EASTBOURNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

Held on 12 November 2003

PRESENT:-

Councillor Miss O M M WOODALL (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors BELSEY, BERRY, BOWKER, ELKIN, Mrs GOODALL, HARRIS, Mrs HEALY, Mrs HOWLETT, LACEY OBE, LEGGETT, LUCAS, MARSDEN, MARSH (Deputy Mayor), Mrs MURRAY, Mrs POOLEY, Mrs SIMS, SKILTON MBE, SLATER, STANLEY, STEVENS, TAYLOR, Mrs TESO, THOMPSON, TUTT, WARNER and WILLIAMS.

35.	**MINUTES.** The minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2003 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.	
36.	**MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS.**	
	1	Britain in Bloom. The Mayor presented to Mr G Williams representing the Council's Parks and Gardens staff, a SILVER GILT quality certificate and Crystal Trophy for excellent overall quality of Eastbourne's Parks, Seafront, Nature conservation, Environment and Cleanliness. This award recognised the contribution that the Parks & Gardens, Cleansing, Eastbourne in Bloom and the local community and businesses make to the character of the town.
	2	The Mayor's 'Pie & Punch' Christmas Charity Concert would be held in the Assembly Hall, Town Hall, on Thursday 27 November. The evening would fundraise for the Mayor's charities, Age Concern Eastbourne and the Youth Accommodation Support Project. The programme for the evening included entertainment by the Salvation Army Band, DPB Singers, Ocklynge Junior School and Cavendish School. Peter Lindsey would be the compére. Tickets were £2.50 for adults and 50p for children. A glass of mulled wine and mince pies would be included in the price. There would be a raffle on the evening and all money raised would go to the Mayor's charities.

	3	Following this evening's meeting, all members were invited to a Christmas drink and mince pies in the Mayor's Parlour.
37.	**DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS.** Councillor Mrs Murray declared a personal interest in respect of Items for Discussion, minute 43(6) below and took no part in the discussion on this issue.	
38.	**MATTERS REFERRED FROM COUNCIL BODIES.** The following matters were referred to Council for decision in accordance with the provisions of Council Procedure Rule 12:-	
	(a)	**Eastbourne Crime Reduction Partnership – Annual Report 2002-03 –** This matter was reported by Councillor Stanley on behalf of the Cabinet. The Council placed on record its welcome to Chief Inspector Mills, Eastbourne's new Police Commander. **RESOLVED:** That the achievements of the Partnership be noted.
	(b)	**Designing Out Crime – Supplementary Planning Guidance –** This matter was reported by Councillor Harris on behalf of the Cabinet. **RESOLVED:** That the Supplementary Guidance on Designing Out Crime be approved.
	(c)	**Corporate Plan Revision –** This matter was reported by Councillor Mrs Healy on behalf of the Cabinet. **RESOLVED:** That the revised Corporate Plan be approved.
	(d)	**Audit Commission Corporate Governance Memorandum –** This matter was reported by Councillor Mrs Healy on behalf of the Cabinet. **RESOLVED:** That the Memorandum be noted.

	(e)	**Measures to Improve Health and Safety for Residents by Reduction of Bird Infestation –** This matter was reported by Councillor Berry on behalf of the Planning and Licensing Committee. **RESOLVED:** (Nem Con) That the proposal to undertake further research on the possible introduction of planning procedures to address the issue of bird infestation ahead of a further report to the January meeting of the Planning and Licensing Committee be approved.
39.	**MEMBERS' ALLOWANCE SCHEME.** The Council considered the report of the Member Services Manager advising on the financial implications of the Independent Remuneration Panel's recommendations, and summarising the decisions now required. A new draft Allowances Scheme arising from the deliberations of the Independent Remuneration Panel, together with the Panel's report was appended to the report. On behalf of the Remuneration Panel, the Council's Member Services Manager, Mr D Robinson, answered questions put by Members. **RESOLVED:** (Nem Con) (1) That the Panel's recommendations, as listed in paragraph 2.3 of the report, in respect of the adoption of a new Allowances Scheme be approved. (2) That the Allowances Scheme, as appended to the report, be approved as a draft and that the Head of Democratic Services be authorised to finalise the draft in accordance with the determinations made at (1) above in order that the new Scheme may be effective as from 1 December 2003. (3) That the members of the Independent Remuneration Panel be thanked for their work on the review of allowances. (4) That the proposals for recompensing the Panel members set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report be approved, including a delegated authority to the Head of Democratic Services to agree the amounts in future in consultation with the Group Leaders. (5) That the Panel be asked to continue their work by undertaking a detailed review of basic and special responsibility allowances in the early part of 2004. (6) That the potential for any additional funding in 2004/05 in the light of recommendations by the Panel in respect of changes to basic and special responsibility allowances and the additional special responsibility allowances required as a consequence of the creation of a Licensing Committee be noted.	

40.	**COUNCIL CALENDAR – APRIL 2004 TO MAY 2005.** The Member Services Manager submitted a report proposing a Council Calendar for 2004-05 together with changes to the current year in respect of April/May 2004. **RESOLVED:** (Nem Con) That the Calendar be approved.
41.	**GOVERNMENT FUNDING AND COUNCIL TAX.** The following motion, submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13, was proposed by Councillor Mrs Healy and seconded by Councillor Tutt:- **This Council** § Recognises that the Government's Council Tax is unfair especially to residents with low incomes, such as pensioners; in particular, the poorest 20% of people now pay nearly 6 times more than the richest 20%, as a proportion of their income; § Notes that the present method of funding local government services does not give adequate levels of grant to Eastbourne Borough Council; the present system also exaggerates the impact of grant shortfall on council tax payers who have to make up the difference. A 1% shortfall in Government grant requires on average a 4% increase in Council Tax or equivalent cuts in services. This Council therefore calls on the Government: 1. To scrap Council Tax as soon as possible and replace it with a fair tax related to ability to pay 2. To change the balance of funding so that shortfall in central Government grant does not result in disproportionate rises in local Council Tax 3. To provide future funding settlements which are sufficient to ensure the provision of high quality, locally accountable public services to the people of Eastbourne **RESOLVED:** (Nem Con) That this motion be approved.

42.	**ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH, VICTORIA DRIVE.** The following motion, submitted under Council Procedure Rule 13, was proposed by Councillor Lucas and seconded by Councillor Belsey:- Eastbourne Borough Council will support the thriving St Elisabeth's Church community in Old Town at every opportunity during any future marketing of the St Elisabeth's Church site in Old Town, and will avoid using language that infers that the church community itself is closing, rather than the building **RESOLVED:** That this motion be approved.		
43.	**MINUTES OF COUNCIL BODIES AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.** The minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-		
	Conservation Area Advisory Group	2 September & 21 October 2003	
	Cabinet	17 September & 30 October 2003	
	Standards Committee	24 September 2003	
	Planning & Licensing Committee	7 October & 4 November 2003	
	Tenants Advisory Group	14 October 2003	
	Scrutiny Committee	10 November 2003	
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Members raised the following items for discussion:-		
	1	Cabinet, 17 September 2003 – Page 157, Minute 47 – Leisure Services Outsourcing. Raised by Councillor Lucas.	
	2	Cabinet, 17 September 2003 – Page 158, Minute 48 – Eastbourne Community Street Warden Scheme. Raised by Councillors Lucas and Skilton.	

	3	Standards Committee, 24 September 2003 – Page 161, Minute 29 – Investigation of Complaints. Raised by Councillor Stanley.	
	4	Planning and Licensing Committee, 7 October 2003 – Page 167, Minute 28(11) – Land adjacent to 94 Ringwood Road (EB/2003/0577) – Erection of 2 one-bedroom houses (outline application). Raised by Councillor Harris.	
	5	Planning and Licensing Committee, 7 October 2003 – Page 171, Minute 34 – Modular Structures on Hankham and Stone Cross Playing Fields adjacent to Shinewater School and Shinewater Football Club. Raised by Councillor Slater.	
	6	Planning and Licensing Committee, 7 October 2003 – Page 172, Minute 35 – Land south of Elm Grove and north of Broadwater Way (EB/2003/0149 – Medical Centre. Raised by Councillor Thompson.	
	7	Cabinet, 30 October 2003 – Page 183, Minute 50 – Objections to Traffic Regulation Order – Junction of Oak Tree Lane and Friday Street. Raised by Councillor Mrs Sims.	
	8	Cabinet, 30 October 2003 – Page 185, Minute 54 – Medium Term Financial Strategy – Results from Public Consultation. Raised by Councillor Leggett.	
	9	Cabinet, 30 October 2003 – Page 186, Minute 55 – Implementing Electronic Government 2003 (IEG) Statement. Raised by Councillor Lucas.	
	10	Cabinet, 30 October 2003 – Page 189, Minute 62 – Seafront Shelters. Raised by Councillor Mrs Goodall.	
	11	Planning and Licensing Committee, 4 November 2003 – Page 200, Minute 39 – Planning Appeal – Proposed B&Q Warehouse at Sovereign Harbour (EB/99/0448). Raised by Councillor Elkin.	
	12	Scrutiny Committee, 10 November 2003 – Page 206, Minute 15 – Scrutiny Seminar “Making it Work” – The Way Forward. Raised by Councillor Warner.	
	Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3(e) it was, **RESOLVED:** That all the minutes of the above Council Bodies be accepted.		

44.	**EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC.** **RESOLVED:** That the public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as discussion of the following items is likely to disclose exempt information within the categories specified in the open summaries of the relevant minutes.		
45.	**CONFIDENTIAL MINUTES OF COUNCIL BODIES AND ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION.** The confidential minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-		
	Standards Committee		**24 September 2003**
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Members raised the following items for discussion:-		
	1	Standards Committee, 24 September 2003 – Page 191, Minute 30 – Investigation of Complaints. Raised by Councillor Mrs Healy.	
	In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14.3(e), it was **RESOLVED:** That the confidential minutes be accepted.		
The meeting closed at 8.20pm			
		Miss O M M WOODALL, Mayor Chairman	
(pf\P:council\03.11.12\mins)			