



Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 16 January 2008 at 6.00 pm

Present:-

Councillor Mary Pooley (Mayor) in the Chair

Councillors Margaret Bannister, Colin Belsey, David Elkin, Barbara Goodall, Andrew Goodwin, Nigel Goodyear, Jon Harris, Carolyn Heaps, Alex Hough, Sandie Howlett, Rebecca Madell, Graham Marsden, Gill Mattock, Susan Morris, Harun Miah, Daniel Purchase, Margaret Salisbury, Neil Stanley, Gregory Szanto, Barry Taylor, Troy Tester, Mike Thompson, David Tutt, Steve Wallis and Olive Woodall.

51. Minutes. The minutes of the meetings held on 21 November 2007 and 7 January 2008 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.

52. Mayoral Announcements.

- 1 The Mayor joined the Eastbourne Scottish Pipe Band during band practice and presented medals of achievement to 4 junior members of the band.
- 2 An Irish Night organised by Members of St Agnes Church was held in aid of the Mayor's Charity and the Mayor was presented with a cheque for £400.
- 3 The Mayor joined the Prince's Trust Team 21 for their presentation evening and presided over the opening of a sensory garden for children with special needs at the South Downs Community Special School.
- 4 The Mayor attended a peace vigil at noon on New Year's Day organised by Eastbourne for Peace and Liberty and celebrated Eastbourne's status as a Mayors for Peace Council.
- 5 Local schools invited the Mayor to join them for a number of events including a Class Assembly at St Thomas a Beckett Infants School, a Christmas Play at St Bede's School and Bulb Planting at Princes Park with children from St Andrew's School.
- 6 The Mayor joined the Bishop of Lewes for Eastbourne's 43rd Annual Carol Concert at the Congress Theatre.
- 7 The Mayor presented certificates to students of Lindfield Special School following their completion of a 6 week self defence course.
- 8 The Mayor joined the Eastbourne Chinese Association to welcome a dignitary from the Foreign affairs and Overseas Chinese Office.

- 9 The Mayor paid her traditional Christmas Day visits to The Chaseley Trust and Our Lady of Ransom Church Hall.
 - 10 The Mayor attended a number of Christmas events organised by Age Concern, the Salvation Army, WRVS and Lark in the Park Charitable Trust.
 - 11 The Mayor also attended a number of AGMs, Concerts, Exhibitions and Photocalls in the last few months.
- 53. Notification of Apologies for Absence.** An apology for absence was reported from Councillor Bloom.
- 54. Disclosures of Interests.** The Mayor, Councillor Bannister and Councillor Harris all declared personal interests in respect of item 58 below but did not consider the interests to be prejudicial and all remained present during the debate on that item. Councillor Tester declared a personal, prejudicial interest in respect of item 58 below and withdrew from the meeting during the debate on that item. Councillor Tutt declared a personal, prejudicial interest in respect of item 59(2) below and withdrew from the meeting during the debate on that item.
- 55. Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.** The Council considered the report of the Assistant Director – Strategy and Democracy.

Resolved: (1) That the following comments be noted and approval be given for the recommended changes to polling districts and places to take place:

Langney Ward

Locate a third polling district served by a polling station at Langney Sports Club in Priory Road becoming **LGC**. The new boundary will be to the east of Langney Rise and Friday Street from Priory Road to Pennine Way. Travelling to **LGC** will be less than a mile by road for all voters.

Sovereign Ward

Extensive enquiries were made in **SVA & SVC** areas for more suitable locations for the voters. This included the option of renting a porta-cabin and placing it at the Crumbles retail park. This was dismissed due to cost, security, available power, water supply, W.C. facilities and poor disability access. Apart from location, all premises were deemed fit for purpose. The recommendation is for no change but to be kept under review in case a suitable venue should become available in **SVA & SVC**.

Ratton Ward

Following the loss of ATC at Rangemore Drive **RND** a replacement has been found at St Clements Court, Framfield Way. **RND and RNE** to merge and vote at that location.

RNC The Red Lion, Wish Hill: This was visited and although the car park is on a slope it would not be prohibitive to a disabled voter. An access ramp has also been purchased to allow unhindered entry into the venue. In addition there are no other suitable premises within the **RNC** district. **RNC**

and RNF to merge and vote at the Red Lion. The travelling from **RNF** is slightly further than their journey to **OTC** but still less than a mile and it would mean people could vote within their own ward.

Devonshire Ward

Parking issues in Town Centre polling districts limit opportunities for alternative arrangements.

DVB EODs Seaside: An approach was made to Marine Hall opposite EODs which has its own car park. Unfortunately they have declined to hire out their hall. In the absence of a viable alternative the recommendation is for no change.

DVC St Agnes Hall, Whitley Road: Site visit confirmed that there was lighting on the driveway and a car park at the end of drive.

Recommendation for no change but to ensure that the presiding officer checks that the lighting is on at appropriate times.

Meads Ward

MDB All Saints Church in Grange Road has been renovated and is available for use. The only reason the polling place was changed from that location was due to the renovation work. The venue is better located in the centre of **MDB** with reasonable parking. It is recommended to move from Our Lady of Ransom Church Hall to All Saints Church Hall.

St Anthony's Ward

SAC St Andrews Church Hall: Recommend that signage is improved but otherwise the lighting appears adequate and no change needed.

SAD Langney Community Centre Etchingam Road: Access was via a slight incline but a gentle slope allows for disabled access. Need to improve signage but otherwise no need to change.

Upperton Ward

Recommend no change at this time. However Elim Church Hall, Hartfield Road is currently being rebuilt and once complete a visit should be arranged with a view to **UPD** returning there to vote.

Old Town

Recommend no change.

Hampden Park

Recommend no change.

(2) That the proposal in respect of **SAA & SAB** to move from Roselands School to St Phillips Church Hall in St Phillips Avenue at the junction with Whitley Road be referred back for further consideration, having regard to the relative locations of the two stations within the ward.

(3) That Paul Roskilly be thanked for his work in undertaking the 2007 Polling Places Review.

(4) That the Electoral Services Manager, on behalf of the Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer, be authorised to implement the Council's decisions in respect of the review.

- 56. Licensing Policy Statement.** This matter was jointly reported by Councillors Bannister and Morris on behalf of the Cabinet and the Licensing Act Committee.

Resolved: That the revised policy (subject to revisions set out in the appendix to the report) be adopted as the Council's approach to licensing matters under the Licensing Act 2003 for the next three years unless reviewed in the interim.

- 57. Identification Cards.** The following motion was moved by Councillor Thompson and seconded by Councillor Szanto:

This Council submits that the proposed introduction of compulsory identification cards would violate traditional British liberties unacceptably and compromise the rights of British citizens to live lawfully in this society free from arbitrary harassment by agents of the state and other bodies.

Furthermore identification cards will do nothing to prevent terrorism, crime or fraud.

This Council resolves to:

Make representations at every possible stage, reiterating this council's opposition to ID cards.

Take no part in any pilot scheme or feasibility work in relation to the introduction of the proposed national identity cards.

Make it a policy of the Council to ensure that national identity cards would not be required to access council services or benefits unless specifically called to do so by an act of parliament.

Only co-operate with a national identification scheme where specifically required to do so by law.

Write to the Home Secretary expressing these views and ask her to reconsider her decision to push forward with this proposed legislation.

Mr Stephen Lloyd, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesman, Eastbourne and Willingdon constituency addressed the Council on this motion.

Resolved: That this motion be approved.

- 58. Maternity Services at Eastbourne District General Hospital – Primary Care Trust Proposals.** The following motion was moved by Councillor Tutt and seconded by Councillor Elkin:

1. That the Council is deeply disappointed at the decision of the East Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust to end consultant led maternity services at the Eastbourne District General Hospital.

2. That the Council is prepared to support the "Save the DGH" Campaign in its efforts to challenge this decision.

3. That the Council will contribute a sum of up to £20,000 towards the costs of supporting the work of the "Save the DGH" Campaign in its challenge of this decision in order to promote the social and economic wellbeing of the citizens of Eastbourne under the powers contained in Section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000.

4. That this Council invites the public and other public bodies to make contributions to the "Save the DGH" Campaign.

5. That the Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council be authorised to use the fund of £20,000 in accordance with the conditions set out in the report to the Council.

With reference to paragraph 5 of the above motion, the Council also considered the joint report of the Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council setting out recommended conditions in respect of the use of the proposed funds.

Mr Stephen Lloyd, Liberal Democrat Parliamentary Spokesman, Eastbourne and Willingdon constituency addressed the Council on this motion and pledged a donation of £250 from party funds towards the campaign subject to its use being conditioned as per the Council funds.

The Council was unanimously supportive of the approach outlined in the motion. Members were encouraged to lobby the County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to refer this matter back to the Secretary of State. The Council was also advised that a similar motion would be tabled by Councillors Tutt and Elkin at East Sussex County Council and that Lewes and Wealden District Councils would be lobbied to approve similar actions. The Council praised both the local media and all those involved in the campaign for their sustained and consistent activity in this matter.

Resolved: That this motion be approved and that authority to use the fund as specified in paragraph 5 of the motion be subject to the following conditions:

(a) That the Solicitor to the Council vets and agrees the instructions to Counsel seeking opinion on the judicial opportunities open to the 'Save the DGH' campaign.

(b) That any subsequent action undertaken needs the prior agreement of the Chief Executive and the Solicitor to the Council, who'll be guided by the opinion of Counsel as to the likelihood of any success.

(c) That the Council is not a party to any litigation.

(d) That the Council's funding contribution will be paid in accordance with a project plan to be prepared by the 'Save the DGH' campaign and agreed by the Chief Executive and the Solicitor to the Council.

(e) That the Council has the right to withdraw unexpended portions of the contribution authorized should the chances of success worsen in the opinion of the Chief Executive and the Solicitor to the Council.

(f) That no amount in excess of the authorized contribution be expended without the approval of Cabinet.

(g) That the Chief Executive and the Solicitor to the Council regularly update Cabinet and Full Council on progress.

(h) That the selection of the legal team is accepted as an exception to the Contract Procedure Rules.

59. Minutes of Council Bodies and Items for Discussion. The minutes of the following Council Bodies were submitted to this meeting:-

Conservation Area Advisory Committee	27 November 2007 and 2 January 2008
Scrutiny Committee	3 December 2007
Planning Committee	4 December 2007 and 8 January 2008
Licensing Act Committee	6 December 2007
Cabinet	12 December 2007

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 14, Members raised the following items for discussion:-

1. Cabinet – 12 December 2007 – Minute 84, Page 253 – Disability Equality Scheme – Annual Progress Report. Raised by Councillor Goodwin.
2. Cabinet – 12 December 2007 – Minute 94, Page 258 – Post Office Network Change Programme. Raised by Councillors Harris and Goodall.
3. Cabinet – 12 December 2007 – Minute 95, Page 259 – A Science Park for Eastbourne. Raised by Councillor Morris.

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was,

Resolved: That the minutes of the above Council Bodies be accepted.

The meeting closed at 7.40pm

**Councillor Mary Anne Pooley,
Mayor, Chairman**

(pf:council\08.01.16\mins)