

Minutes of a Meeting of Mid Sussex District Council held on 1 February 2017 from 7.00 pm to 8.04 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 Brunson	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 invited Members to join him in one minutes' silence to remember former District Councillor Ian Simpson who died recently.

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 14 DECEMBER 2016**

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 14 December 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**

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 informed Members that a full list of his recent engagements had been published on the Council website.

He highlighted his recent visit to the Chestnut Tree House Children's Hospice in Arundel and reminded Members that his Civic Service will take place on 2 April at St Swithen's Church, East Grinstead, and invitations will be sent out shortly.

7. MAKING OF THE ANSTY, STAPLEFIELD AND BROOK STREET NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Councillor Bradbury proposed that Council formally 'make' the Ansty, Staplefield and Brook Street Neighbourhood Plan part of the Local Development Plan.

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

RESOLVED

Council resolved to 'make' the Ansty, Staplefield and Brook Street Neighbourhood Plan part of the Local Development Plan.

8. ALLOCATION OF POLLING STATIONS OUTSIDE POLLING DISTRICTS 2017

The Solicitor to the Council introduced the report.

After debate concerning the allocation of the polling station in the Burgess Hill Meeds Ward, it was agreed that the Solicitor to the Council will look at amending the polling station for Norman Ward from St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Burgess Hill to St Wilfred's Parish Hall, Station Road, Burgess Hill, as this is a shorter distance for those electors to travel.

RESOLVED

Council resolved to:

Agree the polling places for all polling districts be defined as the entire District Council ward in which the polling district is situated, with an amendment to the polling station in District KDB be designated as St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Burgess Hill.

- (a) Polling Place for Polling District BCF in Herontye Ward be designated East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead;
- (b) Polling Place for Polling District BAC in Ashurst Wood Ward be designated East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead;
- (c) Polling Place for Polling District BD2 in Baldwins Ward be designated Halsford Park CP School, Manor Road, East Grinstead
- (d) Polling Place for Polling District KFB in Victoria Ward be designated the St Wilfrid's Parish Hall, Station Road, Burgess Hill;

- (e) Polling Place for Polling District FCB in High Weald Ward be designated King Edward Hall, High Street, Lindfield;
- (f) Polling Place for Polling District KEE in Dunstall Ward be designated St Edward the Confessor Church Hall, Burgess Hill; and
- (g) Polling Place for Polling District KDB in Meeds Ward be amended to St Wilfred's Parish Hall, Station Road Burgess Hill.
- (h) Place for Polling District IE in Cuckfield Ward be designated Ashenground Community Centre, Vale Road, Haywards Heath.

9. TO RECEIVE THE LEADER'S REPORT

The Leader thanked everyone who attended the recent District Plan Hearings noting that the hearings will resume on the 8 February 2017. He thanked officers for their hard work and Members for their attendance and advice.

He updated Council on the recent work of the Greater Brighton Economic Board. He also updated Council on the 3SC's devolution work. Given the Government's clear focus on other matters, this work is being paused until the summer.

He noted that the Central Sussex College (CSC) is considering a merger with Chichester College. He reiterated his concern that the merger plans do not include the Haywards Heath Campus and that from the summer of 2017, the campus will be empty.

He highlighted the work that the MP for Mid Sussex, the Rt. Hon. Sir Nicholas Soames M.P. continues to do by on this matter. He has secured meetings with the Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Greg Clark. It is the wish of the Council to lobby for support for a STEM College in the district as an empty college in the district is unacceptable.

10. 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 informed Members that the Economic Development Working Group met in January and discussed the need for further education in the District and for the Council to create more high value jobs..

The recent meeting of the Cabinet Grants Panel provided local businesses with micro-grants for the funding of apprentices and new equipment. There is another meeting scheduled for 14 February and he recommended that Members encourage local businesses to apply.

He highlighted the recent examination of the Draft Corporate Plan and Budget for 2017/18 by the Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Services and Economic Growth in which there were helpful discussions regarding the budget proposals. The Council is bringing forward a strong budget and the Council is in a position of financial strength.

There is emphasis on investing in new technology that will benefit communities.

He informed Members that Horsham District Council will be withdrawing from the CenSus Revenue and Benefits partnership. He stated that the partnership has delivered significant savings over 10 years and it is disappointing that it is ending.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Customer Services

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services introduced her report by stating that all Councillors have now been switched to Office 365 and advised Members that there will be future training on its use and to feedback to the Communications team if they have any issues.

She highlighted her recent attendance at the CenSus partnership meetings and the Police and Crime Commissioner Panel. The PCC panel discussed the proposed precept and draft budget, which will increase by 3.36% on a Band D property. The Cabinet Member informed Members that she awaits a written response regarding and update on the CCTV partnership.

She explained that the Communications team will aim to use more and better use of digital services - looking to provide information to residents via all available channels. This will enable the Council to reach and engage more residents and at a lesser cost. It will be simpler and quicker to access council services.

She highlighted various means in which the Council currently reaches out to residents, including the use of traditional press releases, Mid Sussex Matters and Facebook and Twitter. She informed Members that the number of visits to the Council's social media pages have increased substantially. She emphasised how the Communications team encourage full resident engagement by replying to every tweet and Facebook post sent to the Council.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery

The Cabinet Member for Service Delivery reported after the recent snow and ice, some residents had not had their bins collected, but this was quickly rectified after the weather had returned to normal.

The work in the Council's leisure centres is almost complete, with works in the Triangle due to be completed by the end of February 2017.

Regarding inconsiderate parking at leisure centres, he informed Members that 36 PCNs were issued in the King's Centre car park in December and 96 PCNS were issued in the Dolphin car park. He reassured Members that targeting the Leisure centres is a priority and CSOs regularly patrol them and monitor the 4 hour maximum stay length.

He informed Members that 2,390 new green bins had been issued and there is currently no waiting list for the issuing of new bins.

In response to Member questions about specific parking issues, he clarified that the Council is currently undergoing a parking audit in the IBH and IEG districts and that CEOs are currently operating at full capacity. He advised Members to contact him regarding specific parking problems.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Community

The Cabinet Member for Community could not attend the meeting due to ill health and gave his apologies.

Report of the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning

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

He informed Members that further work is needed on Housing and the Inspector will return on the 8 and 9 February for further assessments. His interim findings will be presented before 1 March 2017.

He stated that as of 31 January 2017, the Council has achieved 162 completions of new social houses for rent or shared ownership. The number of new homes for rent is 111 and for shared ownership is 51. As the target for the year to April 2017 is 128, it means that council is already 34 in front.

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

None.

The Meeting was closed at 8.04 pm.

Chairman