that the Committee has been beneficial to the Council over a number of years in terms of efficiencies and service delivery but noted that each Council is now looking to develop a service tailored to their resident's needs going forward.

Regarding service and financial planning, he noted that we await the local Government financial settlement and a report will go to the Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Resources and economic Growth in January. He noted that current budget proposals highlight a number of opportunities for investment. He also noted that there is a proposal for a £5 increase in Council Tax at Band D which is similar to other Councils in the area and will maintain Mid Sussex as the third lowest tax level in the County.

Regarding economic development there are positive indications with the latest unemployment figures published today placing Mid Sussex towards the bottom of the table, and also with the report from the Social Mobility Commission placing Mid Sussex 75th out of 324 in the Country. This is a good indication of the strong

economic opportunities in the area.

There have also been two welcome consultations published recently, one from Highways England regarding implementing the smart motorway on the M23 and one from Thameslink regarding the timetable once the restrictions at London Bridge have been lifted. This will result in a direct line to Cambridge which has positive implications for linking the Science and Technology park planned for Burgess Hill to similar institutions in Cambridge.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services confirmed an unprecedented 99% return rate on the annual electoral canvas compared to 97% in the previous year. She noted that 61% responded using digital methods compared to 44 % last year which is estimated to have saved taxpayers £15,000. Residents had an incentive of a retail voucher, and the presentation to the winners took place this week. The 2018 Electoral Register was also published in November. The Cabinet Member gave congratulations to the Democratic Services team for all their efforts in ensuring such a success.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that the first stage of Social Media training has taken place and thanked Simon Hughes and Dave Briggs for their presentation. Similar sessions will be planned going forward to tailor it to the individual needs of Members.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery

The Cabinet member for Service Delivery confirmed that subject to the Cabinet agreeing with recommendations in January, there will be further investments in leisure centres with extra parking created at The Dolphin and investment into the leisure pool at the Triangle.

He confirmed that there has been successful completion of the first phase of a pilot scheme with the British Heart Foundation which has collected nearly 19.5 tons of recyclable items.

The Cabinet Member concluded by confirming that the Council and Places for People has invested in a climbing wall at The Triangle and he attended the opening with Councillor Moore and Councillor Ash-Edwards . He congratulated the Deputy Leader on being one of the first to climb the wall.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Community

The Cabinet Member for Community focussed on the flagship priorities for 2018, one of which is the Council's continuing support to the community through grants to local organisations. He noted that this year excluding contractual payments we have invested over £400,000 in voluntary and community groups.

Another flagship priority is to ensure that the 'Think Family' community initiatives are delivered and supported, including literacy, domestic abuse, mental health and emotional wellbeing. He noted that it also includes the Early Intervention Project currently funded by the PCC for which we are most grateful.

The Cabinet Member also noted the importance of the Wellbeing programme which

has significant potential to build a healthier community, save money in Public Health and NHS budgets and improve quality of life whilst reducing social isolation. He noted that the Wellbeing Service has interacted with over 2500 people in the last quarter and delivered focussed programmes to 500 people. He acknowledged that by comparison, the Wellbeing Service is ahead of the curve and in the New Year they will be working to take the Service into GP practices and to build successful outcome based storytelling case histories to support continued investment in this work.

He concluded by thanking the Officers for their outstanding commitment and Members for their support and for being the Council's eyes and ears in the community.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning noted that the first meeting of the Member Working Group for Site Allocations took place on 27 November. During this meeting, the Business Unit Leader for Planning Policy and Economy informed Members that 166 sites had been nominated for inclusion in the new Strategic Housing Employment Land Availability Assessment (SHELAA) of which 95 sites have previously been promoted and 72 sites are new. Officers are investigating whether sites in the 2015 Strategic Housing Land and Availability Assessment SHLAA which have not been resubmitted should be carried forward for inclusion in the new SHELAA.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that on 28 November the first Mid Sussex Developer Liaison Meeting was held with 15 attendees from the developers side.

He also confirmed that a Member workshop on Affordable Housing and Temporary Accommodation was held on 12 December with good attendance and he commended the Officers for their hard work in putting it together. The slides will be available in the next Member Information Service bulletin.

He concluded by thanking Officers and Members for their hard work throughout the year.

14. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2

None.

The Meeting was closed at 7.45 pm.

Chairman