

**Minutes of an Extraordinary Meeting of Mid Sussex District
Council
held on 25 April 2018 from 7.00 pm to 7.44 pm**

Present: Councillors:

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

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

*Absent

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 28 MARCH 2018

The minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 March 2018 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 Landriani declared a personal interest in item 9 as she has a pension with West Sussex County Council.

During item 7, Councillor Bradbury and Councillor Andrew Lea declared personal interests as Members of West Sussex County Council when they spoke on the item.

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

None.

6. STANDARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2017

Councillor Bradbury introduced the report as Chairman of the Standards Committee, noting that there had only been one formal complaint considered by the committee in 2017. In-depth debate had been held on a number of key issues, notably the proposals by the Department of Communities and Local Government to introduce new disqualification around persons being on the Sexual Offences Register, and the request from Government to comment on the Ethical Standards in Public Life and propose any amendments. The two main recommendations put forward by the Council is to have a common Code of Conduct across all councils, and to have more varied options available for sanctions. He also confirmed that the Standards Committee includes Parish Council Members and two Independent Persons and thanked them for their guidance and work throughout the year.

The Leader seconded the report, endorsing the comments made by Councillor Bradbury.

As there were no further comments, the Chairman took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

Council:

(i) noted and commented on the report.

7. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth introduced the report and confirmed that there is now an established team in place to drive forward the Strategy and Action Plan. He noted that the Strategy has raised the profile of the Council with local businesses and stakeholders, who were extensively consulted during its formation. The scale of ambition that the Council has set out in the strategy is significant and it will evolve as our understanding and interaction with the local economy gets stronger. The Strategy is structured around four priority themes of Places, Premises, People and Promotion. It aims to ensure Mid Sussex has vibrant and attractive town and village centres for people to visit, a good supply of businesses and industrial space, the ability to develop skills and opportunity to access jobs or start a business in the area and targeted promotion to ensure Mid Sussex is known as the place to be.

Members commended the Strategy and thanked Officers for the work that has gone in to producing it.

Discussion was held on the possibility of using a site at Court Meadow School in Cuckfield as a potential location to address a lack of premises for start-up businesses or those looking to expand. Clarity was also sought on the intended audience of the Strategy and any areas of weakness that may have been identified in the Mid Sussex economy

The Deputy Leader confirmed that a working group for site allocations is currently looking at potential sites for both housing and employment. He is happy for the Cuckfield site to be explored further to establish if it may be an opportunity for investment. He also confirmed that the Strategy's intended audience is multi-faceted as it will be used by the Council as a guide to delivery and is important for the business community to give a steer on the Council's aspirations. It is also relevant for wider stakeholders such as the County Council, Members of Parliament and the Greater Brighton Economic Board. He noted that it is the aspiration of the Action Plan to address any weaknesses in the Mid Sussex Economy and that this is underway with the development proposed in Burgess Hill, the completed station development at Haywards Heath and work that has been invested with local schools in promoting STEM opportunities.

Discussion was also held on the need to increase broadband speed to assist the rural economy, and the need for good 6th Form provision in the District. The Deputy Leader acknowledged the importance of both and reassured Members that lots of work had already been carried out at Government level, with a target set for 2020 for a universal right to high speed broadband across country. He noted that the Council has been the only District Authority to be successful in the bid to bring full fibre to the District, in this case to Burgess Hill. The Council has also invested in working to promote the need for strong 6th form provision in the District, with the support of the Department of Education and the Rt. Hon. Sir Nicholas Soames MP.

In seconding the report, Councillor Stockwell noted that the Strategy had been through intense scrutiny by the Committee for Leader, Resources and Economic Growth, particularly focussing on the need for good commercial space of all sizes, and the need to ensure that young people receive the best education to aspire to local jobs and live, work and grow within Mid Sussex. The Strategy aligns well with the District Plan and provides a strong vision for local residents.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the recommendations which were agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

Council agreed to:

- (i) approve the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan set out in Appendix 1 for implementation;**
- (ii) approve the Economic Profile set out in Appendix 2 which supports the Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan;**
- (iii) give delegated authority to the Divisional Leader for Planning and Economy, to make typographical and minor factual corrections to the documentation as necessary before publication.**

8. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY 2018-23

Councillor Stockwell proposed the report, thanking the Scrutiny Committee for Leader, Resources and Economic Growth for its scrutiny of the document at a recent meeting. She noted that the Strategy covered three themes: Sustainable Council, Sustainable Environment and Sustainable Communities, and confirmed that the Scrutiny Committee will be looking closely at the action plans and key performance indicators across all three areas.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Economic Growth seconded the report.

Discussion was held on the need to carry out a survey of corporate plastic use to produce a reduction plan. The Deputy Leader acknowledged the need to change our behaviour regarding single use plastic and confirmed that the purpose of the survey and reduction plan was to have a joined up approach across the entire operational footprint of the Council. He also agreed to speak with the Cabinet Member for Service Delivery regarding a Member's query around car charging points.

In seconding the report, the Deputy Leader looked forward to the Action Plan being implemented and asked if Members were interested in joining the reconvened Climate Change Advisory Group to register an interest with their Group Leader.

As there were no further questions, the Chairman took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

Council agreed to:

- (i) approve the proposed Sustainability Strategy 2018-2023 included at Appendix 1.**

9. ADOPTION OF PENSION SCHEME DISCRETIONS

The Chairman introduced the report which is a requirement for the Council to consider each year.

The Chairman took Members to the recommendation which was agreed unanimously.

RESOLVED

Council agreed:

- (i) the discretions to be applied to the West Sussex County Council pension fund.**

The Meeting was closed at 7.44 pm.

Chairman