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Community House,
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Minutes of the meeting of the Council held in the Anzac Room, Community House on Tuesday 6th October 2026 at 7.30pm.

Town Councillors Present: Cllr Ian Alexander, Cllr Debbie Donovan, Cllr Nikki Fabry, Cllr Cathy Gallagher, Cllr Sue Griffiths, Cllr Amber Hart, Cllr Phil Mills, Cllr Max Rosser, Cllr Mary Campbell, Cllr Simon Studd, Cllr Claude Cheta, Cllr Isobel Sharkey.

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

Also Present: Cllr Stephen Chapman (ESCC), Cllr Tracy Pedro (ESCC), Daniel (Deputy Youth Mayor), Jacob (Youth Mayor).

There were 3 members of the public in attendance.

C1603 MAYOR/CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr Donovan was asked to act as Chair for this meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting at 19:34, 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, reminded everyone of the 3-minute speaking rule, and also explained how public participation take place in the meeting.

The statement provided by Cllr Harman was noted by Council, with our thoughts all being with her.

The Youth Mayor Chain was passed from Jacob to Daniel, for the remainder of the Civic Year during this meeting, with thanks to Jacob for his work.

C1604 PUBLIC SESSION. *Members of the public may ask questions on any relevant Council matter.*

a. Public Questions

A member of the public raised a concern about no hearing loop being available in the Anzac room. The member of the public then went on to explain that he was here to speak regarding an incident on the allotments, which is being considered at this meeting during item C1622.

Another member of the public, another allotment plot holder, also spoke with regard to the incident under C1622.

b. Updates from District & County Councillors

Cllr Gallagher spoke as a District Councillor, explaining that Local Government Reorganisation has been paused, that elections at Lewes District Council will be going ahead in May 2027, at the same time as the Town Council elections. It is currently unknown how long the pause on Local Government Reorganisation will be, at that it may not happen within this

Government. Devolution is pushing ahead though, with Mayoral election expected to happen by 2028.

The Lewes District Local Plan has also been paused, to allow policies to be tested against the new National Planning Policy Framework, which became law in August 2026. Lewes District has also taken on new Planning Officers.

£1.5m worth of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will also be put aside for works to the A259, although 85% of the total project costs will come from Government.

At the last Full Council meeting at Lewes District, the District Council restated their targets for carbon reduction and net-zero, with a number of agreed actions including working through the strategic authorities, lobbying for the Mayor of Sussex (when elected) to put environmental and climate matters into the heart of planning.

Cllr Alexander added that the District Council are also writing to the Government to seek advice on progressing with the Local Plan, and the implications of Local Government Reorganisation on this.

Cllr Fabry also added that a project in Telscombe to transform the Fairlight Toilets, and to develop Meridian Mayhem in Peacehaven have been delivered using CIL funding.

Cllr Chapman (ESCC) learned that the Morrisons development is going to Planning Committee tomorrow, but was surprised to see that the Library has been taken out of the proposal by Morrisons. The survey conducted to refurbish the existing library has been estimated at around £4m.

Cllr Chapman also highlighted concern about the upcoming Stand up to Racism Unity Festival, with concerns that they will be intimidating.

Cllr Pedro (ESCC) raised concerns about Havens Health not having had discussions with Morrisons with respect to the Meridian Centre redevelopment.

C1605 TO APPROVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Harman, Veck, Davies, Gordon-Garrett, and Wood.

C1606 TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Cllr Campbell declared an interest under item C1609.

C1607 TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING OF THE 7TH JULY 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Mills **Seconded by:** Cllr Griffiths
The minutes of 7th July 2026 were **agreed** and **adopted**.

3 members of the Public and the ESCC Councillors left at this point (20:05).

C1608 TO RECEIVE MINUTES, RATIFY ACTIONS & RECEIVE REPORTS ON URGENT MATTERS:-

a. Planning Committee:-

- i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 30th June 2026**
- ii. To receive the meeting minutes of the 21st July 2026**
- iii. To receive the meeting minutes of the 11th August 2026**
- iv. To receive the meeting minutes of the 1st September 2026**

Proposed by: Cllr Campell

Seconded by: Cllr Mills

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

Cllr Campbell explained that she has put herself forward as the vice-chair of planning to speak at the Lewes District Planning meeting tomorrow, with particular concern about cycle routes being included.

The Town Clerk explained that Council are asked to decide whether to agree that Cllr Campbell is authorised to speak on behalf of the Town Council or not at the Lewes District Planning meeting tomorrow.

Cllr Fabry raised a concern that this matter needs to be kept simple and not complicated by additional comments.

Cllr Gallagher also raised a concern that the focus should be on the Officer's report, which includes the agreed Peacehaven Town Council comments, and that this is just stage one, and that further work can be agreed in the future.

Cllr Campbell explained that she put in to speak, subject to this meeting, and that there was a deadline for a representative to be put forward. Cllr Campbell raised a concern that there have been some issues overlooked relating to cycle routes.

Cllr Rosser explained that he would be happy for Cllr Campbell to represent the Town Council, that respect is very important, and that there is value in speaking at the meeting tomorrow.

Cllr Campbell explained that she is withdrawing from representing the Town Council at the meeting tomorrow, but may still speak as an individual resident if possible.

v. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 22nd September 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 Alexander

Seconded by: Cllr Griffiths

Council **resolved** to **agree** the financial report, to authorise payments and signing of bank reconciliation statements.

ii. To receive the meeting minutes of the 23rd June 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Alexander

Seconded by: Cllr Fabry

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

iii. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 15th September 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

c. Personnel Committee:-

i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 14th April 2026

Proposed by: Cllr Fabry **Seconded by:** Cllr Alexander
The meeting minutes were **agreed** and **adopted**.

ii. To note the draft meeting minutes of 22nd September 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

d. Leisure & Amenities Committee:-

i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 19th May 2026

ii. To receive the meeting minutes of the 14th July 2026

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

iii. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 8th September 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

e. Community Engagement Committee:-

i. To receive the meeting minutes of the 2nd June 2026

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

ii. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 28th July 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

f. Environment & Sustainability Committee:-

i. To note the draft meeting minutes of the 30th June 2026

The draft meeting minutes were **noted**.

Cllr Campbell left the meeting at this point.

C1609 TO AGREE A RESPONSE TO EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL WITH REGARDS TO PEACEHAVEN LIBRARY

The Chair read out the report recommendations. Cllr Gallagher queried the purpose of the report, which Cllr Hart explained was in response to the ESCC library service comments with respect to wanting to reduce the size of the library. Cllr Alexander and Cllr Griffiths spoke in support of the proposed response, and that a banking hub could also be provided in the library.

It was proposed that the response be agreed and set as read.

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

Cllr Campbell returned to the meeting at this time.

Cllr Gallagher explained that Telscombe Town Council have received a response to a similar letter that they sent, essentially explaining that Morrisons have not engaged with ESCC on the library matter at this stage.

C1610 TO AGREE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY COHESION TFG

Cllr Gallagher gave some background to the work of the TFG, and that the first piece of work was to agree the wording for a declaration of Community Cohesion, which is now included as a recommendation in this paper, that the declaration will be signed by the Chair and Clerk, which actions can then be drawn out from.

It was proposed that the recommendation in the report be agreed

Proposed by: Cllr Sharkey **Seconded by:** Cllr Hart.
Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal.

C1611 TO DISCUSS AND AGREE ACTIONS ON BUDGETING FOR BUS SHELTER REPLACEMENTS

The RFO introduced the report and summarised the reason for it coming to Council.

Cllr Mills questioned the condition of the current bus shelters, which the RFO explained was in the report. Cllr Studd queried the annual cost of bus shelter maintenance currently.

Cllr Gallagher spoke in support of the recommendation.

It was proposed that Council agree to put money in the budget for bus shelters, the figure to be agreed as part of the budget setting process.

Proposed by: Cllr Gallagher **Seconded by:** Cllr Cheta

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

C1612 TO AGREE A SPECIFICATION FOR THE FIELDS & ROBSON ROOF

The RFO introduced the report and the work that the Community Buildings Working Group has been doing on this item.

Cllr Griffiths spoke in support of the recommendation to undertake a structural survey of the room to establish whether a Green Roof is possible.

Cllr Sharkey agreed that it's especially important to explore options to add biodiversity. Cllr Campbell also raised a query about the type of Green roof we would consider. Cllr Alexander added that it seems a good way to find out the feasibility of this sort of roof.

Cllr Gallagher left at this point

It was proposed that Council agree to undertake a structural survey for the suitability of a sedum roof.

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

C1613 TO AGREE JOINT MEETINGS WITH TELSCOMBE TOWN COUNCIL

The Meetings & Projects Officer explained to Council the background to this item and how it has come about.

Cllr Gallagher returned to the room at this point

Cllr Fabry spoke in support of the proposed joint meetings. Cllr Griffiths asked that the meetings not be scheduled, but take place ad-hoc when there are items that are necessary to discuss.

Cllr Gallagher spoke in support of the meetings taking place, and that there are significant benefits in these meetings taking place.

It was proposed that Council agree to proceed with the joint meetings.

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

Cllr Rosser, Cllr Alexander, and Cllr Hart will form the Councillors representing Peacehaven Town Council at these meetings.

C1614 TO CONSIDER ADOPTING A STATEMENT OF POLITICAL NEUTRALITY

The Clerk summarised the report and explained the purpose of the statement included in the papers.

Cllr Fabry highlighted that Councillors run for a party, or as an independent Councillor, on the ballot sheet, and that Councillors would feel lost without their affiliation.

Cllr Gallagher raised a concern that Town Councils are political, and that she finds the policy conflicts with her views as a member of the Labour party. Cllr Gallagher explained that she has sent a copy of this proposed policy to the Meridian Labour Group for comment, and that they explained that the sentiment was alright, but that some elements needed amendment.

Cllr Sharkey raised concerns about the statement essentially meaning that candidates could not stand as a party member at election.

Cllr Griffiths spoke in support of the statement, and has seen party-politics cause problems at this Council in the past and finds that the statement is exactly what she feels a Town Council should be.

The Youth Mayor left at this point.

Cllr Campbell spoke that each issue should be treated on its merits, and not have to vote a particular way due to the position of a political party. The party-political situation has become more extreme and divisive, which we should not want to affect the Town Council, and that encouraging people to serve their community may be aided by a statement such as this.

Cllr Fabry spoke about some of the benefits of having political-parties represented at the Town Council, and highlighted that party-membership should be reflected on the Town Council website and on the Councillor boards in the Foyer.

The statement will go back to the Town Clerk to consult with Cllr Mills, Rosser, Gallagher, Griffiths, and Fabry.

C1615 TO REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP AND AGREE ANY CHANGES

The Clerk advised that Cllr Wood would like to come off the Planning Committee. Cllr Sharkey and Cllr Gallagher advised that they would be happy to substitute at Planning meetings for absent Councillors.

C1616 TO RECEIVE REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATIVES AND REVIEW OUTSIDE BODY REPRESENTATION

Council **noted** the outside body representation reports.

C1617 TO NOTE OVERVIEW OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

Council **noted** the overview of complaints received.

C1618 TO NOTE THE COUNCILLOR ATTENDANCE RECORD

Council **noted** the Councillor attendance record.

C1619 TO RECEIVE VERBAL UPDATES FROM THE FOLLOWING TASK AND FINISH GROUPS (TFGs):

a. Meridian Centre Liaison

No update on this item.

b. Public Rights of Way

There is a written report which will be circulated.

c. Public Safety

Cllr Alexander highlighted that due to a change in how Sussex Police work, it has become more difficult to get police representation.

Speedwatch is still going, but it's got to the time of year where times are more limited for Speedwatch to take place.

d. Sussex Nature Recovery

Cllr Campbell advised that the TFG members have completed some training, and that a report will be going to the upcoming Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting.

e. Neighbourhood Plan Amendments

The TFG has met, and needs to have another meeting soon, to include the Town Clerk, to finalise the proposals.

f. Mayors Handbook Review

Cllr Gallagher asked to withdraw from this TFG. The TFG is yet to meet. Cllr Mills will join this TFG, the Meetings & Projects Officer will arrange a meeting soon.

g. Youth Engagement

No update on this TFG.

C1620 DATE OF NEXT MEETING - TUESDAY 15TH DECEMBER 2026 AT 7.30PM.

The next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 15th December 2026.

C1621 TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE PRESS AND PUBLIC FROM THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

Proposed by: Cllr Alexander **Seconded by:** Cllr Sharkey
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.

C1622 TO AGREE ACTIONS RELATING TO AN INCIDENT ON THE ALLOTMENTS

Councillors asked some questions of clarification to the Parks Officer regarding the confidential report, which the Parks Officer answered.

The Parks Officer left at this point.

Cllr Campbell left at this point

After a lengthy discussion, it was proposed that a formal and final warning be given verbally and followed up in writing to the plot holder, and that we also explore options for mediation, and a possible plot move to a more suitable location.

Proposed by: Cllr Fabry **Seconded by:** Cllr Donovan
Council **resolved** to **agree** to this proposal.

C1623 TO AGREE ACTIONS RELATING TO UPCOMING STAFF RECRUITMENT NEEDS

Cllr Fabry introduced the item and spoke in support of the recommendation in the confidential report.

There was a brief discussion on the proposed job title, description, and salary point.

It was proposed that Council agree to commence an internal recruitment process to appoint a facilities manager.

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

There being no further business, the meeting was closed at 22:24.