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## **Minutes of the meeting of the Council meeting held in the Anzac Room, Community House on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 7.30pm**

**Present:** Cllr Debbie Donovan (Chair), Cllr Aimee Harman (Vice Chair), Cllr Nikki Fabry, Cllr Mary Campbell, Cllr Sue Griffiths, Cllr Kiera Gordon-Garrett, Cllr Sherral Wood, Cllr Ian Alexander, Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Cllr Libbee Bradley, Cllr Max Rosser, Katelyn Harber (Deputy Youth Mayor).

**Officers:** George Dyson (Town Clerk), Zoe Polydorou (Meetings & Projects Officer), Kevin Bray (Parks Officer), Zoe Malone (Responsible Financial Officer).

3 members of the public were in attendance.

### **C1395 MAYOR/CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:30, welcomed everyone, briefly ran through the building fire procedures, asked that phones be put onto silent, advised that the meeting was being recorded, and read out a brief statement on Civility & Respect, and reminded Councillors of the importance of confidentiality for items under this heading.

The Mayor also gave a few updates about what she and the Deputy Mayor have been planning, including upcoming Bingo sessions, the Armed Forces Day flag raising on Friday this week, a Health & Wellbeing awareness day, a community wall in the Community House Foyer area, a race-night in September, and a car boot sale in August.

### **C1396 PUBLIC SESSION. *Members of the public may ask questions on any relevant Council matter.***

There were no public questions.

### **C1397 TO APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Cllr Davies, Cllr Veck, Cllr Sharkey, and Cllr Studd.

Cllr Cheta was also absent.

### **C1398 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Cllr Gallagher made a declaration of interest relating to item C1405

Cllr Griffiths made a declaration of interest relating to item C1399.

### **C1399 TO CO-OPT A COUNCILLOR TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY IN EAST WARD**

*As per the Co-option policy, Standing Orders were suspended for this item.*

There were 2 applications for co-option, and both candidates were present to introduce themselves to the Council – each candidate spoke about why they wanted to be co-opted as a Councillor and were both asked to answer some questions from Councillors.

It was proposed that Council co-opt Philip Mills.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Rosser

**Seconded by:** Cllr Campbell

It was proposed that Council co-opt Katie Williamson

**Proposed by:** Cllr Gallagher

**Seconded by:** Cllr Griffiths

A recorded vote was taken.

In favour of co-opting Philip Mills: Cllrs Rosser, Campbell, Bradley, Gordon-Garrett, Wood, and Harman.

In favour of co-opting Katie Williamson: Cllrs Gallagher, Griffiths, Alexander, Fabry, and Donovan.

Philip Mills was confirmed as being co-opted to fill the casual vacancy in East Ward. Mr Mills and the Clerk signed the declaration of acceptance of office, and Cllr Mills took his seat at the table.

*One member of the public left at this point, Standing Orders were reinstated.*

#### **C1400 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2025**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Rosser

**Seconded by:** Cllr Wood

The minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> May 2025 were **agreed** and **adopted**.

#### **C1401 TO RECEIVE MINUTES, RATIFY ACTIONS & RECEIVE REPORTS ON URGENT MATTERS:-**

##### **a. Planning & Highways Committee:-**

- i. **To receive the meeting minutes of the 6<sup>th</sup> May 2025**
- ii. **To receive the meeting minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Gordon-Garrett

**Seconded by:** Cllr Rosser

The meeting minutes were **agreed** and **adopted**.

- iii. **To note the draft meeting minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

Council **noted** the draft minutes.

##### **b. Policy & Finance Committee:-**

- i. **To receive the financial report, authorise payments and signing of Bank Reconciliation statements**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Alexander

**Seconded by:** Cllr Gordon-Garrett

Council **resolved** to **agree** to authorise payments and sign the bank reconciliation statements.

- ii. **To receive the meeting minutes of the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Alexander

**Seconded by:** Cllr Gordon-Garrett

The meeting minutes were **agreed** and **adopted**.

- iii. **To note the draft meeting minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Council **noted** the draft minutes.

- iv. **To appoint members and elect a Chair of the Grants Sub-Committee**

It was proposed that Cllrs Fabry, Wood, Griffiths, Harman, Rosser be members of the Committee, and that Cllr Harman be elected Chair.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Fabry

**Seconded by:** Cllr Wood

Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal.

**v. To note any further updates from the Committee Structure TFG**

There were no further updates, however it was asked whether TFG members were available to meet this Friday at 11:30am, members will let the Town Clerk know their availability.

**c. Personnel Committee:-**

**i. To note the draft meeting minutes of 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Council **noted** the draft minutes.

**d. Leisure, Amenities & Environment Committee:-**

**i. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Council **noted** the draft minutes.

**e. Civic & Community Events Committee:-**

**i. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Council **noted** the draft minutes.

**C1402 TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM CLLR GALLAGHER, CHAIR OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN STEERING GROUP**

Cllr Gallagher informed the Council that there is no further update on the progress of the examiner yet.

**C1403 TO DISCUSS SETTING UP A JOINT WORKING GROUP WITH TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL REGARDING CLOSER WORKING OR POSSIBLE MERGING**

The Town Clerk introduced the item and reinforced the purpose of the joint Working Group. There was a long debate about the proposal, about whether now is a good time to begin discussions in light of unknowns around devolution and Local Government Reorganisation, and how far the Working Group should be looking to go particularly whether a full merger is too far.

It was proposed that Council agree to form a Joint Working Group with Telscombe Town Council with the Terms of Reference included in the meeting papers.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Gallagher

**Seconded by:** Cllr Fabry

Council **rejected** this proposal with 4 in favour, 7 against, and 1 abstention.

**C1404 TO AGREE TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT RELATING TO THE CCTV AT CENTENARY PARK**

The Clerk introduced the item and the background to the report. There was a discussion on the item, with Councillors speaking on both sides of the debate.

It was proposed that the matter is referred to Policy & Finance for further discussion, pending more information.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Campbell

**Seconded by:** Cllr Mills

Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal by majority, with one abstention.

*One member of the public and the Youth Mayor left at this point (20:50).*

**C1405 TO AGREE TO ASK VARIOUS PARTIES FOR A SPECIFIC CONSULTATION FOR PEACEHAVEN RESIDENTS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION.**

Cllr Gallagher explained to the Council why she had declared an interest in this item.

It was proposed that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Cllr Gallagher to remain in the room during this item.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Campbell                      **Seconded by:** Cllr Gordon-Garrett

Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal.

*Standing Orders were suspended at this point (20:56)*

Cllr Alexander highlighted to Council that a consultation has already taken place. Cllr Campbell spoke about the report and the reasons behind the recommendation. Cllr Fabry also spoke about Peacehaven moving into Brighton not being tabled, and that East Sussex have been adamant that the boundary is not being changed.

There was a lengthy debate with support for both sides of the report recommendation.

It was proposed to ask that Central Government, the Member of Parliament and all relevant Local Authorities (LAs) ensure a specific and well-publicized consultation of Peacehaven residents before deciding any change in Peacehaven's geographical/civic status as part of the current devolution and reorganisation of local government in Sussex, and to invite an Officer of LDC and leader of LDC to the next meeting of PTC to go through the process with us.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Campbell                      **Seconded by:** Cllr Wood

Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal by majority, with 8 in favour, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

*Standing Orders were reinstated at this point (21:13).*

**C1406 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVES**

Council **noted** the reports in the meeting papers.

**C1407 TO NOTE OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED**

Council **noted** the overview of complaints.

**C1408 TO NOTE THE COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RECORD**

Council **noted** the attendance record.

**C1409 TO RECEIVE VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE FOLLOWING TASK AND FINISH GROUPS (TFGs):**

**a. Youth Engagement**

Cllr Fabry advised Council that the TFG would like to explore expanding Youth Councillors at PTC.

**b. Morrisons Development**

Cllr Gallagher advised that the MP has provided an update that over 3000 letters and 500 leaflets were sent from the MP to residents around the town, from which around 2000 people have signed a petition for Morrisons to make good on the promise to build the new supermarket. A decision is expected from a Morrisons board meeting coming up in the next couple of weeks.

**c. Public Rights of Way**

Cllr Gordon-Garrett advised that statements and data are being collected with a view to applications being put in from the Town Council.

**d. Meridian Walk**

Cllr Donovan advised that the work is still in progress, and that the map will start being amended in July.

**e. Sussex Nature Recovery**

Cllr Campbell informed Council that the TFG is in a research phase, and that some of the work this TFG is doing is also building up to the potential new Committee focused on Climate Change. The TFG will next be meeting next week with an OVCA Community Ranger.

**C1410 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.30PM.**

The next meeting was **confirmed** as 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025.

**C1411 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE FOLLOWING ITEMS**

**Proposed by:** Cllr Gordon-Garrett

**Seconded by:** Cllr Fabry

Council **resolved** to **exclude** press and public from the remaining agenda items.

*NOTE: In accordance with Standing Order No. 3(d) and the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, Section 1, in view of the confidential nature of the following business to be transacted, the public and press are excluded from the rest of the meeting.*

**C1412 TO RECEIVE A REPORT AND AGREE RECOMMENDATION ON THE AWARDING OF A TENDER FOR THE WORKS TO THE HUB**

The Town Clerk introduced and summarised the item, adding his thanks to the Councillors and Officers involved in getting this tender to this point.

There was a lengthy confidential debate on the bids, and the various options to progress this whilst ensuring compliance with the legal framework.

It was proposed that Council accept the recommendation in the report.

**Proposed by:** Cllr Campbell

**Seconded by:** Cllr Griffiths

A recorded vote was requested.

In favour: Cllrs Alexander, Gordon-Garrett, Rosser, Fabry, Wood, Harman, Donovan, Campbell, Bardley, Griffiths, Mills.  
Against: Cllr Gallagher.

The Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal by majority.

*There being no further business, the meeting closed at 22:13.*