



Seaford Town Council

Minutes

Annual Meeting

14 May 2026

Held in the Council Chambers, 37 Church Street, Seaford, BN25 1HG at 7.00pm

Present:

Councillor M Wearmouth (2025 - 2026 Mayor)

Councillor L Stirton (2026 - 2027 Mayor and outgoing 2025 - 2026 Deputy Mayor)

Councillor R Buchanan (2026 - 2027 Deputy Mayor)

Councillors S Adeniji, S Ali, L Boorman, C Bristow, S Dunn, F Hoareau, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, J Lord, S Markwell, O Matthews, G Rutland, R Stirton, and I Taylor

Steve Quayle, Town Clerk

Darryl Keech, Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Financial Officer

Isabelle Moulard, Community Engagement & Democratic Services Manager

George Raeburn, Senior Committee Clerk

Becky Terry, Governance & Corporate Officer

There were three members of the public in attendance

A minutes' silence was held in memory of Pat White, beloved member of the Seaford community who was dedicated to supporting youth and musical arts, and wife of Town Crier and Sergeant-at-Mace, Peter White.

C01/05/26 Election of Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026 – 2027

Three nominations for Mayor were received and a **RECORDED VOTE** requested:

C01.1 It was **PROPOSED** that Councillor S Dunn be **APPOINTED** as Mayor of Seaford for the forthcoming 2026 – 2027 Municipal Year;

Councillor S Adeniji Against

Councillor S Ali Against

Councillor L Boorman Against

Councillor C Bristow	For
Councillor R Buchanan	Against
Councillor S Dunn	For
Councillor O Honeyman	Against
Councillor R Honeyman	Against
Councillor J Lord	Against
Councillor S Markwell	Against
Councillor O Matthews	Abstained
Councillor G Rutland	Against
Councillor R Stirton	Against
Councillor L Stirton	Against
Councillor I Taylor	Against
Councillor M Wearmouth	Against

; the **MOTION** was **NOT CARRIED**.

C01.2 It was **PROPOSED** that Councillor G Rutland be **APPOINTED** as Mayor of Seaford for the forthcoming 2026 – 2027 Municipal Year;

Councillor S Adeniji	For
Councillor S Ali	Against
Councillor L Boorman	For
Councillor C Bristow	Against
Councillor R Buchanan	Against
Councillor S Dunn	Abstained
Councillor O Honeyman	Against
Councillor R Honeyman	Against
Councillor J Lord	For
Councillor S Markwell	Against
Councillor O Matthews	Against
Councillor G Rutland	For
Councillor R Stirton	Against
Councillor L Stirton	Abstained
Councillor I Taylor	Against
Councillor M Wearmouth	Against

; the **MOTION** was **NOT CARRIED**.

C01.3 It was **PROPOSED** that Councillor L Stirton be **APPOINTED** as Mayor of Seaford for the forthcoming 2026 – 2027 Municipal Year;

Councillor S Adeniji	For
Councillor S Ali	For
Councillor L Boorman	For
Councillor C Bristow	Against
Councillor R Buchanan	For
Councillor S Dunn	Abstained
Councillor O Honeyman	For
Councillor R Honeyman	For
Councillor J Lord	For
Councillor S Markwell	For
Councillor O Matthews	For
Councillor G Rutland	For
Councillor R Stirton	For
Councillor L Stirton	For
Councillor I Taylor	For
Councillor M Wearmouth	For

; the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

C02/05/26 Declaration of Acceptance of Office - Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor L Stirton, pursuant to the provisions of Section 83 of the Local Government Act 1972, made a Declaration of Acceptance of Office in the prescribed form before the Proper Officer.

C03/05/26 Handover of Mayoral Office

The Mayor making ceremony was carried out and the incoming Mayor formally welcomed to the meeting.

The incoming Mayor stated for the record:

'It gives me great pleasure to formally record our sincere thanks to Councillor Maggie Wearmouth for her dedicated service as Mayor of Seaford during the 2025–2026 Municipal Year.

Councillor Wearmouth undertook the role of Mayor with exceptional enthusiasm and commitment. Over the course of her tenure, she attended in excess of 80 civic engagements and community events, thereby maintaining and enhancing the profile of Seaford Town Council both locally and across neighbouring communities—an achievement of considerable note.

During Councillor Wearmouth's term of office, she was met with a host of significant events, including providing steady and compassionate leadership during several sensitive and challenging incidents at the beginning of her term, as well as:

- *Representing the town during the visit of His Majesty King Charles III on 19 March 2026*
- *Representing the town at the presentation of the King's Award for Voluntary Service to Friends of Bishopstone Station in the presence of the Lord Lieutenant of East Sussex*

Throughout her term, Councillor Wearmouth has demonstrated a strong commitment to recognising and supporting voluntary and community organisations, successfully bringing greater visibility and cohesion to this vital sector.

In support of her chosen charity, Family Support Work, Councillor Wearmouth raised a total of £2,980. This represents a significant achievement, further complemented by the increased awareness and profile she brought to the charity over the course of her mayoralty.

In addition to her civic responsibilities, Councillor Wearmouth fulfilled her duties as Chair of the Town Council with diligence, integrity, and unwavering dedication, consistently acting in the best interests of the Council and the residents of Seaford.

Councillor Wearmouth, on behalf of Seaford Town Council, I extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your exemplary service, your commitment, and your many achievements during your year as Mayor.'

(7.20pm – Councillor F Hoareau joined the meeting)

C04/05/26 Election of Deputy Mayor for the Municipal Year 2026-2027

It was **PROPOSED** that Councillor R Buchanan be **APPOINTED** as Deputy Mayor of Seaford for the forthcoming 2026 – 2027 Municipal Year, a **RECORDED VOTE** requested;

Councillor S Adeniji	Abstained
Councillor S Ali	For
Councillor L Boorman	Abstained
Councillor C Bristow	For
Councillor R Buchanan	For
Councillor S Dunn	For
Councillor O Honeyman	For
Councillor R Honeyman	For
Councillor J Lord	Abstained
Councillor S Markwell	For

Councillor O Matthews	For
Councillor G Rutland	Abstained
Councillor R Stirton	For
Councillor L Stirton	For
Councillor I Taylor	For
Councillor M Wearmouth	For

; the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

C05/05/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Dubas, J Meek, and L Wallraven.

The reasons for absence were approved as follows: Councillor S Dubas (personal commitment), Councillor J Meek (work commitment), and Councillor L Wallraven (personal commitment).

Councillor F Hoareau had submitted apologies in advance for lateness.

C06/05/26 Disclosure of Interests

There were no disclosures of interests.

(7.31pm – James MacCleary MP and a member of his staff joined the meeting. Standing Order 3f was suspended to enable the MP to address the meeting)

C07/05/26 Update from James MacCleary MP

James MacCleary (JM), MP, provided a verbal update on:

- 1) Work by NHS Sussex and Lewes District Council to progress and identify funding for the Seaford Health Hub project, which the Integrated Care Board has identified is best placed at Seaford Medical Practice.
- 2) The recent local elections within East Sussex County Council and, no longer being a County Councillor himself anymore, JM's plans to engage with the new administration on key priorities, including the health hub, the quality of roads and pavements, and SEND and adult social care provision.
- 3) The Government's current consultation on SEND provision and JM's work to engage with local parents and schools, recognising SEND as the highest identified crisis point for schools in Seaford. JM encouraged individuals to look at and respond to the consultation before 18 May 2026.
- 4) Discussions and meetings JM has had in relation to the A259 to raise awareness of the disruption and damage this is doing to Seaford and Newhaven. JM is hopeful to have a site visit from the transport minister and is continuing to investigate the progress of the funding request to the Department for Transport.

- 5) The recently launched Local Government Reorganisation consultation period on the Government's proposed configuration of the boundaries for Sussex's unitary authorities. JM confirmed that this is a compromise proposal for East Sussex, with a unitary authority for East Sussex and a separate unitary authority for Brighton & Hove including Peacehaven, Telscombe Cliffs, Saltdean and Falmer. JM's comments must remain largely within his constituency and he is campaigning against the inclusion of Falmer.

JM welcomed questions from Town Councillors, responding as follows:

Question 1) With regards to Local Government Reorganisation, significant amounts of money have been wasted on officer time preparing for this process, with the Government changing its mind partway through. How can this be allowable? Should this question be put to the National Audit Office?

Answer 1) JM confirmed that he has been critical of the project at times, as this has been chaotic. In the early stages, he challenged the omission of parish and town councils from the process. JM will submit a request to the National Audit Office to ask if they have made an assessment of the overall cost of Local Government Reorganisation to the public sector, and will share the feedback.

Question 2) Thinking specifically about the current proposal within the Lewes Local Plan for Seaford to be designated as a 'District Centre', how can we protect Seaford from overdevelopment without a fully functioning infrastructure? What advice or support is available?

Answer 2) JM confirmed his strong opinion that we need to have the infrastructure in place before housing is built, rather than the current system of building housing first and hoping the market will respond with infrastructure improvements. JM shared concerns around the changes to the National Planning Policy Framework that will enable the Government power to bypass local planning authorities and local plans, and that this will exacerbate the issue with the current developer-led process, as developers will chose to build where they can make the most profit, specifically the south-east of England resulting in an overconcentration of housing in one area. With regards to what can be done, an MP does not have a statutory role in the planning process and therefore it will be important for the Lewes District Councillors to be robust in making sure what Seaford's infrastructure can and cannot sustain within the Lewes Local Plan, that is due for completion by December 2026.

Question 3) Potholes remain a national problem – how can this be addressed by the Government and the county councils that hold the funding? What impact will Local Government Reorganisation have?

Answer 3) JM confirmed that there is a massive budget deficit in place for road maintenance within East Sussex County Council. JM believes that part of the problem is this being overcentralised

in Government with not enough devolved powers, but also the need to ensure that the highways contract held is effective, not too restrictive, and prioritises preventative measures rather than just reactive. JM advised that there is only so much that is realistic to expect East Sussex County Council to do, but for the future unitary authority, this remains a big question about how this will be approached in the future.

Question 4) In relation to the sea water quality and sewerage overflow, what can the MP do to help residents and visitors have more confidence to go swimming? Can the MP support the call on water companies to release data about the volume of water overflows in addition to the frequency/duration?

Answer 4) This remains one of JM's biggest priorities and, despite Southern Water's failings, he recognises the needs to work constructively to solve this, including liaison with community groups. JM has proposed to work with Southern Water to pick a small number of the worst offending outlets and resolve these one by one (including Splash Point), with Southern Water funding this. JM has been vocal about his belief that Blue Flag Status would help increase visitor confidence of water quality in Seaford bay and the beach in general. JM agrees that volume data is crucial to avoid misinformation. JM shared his concerns around the industry challenges, issues with an organisation having complete control over something needed to live, and the need introduce a water regulator to oversee this.

It was **PROPOSED** to **RECORD** the Town Council's thanks to James MacCleary for attending; the **MOTION** was **CARRIED**.

(8.01pm – James MacCleary and his member of staff left the meeting, along with one member of public. Standing Order 3f was reinstated)

C08/05/26 Public Participation

Speaker	Statement
<i>Resident A</i>	<i>Congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointments. Requested that the Vanguard Way Association be kept updated on the Exceat Bridge work, with the Vanguard Way crossing the bridge. Queried the exact closure dates and whether it would just be closed to vehicles or foot passengers as well.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution.

	Confirmed that the first stakeholder meeting was due to be held on Monday 18 May but unfortunately was at full capacity. The Clerk will however ask the contractor, Jackson Civil Engineering Group's Public Relations Team to liaise with the Association, share the information being provided at the stakeholder meeting, and provide answers to their queries.
<i>Resident B</i>	<i>Shared their belief that a viaduct needs to be introduced at Exceat, rather than just widening the bridge, due to the frequent and worsening flooding in the area that will eventually see the road unpassable. Believes that this should be made into a toll road with the income used to look after the Coastguard Cottages.</i>
Town Council Response	Thanked the resident for their contribution and confirmed that they can be put in touch with their East Sussex County Councillor to discuss this further.

C09/05/26 Petitions

There were no petitions presented at this meeting.

(8.10pm to 8.13pm – a short break was held and two members of public exited the meeting)

C10/05/26 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following minutes:

Ref.	Meeting	Meeting Date
10.1	Finance & General Purposes	26 March 2026

C11/05/26 Committee Membership

Full Council considered report 01/26 presenting the necessary details to appoint members to committees, appoint the Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and consider the appointment of any new committees.

In response to queries from members, officers confirmed that Planning training is offered to all members of the Planning & Highways Committee and that annual refresher training can also be considered, however it was clarified this training is not mandatory.

C11.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

C11.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the approved 2026 – 2027 Committee Structure.

- C11.3** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** members of the Assets & Facilities Committee as set out below for the 2026 - 2027 Municipal Year:
Councillors S Ali, C Bristow, S Dunn, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, S Markwell, O Matthews, J Meek, and L Wallraven (one vacancy remains).
- C11.4** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee as set out below for the 2026 - 2027 Municipal Year:
Councillors S Ali, L Boorman, R Buchanan, S Dunn, F Hoareau, R Honeyman, J Meek, L Wallraven, and M Wearmouth (one vacancy remains).
- C11.5** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** members of the Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Committee as set out below for the 2026 - 2027 Municipal Year:
Councillors C Bristow, R Buchanan, S Dunn, J Meek, G Rutland, I Taylor, M Wearmouth, and L Wallraven (two vacancies remain).
- C11.6** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** members of the Planning & Highways Committee as set out below for the 2026 - 2027 Municipal Year:
Councillors L Boorman, R Buchanan, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, J Lord, S Markwell, R Stirton, and L Wallraven (two vacancies remain)
- C11.7** It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** members of the Personnel Committee as set out below for the 2026 - 2027 Municipal Year:
Councillors S Adeniji, L Boorman, O Honeyman, R Honeyman, S Markwell, and L Wallraven (no vacancies remain).

(8.26pm – Councillor S Adeniji exited the meeting)

C11.8 Assets & Facilities Committee:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor O Honeyman as Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor R Honeyman as Vice-Chair

C11.9 Finance & General Purposes Committee:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor S Dunn as Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor S Ali as Vice-Chair

C11.10 Golf, Open Spaces & Climate Action Committee:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor J Meek as Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor R Buchanan as Vice-Chair

C11.11 Planning & Highways Committee:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor L Wallraven as Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor L Boorman as Vice-Chair

C11.12 Personnel Committee:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor S Markwell as Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor O Honeyman as Vice-Chair

C11.13 Disciplinary / Grievance Panel:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor L Boorman as Chair

C11.14 Appeals Committee:

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** members of the Appeals Committee as set out below for the 2026 - 2027 Municipal Year:

Councillors J Lord, F Hoareau, O Matthews, R Stirton, and I Taylor

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor R Stirton as Chair

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor F Hoareau as Vice-Chair

C11.15 Committee Chairs' Management Group

It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** Councillor J Meek as Chair

C12/05/26 2026-2027 Outside Body Review & Appointments

Full Council considered report 02/26 presenting Full Council with the necessary details to review the Town Council's representation on outside bodies and appoint representation for the 2026 – 2027 Municipal Year.

Members discussed the desire to continue the outside body representation for Seaford Town Football Club and the importance of maintaining the relationship going forwards, and that the removal of Seaford Traders Group could be reviewed again in the future.

C12.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the representative reports submitted for the 2025 - 2026 Municipal Year.

C12.2 It was **RESOLVED** to make the following recommended changes to outside bodies:

Outside Body Name	Change
Seafriends	NOTED that this charity has now closed so this outside body is removed from the list
Bishopstone United Charities	AGREED that non-councillor Penny Lower continue as one of two Town Council representatives
Cuckmere Community Buses	AGREED that non-councillor John Edson continue as the Town Council representative
Seaford Town Football Club	PROPOSED that representation remains for the Football Club as an Outside Body; the MOTION was CARRIED
Seaford Traders Group	AGREED that this outside body is removed from the list

Sussex Community Development Association	AGREED that this outside body is added to the list
Seven Sisters National Nature Reserve	AGREED that this outside body is removed from the list

C12.3 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** the following Town Council representatives to outside bodies for the 2026 – 2027 Municipal Year:

Outside Body	No. Reps	Representative/s
Access in Newhaven & Seaford	2	Cllr O Honeyman
		Cllr R Honeyman
Bishopstone United Charities	2	Cllr L Wallraven
		Non-cllr Penny Lower
Citizen's Advice - Lewes District	2	Cllr L Stirton
		Cllr I Taylor
Community Rail Partnership	2	Cllr F Hoareau
		<i>(vacancy remains)</i>
Cuckmere Community Bus	1	Non-cllr John Edson
East Sussex & Lewes District Association of Local Councils	2	Cllr L Boorman
		Cllr R Honeyman
Friends of Bishopstone Station	2	Cllr S Dubas
		Cllr I Taylor
Lewes Community Safety Partnership-Joint Action Group	2	Cllr S Markwell
		<i>(vacancy remains)</i>
Plastic-Free Seaford Steering Group	2	Cllr R Buchanan
		<i>(vacancy remains)</i>
Save Seaford's Swifts	1	Cllr R Buchanan
Seaford Allotments Society	1	Cllr C Bristow
Seaford Beach User Group	2	Cllr S Dunn
		Cllr J Meek
Seaford Chamber of Commerce	3	Cllr S Markwell
		Cllr J Meek
		Cllr G Rutland
Seaford Community Partnership (inc. Ouse Valley Climate Action Project)	2	Cllr R Buchanan
		Cllr R Honeyman

Outside Body	No. Reps	Representative/s
Seaford Environmental Alliance	2	Cllr R Buchanan
		Cllr R Honeyman
Seaford Head Local Nature Reserve Management Committee	2	Cllr C Bristow
		Cllr J Meek
Seaford Head Swimming Pool	1	Cllr C Bristow
Strengthening Local Relationships	3	Cllr S Dunn
		Cllr F Hoareau
		Cllr L Wallraven
Sussex Community Development Association	1	Cllr I Taylor
Trees for Seaford	1	Cllr J Meek

C13/05/26 Seaford Health Stakeholder Working Group Membership

Full Council considered report 03/26 seeking appointment of members to the Seaford Health Stakeholder Working Group. Members discussed bringing this group into alignment with other working groups next municipal year.

C13.1 It was **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the contents of the report.

C13.2 It was **RESOLVED** to **APPOINT** membership of the Seaford Health Stakeholder Working Group as Councillors R Honeyman, S Markwell, I Taylor, noting that other councillors may put themselves forward for the remaining vacancy.

The meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Councillor L Stirton

Councillor L Stirton

Mayor of Seaford 2026 - 2027