

**Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council
held on 21 September 2016 from 7.00 pm to 7.55 pm.**

Present: Councillors:

Peter Reed (Chairman)
Bruce Forbes (Vice-Chairman)

John Allen
Jonathan Ash-Edwards
Andrew Barrett-Miles
Edward Belsey
John Belsey
Margaret Belsey
Liz Bennett
Anne Boutrup
Pete Bradbury
Heidi Brunson
Kevin Burke*
Cherry Catharine*
Richard Cherry
Rod Clarke
Phillip Coote
Ruth de Mierre
Tony Dorey

David Dorking*
Sandy Ellis*
Steven Hansford
Ginny Heard
Chris Hersey
Margaret Hersey
Colin Holden
Anne Jones MBE
Chris King
Jim Knight
Jacqui Landriani
Andrew Lea
Anthea Lea*
Andrew MacNaughton
Bob Mainstone
Gordon Marples
Gary Marsh*

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

*Absent

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

None.

29. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF COUNCIL HELD ON 20 JULY 2016.

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 20 July 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

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

None.

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

None.

20. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Chairman confirmed that his announcements including his engagements had been published on the website. He wished to thank Councillor de Mierre and the Haywards Heath Town Team for organising a celebration of the 175th anniversary of

the arrival of the railway to Haywards Heath. At this event officers held a Tombola stall which raised over £210 for Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Chairmans Charity. Finally he wished to acknowledge the achievements of a number of Olympians that had a local connection with the District, namely Laura Unsworth, Sophie Bray and Kirsty Mackay of the Women's Hockey Team who all play for East Grinstead and Tom Mitchell of the Men's Rugby 7s Team who first played at East Grinstead Rugby Club. He further wished to mention Paralympian Sascha Kindred OBE who in 2013 attended the Mid Sussex Parallel Youth Games at the Triangle Leisure Centre. Finally the Chairman sought to remind Members that the Community Service awards event was to take place on Sunday 25th September at the Ravenswood Hotel, Sharpthorne.

21. ALBOURNE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Watts-Williams proposed that Council formally 'makes' the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Mid Sussex. He noted that 96.2 % of those that voted had voted in favour at a Referendum that was held on 1st September 2016. This was seconded by Councillor MacNaughton.

A Member asked whether the Neighbourhood Plans were flexible and could be amended.

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning confirmed that Neighbourhood Plans could be amended as they were live documents.

RESOLVED

Council resolved to 'make' the Albourne Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Mid Sussex.

22. BALCOMBE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND URBAN DESIGN GUIDE

Councillor MacNaughton introduced the Report as Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning. He stated that Town and Parish Council's work very diligently on their Neighbourhood Plan and he recommended the Balcombe Neighbourhood Plan be 'made' and the Urban Design Guide be adopted. This was seconded by Councillor Norman Webster.

Councillor Norman Webster stated that he welcomed the progress that had been made and this was the twelfth Neighbourhood Plan to come forward in Mid Sussex. The Neighbourhood Plans would help to underpin the District Plan and this particular Neighbourhood Plan allocated sites for both housing and employment. The Design Guide he stated provided a clear steer on design elements within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. 95% percent of those that voted had voted in favour of the Plan.

RESOLVED

Council resolved to 'make' the Balcombe Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Mid Sussex and to adopt the accompanying Design Guide.

23. BOLNEY NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Norman Webster was pleased to introduce the Report to Council. The

Plan had been to Referendum on 1st September when 520 electors voted in favour of using the plan to determine planning applications as such he was pleased to move as recommended and this was seconded by Councillor Andrew MacNaughton.

RESOLVED

Council resolved to 'make' the Bolney Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Mid Sussex.

24. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET HELD ON 6 SEPTEMBER 2016.

These were agreed.

25. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT.

The Leader named his new Cabinet Member and welcomed Councillor Mandy Thomas Atkin as the new Cabinet Member for Customer Services. The Leader then set out which Cabinet Member would be responsible for which areas of the Council's Services and asked that this was distributed in MIS and updated in the Council's Constitution as soon as practicable.

The Leader then went on to state that he had received a letter from the Royal British Legion asking the Council to support their request for changes to questions contained in the Census. He was pleased to do this and a copy of the letter was to be published in MIS.

The Leader noted the Haywards Heath Town day event which was a prime example of the vibrant towns and villages across Mid Sussex. Key individuals were instrumental in bringing forward such events and he wished to personally thank Councillor Ruth de Mierre for her efforts.

In relation to the Local Enterprise Partnership the Leader confirmed that he was no longer the Chairman but he remained an active Member.

Louise Goldsmith of West Sussex County Council was the interim Chairman of the 3 Southern Counties Devolution Bid and all 26 authorities were represented with the Vice Chairman role being undertaken by the Leader of Lewes District Council and the Leader of Surrey Heath Borough Council. The Leader remained spokesman for housing and planning and he firmly believed it was a Devolution Deal worth consideration by Government.

The Leader stated that a formal arrangement had been entered into with the County Council and Burgess Hill Town Council in relation to the Burgess Hill Development Board, recognising that the project was strategically important across the county if not the whole of the southeast. He hoped this formal arrangement would enable work to progress.

The Leader drew attention to some recent good news items including the gym extension at the Triangle and the Green Waste Service rollout which should lead to the backlog being cleared by the 7th November.

The Leader advised Members that, Mark Fisher was leaving the Council after many years' service and thanked him for his work. Mark led the Council's procurement of these key contracts in the areas of Landscape, Waste and Leisure.

A Member asked the Leader to comment on the funding gap over the next 30 years identified in infrastructure reports from West Sussex County Council.

The Leader stated that it was important to be aware of the infrastructure deficit as a whole and that the only available model being offered to assist in bridging the gap in funding was through Devolution and it was vital that individual authorities worked together in the interests of residents.

A Member stated that he was very interested in the Burgess Hill Development Board work and he fully supported the development of the Northern Arc. He sought assurances that in relation to this work the surrounding villages and localities that could potentially be impacted by traffic would be given full consideration as the potential impacts were a concern to residents.

The Leader confirmed that there was an understanding of potential traffic effects on surrounding communities and associated infrastructure concerns.

Another Member stated that he attended the Burgess Hill Development Board meeting and he could reassure Members that impacts on surrounding communities were being considered. It was important that Burgess Hill became a 21st Century town as it was currently considered to be dated and that this was the largest project in the county.

The Leader confirmed that this was a significant project that required partnership working and formalising the working relationship was a significant step in the right direction on what will be a long journey.

A Member stated that there was pressure on the centre of Burgess Hill and she was pleased to see the Council was working with neighbouring authorities, however, she asked that the Council would work to secure the best possible infrastructure package for residents.

The Leader confirmed that the Council was working both individually and collectively with neighbouring authorities and the County Council. The Council had made a bid for transport improvements to the Local Growth Fund and we waited to see the outcome.

A further Member stated that he didn't see much money flowing from such projects just yet and that he would welcome further progress reports on major projects the Council was involved with.

The Leader stated that he updated Members at various levels and that he would continue to share information with colleagues. The environment was becoming increasingly challenging and as such it would require more engagement at a strategic level. Despite the challenges Mid Sussex was taken seriously at board meetings and various group meetings. One example that he was able to give was in relation to the funding secured for A2300 road improvements.

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

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

Councillor Jonathan Ash Edwards thanked colleagues and officers for their hard

work and stated he was excited to take on the new brief. He was particularly pleased to be able to help shape economic growth which he would be taking up at a time when there is a strong local economy with major development earmarked for each of the towns. The conditions for growth in Mid Sussex were good. His first ambition would be for an ambitious economic strategy nurturing job supply. His second ambition is to build relationships with local businesses and thirdly to support economic growth and an economy that worked for everyone. The Cabinet Member stated that at its meeting on 6th September, Cabinet had agreed to accept a 4 year Funding Deal from Government. Finally he wished to remind Members to make an appointment through Member Services to get upgraded to Office 365.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Community

The Cabinet Member stated that there had been dissatisfaction expressed with regards to housing repairs conducted by Affinity Sutton previously, however, performance had improved and was now close to or exceeded target with jobs completed first time.

The Wellbeing Team had supported 3 Playdays hosted by the Council and also attended the Bentswood Fun Day. Attending these events raised the profile of the service.

In relation to Armistice Day Councillor Linda Stockwell, the Armed Services Champion will be circulating a remembrance event list to Members so that the number of wreaths required could be calculated.

On a final note he wished to highlight the Silver Sunday Tea which will take place on 16th October and encouraged colleagues to attend.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

Councillor Andrew MacNaughton confirmed that the Council had submitted the District Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination and initial questions from the Independent Inspector had been received. The Council would be responding to these questions within the timeframe set out by the Inspector.

There were now 10 'made' Neighbourhood Plans and a further three 'made' this evening. Both the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan and the Ansty and Staplefield Neighbourhood Plan were expected to go before Cabinet agree the Examiner's Recommendations for referendum in the near future.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services

Councillor Mandy Thomas-Atkin thanked everyone in attendance for their good wishes and stated that she was honoured to be appointed to the Cabinet.

26. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 10.2.

None.

The Meeting was closed at 7:55 pm.

Chairman