

Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council held on 2 November 2016 from 7.00 pm to 9.28 pm.

Present: Councillors:

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

John Allen*	David Dorking*	Peter Martin
Jonathan Ash-Edwards	Sandy Ellis	Edward Matthews
Andrew Barrett-Miles	Steven Hansford*	Norman Mockford
Edward Belsey	Ginny Heard	Pru Moore
John Belsey	Chris Hersey	Howard Mundin
Margaret Belsey	Margaret Hersey	Kirsty Page
Liz Bennett	Colin Holden	Geoff Rawlinson
Anne Boutrup	Anne Jones MBE	Robert Salisbury
Pete Bradbury	Chris King	Linda Stockwell
Heidi Brunsdon*	Jim Knight	Dick Sweatman*
Kevin Burke	Jacqui Landriani	Mandy Thomas-Atkin
Cherry Catharine	Andrew Lea	Colin Trumble*
Richard Cherry	Anthea Lea	Neville Walker
Rod Clarke	Andrew MacNaughton	Garry Wall
Phillip Coote	Bob Mainstone*	Anthony Watts Williams*
Ruth de Mierre	Gordon Marples	Norman Webster
Tony Dorey	Gary Marsh	John Wilkinson
		Peter Wyan

*Absent

1. **OPENING PRAYER**

Prior to the Opening Prayer being read, the Chairman paid tribute to former Council Chairman Janice Mackelden, who recently passed away. He led Members in one minute's silence in honour of her memory.

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 21 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Councillor Jim Knight clarified that he was in attendance at the previous Council meeting. With this being included, the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 21 September 2016 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**

Councillor De Mierre declared a personal interest in item 14.

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

None.

6. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed Members that a full list of his recent engagements had been published on the Council website. He thanked those Members who attended the Chairman's Community Service Awards held at The Ravenswood, Sharpthorne.

He invited all Members to attend the Chairman's Christmas refreshments after Council on 14 December and advised Members that if they wished to attend, to contact Lucinda Joyce in Democratic Services to help with the catering arrangements.

7. MAKING OF THE EAST GRINSTEAD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Wyan proposed that Council formally 'make' the East Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan part of the Development Plan for Mid Sussex. He noted the fact that East Grinstead Town Council formed the Neighbourhood Plan Working Group in 2011, and it had taken five years for the Plan to get to this stage in consultation with residents and business groups.

He stated that when the Plan went to the Examiner for examination, the Examiner only recommended few amendments, and gave thanks to Rex Whittaker, Leader of East Grinstead Town Council, all Working Group Members, and town groups for their help in creating the Plan.

He drew attention to the fact that out of the total 4443 votes cast, 4105 residents voted in favour, and 328 voted No.

Councillor MacNaughton seconded the motion and congratulated East Grinstead on the 'making' of its plan.

RESOLVED

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

8. ADOPTION OF UPDATED POLICY ON LICENSING OF SEX ESTABLISHMENTS

Councillor Boutrup introduced the report. She stated that this item had been scrutinised by the Scrutiny Committee for Leisure and Community on 6 July 2016. She summarised that there had been no changes to the policy since its initial inception, and no legislative changes related to the policy. She concluded it is a very robust policy that she is happy to propose.

The Chairman clarified to Members that Mid Sussex District Council does not currently have any licensable sex establishments.

Councillor Marples stated that a national adult clothing and accessory shop that could be considered a sex establishment could apply for a store in Haywards Heath. He queried as to whether this policy would be able to help guide planning applications for such establishments.

Councillor Normal Webster seconded the motion, stating that it is a robust policy that has come about through a thorough and robust process. If there are any applications that are considered 'borderline' the policy will be referred to and used in deliberating

such applications.

RESOLVED

Council resolved to approve the Statement of policy for Sex Establishment Venues at appendix 1 for implementation on the 28th November 2016.

9. CHANGES TO THE THREE SCRUTINY COMMITTEES' RESPONSIBILITIES

Councillor Gary Marsh introduced the report. He stated that these are sensible amendments following the restructure of the Cabinet portfolios. He informed Members that it makes sense to have Cabinet Member responsibilities complementing Scrutiny Committee responsibilities and the relevant management team officer.

A Member wished to remind Council Members that any Member can attend a Scrutiny Committee if they so wished.

A further Member queried why in point 8 of the report, the proposed Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Resources and Economic Growth, did not include Property in its remit.

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery clarified that this area is the responsibility of the portfolio holder for Resources and Economic Growth, as stipulated in the Council's constitution.

Councillor Wilkinson seconded the motion.

RESOLVED

Council resolved to accept the modifications to the Scrutiny Committees set out in paragraphs 6-8 of the report and request the Constitution is updated accordingly forthwith

10. REVISED SCHEDULE OF OUTSIDE APPOINTMENTS

Councillor Garry Wall, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and apologised for some errors in the Schedule of Appointments.

He corrected the errors as follows:

- i. The nominated Member for the Affinity Sutton Regional Scrutiny Board in Mid Sussex to be Councillor MacNaughton, replacing Councillor Webster.
- ii. The nominated Member for the Burgess Hill Business Parks Association to be Councillor Ash-Edwards, replacing Councillor Marsh.
- iii. The nominated Member for the East Grinstead Business Association to be Councillor Ash-Edwards, replacing Councillor Marsh.
- iv. The nominated substitute for the Greater Brighton Economic Board to be Councillor Ash-Edwards, replacing Councillor Marsh.
- v. The Jack and Jill Society for the Preservation of Jill Mill be renamed the Jack and Jill Windmill Society.
- vi. The Local Strategic Partnerships be amended to the Local Strategic Partnership.

Councillor Ash-Edwards seconded the motion to approve.

RESOLVED

Council resolved to recommend to approve the revised nominations to outside bodies listed in paragraph 4 of the report, and the corrections proposed by the Leader.

11. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2016

The recommendations from Cabinet held on 17 October 2016 were agreed.

12. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

The Chairman proposed that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt items on the agenda and this was seconded by the Vice-Chairman. This was agreed.

RESOLVED

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item in accordance with Section 1100A of the Local Government Act 1972, on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

15. The Council discussed and determined matters in relation to agenda items 13 and 14.

The Chairman brought the meeting back into open session on the completion of exempt business noting the recommendations of items 13 and 14 were approved.

16. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader informed Council that he attended the Greater Brighton Economic Board on 18th October at which the British Science Festival was discussed. He stated this is a prestigious national event and it was excellent news that it would be taking in the area next year.

He also reported that, at a recent Mid Sussex Partnership meeting members had considered community safety priorities He had also attended the Coast to Capital Task Force on Housing and Planning.

He drew Members' attention to two recent high level meetings. The first meeting was with the Prime Minister's Advisor on Planning and Housing and the second meeting was with the Planning Minister Gavin Barwell MP and attended by the Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive.

He thanked the Rt. Hon. Sir Nicholas Soames MP for his continued support to Mid Sussex District Council and the expertise he brings, including securing the recent meeting with the Housing Minister.

16. 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

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth stated that he is pleased with the positive debate Members had in this meeting.

He informed Members that he attended the Service and Financial Planning Working Group which marked the start of the work to prepare the 2017/18 Service Plans and budgets.

He was pleased to announce that Mid Sussex had been listed as the 7th most prosperous district in the UK by the UK Prosperity Index, and had been listed as one of the most happy by a recent Halifax Bank happiness survey.

Work was progressing with New River on the regeneration of Martlets shopping centre in Burgess Hill. Furthermore, the recent Open 4 Business event had been a major success.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services stated that since her appointment in September, she had been familiarising herself with her new portfolio. She is looking forward to further digital developments to support the use of smart-phones and tablets to access Council services, it is important that Mid Sussex District Council has an easy to use website, accessible via mobile technology

She reported on the work being undertaken to redesign the Council's web services to make it more user friendly and transaction focused – directing more customers to the website so they do not have to call the customer service centre.

She informed Council that she attended a number of meetings in connection with her portfolio. The Open 4 Business event with each of its digital workshops was also a great success as feedback received shows 85-90% satisfaction.

She thanked officers for a very slick and professional count held for the East Grinstead Neighbourhood Plan Referendum.

Her new role also gave her the opportunity to present the first 'Make a Difference Award' for excellent customer service. The well-deserved recipient was Janet Thwaites in the Customer Service team. The two apprentices recently employed by the Council were performing well. The performance of the contact centre over the last month had seen an improvement of 97% of all calls to the centre being answered, and 85% of calls answered within 40 seconds.

She reminded Members about the rollout of Office 365.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery stated he had recently had meetings with Serco at the Partnership Board at which the future garden waste strategy and cleansing costs of the A23 were discussed.

He expressed grave concern following an assault against a Serco employee. On a more positive note, he reported that the waiting list for green waste collections would be cleared by the 11th November 2016.

Attendance at the District's leisure centres continued to exceed expectations with 52% growth in two years, and just under a million visits between the months of April

and September 2017.

He reported a positive trajectory for car parking income in Haywards Heath.

He reported that a Civil Enforcement Officer had also recently been assaulted and he reiterated his support for the use of body worn cameras in order to protect staff.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Community

The Cabinet Member for Community informed Members that he had observed a recent emergency planning exercise which had focussed on dealing with extreme winter weather. Officers were supported by representatives from the Met office and West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service.

He advised Members to view the emergency plan in place which they can advise Parish colleagues on.

He stated that Mid Sussex still has the lowest crime rate in West Sussex and household burglaries are down.

A Member noted the increase in anti-social behaviour in Burgess Hill and that pub-watch meetings and neighbourhood panel meetings are failing as police no longer attend.

The Cabinet Member for Community replied that in some areas anti-social behaviour was increasing and he will meet with police representatives to discuss this and problems relating to drug dealing shortly.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning informed Members that the District Plan is at Examination between 29 – 2 December. Work continues to prepare for the hearings which would be very challenging given the concerned, heavy emphasis on increasing housing delivery nationally.

He stated that 14 Neighbourhood Plans had now been 'made' and the referendum for the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan is expected to be held on 1st December.

In response to a question raised about housing needs especially amongst young people, the Cabinet Member replied that he is aware of many problems, but solutions to every problem cannot always be found. He stated he will be in talks with Affinity Sutton and will raise these issues.

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

None.

The Meeting was closed at 9:28 pm.

Chairman