



**Lewes
Town
Council**

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Committee: **Full Council**
Date: **21 December 2023**
Time: **19:00**
Location: **Council Chamber Town Hall**
Present: **Councillors; Bird, (Chair), Blackwell, Gardiner, Livesey, Maples,
Norris, Ross, Tigg, Todd and West**

Officer Present: **Karen Crowhurst (Interim Town Clerk)**

Members of the public: One.

MINUTES

The Mayor proposed a minutes silence for former Cllr Guy Earl who recently passed away. After the minutes silence there was opportunity for members to share their memories of Guy Earl, the general consensus was that he was a true gentleman.

Ref 089 WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor welcomed all the meeting.

Ref 090 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To note any apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllr's Baah, Burrows, Campbell, Clarke, Herbert, Makepeace, Morgan, and Vernon.

Ref 091 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.

There were no declarations of Members interests.

Ref 092CHAIR'S REPORT

To receive a verbal report from the Chair including a recent meeting between Lewes Town Council PSCOs and the new Inspector.

The Chair reported on his attendance at.

- Priory School year 11 leavers assembly
- Carol Services at the Town Hall, Glynde and Beddingham Brass Band
- The Mayor thanked the Lord Lieutenant, the Deputy Lieutenant and the High Sherrif for attending various functions and civic events of the Council. The Mayor also thanked the Town Hall Staff for serving mulled wine and mince pies
- A children's party at All Saints
- An inaugural Christmas light switch on event for the Town Hall
- The positive feedback regarding the new lights installed. A vote of thanks went to the Town Ranger for all his hard work

The Mayor reported about a meeting held with PCSO's the local Sergent and Inspector of police. Various matters were discussed including operations Crackdown and Blitz, the former Community Safety Action was also discussed as was disbanded and discussion was taking place on its resurrection. Scamming was also discussed as well as there being a lack of resources currently.

The Mayor thanked the Interim Town Clerk. A vote of thanks was also given.

Ref 093 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

To receive and approve:

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Lewes Town Council held on 16th November 2023

RESOLVED that: The minutes of the Ordinary Town Council meeting held on 16th November 2023 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting, subject to a slight amendment.

Ref 094 MINUTES OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Planning Committee

Meeting held on 14th November.

RESOLVED that: That the minutes of the Planning Committee held on 14th November 2023 be received and accepted.

Ref 095 TO RECEIVE WRITTEN REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVE TO EXTERNAL BODIES

Lewes District Association of Local Councils	Councillors Bird and Makepeace
Citizens Advice Bureau	Councillor Baah
Railway Land Wildlife Trust	Councillors Bird and Vernon
Sussex Community Rail Partnership	Cllr Dr Maples
Lewes Priory Trust	Councillors Bird and Vernon
Lewes Priory Trust UNESCO Representative	Councillor Norris

Stanley Turner Advisory Committee	Councillor Burrows
Lewes Conservation Area Advisory Group	Councillors Livesey and Ross
Plastic-free Lewes' Initiative	Councillors Livesey and Gardiner
Low Traffic Town Working Group	Councillor Morgan
Lewes Chamber of Commerce	Councillors Gardiner and Tigg
Sussex Police Community Safety Action Group	Councillor Clarke
Inland Lewes Focus Group	Councillor Clarke
Lewes District Council Planning Service User Group	Councillor Makepeace

Members noted the report written report received from Cllr Maples regarding the SE Communities Rail Partnership.

Ref 096 FINANCE REPORTS AND ACTIONS

To receive and approve:

- List of Payments and Receipts for November 2023
- Bank Reconciliation for November 2023
- To note the cost centre summary as being the Councils position regarding the budget on 30th November 2023

RESOLVED that: The list of payments and receipts for November 2023 be accepted. To also accept the November 2023 Bank Reconciliation and to note the cost centre summary. Proposed Cllr Maples Seconded: Cllr Tigg

Ref 097 BUDGET 2024/5

a) To approve the budget for the 2024/25 financial year.

The Finance Manager introduced the budget and answered various queries raised.

After some discussion and careful consideration, it was RESOLVED that: The budget for the 2024/2025 administration year be set at £1,462,796 to ensure all costs are met for the financial year.

Proposed: Cllr Maples **Seconded:** Cllr Tigg

a) To set the precept for the 2024/25 financial year.

A vote was taken by a show of hands, the outcome of which was:
For: 8 Members Against: 1 Member Abstentions: 1 Member.

RESOLVED that: The Council presents a precept request for £1,462,796 to the District Council. The percentage increase equates to 5.27% which is an £11.57 increase to Band D properties the weekly increase equates to £0.22 pence per week.

Ref 098 CIVIC AWARDS PANEL

- a) To appoint a Civic awards panel comprising of 5 members.

It was agreed to appoint.

- b) To set a date in early February 2024 to go through the nominee applications.

It was agreed to defer the appointment of the panel until the next Full Council to enable more Members to be able to put their names forward.

It was also agreed to set a date in February via email to establish availability.

Ref 099 CLERK'S REPORT

- a) To receive a verbal report on the operational activities of the Council to consider nominations and applications.

The Interim Clerk reported that her last day was tomorrow and wished the Council and New Clerk well going forward.

Ref 100 BLAKES WALK- POPLARS REMOVAL

To note the decision and discuss and agree any correspondence to send to East Sussex County Council.

Cllr Ross apprised member about the intention of East Sussex County Council intention to fell the poplars. Cllr Ross advised that after East Sussex County Council considered objections sent the work plan was stopped. East Sussex County Council are consulting with various stakeholders prior to making a final decision. Members thanked the Officer involved as well as the Town Council Town Ranger.

Ref 101 MOTION(S)

Cllr Livesey asked to defer the motion on working with Lewes District Council on some specific initiatives to next Full Council's meeting.

Ref 102 TO CLOSE THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.17pm.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC – If needed.

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.