

## Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council held on 14 December 2016 from 7.00 pm to 7.48 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 Brunsdon\*  
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

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bennett, Bradbury, Brunsdon, Burke, Andrew Lea, Mainstone, Rawlinson, Salisbury and Stockwell.

### **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 2 NOVEMBER 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 2 November 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 prejudicial interest in item 8.

### **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 the Chief Executive would withdraw from the meeting for item 13 and was excused for the remainder of the meeting.

The Chairman informed Members that a full list of his recent engagements had been published on the Council website, and highlighted one event, the exhibition of the work of Sir Archibald McIndoe and the Guinea Pig Club at East Grinstead Museum.

## **7. MAKING OF THE HAYWARDS HEATH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

Councillor Dorking proposed that Council formally 'make' the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan part of the Local Development Plan.

Councillor MacNaughton seconded the motion and congratulated those involved in bringing the Plan to this stage.

### **RESOLVED**

Council resolved to 'make' the Haywards Heath Neighbourhood Plan part of the Local Development Plan.

## **8. ACQUISITION OF ORCHARDS SHOPPING CENTRE HEAD LEASE – Councillor de Mierre withdrew.**

Councillor Ash-Edwards proposed that the Council note the outcome and financial effects of the purchase, which will have significant benefits for the District. He commended Officers on the effort put in to secure the purchase, and asked that the Council also agree the temporary suspension of the Local Authority Counterparty Limit proposed to the Audit Committee, and the other amendments contained within the Treasury Management Report.

Councillor John Belsey seconded the motion and after clarification on an item related to a previous exempt Council report, the resolution was agreed.

### **RESOLVED**

Council resolved to:

- (i) Note the outcome of the purchase process;
- (ii) agree the temporary suspension of the Local Authority Counterparty Limit presented to the Audit Committee, and the other amendments contained within the Treasury Management report,
- (iii) note the financial effects of the purchase.

## **9. REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES FOR 2017/18**

The Solicitor to the Council introduced the report.

Councillor Thomas-Atkin proposed the recommendations, thanking the Panel for their work and thanking Members who took the opportunity to meet and discuss any

issues directly with the Panel prior to the completion of the report.

Councillor Wall seconded the motion and noted the views raised by Members. He thanked the Panel for their light touch review, welcomed the introduction of the Deputy leaders Allowance, which acknowledges the importance of the role.

After debate concerning a separate ICT allowance for Members, it was agreed that, as outlined in the report, this would be looked at a later date.

## **RESOLVED**

Council resolved to:

- (i) thank the Panel for their work;
- (ii) consider the recommendations of the Panel, and
- (iii) agreed the scheme of allowances for the financial year 2017/18.

## **10. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 2017/18**

The Chairman moved that the Programme of meetings be approved and this was agreed.

## **RESOLVED**

Council resolved to approve the Programme of Meetings for 2017/18.

## **11. COUNCIL TAXBASE 2017/18**

Councillor Ash-Edwards proposed the report which signifies the start the budget setting process. He drew Members attention to paragraph 12 which indicated a decrease in Council Tax support and reflected an improvement in the local economy.

Councillor Wall seconded the motion and the resolution was agreed.

## **RESOLVED**

Council resolved to agree that pursuant to the Head of Finance'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 2017/18 shall be 59,012.1 and for each parish area for the year 2017/18 shall be:

Albourne	307.2
Ansty & Staplefield	924.5
Ardingly	718.9
Ashurst Wood	740.1
Balcombe	820.8
Bolney	630.6
Burgess Hill	11,551.7
Cuckfield	1,649.6
East Grinstead	11,171.5
Fulking	145.5
Hassocks	3,348.0
Haywards Heath	11,545.8

Horsted Keynes	688.7
Hurstpierpoint & Sayers Common	2,892.3
Lindfield	2,842.8
Lindfield Rural	1,373.5
Newtimber	40.4
Poynings	134.8
Pyecombe	115.3
Slaugham	1,166.4
Turners Hill	600.2
Twineham	134.0
West Hoathly	926.3
Worth	4,543.2

## **12. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2016**

The recommendations from Cabinet held on 28 November 2016 were agreed.

## **13. CHIEF EXECUTIVE SALARY ALIGNMENT AND BENCHMARKING**

The Chief Executive withdrew from the meeting.

Councillor Wall proposed the report which was consistent with the Council's Pay Policy. It removed old salary scales detailed under paragraph 10 and replaced them with new scales listed under paragraph 13 of the report. The recommendations were a result of an independent report. He drew Members attention to item 7 indicating a significant saving.

Councillor Ash-Edwards seconded the motion and the resolution was agreed.

### **RESOLVED**

Council resolved to:

- (i) Note the work to restructure and realign management responsibilities and build capacity to meet the changing demands that face the Council; and
- (ii) Approve changes to the Chief Executive salary range and, consistent with normal practice, for the Leader to place the Chief Executive post onto the revised range.

## **14. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT**

The Leader thanked everyone who attended the District Plan Examination in Public, noting that the hearings will continue in January 2017.

He informed Members that Devolution remains high on the Council's agenda but that Government is currently focussing elsewhere.

He updated the Council on the resources already attracted to support housing growth at Burgess Hill. He reported that £17m have been secured as part of the local growth fund to upgrade the A2300 and he felt confident that the Council's most recent Growth Fund bid will be successful. This was to support sustainable transport within the town.

The Leader also highlighted the work of the Chief Executive who has put the Council in a strong position in negotiations with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to secure very considerable further investment to support housing delivery. He noted that the scale of investment secured for Burgess Hill was very significant and when questioned whether the funding is guaranteed, he explained that the HCA was responsible for developing the business case and gaining agreement from HM Treasury, however, progress to date was very positive.

**15. 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 noted the inward investment to the District which has implications on the budget process. He noted that the Service and Financial Planning Group has concluded its work and when the papers are published they will demonstrate a positive package of proposals.

He noted that the Council is proposing to increase resources for community grants and digital services, and to support the Economic Development and Burgess Hill growth. He also explained that the Council has taken up the Government offer of a multi-year funding supplement.

The new Small Business Grant scheme has invited bids with applications already received, which further demonstrates this Council's support for small local enterprises.

He also noted the change in leadership of the East Grinstead Business Association with Stuart Scholes standing down. He recognised the significant contribution that Mr Scholes has made, and although there is no named successor at this stage, he highlighted the need to maintain strong relationships with all local Business Associations.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services confirmed that the Contact Centre performance has seen an improvement on last month, making this the third consecutive improvement over past months. She highlighted the targets achieved, including 97% of all calls to the centre being answered, and 88% of calls answered within 40 seconds, as well as noting the first time that Reception had achieved their target of answering 90% of calls within 40 seconds. This performance reflected the Council's investment in digital technology.

She reported that Mid Sussex Matters was now published and delivered to homes and thanked the team involved in producing this edition.

She also confirmed that there are still 9 Members still required to register for Office 365 and encouraged them to do so before the scheduled ICT switch over.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery stated that the Ashplats Steering Group had recently held a highly successful meeting. It has been a successful enterprise

which was well received by the residents of East Grinstead and surrounding villages. The walk improvements have nearly been completed with just three small segments outstanding, to be completed by March 2017.

He stated that work is ongoing at the Leisure Centres and he encouraged Members to visit to see improvements. A further update will be provided at the next Council meeting.

#### Report of the Cabinet Member for Community

The Cabinet Member for Community informed Members of a number of successful projects which have run throughout the year and have improved the lives and health of residents. The Council's Community Development Team organised a series of Rio Olympics and Carnival themed Play Days held in the three towns. With a successful media campaign, over 2500 people attended which is double previous year.

To help tackle a national crisis in the amount of people being diagnosed with diabetes, the Wellbeing Service developed its own Prediabetes and Weight Management Programmes which run across Mid Sussex. They have been well received by customers and health professionals and are on target to deliver over 350 interventions by the end of 2016/17.

They also commissioned a new Falls Prevention Service to provide strength and balance classes in Mid Sussex. This is on target to help over 110 people by the end of 2016/17.

Using money from the Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme and working with the Police, the Mid Sussex Partnerships funded a 6 month 'drug testing on arrest' pilot, in the hope to reduce drug use and associated crime in Mid Sussex.

The Cabinet Member also confirmed that the Council continues to fund the YMCA's award winning Positive Placements Programme for young people not in education, employment or training. To date, the scheme has worked with 19 young people and overall 80% have shown an improvement.

He noted that all the schemes developed go towards improving the quality of life for residents and reduces the demands on the health services across Mid Sussex.

#### Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

The Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning echoed the Leaders thanks to all Members who attended the District Plan Examination in Public. He also thanked Councillor Ash-Edwards for his efforts to keep everyone informed after each day's deliberations.

He noted that the Inspector requested everything in writing and commended the team at Mid Sussex who rose to the challenges presented with expertise and professionalism. He thanked the Officers for all their hard work this year, not only on the District Plan but all the day to day business of the Council.

## **16. PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED MINUTES**

The Council noted the previously circulated minutes of the Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Resources and Economic Growth held on 9 November 2016, the Scrutiny

Committee for Community, Housing and Planning held on 15 November 2016, the Audit Committee held on 16 November 2016 and the Scrutiny Committee for Customer Services and Service Delivery held on 22 November 2016.

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

None.

**18. EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS**

The Chairman proposed that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the exempt item 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 100A 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.

**19. The Council approved the exempt minutes from the 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 meeting.**

The Chairman brought the meeting back into open session on the completion of exempt business and closed the meeting.

The Meeting was closed at 7.48 pm.

Chairman