



# PEACEHAVEN TOWN COUNCIL

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## **Minutes of the meeting of Council held in the Anzac Room, Community House, Meridian Centre at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019**

**Present** – Mayor Cllr Claude Cheta, Deputy Mayor Cllr Job Harris, Cllr Lynda Duhigg, Cllr Sue Griffiths, Cllr Betty Walters, Cllr Gloria Hill, Cllr Isobel Sharkey, Cllr Dawn Paul, Cllr Lyn-Mai Mills, Cllr David Seabrook, Cllr Chris Collier, Cllr Alan Goble, Cllr Catherine Gallagher, Cllr Lucy Symonds, Cllr Alan Milliner, Cllr Wendy Veck.

**Officers;** A/Town Clerk, Tony Allen; Civic & Marketing Manager, Deborah Donovan; Meetings & Administration Assistant, Vicky Onis.

**Standing for co-option;** Mrs N Hamm and Miss W Veck.

**Guest speaker;** Mr M Langham.

**Miss Sussex;** Rebecca Kite.

**Public;** Two members of the public were present.

### **1 C493 MAYOR'S REPORT & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Cheta welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all involved for producing a very successful Summer Fair.

Cllr Cheta noted two community events that had been arranged:-

- A bingo night on the 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019.
- A 'Food From Around the World' evening on the 12<sup>th</sup> October 2019; with young people from the East Sussex Music Partnership performing.

Cllr Cheta reported that he had been in conversation with representatives of the House Project, with whom the Council can work to help identify grant requests from charities and local business.

#### **1.1 Presentation of 'Mayor's Certificate of Appreciation'**

Cllr Cheta awarded the Certificate to Miss Rebecca Kite for becoming Miss Sussex 2019, noting how proud he was that this honour had gone to a resident of Peacehaven. Cllr Cheta praised Miss Kite for her charity work and for being a great Ambassador for the Town.

### **2 C494 PRESENTATION ON MAGISTRATES IN THE COMMUNITY**

In an engaging talk, Mr Langham spoke about the role of a Magistrate, the different types of Court, types of punishment and the requirements for becoming a Magistrate.

*[Mr Langham and Miss Kite left the meeting].*

### **3 C495 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

A member of the public questioned the Council's approach to treating some matters as confidential, potentially setting a precedent and depriving the public of any input.

In reference to Item 17 on the meeting Agenda, the Clerk stated that this had been listed as confidential at the request of the other party involved and in view of the fact that it related to contractual matters.

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Mrs Hamm and Miss Veck addressed the meeting in relation to the reasons for their requests for co-option

### **4 C496 TO CONSIDER APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies from Cllr Simmons (prior family commitment) and A/RFO Mr A Beams (prior meeting commitment) were approved

### **5 C497 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS**

Cllr Griffiths - As a friend of both of the co-optees. Re. Item 13; as a friend of the ex-Town Manager.

Cllr Paul – Friend of Mrs Hamm.

Cllr Symonds – Friend of Mrs Hamm.

Cllr Sharkey – Acquaintance of both of the co-optees.

Cllr Mills - Acquaintance of Mrs Hamm.

Cllr Duhigg - Acquaintance of Miss Veck.

### **6 C498 TO CO-OPT A COUNCILLOR TO FILL THE VACANCY IN NORTH WARD CREATED BY THE RESIGNATION OF CLLR BUCHANAN**

It was resolved by majority that Miss Veck be co-opted to fill the North Ward Councillor vacancy. Miss Veck signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office form and the Chairman welcomed her to the Council.

*[Mrs Hamm left the meeting].*

### **7 C499 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS HELD ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2019**

It was resolved to adopt the minutes as a true record.

#### **7.1 Motion to revisit the grant request from Wave Leisure for 2019/20**

This Motion had been proposed by Cllr Seabrook and seconded by Cllr Collier and signed by four other Councillors. It was resolved to adopt the Motion.

It was resolved to refer this grant application to the Grants Sub-Committee for assessment and recommendations.

### **8 C500 TO RECEIVE THE MINUTES, CHAIRMEN'S REPORTS & REFERRALS FROM COMMITTEES**

#### **8.1 Policy & Finance Committee (Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019)**

The minutes were received.

#### **8.2 Planning & Highways Committee (Meetings 25<sup>th</sup> June & 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019)**

These minutes were received.

##### **8.2.1 Neighbourhood Development Planning report**

Cllr Gallagher reported on the ongoing work to look at the NDP in detail and the sustainability/feasibility work being conducted by AECOM.

It was noted that a meeting of the Steering Group had been arranged for the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2019, where the business would include strengthening the group's membership.

#### **8.3 Personnel Committee (Meeting 4<sup>th</sup> July 2019)**

The minutes were received.

#### **8.4 Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee (Meetings 12<sup>th</sup> March 2019 & 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2019)**

These minutes were received.

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### **8.4.1 Repairs to The Hub – funding of roof repairs**

### **8.4.2 Oval Access Gate to the Community Garden - funding from CIL money**

The above reports and related actions were noted as having been agreed by the Committee and accepted by Council.

### **8.5 Civic & Events Committee**

The minutes of the Committee's meeting on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 2019 had been received by Council at its meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019; the Committee had not met since then.

## **9 C501 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM COUNTY & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Collier reported that the leadership of the District Council had changed from Conservative to a cooperative alliance of Labour, Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Members.

Cllr Duhigg noted that the District Council had agreed its support for a new environmental strategy.

## **10 C502 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING THE COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Seabrook reported on the activities of the Peacehaven Orchard Volunteer Group.

Cllr Duhigg reported on the activities of the Peacehaven & Telscombe Access Group.

Cllr Paul reported on the activities of the Peacehaven Community Garden Group.

Cllr Harris stated that he is willing to set up a display and/or give a talk about Sussex Crimestoppers.

## **11 C503 NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR GRIFFITHS – CLIMATE EMERGENCY**

This Motion had been proposed by Cllr Griffiths and seconded by Cllr Collier and signed by five other Councillors.

Cllr Seabrook proposed amendments so that references to 'zero carbon' should read 'net zero carbon' and noted that there were some typographical errors needing correction. It was resolved to adopt the Motion as amended.

## **12 C504 CONSULTATION ON LEWES DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN PART 2 MAIN MODIFICATIONS**

This was noted.

*[Mrs Donovan, Miss Onis, Cllr Griffiths and all members of the public left the room].*

**CONFIDENTIAL**

*In accordance with Standing Order 3(d) and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1, in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press were excluded from the discussion of the following items:-*

## **13 C505 RESIGNATION OF PREVIOUS TOWN MANAGER AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

The Clerk related the latest developments in this matter and referred to the briefing paper produced for the meeting.

An email communication from the Council's advisers dated the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2019 was noted. Options available to the Council and their potential outcomes were discussed.

It was resolved to follow the course of action suggested by the advisers in this email.

*[Cllr Griffiths returned to the room. The Clerk left the room].*

**14 C506 APPOINTMENT OF TOWN CLERK**

Cllr Seabrook updated Councillors on the recruitment process, the interviews scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2019 and subsequent actions required.

It was resolved to hold an extraordinary meeting of Council on the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019, at 7pm, to finalise this appointment.

*[The Clerk returned to the room.]*

**15 C507 UPDATE ON THE RECRUITMENT OF A FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR**

Cllr Seabrook reported that the closing date for applications is the 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2019, following which a recruitment panel will be formed to assess the applications and arrange interviews.

It was noted that three applications had been received to-date.

**16 C508 UPDATE ON CURRENT STAFFING & EMPLOYMENT ISSUES**

Cllr Seabrook reported that the Policy & Finance Committee had decided to revise the arrangements with the Council's HR advisers. The Clerk noted that he will be attending a meeting with the advisers' representative, along with Cllr Seabrook and Cllr Collier, to discuss the new arrangements.

**17 C509 RESIDENT'S REQUEST TO ACQUIRE SOME COUNCIL LAND TO EXTEND GARDEN (REFERRAL FROM COMMITTEE)**

Cllr Griffiths noted that this matter had been referred to Council by the Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee as it related to the sale of a small strip of Council land. The briefing paper and Committee's recommendations were noted.

It was noted that the sale of this small piece of land [c.60cm x 22m] would represent no loss of public amenity [it is part of a verge next to a pavement] and that all related costs would be borne by the applicant.

The Clerk related the conditions that would be applied, should council resolve to proceed with this sale of land and noted that no final agreement to sell this piece of land had been reached as it would have to be at an agreed price.

The Clerk reiterated that this item had been treated as confidential at the request of the other party involved and in view of the fact that it related to contractual matters.

Cllr Seabrook suggested that, should a proposal come back to Council, then the question of selling this piece of land could be dealt with in open session.

It was resolved by majority to support the recommendations of the Committee, i.e. to proceed and offer this piece of land for sale, at zero cost to the Council, on the basis and conditions discussed.

Cllr Duhigg asked for it be noted that she had voted against this decision as she felt this process should have been more open and transparent.

There was a general discussion about considering such matters in closed session and possibly setting a precedent in relation to the sale of public land. It was noted that this could depend on the public impact, e.g. the size of the land, loss of public amenity, etc.

The Clerk stated that he was happy to seek expert advice in this respect.

**18 C510 DATE OF THE NEXT MEETINGS – Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2019 (extraordinary meeting) and Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2019.**

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:50*