



Minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 18 November 2009 at 6.00pm

Present:-

Councillor Gregory Szanto (Mayor) in the Chair

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

- 47. Minutes.** The minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 16 September 2009 were presented and the Mayor was authorised to sign them as a correct record.
- 48. Mayoral Announcement – New Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive.** The Mayor formally welcomed to the Council the new Chief Executive, Robert Cottrill and the new Deputy Chief Executive, Julian Osgathorpe who had taken up their posts on 28 September and 5 October respectively.
- 49. Mayoral announcements.**
- 1 The Mayor and Mayoress attended the Sovereign Radio Local Heroes Awards at the Grand Hotel on 25 September. The evening was a huge success celebrating the unsung heroes of our community. The winners included Will Morris, winner of the Emergency Services Award, for rescuing two swimmers when he was on duty with the voluntary lifeguards in Seaford; James Julian, winner of the Child of Achievement award, who after having a very difficult upbringing, overcame this and is now working for a celebrity chef at a top hotel in Plymouth; and Nicki and Brian Loftus, winners of the Make a Community Difference Award, for their dedicated work for the Langney Area Panel.
 - 2 Eastbourne Victorian Festival made a return to the town over the weekend of 26 and 27 September. On Saturday 26 September the Mayor and Mayoress, along with the Station Master and a host of dignitaries, met Her Gracious Majesty, Queen Victoria, and her consort Prince Albert, at Eastbourne train station. A choir from Parkland Junior School serenaded the Royal Couple, and the Royal party then processed up Grove Road and enjoyed a private reception in the Town Hall.
 - 3 During the weekend of the 7 and 8 November, the Mayor attended various engagements in support of the Poppy Appeal and The Royal British Legion, and to commemorate Remembrance Sunday along with his Civic colleagues.

- On 7 November the Mayor visited Poppy Selling outlets around Eastbourne and thanked the volunteer sellers for their efforts in support of the Royal British Legion. The Mayor was pleased to announce that this year's appeal had raised over £60,000.
 - The Mayor led the civic parade to the War Memorial on 8 November to join many local organisations and members of the public for the memorial service of Remembrance and later in the day the Mayor attended the Remembrance Service at the Ruthless Memorial at Butts Brow.
 - During the evening of 8 November, the Mayor and civic guests attended the Festival of Remembrance at the Congress Theatre at the invitation of the Eastbourne Combined Ex-Services Association which included performances from the Eastbourne Silver Band, The Rattonians, Eastbourne Sea and Marine Cadets and members of the Eastbourne Scottish Pipe Band.
 - On 11 November the Mayor joined the two minutes' silence at Eastbourne Arndale Centre.
- 4 The Mayor opened the Faiths Forum Event on 17 November held in support of Inter Faith Week. A well attended event held to raise awareness of the different faiths represented in the town and to show how faith communities contribute to neighbourhoods and society as a whole, audience members were given the opportunity to listen to Faiths Forum members give a brief talk about their faith, its history, practice, worship and festivals.
- 5 On 11 December 2009 the Mayor will host a Charity Christmas Carol Concert at Our Lady of Ransom Church, Grange Road commencing at 7.30pm. The event will feature the Southdown Singers and will be followed by mulled wine and minced pies in the Parish Centre. This is a free event with a retiring collection in aid of the Mayor's Charity, Eastbourne and Wealden Multiple Sclerosis Society.
- 50. Apologies for absence.** Apologies for absence were reported from Councillors Goodall and Miah. The Council extended its best wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor Goodall who was currently unwell, and to Councillor Miah's wife who had been admitted to hospital.
- 51. Disclosures of interests.** Councillor Elkin declared a personal interest in respect of item 56 below as a representative for Sovereign Harbour on another body but this was deemed to be non-prejudicial so he participated in the debate and decision on this matter.
- 52. Calendar of meetings for 2010/11.** The Council considered the report of the Local Democracy Manager.

It was moved by Councillor Tutt, seconded by Councillor Tester and;

Resolved: That the calendar for 2010/11, as appended to the report, be approved with the following amendments:

- (a) That the Spring 2010 annual and ordinary meetings of the Council both being held on 18 May 2010.
- (b) That the Planning Committee scheduled for 18 May 2010 be brought forward to 17 May 2010.

NOTE: An amendment proposed by Councillor Taylor and seconded by Councillor Elkin that Planning Committees move to a start time of 5.00pm was lost by 18 votes to 6.

- 53. Human resources delegations.** The Council considered the report of Councillor Tester on behalf of the Cabinet seeking approval to revised delegation arrangements following the adoption of new pay and grading provisions, corporate structures and senior management.

It was moved by Councillor Tester, seconded by Councillor Elkin and;

Resolved: That in relation to the exercise of the Council's powers to appoint staff, and to determine the terms and conditions on which they hold office (including procedures for their dismissal) and the exercise of functions relating to local government pensions, etc.:-

(a) The human resources delegations as set out in the report to Cabinet on 21 October 2009 be approved;

(b) Approval be given to all previously approved and current policies and procedures (whether adopted by Council, Cabinet, predecessor bodies or by officers under their delegated powers) in relation to their application under the foregoing delegations or otherwise by the Council (or body or officer authorised by the Council) and to note that these policies and procedures are set out in the Personnel Standards held by the Head of Human Resources and otherwise available via the Council's intranet; and

(c) That delegated authority be given to the Head of Human Resources, in consultation with Chief Executive and Deputy Chief Executive, to make any necessary changes to adopted policies and procedures to keep the Council within the law and in accordance with good practice.

- 54. Revised statement of gambling policy.** The Council considered the report of Councillors Wallis and Purchase on behalf of the Cabinet and the Licensing Act Committee respectively.

It was moved by Councillor Wallis, seconded by Councillor Purchase and;

Resolved: That the proposed changes to the Council's Gambling Policy (Statement of Principles), which will form the Council's approach to gambling matters for the next three years, be approved.

- 55. New house building.** The following motion was submitted by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Belsey:-

To supplement a previous motion on NO further residential development on

Sovereign Harbour, this Council believes that Government demands for Eastbourne to accommodate 4,800 new homes are unacceptable and that EBC should not be collaborating with a Labour Government to produce further over-development in our area, especially by further mass house building in the Harbour, Kings Drive and Old Town Areas.

Resolved: (By 18 votes to 6) That this motion be rejected.

- 56. Community centre for Sovereign Harbour.** The following motion was submitted by Councillor Elkin and seconded by Councillor Howlett:-

This Council will set aside a sum of money from the £2.5 million windfall received by way of a VAT refund, to purchase a site on Sovereign Harbour to build a Community Centre. This Council will take necessary steps to compulsory purchase such a site should the land owners not be helpful. This Council will also offer necessary advice to any bodies that come forward with a view to raising the required funds to build a suitable Centre.

The following alternative proposal was moved by Councillor Salsbury and seconded by Councillor Morris:

That this Council will consider making a financial contribution from their capital resources to the establishment of a community centre for Sovereign Harbour, provided that East Sussex County Council makes an equal or greater contribution.

In submitting the alternative proposal, Councillor Salsbury referred to Section 106 funds held by the County Council in respect of contributions from developers as a result of building developments in Sovereign Harbour. Councillor Elkin responded that, whilst not supportive of the specific wording of the alternative proposal, he would be willing to work with all interested parties to secure this type of facility in Sovereign Harbour.

Resolved: (By 18 votes to 4) That the alternative proposal be approved as the substantive motion.

- 57. Concessionary fares.** The following motion was submitted by Councillor Mattock and seconded by Councillor Stanley:-

This Council welcomes the news of a possible redistribution of the concessionary fares grant but is disappointed that this is not likely to be backdated. It calls upon the Department of Transport to compensate the council tax payers of Eastbourne for the considerable shortfall they have had to fund. The Council further calls upon the Local Government Association to support proposals for redistribution in order to meet the actual costs incurred by local authorities.

Resolved: That this motion be approved.

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

Cabinet	16 September and 21 October 2009
Audit Committee	24 September 2009
Planning Committee	29 September and 27 October 2009
Conservation Area Advisory Group	13 October 2009
Standards Committee	19 October 2009
General Licensing Committee	11 November 2009
Licensing Act Committee	11 November 2009

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

- 1 Audit Committee – Page 123, Minute 10 – Annual Corporate Governance Report – Raised by Councillor Mattock.
- 2 Cabinet – Page 143, Minute 65 – Corporate Plan Update – Raised by Councillor Wallis. Councillor Marsden requested a subsequent update on consultation outcomes in respect of the corporate plan priorities.

Further to Council Procedure Rule 14.3 it was;

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

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

**Councillor Gregory John Michael Szanto,
Mayor, Chairman**

(pf:council\09.11.18\mins)