EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

held on 24 April 2002

PRESENT:-

Councillor D G STEVENS (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors BELSEY, Mrs BERRY, BOWKER, Mrs CHARLTON, DESCHAMPS, ELKIN, Mrs GOODALL, HARRIS, Mrs HEALY, HIGGINS, LACEY OBE, LEGGETT, MARSDEN, MARSH, Mrs MURRAY, NEEHAM, PARSONS, Mrs POOLEY, ROBERTS, SKILTON MBE, Mrs SMITH (Deputy Mayor), STANBURY, STANLEY, TAYLOR, THOMPSON, TUNWELL, WILLIAMS, and Miss WOODALL.

87. **MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2002 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

88. **MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

1. The Mayor reported that a book of condolence was due to be sent to Buckingham Palace on the death of the Queen Mother.

2. **The Mayor had much satisfaction in being able to meet six separate youth organisations since the last Full Council. He also attended a presentation followed by a pop concert for one thousand youngsters put on by Crimestoppers and a 'Swiss Week' launch at Sussex Downs College.**

3. **On Sunday 21 April the Mayoress accompanied the Mayor to Holy Trinity Church to join the local Scouting Movement in celebrating St. George's Day.**

4. **The Mayor made a sea journey on HMS Puncher from Brighton Marina to the Sovereign Harbour and presented the ship with a pennant, displaying the Borough crest, to be flown whenever she visits Eastbourne.**

5. **Manchester Unity Friendly Society's Southern Region had just completed its area conference, as had the Lace Guild Convention.**

	6.	**The Mayor represented the Borough at Civic Dinners in Brighton and Hastings and put on his own Annual Charity Ball. He also attended two concerts put on by local societies and two charity breakfasts. Other charitable events included an auction in aid of Talking Newspapers. Amongst other dinners and luncheons attended was that celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Eastbourne's Second World War Memorial Society.**	
	7.	**A very successful South East Tourism Board Exhibition was held at the Winter Garden which the Mayor opened.**	
	8.	**The planting of the fiftieth tree in Meads Street showed the affection of this Victorian area for its leafy heritage.**	
	9.	**The Mayor had presented a shield to be awarded annually at the Annual Achievers Award dinner for an act of bravery within the Borough.**	
	10.	**The Mayoress had attended two functions on her own, the Women's World Day of Prayer and a fashion show in aid of St. Wilfrid's Hospice.**	
	11.	**A congratulatory letter was sent to the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire on the birth of their first great-grandchild.**	
	12.	**The Deputy Mayor had attended, on the Mayor's behalf, eleven functions varying from Eastbourne Talking Newspapers Annual Launch, the Eastbourne Society's Annual Talk, East Sussex Children's University Celebration and Graduation in Bexhill, Ratton School's Gala Concert and the Music and Arts Festival. She also attended Mass and the Blessing of Stone Cross Parish Centre and the Sports Development Awards Presentation Evening in Uckfield.**	
	13.	Looking further ahead, the Mayor was attempting to put a greater emphasis upon youth on Mayor's Sunday by inviting a number of groups of young people to attend the service and parade. He hoped the event would get better press coverage in advance of the parade which follows.	

	14.	The Mayor had also initiated thoughts, which he hoped his successor would be able to follow up, through which the Borough would set out to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee with some permanent feature, erected by public subscription in a prestigious location within the Borough.
89.	**RETIREMENT OF COUNCILLORS AND WHOLE COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON 2 MAY 2002.** The Council noted that, due to the Borough of Eastbourne (Electoral Changes) Order 2001, all currently serving Councillors will cease to hold office on 6 May 2002 unless re-elected. The following Councillors were not seeking re-election:-	
	Michael Tunwell	Central Ward (County Borough of Eastbourne) - July 1972 to March 1974 Devonshire Ward - May 1976 to May 1986 Ratton Ward - May 1988 to May 2002
	Brian Higgins	Ratton Ward - May 1986 to May 2002
	Margo Smith	St. Anthony's Ward - May 1987 to May 1991 and May 1992 to May 2002
	Mark Deschamps	Meads Ward - May 1988 to May 2002
	Ron Parsons	Ocklynge Ward - December 1990 to May 2002
	Gary Potter	Langney Ward - December 1996 to May 2002
	Mark Neeham	Ocklynge Ward - May 1998 to May 2002
	Mark Roberts	Devonshire Ward - May 1999 to May 2002
	RESOLVED: That a vote of thanks be extended to all the Councillors listed above for their eminent service to the town.	
90.	**MATTERS REFERRED FROM CABINET.** The following matters were referred to Council for decision by the Cabinet in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 8:-	

	(a)	**Seafront Byelaws** - Proposed by Councillor Mrs Goodall. **RESOLVED:** That the Seafront Byelaws be adopted.
	(b)	**Best Value Review of Benefits** - Proposed by Councillor Mrs Murray. **RESOLVED:** That the Best Value Improvement Plan be approved.
	(c)	**Best Value Review of Finance** - Proposed by Councillor Marsden. **RESOLVED:** That the Best Value Improvement Plan be approved.
	(d)	**Provision of Computers to Members** - Proposed by Councillor Lacey, OBE. **RESOLVED:** (By 25 votes to 2) That the provision of I.T. facilities for all Members from May 2002, as proposed by the Cabinet, be approved.
	(e)	**Best Value Review of Leisure Services** - Proposed by Councillor Mrs Goodall. **RESOLVED:** (By 16 votes to 1) That the Best Value Improvement Plan be approved.
	(f)	**Best Value Performance Plan 2002/03** - Proposed by Councillor Taylor. **RESOLVED:** That approval be given for the Best Value Performance Plan 2002/03 to be first submitted to the Cabinet on 29 May 2002 and that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive, following consultation with Group Leaders, to agree the Plan's final text.
	(g)	**Race Equality Scheme** – Proposed by Councillor Marsden who also praised the work of Councillor Belsey on the Council's Equalities Team **RESOLVED:** That the Race Equality Scheme be approved.

	(h)	**Designation Order Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Designated Places** – Proposed by Councillor Marsden. **RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet's recommendations in respect of the implementation of the Designation Order be approved.
	(i)	**Draft Eastbourne Borough Plan 2001-2011** – Proposed by Councillor Lacey, OBE who also praised the work of the Council's Planning Officers in this matter. **RESOLVED:** That the Cabinet's recommendations be approved.
	(j)	**Single Regeneration Budget - The Cultural Hub, Devonshire Park - Progress and Funding** – Proposed by Councillor Lacey, OBE. In addition, a supplementary report giving updated figures was submitted by the Director of Finance and Corporate Services. **RESOLVED:** (1) That the underwriting of the funding gap of up to a maximum of £1,632,000 be approved, subject to the risk sharing arrangements detailed in paragraph 3.3 of the report submitted to Cabinet, and the increased contributions of £132,000 from each of the other funding partners. (2) That the necessary amendment to the Council's Capital Programme be approved.
	(k)	**Corporate Management Team Plan** - Proposed by Councillor Marsden who also thanked the Corporate Management Team for their efforts in this matter. **RESOLVED:** That the Corporate Management Team Plan be approved.
92.	**TOWN CENTRE ACTION GROUP.** Councillor Mrs Charlton submitted a report informing the Council of progress on actions planned to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour in the town centre to date. In receiving this report, the Council thanked Justine Armstrong for her work in supporting the Town Centre Action Group. **RESOLVED:** That the Council support and endorse the actions of the Town Centre Action Group and thank all who participate and contribute to assisting in reducing public place crime and anti-social behaviour.	

93.	**NEW COUNCIL CONSTITUTION.** The Head of Democratic Services, Head of Legal Services and Member Services Manager submitted a joint report proposing a new Council Constitution based on the Government Model for a Cabinet style modernised political structure. In considering this matter, the Council thanked the team of Peter Finnis, David Robinson and Mark Reynard together with Councillors Higgins and Leggett for their efforts in producing the revised Constitution.	
	RESOLVED: (By 24 votes to 2) (1) That the proposed new Constitution subject to the amendments set out below, be formally approved and adopted as the Constitution of Eastbourne Borough Council to take effect from Monday 6 May 2002 and that, as a result, all existing constitutional documents be withdrawn.	
	Approved Amendments:-	
	(a)	Contents List - Include in the list of contents for Part 7 the Chairman and Non-Executive Director membership of Eastbourne Buses Ltd.
	(b)	Part 3 (page 3, paragraph 1(d) ii) - Insert reference to Chairman as well as Director of Eastbourne Buses Ltd.
	(c)	Part 3 (page 44, paragraph 10) - Wording to be amended to state that the High Sheriff yields precedence to the Mayor within the Borough only where the event is a Borough civic event or where the Mayor is acting as host. On any County occasion in the Borough, the High Sheriff takes precedence over the Mayor.
	(d)	Part 4 (page 3, paragraph 1.2) - Add a sub-paragraph (vii) appoint the Chairman and three other Non-Executive Directors to Eastbourne Buses Ltd.
	(e)	Part 4 (page 8, paragraph 10.8) - Insert the word ‘Chairman’ before the words ‘or another Councillor’.
	(f)	Part 4 (page 14, paragraph 13.11) - Delete the word ‘Mayor’ and replace with the word ‘Council’.
	(g)	Part 4 (Officer Employment Procedure Rules, page 107 to 112) – Approve the separately circulated Officer Employment Rules with the necessary consequential changes to other parts of the Constitution as listed and circulated with that document.

	(h)	Part 7 (page 3) - Delete reference to Head of Environmental Health under Departmental Support Managers.	
	(i)	Part 7 (page 14) - Insert after membership of Council Bodies, the Council appointed membership of Eastbourne Buses Ltd.	
	(j)	Part 7 (page 15) - List all surviving Past Mayors.	
	(2) That Eastbourne Borough Council formally adopts the new National Code of Conduct for Members as set out in full in Part 5 of the Constitution. (3) That the details for the Cleansing and Highways Forum, as set out in paragraph 3.2 of the report, be inserted at page 14 in Part 3 of the Constitution.		
93.	**BEACHY HEAD COUNTRYSIDE CENTRE.** The following proposal, submitted under Standing Order 9, was moved by Councillor Miss Woodall and seconded by Councillor Mrs Healy:- "That this Council re-opens the Beachy Head Countryside Centre in a similar role, which would enable a consultation to take place with organisations, groups, and individuals who have an interest in the presence of the centre and its functions, and who would be willing to contribute in some way, financial or otherwise such a voluntary manning". The above motion related to a decision on the Council Budget approved at the last meeting. In accordance with the requirements of Standing Order 15, it was signed by at least five Members, namely Councillors Mrs Healy, Leggett, Skilton, Harris, Stanley and Thompson. A letter in respect of this matter from Mrs Elizabeth Willis of 13 Crowne House, Star Road, Eastbourne was circulated at the meeting. **The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Marsden and seconded by Councillor Lacey OBE:-** "That this Council continues discussions with organisations who would be prepared to operate the Countryside Centre at no cost to the Council and with a view to an early re-opening". **RESOLVED:** (1) (By 14 votes to 12) That the amendment be approved. (2) That the substantive motion to accept the amendment be approved. **NOTE:** Councillor Roberts declared a non-pecuniary interest as a resident of Beachy Head but did not consider this to be so substantial as to prevent participation in this matter.		

94. PEDESTRIAN PRECINCT PARKING CONTROL – PROVISION OF INFORMATION DISPLAY UNITS. The following proposal, submitted under Standing Order 9, was moved by Councillor Parsons and seconded by Councillor Mrs Healy:-

"Council notes the efforts being made to control illegal parking in the Town Centre pedestrian precinct between the hours of 10.00 hours and 18.00 hours. Nevertheless, Council is of the opinion that the policy should be exercised with an element of flexibility, so as to enable Information Display units to be located in this area for the benefit of residents".

Councillor Marsden proposed that this matter should be referred to the Cabinet for consideration and a detailed report. Councillor Parsons accepted this proposal.

RESOLVED: That this matter be referred to the Cabinet.

NOTE: Councillor Parsons declared a non-pecuniary interest as Chairman of the Blind Society but did not consider this to be so substantial as to prevent participation in this matter.

95. "CRIMESTOPPERS" (0800 555111). The following proposal, submitted under Standing Order 9, was moved by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Belsey:-

"That Eastbourne Borough Council and all departments and service providers work constantly and vigorously with the Police through our strategic partnership to ensure that Eastbourne residents are aware of the type of crimes covered by "Crimestoppers" (0800 555111) and that anonymity is guaranteed".

RESOLVED: That this proposal be approved.

96. STRATEGIC RAIL OBJECTIVES FOR EASTBOURNE. The following proposal, submitted under Standing Order 9, was moved by Councillor Roberts and seconded by Councillor Parsons:-

"Following the uncertainty of Railtrack, that the lead Cabinet member with the lead officer immediately commences work with the Strategic Rail Authority and Govia on clearly setting the strategic rail objectives for Eastbourne. These will include the motion dated 23 February 2000 for a High Speed Train, so that they may be considered in the Govia current franchise negotiations. Additionally to explore ALL possibilities of swift implementation with South Central of 23 February 2000 motion".

The following amendment was proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Marsden:-

"Following the uncertainty of Railtrack, that the lead Cabinet member with the lead officer continues to work with the Strategic Rail Authority and South Central on clearly setting the strategic rail objectives for Eastbourne. These will include the motion dated 23 February 2000. The operator will be asked to give top priority to the development and maintenance of safe, clean and efficient rail services across the entire network. Additionally to explore ALL possibilities of swift implementation with South Central of 23 February 2000 motion".

RESOLVED: (By 16 votes to 12) That the amendment be approved.

In consideration of the substantive motion, the following amendment was proposed by Councillor Tunwell and seconded by Councillor Roberts:-

Insert after the word ‘network’ the words ‘including a high speed train between Eastbourne and London’.

RESOLVED: That the substantive motion to accept the amendment as further amended above be approved.

97.	**MINUTES OF COUNCIL BODIES AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.** The minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-		
	Conservation Area Advisory Group		5 March 2002
	Cabinet		6 March 2002, 10 April 2002 and 22 April 2002
	Planning and Licensing Committee		12 March 2002 and 16 April 2002
	Best Value Management Committee		19 March 2002
	Scrutiny Committee		8 April 2002
	Tenants Advisory Group		15 April 2002
	In accordance with Standing Order 11, Members raised the following items for discussion:-		
	(a)	Cabinet, 6 March 2002, Page 436, Minute 135 - Best Value Review of Housing Management - Part 1: Housing Stock Options - Raised by Councillor Leggett.	
	(b)	Cabinet, 6 March 2002, Page 437, Minute 136 - Best Value Reviews 2002-2004 - Raised by Councillor Parsons.	
	(c)	Cabinet, 6 March 2002, Page 439, Minute 141 - Planning Green Paper - Delivering a Fundamental Change - Raised by Councillor Parsons.	
	(d)	Planning and Licensing Committee, 12 March 2002, Page 451, Minute 59 - Finmere Autospares, Finmere Close - Raised by Councillor Parsons.	
	(e)	Cabinet, 10 April 2002, Page 466, Minute 163 - Internal Audit Plan 2002-2006 - Raised by Councillor Parsons.	

	(f)	Cabinet, 22 April 2002, Page 493, Minute 173 - Waste Local Plan - Consultation by East Sussex County Council and Brighton and Hove City Council on the Second Deposit Draft - Raised by Councillor Mrs Healy.	
	Further to Standing Order 12.3(F) it was, **RESOLVED:** That all the minutes of the above Council Bodies be accepted.		
98.	**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.** **RESOLVED:** That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as otherwise there was a likelihood of disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972.		
99.	**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF COUNCIL BODIES AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.** The confidential minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted:-		
	Cabinet	6 March 2002, 10 April 2002 and 22 April 2002	
	In accordance with Standing Order 11, Members raised the following items for discussion:-		
	(a)	**Cabinet, 6 March 2002, Page 475, Minute 148 - Write-off of Irrecoverable Debts - Raised by Councillor Parsons.**	
	(b)	**Cabinet, 6 March 2002, Page 476, Minute 150 - Budget Consequences - Employment Stability Procedure - Raised by Councillor Parsons.**	
	(c)	**Cabinet, 22 April 2002, Page 497, Minute 176 - Former Employee - Consideration of Issues consequent on Termination of Employment - Raised by Councillor Skilton.** **NOTE: A proposal that this matter be referred back to the Cabinet for further consideration was lost by 17 votes to 7.**	
	Further to Standing Order 12.3(F), it was **RESOLVED:** That all the confidential minutes of the above Council Bodies be accepted.		

100.	**VOTE OF THANKS.** The Mayor thanked the Members of the Council for their conduct and contributions at Council meetings throughout the past year. The Council recorded its thanks to the Mayor for his chairmanship over the year.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm	
	D G STEVENS, Mayor Chairman
(pf\P:council\02.04.24\mins)	