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**LEWES
TOWN
COUNCIL**

MINUTES

Of the **Meeting of Lewes Town Council**,

held on **Thursday 27th August 2015**, in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall**, Lewes at **7:30pm**.

NB if a record of voting was requested, this is shown in a table appended to these Minutes.

PRESENT Cllrs F Addecott; A Ashby; A Barker; R Burrows; S Catlin (Wischhusen); M Chartier; I Makepeace (*Deputy Mayor*); M Milner; R Murray; S Murray (*Mayor*); O’Keeffe; T Rowell; E Watts.

In attendance: S Brigden (*Town Clerk*); Mrs F Garth (*Civic Officer & Asst Town Clerk*)

Observing: B Courage (*Town Ranger*)

FC2015/45 QUESTION TIME: There were none. There was 1 member of the public present.

FC2015/46 MEMBERS’ DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: There were none.

FC2015/47 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies had been received from Cllr Dr A Bolt who was caring for an unwell child; Cllr D Cooper; who had a work commitment; Cllr W Elliott; who had a family commitment; and Cllr Dr G Mayhew, who was on holiday. It was **resolved that:**

FC2015/47.1 Reasons submitted for absence from this meeting are accepted.

FC2015/48 MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Mayor recounted her recent civic visit to Waldshut-Tiengen, where she had continued the time-honoured tradition of the Mayor of Lewes opening the local ‘Chilbi’ parish festival. One salient event had been a tour of a Kindergarten operated by the Council, where the facilities provided and the underlying principles/philosophies employed had been extremely impressive and notably different from those typical of facilities in the United Kingdom. It had prompted the idea that Lewes Town Council might consider, as a future project, the sponsorship of a work-experience sojourn for a Lewes childcare student or worker.

The previously-agreed letter to Lewes District Council regarding their poor community engagement over development proposals in Lewes had been sent, but no response had yet been received.

FC2015/49 MINUTES: It was resolved that:

FC2015/49.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2015 are received and signed as an accurate record.

FC2015/50 WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE BODIES:

Members were reminded that anyone who may have attended a meeting of any recognized outside body which has covered issues that deserve attention by the Council, should ensure that TC is aware of this before the Council’s next meeting, and preferably before the agenda deadline. Reports on all activities of the organization are not expected.

a] *Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 11th August 2015:* Cllr Murray (Chairman of the Steering Group) briefly described the most recent meeting, which had assessed the status of the programme following public events held at the Town Hall on 30th June, and 1st and 2nd of July. The Council’s retained consultants had produced interim assessments of the material gleaned from these sessions and posted this with a ten-point questionnaire on the dedicated website (www.lewes4all.uk). The next stage in the agreed programme of events would be held at the Town Hall on the 8th and 9th of

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October, with a follow-up event 19th and 20th November at which the final structure and most of the content for a final draft of the Neighbourhood Plan should become clear. At the suggestion of the South Downs National Park Authority it was also planned to announce a call to owners of prospective housing sites to identify these. Publicity for all these elements was in-hand, and Cllr Catlin was arranging with colleagues to distribute leaflets outside local supermarkets. Consequently **it was resolved that:**

FC2015/50.1 The oral report on the meeting of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group 11th August 2015 (*copy in minute book*) is noted.

b] *Environment (energy efficiency of buildings) Working Party 12th August 2015:* The minutes of this meeting were presented (*copy in minute book*). The Working Party had been provided with some helpful guidance booklets produced by Historic England and addressing the application of Building Regulations to historic buildings in the context of energy efficiency; Heat Pump technology in historic buildings, and options for microgeneration in the historic environment. Members had reviewed the background to the statutory energy reviews applied to the Town Hall and Malling Community Centre and the resulting certification. It was agreed that the planned comprehensive refurbishment of Malling Community Centre would offer an opportunity to include latest technology, and therefore discussion on that building would be deferred. The Town Hall had achieved an unexpectedly good rating: ('B' – 31 points) and members had reviewed the background to this. Energy consumption figures for the past two years showed a reduction beyond that attributable simply to mild weather. There was some discussion on the content of the statutory advisory report, which offered some recommendations which were difficult to relate to the building, in reality.

Various other matters were touched-upon in a wide-ranging discussion, including:

> Issues of Listed Building status which would constrain the options for micro-generation at the Town Hall or All Saints. It was probable that the only form of microgeneration allowable under the current planning regime may be small air-source heat pumps. This would be investigated as part of the Working party's research.

> The background to the planned refurbishment of Malling Community Centre; the arrangements that had allowed the creation of the ESCC Childrens' Centre in part of the building, and the history of consultation in the past two years with users and prospective users of the building and adjacent recreation facilities.

> The Council had earlier considered proposals to install a significant array of photo-voltaic (PV) panels at the Pells Pool, alongside rebuilding of the kiosk as a small terrace café and upgrading of the playground and outdoor fitness equipment. Several options existed but were on-hold pending decisions on the nearby North Street development, as early flood-defence construction would affect the whole Pells area and the planned development would generate significant additional funds through 'Section 106' levies, which would allow a more expansive refurbishment of the buildings and recreation ground facilities than current resources alone. This would alter the implications for such choices as third-party ownership/leasing of a PV installation or outright purchase by the Council. The history of development applications over several years had caused frustratingly long delay in the refurbishment project, but it was anticipated that a decision would be reached by the Planning authority in the Autumn.

> As the statutory Display Energy Certificate surveys were not exhaustive it was agreed that additional, more specialized, surveys might be helpful; such as thermal imaging during winter months to identify heat-loss characteristics. This could be trialled at All Saints, and Cllr Rowell undertook to research suitable contractors, likely costs etc. for discussion at a future meeting.

Consequently **it was resolved that:**

FC2015/50.2 The Minutes of the meeting of the Environment (energy efficiency of buildings) Working Party 12th August 2015 (*copy in minute book*) are noted.

c] *South Downs National Park Authority (SDNPA) Planning Committee:* Councillor Milner

recounted a telephone conversation he had recently held with the Chief Executive of the SDNPA regarding the anticipated meeting of the Authority's Planning Committee to decide the Santon/Lewes DC application for developments at North Street. It had been understood for some time that the SDNPA planned to break with convention and hold this meeting in Lewes; to recognize the significance of the application and the depth of local interest. Despite booking the Town Hall Assembly Room for a scheduled date of September 10th, it had recently had been discovered that the application was not scheduled for consideration in September, and was deferred until December. Further; SDNPA now planned to use a committee room at County Hall as; although limited in space for an audience the facility was equipped for web-casting. Several ill-informed statements had been made as to the reasons for this, and Cllr Milner had stressed the importance of holding the meeting at a large-capacity venue such as the Town Hall. Several Members commented and it was suggested that a letter be written to reinforce the points made and emphasize the unprecedented degree of local interest in this meeting. The Mayor offered to write accordingly, and this was **agreed**.

FC2015/51 UPDATE ON MATTERS IN PROGRESS:

- a) *Devolution of land from Lewes District Council* – The District Council had advised that there was some misunderstanding among Members as to the Town Council's position. This was considered to be a spurious reason for the continuing delay in formalizing transfers. TC had reiterated the position but understood that there was now a prospect that the whole matter of 'overage' clauses may be referred back to the District Council's Devolution Committee, as it "wished to see consistency in policy for all parishes". Further developments would be reported in due course.
- b) *Town Hall façade works* – these were progressing well, with no problems experienced. The contractors were very diligent with regard to passers-by and had been extremely helpful and professional throughout the programme to-date.

FC2015/52 NOTICE of ITEMS IN PROSPECT:

- a) The next Members' Surgery was scheduled for Tuesday 1st September between 10:00 and 12:00. Cllrs Catlin and Ashby would attend.
- b) The next Planning Committee meeting was scheduled for 8th September.
- c) The Landport Bottom Management Joint Committee would meet on Tuesday 8th September at 11:00am in the Council Chamber, preceded by a site-visit at 9:30am.
- d) The Allotments Review Working Party would meet on Thursday 10th September at 7:00pm, preceded by a site visit to Haredean allotments (*aka* Hope-in-the-Valley) at 5:45pm.
- e) The All Saints Steering Group would meet on Wednesday 16th September at 7:00pm (a change from the printed Agenda – a subsequent email had amended this)
- f) The Personnel Panel would meet to continue its work on the Living Wage on Thursday 17th September at 7:00pm.
- g) The next deadline for grant applications was Fri 18th September – with the assessment Panel meeting on Wed 30th Sept and its recommendations being considered by Council on 1st October.
- h) The South Downs National Park Authority would hold a workshop for parishes from East Sussex on Tuesday 22nd September at Southease Youth Hostel – between 6:30 and 9:30pm. Booking was needed (via the office) and two places were available.
- i) The next meeting of Council would be on Thursday 1st October – 7:30pm – giving a deadline for agenda items to be submitted to TC of noon on Monday 21st September.
- j) The Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had two public events scheduled: the first on 8th & 9th October, and followed by 19th & 20th November.

After a general conversation about scheduling of meetings, the Mayor closed the meeting and invited all present to join her for refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour. *The meeting ended at 8:15pm*

Signed:

Date: