



Seaford Town Council

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Full Council held at the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford on **Thursday 28th January 2016 at 7.00pm.**

Present:

Councillor D Argent (Mayor) and Councillor R Hayder (Deputy Mayor).
Councillors S Adeniji, P Boorman, M Brown, D Burchett, C Campbell, R Chambers, L Freeman, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, A Latham, M Lambert, A McLean, I Murray, D Silvey-Adam, L Wallraven and L Worcester.
Gabrielle Edwards, Young Mayor – Seaford Town Council
Jessica Batchelor, Deputy Young Mayor – Seaford Town Council
James Corrigan, Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council
Georgia Raeburn, PA to the Town Clerk – Seaford Town Council (minutes)
11 members of the public.

C88/01/16 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors B Burfield and P Lower.
Police Sgt Mullins submitted his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

C89/01/16 Disclosure of Interests

No declarations were made of discloseable pecuniary interests or interests other than pecuniary interests as defined under the Seaford Town Council Code of Conduct and the Localism Act 2011, in relation to matters on the agenda.

C90/01/16 Public Participation

- Christine Brett* *Commented on the promising response to the Manager vacancy at The View and the proposal to hold Councillor surgeries. Questioned what Councillors proposed to do with regards to the poor attendance at Committee and Council meetings, especially when no apologies are made. Questioned whether a record could be kept of what Councillors do individually.*
- STC Councillors Multiple Councillors responded stressing the importance to remember that councillors are volunteers with family and work lives to maintain as well and do council work on a day-to-day basis, behind the scenes that is not always seen at meetings.
- Ernie Hill* *Supported the statement with regards to Councillor's non-attendance at meetings not being satisfactory.*
- Sylvia Dunn* *Wished to thank Rachel Beard for her hard work in her role of Administration Assistant and wish her the best of luck going forwards.*
- Requested that the Clerk explain the increase on the cost of the highway works at Southdown Road leading up to The View and whether this is allowed?*
- Town Clerk Explained the situation regarding the works having to be carried out in two stages as the bottom half of the road is unadopted. The contractors were given misleading information originally when the contract costs were written so there is therefore an increase in

price. It has however now been said that the Council can do Private Street Works on the unadopted part of the road; the level of increase is being looked in to however and works have been suspended until this is resolved.

Roger Foxwell

Raised issues regarding the condition of the Play Area at The Salts and questioned whether this should still be open to the public. Raised concerns with whether the grass would be able to grow with the bark underneath it.

Questioned how the £10k is spent that is allocated for Sussex Wildlife Trust managing the Seaford Head Nature Reserve on the Council's behalf. Suggested that the management plan for the area needs to be reviewed.

Suggested that the Council look at increasing the size of the mat on the 3rd tee at Seaford Head Golf Course due to the wetness of the tee area.

Suggested that The View should be sourcing British butter instead of Irish butter.

Asked where he would be able to see a copy of the Neighbourhood Plan specification that was given to Action in Rural Sussex.

Town Clerk

Confirmed that a site meeting was held at The Salts with the contractor before Christmas and they have since appointed a new sub-contractor. The play area will be shut for around two weeks whilst the remedial works are carried out to bring the area up to the desired standard. The bark issue will also be addressed. Reminded the meeting that ROSPA has declared the area fit to be open.

Explained that there is a Sussex Wildlife Trust Ranger on site at the Nature Reserve for one day per week and also constant background support from the Ranger and other Trust Officers. This is a requirement as the Council does not have the expertise to carry out this work itself.

Clarified that there has been excessive rain recently causing the problems at the 3rd tee. It is however planned to rebuild a raised tee, which should prevent the problem happening in the future.

Confirmed that The View does source local produce where possible; both meat and fish are sourced from local businesses, and will look into the butter situation.

Will ensure the Neighbourhood Plan specification is uploaded to the Council's website.

C91/01/16 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the following minutes and **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the recommendations therein:

- C91.1** Finance & General Purposes: 15th October 2015
- C91.2** Planning & Highways: 22nd October 2015
- C91.3** Full Council: 29th October 2015

- C91.4** Planning & Highways: 12th November 2015
- C91.5** Personnel Sub-Committee: 18th November 2015
- C91.6** Community Services: 26th November 2015
- C91.7** Planning & Highways: 3rd December 2015
Amendment to draft minute ref P62/12/15: Councillor Lower is an acquaintance of the objector, not applicant.
- C91.8** Golf: 8th December 2015
The Clerk highlighted a minor calculation error within report 118/15 that was approved by minute ref G18.2; the Youth membership fee for 2016/17 should have read £203 not £193.
- C91.9** Finance & General Purposes: 17th December 2015
- C91.10** Planning & Highways: 21st December 2015
- C91.11** Planning & Highways: 14th January 2016

C92/01/16 **Mayoral Engagements & Reports**

C92.1 **Mayor's Engagements & Report**

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of report 131/15.

The Council wished to congratulate the Mayoress, Marian Argent, for her hard work at the Mayoral events and engagements, and her cake baking skills.

C92.2 **Young Mayor's Engagements**

The Young Mayor gave a verbal update on her plans to hold a further charity event in March 2016.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of report 132/15.

C93/01/16 **Clerk's Report**

Members consider report 133/15 and the verbal updates the Clerk was able to provide in addition to the report with regards to recruitment, the Neighbourhood Plan, lighting at The View, Street Trading, The View's website and marketing, and the Town Council's Community Infrastructure Levy requirements.

It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the Clerk's report and **AGREE** to the priorities therein with the following additions;

1. Research and report back to Full Council on the Council achieving the General Power of Competence;
2. Create a cost allocation for all services with staff costs allocated accordingly.

C94/01/16 **District & County Council Update**

Councillor Carolyn Lambert (East Sussex County Council)

Provided an update for the meeting on the County Council's budgets, the financial savings and service cuts that are being discussed, around £70-90m is proposed, and the effect this could have on front line services. Confirmed that County Councillors have collectively written to the Prime Minister to express their concerns with the service cuts required; a copy of which will be forwarded to all Town Councillors so they are aware. Alternative budget proposals which seek to mitigate the cuts by £5.4



million, particularly to voluntary organisations, adoption/fostering services, adult care and other preventative services will also be considered.

Councillor Olivia Honeyman (Lewes District Council)

Confirmed that the Access in Seaford & Newhaven group is in talks with Lewes District Council about the decision to make the position of Access Officer redundant and the impact this could have within the District. Councillor Honeyman has been informed that the requirements that were set out in the Equality Act are now incorporated within Building Control Regulations so are monitored during this process.

Confirmed that Lewes District Council has a new Chief Executive and Head of Paid Services; Robert Cottrill. This is a new role created as part of the integration strategy with Lewes District Council and Eastbourne Borough Council.

Councillor Sam Adeniji (Lewes District Council)

Urged the Councillors and members of the public to make comment on the Lewes District Council Plan currently open for consultation. District Councillors are receiving copies of all comments; there have currently only been 12 from Seaford. The plan will be debated in Cabinet at Lewes District Council and the public's comments will be taken in to account. The consultation closes on 8th February.

C95/01/16 Police Report

Police Sergeant Mullins had submitted his apologies in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that going forwards there will no longer be a representative from Sussex Police at the Full Council meetings. Sergeant Mullins will still however kindly produce an update report for Councillors on activities within Seaford. An item will therefore remain on the agenda for Full Council meetings concerning the Police Report.

Members welcomed the written Police Report received and thanked Sgt Mullins.

C96/01/16 Meeting Timetable 2016/17

Members considered report 129/15.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the 2016/17 Meeting Timetable.

C97/01/16 Council Debit Card Policy

Members considered report 130/15.

It was **RESOLVED** to **ADOPT** the Council Debit Card Policy as an addendum to the Council's Financial Regulations with two amendments to the 'Fraudulent and Misuse of the Debit Card' and 'Usage' paragraphs.

C98/01/16 Monthly Councillor Surgeries

Members considered report 115/15. Members held a discussion on engaging the younger generations within the town, working with the Young and Deputy Young Mayors.

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** Councillor Surgeries being run on a monthly basis, with Councillors managing the organisation and structure of the surgeries, and reporting back to the Clerk with the activity from each surgery.

C99/01/16 Final Budget Report & Setting of Precept

Members discussed report 134/15 in depth.

A **RECORDED VOTE** was requested:

Councillor S Adeniji	For
Councillor D Argent	For
Councillor P Boorman	For
Councillor M Brown	For
Councillor D Burchett	For
Councillor C Campbell	For
Councillor R Chambers	For
Councillor L Freeman	For
Councillor R Hayder	For
Councillor O Honeyman	For
Councillor R Honeyman	For
Councillor M Lambert	For
Councillor A Latham	For
Councillor A McLean	For
Councillor I Murray	For
Councillor D Silvey-Adam	For
Councillor L Wallraven	For
Councillor L Worcester	For

It was therefore **RESOLVED** 18 for, 0 against and 0 abstentions;

To **ADOPT** the 2016/17 Budget as presented.

FURTHERMORE, to **ALLOW** the Town Clerk to make any minor amendments which do not affect the overall budget to improve accuracy when producing the Budget Book for all Councillors.

FURTHERMORE, to **APPROVE** the setting of the 2016/17 Precept of £613,751, which equates to a Council Tax increase of 15.48%, on the condition that Officers make a minimum of £25k financial savings or financial gain in addition to those included in the 2016/17 Budget.

The meeting closed at 9.31pm.

Councillor Dave Argent
Mayor of Seaford



