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Community House,
Meridian Way,
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East Sussex,
BN10 8BB.

Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in the Anzac Room, Community House on Tuesday 21st April 2026 at 7.30pm.

Present: Cllr Aimee Harman (Vice Chair), Cllr Sue Griffiths, Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Cllr Max Rosser, Cllr Philip Mills, Cllr Paul Davies, Cllr Claude Cheta, Cllr Simon Studd, Cllr Sherral Wood, Zack (Mayor's Cadet) Ruby (Youth Mayor), Daniel (Deputy Youth Mayor).

Officers: George Dyson (Town Clerk), Zoe Polydorou (Meetings & Projects Officer).

One member of the public was in attendance.

C1532 MAYOR/CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:36, welcomed everyone, made a statement on Civility & Respect, briefly ran through the building fire procedures, asked that phones be put onto silent, advised that the meeting was being recorded, ran through the process for public questions, and reminded everyone of the 3-minute speaking rule.

C1533 PUBLIC SESSION. *Members of the public may ask questions on any relevant Council matter.*

a. Public Questions

There were no public questions.

b. Updates from District & County Councillors

Cllr Gallagher gave an update on behalf of the County and District Councillors, that there have been meetings with ESCC Highways, that a £70m loan has been granted to ESCC to cover a shortfall as there has been a 30% fall in public finances in the past 10 – 14 years which has really hit social services. Elections for ESCC are taking place on 7th May, and Unitary authorities will be in place for 2028.

In Lewes District, all services will continue, and the Council is trying to get into the best position possible in preparation to hand over to the new Unitary Authorities, including a new tenant allocation scheme for Council housing, and are also refitting Council homes with double glazing, insulation, and solar panels. Contracts for car clubs are also being looked at, as well as work on nature recovery and improvements to air quality.

Cllr Davies added that a decision has not been made on boundary changes in relation to Local Government Reorganisation, and that no decision has been made on this, but further public consultation will be taking place.

C1534 TO APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

a. To approve apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr Sharkey, Donovan, Gordon-Garrett, Fabry, Campbell, Alexander, and Veck.

b. To agree that Cllr Isobel Sharkey is exempt from s.85 of Local Government Act.

Proposed by: Cllr Mills **Seconded by:** Cllr Davies
Council **resolved** to agree to Cllr Sharkey's absence.

Aimee Harman
12/5/26

C1535 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

C1536 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 14TH APRIL 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Griffiths **Seconded by:** Cllr Davies
The minutes of the extraordinary meeting of 14th April 2026 were **agreed and adopted**.

C1537 TO CO-OPT A COUNCILLOR TO FILL THE CASUAL VACANCY IN WEST WARD

It was proposed to Suspend Standing Orders.

Proposed by: Cllr Davies **Seconded by:** Cllr Wood
Council **resolved to agree** to suspend Standing Orders.

Standing Orders were suspended at this point. (19:51)

Amber Hart introduced herself to the Council and explained why she wanted to become a Town Councillor.

Councillors posed some questions to Ms. Hart, which she provided responses to.

Standing Orders were reinstated at this point (19:58)

It was proposed to co-opt Amber Hart as a Town Councillor to fill the casual vacancy in West Ward.

Proposed by: Cllr Davies **Seconded by:** Cllr Mills
Council **resolved to agree** to this proposal.

Cllr Hart joined the table, and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and members code of conduct.

C1538 TO RECEIVE MINUTES, RATIFY ACTIONS & RECEIVE REPORTS ON URGENT MATTERS:-

a. Planning Committee:-

- i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 3rd February 2026
- ii. To receive the meeting minutes of the 24th February 2026
- iii. To receive the meeting minutes of the 17th March 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Wood **Seconded by:** Cllr Davies
The meeting minutes were **agreed and adopted**.

- iv. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 7th April 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

b. Policy & Finance Committee:-

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

Proposed by: Cllr Griffiths **Seconded by:** Cllr Mills
Council **resolved to agree** the financial report, to authorise payments and signing of bank reconciliation statements.

- ii. To receive the meeting minutes of the 10th February 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Griffiths **Seconded by:** Cllr Rosser
The meeting minutes were **agreed and adopted**.

iii. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 31st March 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

c. Personnel Committee:-

i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 20th January 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Gallagher **Seconded by:** Cllr Rosser
The meeting minutes were **agreed** and **adopted**.

ii. To note the draft meeting minutes of 14th April 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

d. Leisure & Amenities Committee:-

i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 13th January 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Studd **Seconded by:** Cllr Mills
The meeting minutes were **agreed** and **adopted**.

ii. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 24th March 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

e. Community Engagement Committee:-

i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 27th January 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Wood **Seconded by:** Cllr Rosser
The meeting minutes were **agreed** and **adopted**.

ii. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 7th April 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

iii. To agree a new process for electing a Youth Mayor

The Clerk summarised the proposal as laid out in the report included in the papers.

Cllr Davies expressed support for the proposal, but concern over the work required to implement the proposal.

Cllr Wood highlighted that the new proposal is fairer as it includes children who live in Peacehaven but do not go to PCS.

The Mayor's Cadet highlighted that the Youth are more interested in these sort of roles and taking a more active interest in politics and local government.

The Youth Mayor spoke about the School's involvement already being limited, and supported the Joff being more involved in the process.

Cllr Davies suggested that a poster could be put together highlighting who the Youth Mayor & Deputies are to go up in local youth provisions.

It was proposed that Council agree for the C&E Committee to progress this.

Proposed by: Cllr Mills **Seconded by:** Cllr Griffiths
Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal.



f. Environment & Sustainability Committee:-

i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 18th November 2025

Proposed by: Cllr Griffiths **Seconded by:** Cllr Rosser
The meeting minutes were **agreed** and **adopted**.

ii. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 10th March 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

C1539 TO RATIFY THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GRANTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Cllr Griffiths spoke about the meeting and the process of the applications.

There was some discussion about how room hire grants are administrated, the Clerk confirmed that no money is released to applicants for room hire and is just transferred internally.

It was proposed to ratify the recommendations as read.

Proposed by: Cllr Griffiths **Seconded by:** Cllr Davies
Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal.

C1540 TO AGREE TO SUBMIT THE CIL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR EPINAY PARK PLAY-GROUND

Cllr Gallagher raised a concern about the process that this CIL Expression of Interest form has been through.

The Clerk confirmed the process for the current CIL bidding window.

It was proposed to form a TFG to work on the CIL bid and bring forward a firm proposal with sufficient detail as an EOI and a bid.

Proposed by: Cllr Mills **Seconded by:** Cllr Cheta
Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal.

TFG members to be Cllr Gallagher, Cllr Griffiths, and that all absent Councillors be offered the opportunity to join.

C1541 TO REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND AGREE ANY CHANGES

Council **noted** the committee membership.

C1542 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVES AND REVIEW OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATION

Cllr Mills gave an oral update that the residents association are raising concerns about Morrisons, potholes, speeding traffic, and a lack of information being disseminated from PTC.

Cllr Mills also spoke about an event this morning for the CTLA, which was very positive for the CTLA working with the Council.

Cllr Gallagher spoke about upcoming changes to Havens Community Hub.

Cllr Gallagher also highlighted key points from her report included in the papers with regard to a recent ESALC meeting.

Council **noted** the outside body reports.

C1543 TO NOTE OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

The Clerk highlighted some key points on the complaints log.

Cllr Wood spoke about some recent problems at the allotments, including some which have resulted in police reports being made. Cllr Gallagher also spoke about the current problems at the allotments.

Cllr Davies asked about whether Officers can make contact with the Police to get more of a presence around the allotments, and that allotment plot holders are kept informed of further developments.

Council **noted** the complaints overview.

C1544 TO NOTE THE COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RECORD

Council **noted** the attendance record.

C1545 TO RECEIVE VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE FOLLOWING TASK AND FINISH GROUPS (TFGs):

a. Meridian Centre Liaison

No further information on this Working Group at this stage.

b. Public Rights of Way

This group has not met recently.

C1546 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 12TH MAY 2026 AT 7.30PM.

The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 12th May 2026 at 7.30pm.

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 21:08.



