

Date: **15th June 2023**
Time: **19:00**
Location: **Council Chamber, Town Hall**
Present: **Councillors Baah, Morgan, Blackwell, Campbell, Clarke, Gardiner, Maples, Ross, Tigg, Todd, West, Herbert, Makepeace, Livesey and Bird**
Officer Present: **Francesca Pridding (Interim Town Clerk)**

MINUTES

Ref: 016
15.06.23

The Council took a vote to suspend Standing Orders and invite the members of the public in attendance to ask their questions during the meeting.

RESOLVED: to suspend Standing Orders and allow Public Participation during the recorded meeting

The first question related to a request for information regarding a review of historic financial management.

The Clerk responded by letting the meeting know that there was no mechanism to commission a review separate to the requirement of Internal and External Audit, but that significant changes had been made to the transparency of Council business and that Financial Regulations had been updated.

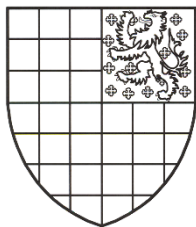
The second question was a request from a member of the public for the Council to withdraw the item on the Agenda relating to the Societies Fair due to the fact that they were already running the event and did not need Council input

Ref: 017
15.06.23

A request was made for item 13 to be brought forward on the Agenda to allow for an early discussion.

RESOLVED: to move item 13 on the Agenda to item 3

Councillor Makepeace enters the meeting at 19:07



Ref: 018
15.06.23

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note any apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Burrows, Norris and Vernon

Ref: 019
15.06.23

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

To receive any Declarations of Interest, including Disclosable Pecuniary Interests (DPI) on the agenda under Lewes Town Council's Code of Conduct issued in accordance with the Localism Act 2011 and The Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012, SI No. 1464.

Declarations of interest were received from:

Councillor West – Item 9 – Banking Arrangements

Ref: 020
15.06.23

SOCIETIES FAIR

To host a Societies Fair, with a commitment by the Council to providing space at the Town Hall (i.e. a budget for Hall Hire) and staff support for the event.

Councillor Maples proposed that the item be withdrawn from consideration

RESOLVED: to withdraw the Agenda item with Councillor Maples proposing and Councillor West seconding the proposal

Ref: 021
15.06.23

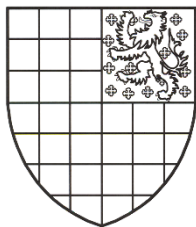
CHAIR'S REPORT

To receive a verbal report from the Chair

The Chair reported that the Mayor Making on the 18th May had been a successful event with lots of good feedback and spoke of his enjoyment of wearing the Coat of Hopes

The Chair expressed a wish to bring a business-like approach to the role of Mayor and a hope for a more collegiate style of working with fellow Councillors

The Chair identified 4 priorities for the year as the Climate and Ecological Crisis, the Public realm – (graffiti, litter), the Cost of Living and Local Prosperity – (includes food poverty issues and High street shop closures) and the River



The Mayor attended events over the last month including British Empire Medal investiture, Runaway Café, Housing Link, Phoenix Talking Pages, Mayors Reception

The Mayor welcomed some students from Waldshut to the Town Hall and reported on the signing of the 3-town twinning agreement, 60 years with Blois and 50 with Waldshut via a video recorded for the event.

Councillor Baah enters the meeting at 19:26

Councillor Livesey enters the meeting at 19:31

Ref: 022
15.06.23

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To receive and approve:-

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Lewes Town Council held on 18th May 2023

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Lewes Town Council held on 18 May 2023 with Councillor Maples proposing and Councillor Herbert seconding the proposal

Ref: 023
15.06.23

MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

To receive and approve:-

Planning Committee

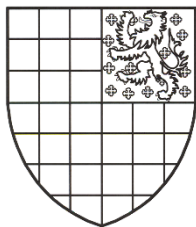
Meeting held on the 30th May 2023

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 30th May 2023 with Councillor Ross proposing and Councillor Clarke seconding the proposal

Finance Committee

Meeting held on the 8th June 2023

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the Minutes of the Finance Committee held on 8th June 2023 with Councillor Tigg proposing and Councillor Morgan seconding the proposal



Ref: 024
15.06.23

CLERK'S REPORT

To receive a verbal report from the Clerk

The Clerk updated the Council on recent officer activities, training and progress on projects.

Ref: 025
15.06.23

FINANCIAL REPORTS

To receive and approve:-

List of Payments and Receipts for April and May 2023

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the List of Payments and Receipts for April and May with Councillor Herbert proposing and Councillor Clarke seconding the proposal

Bank Reconciliation for April and May 2023

RESOLVED: to receive and approve the Bank Reconciliations for April and May with Councillor Tigg proposing and Councillor Livesey seconding the proposal

The Clerk received a question regarding the utilities payments during the 2 months, which would need researching but which would be resolved at the next meeting.

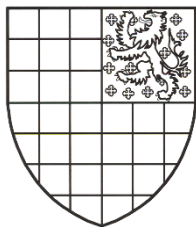
Ref: 026
15.06.23

COUNCIL MEETING DATES

Council Chamber, Town Hall, Lewes at 7pm

Thursday 15 June 2023
Thursday 20 July 2023
Thursday 21 September 2023
Thursday 19 October 2023
Thursday 16 November 2023
Thursday 21 December 2023
Thursday 18 January 2024
Thursday 5 February 2024
Thursday 21 March 2024
Thursday 18 April 2024

RESOLVED: to approve the list of proposed Full Council meeting dates with Councillor West proposing and Councillor Campbell seconding the proposal



Councillor West left the meeting

Ref: 027
15.06.23

BANKING ARRANGEMENTS

To approve the banking arrangements for Lewes Town Council and switch the current account and savings accounts from NatWest to Unity Trust

RESOLVED: to amend the proposal to include a statement of concerns to be directed to the press and Natwest with Councillor Ross proposing and Councillor Maples seconding the proposal

RESOLVED: to approve the recommended banking arrangements and switch the Council accounts to Unity Trust with an accompanying statement to Natwest and the press stating that the predominant reasons for the switch were ethical and environmental concerns with Councillor Maples proposing and Councillor Tigg seconding the proposal

Councillor West re-entered the meeting

Ref: 028
15.06.23

PAYMENT AUTHORISATIONS

To confirm that those Councillors able to authorise payments shall be the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance Committee, the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Council.

RESOLVED: to approve with Councillor Campbell proposing and Councillor Ross seconding the proposal

Ref: 029
15.06.23

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE & ACCOUNTABILITY RETURN

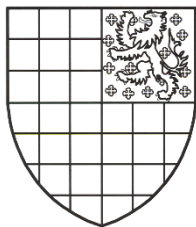
To receive the report from the Internal Auditor for 2022-23

RESOLVED: to receive the Internal Audit Report with Councillor Maples proposing and Councillor Makepeace seconding the proposal

To consider the questions on the Annual Governance Statement and respond accordingly

RESOLVED: to respond affirmatively to all the questions on the Annual Governance Statement with Councillor Baah proposing and Councillor Livesey seconding the proposal

To consider and agree the accounting statement figures



RESOLVED: to agree the accounting statement figures for 2022-23 with Councillor Tigg proposing and Councillor Gardiner seconding the proposal

To note the dates of the Exercise of Public Rights as 19th June to 28th July 2023

RESOLVED: to note the publication dates of the Exercise of Public Rights notice with Councillor Makepeace proposing and Councillor Morgan seconding the proposal

Ref: 030
15.06.23

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

To approve the undertaking of a community consultation designed to inform a strategic plan and aid future budget setting

RESOLVED: to approve with Councillor Makepeace proposing and Councillor Clarke seconding the proposal

Workshop to be arranged to agree the questions to be posed in the initial survey in the first instance.

Ref: 031
15.06.23

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That pursuant to the provision of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business by reason of the confidential nature of business to be transacted.

RESOLVED: to approve with Councillor Maples proposing and Councillor Clarke seconding the proposal

Ref: 032
15.06.23

LEGAL DISPUTE

To decide on the appropriate course of action to resolve a legal dispute

RESOLVED: to approve a course of action in line with Confidential Appendix to these Minutes with Councillor Ross proposing and Councillor West seconding the proposal

The Meeting was declared closed at 21:30

Signed: