

BERWICK PARISH ASSEMBLY

Minutes of the Berwick Parish Assembly held at the Berwick Village Hall on 17th May 2019 at 7:00pm.

1. Present

Cllrs B Smith, (Chairman), Keith Winter, Victoria Burrough, Dexter Robinson and Sally Carnie.

District Councillor D Watt and Alison Stevens (Clerk). No members of the public were in attendance.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from County Councillor N Bennett.

3. Annual Report by the Chairman of Berwick Parish Council

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. She thanked all the Parish Councillors for standing again.

Council agreed they will advertise to advertise the vacant posts in the parish magazine.

4. Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on the 24th May 2018

The Minutes of the Parish Assembly held on the 24th May 2018 were noted as they had previously been approved at the Full Council Meeting in July.

5. Annual Report from the County Councillor

County Councillor N Bennett sent his report which said;

Driving sustainable economic growth

Transport for the South East (TfSE), our partnership of the area's 16 transport authorities, launched its Economic Connectivity Review (the first stage of developing the TfSE Transport Strategy) in May 2018. At this event, it was announced that TfSE would receive a £1million grant from the Department for Transport to assist with the development of the Strategy. TfSE is currently undertaking a period of engagement with stakeholders to gain views on its proposals to Government to secure statutory status and a formal consultation will be launched in May 2019.

Over 160 carriageway asset improvement schemes were delivered in the first three-quarters of 2018-19, with significant improvement works delivered for the A267 and the A22. A major project to reconstruct Heathfield High Street was completed ahead of schedule, with the scheme also seeing parts of the pavement resurfaced and new street lights installed. Work also began on the construction of the Newhaven Port Access Road and on the second and most significant phase of the Eastbourne Town Centre Improvement Scheme. Aimed at modernising the town centre, improving pedestrian conditions and attracting more visitors, it

BERWICK PARISH ASSEMBLY

includes the installation of new bus lanes, bus shelters, a high-quality granite road surface and new paving, seating and landscaping.

Significant progress has been made in the implementation of the new Strategy for Library and Information Services, with a range of new library services introduced during the last 12 months. These include an enhanced, modern eLibrary with greater investment, a new children and young people's offer to support literacy and numeracy, increased outreach work in our most disadvantaged communities, and new Community Library Membership and Teachers Library Memberships. In addition Hastings Library reopened in March 2018, following a multi-million pound revamp. This included the installation of a new roof and lift, lighting and furniture. Crowborough Library was also refurbished with an expanded children's area, a newly created space for teens and young adults, new free access computer desks and new stock. Libraries at Ringmer and Langney opened as community libraries, with support from ESCC, after they were closed following the review of the county library services, prompted by the need to make budget savings.

We have been supported businesses to create over 150 jobs in the area during the first three quarters of the year. In addition, Locate East Sussex has supported 30 businesses to move into, or relocate within the county. The South East Business Boost service, offering grants of between £1,000 and £10,000 to small and medium sized businesses and start-ups for capital projects awarded over £900,000 of grants in East Sussex. In addition, Trading Standards launched a Business Advice & Support Partnership (BAASP) to help businesses and other professionals receive high quality regulatory support and promote their comprehensive range of training workshops including customer care, food allergens and selling on-line. To date, they have led 15 workshops, attracting 244 delegates.

ESCC was named as one of 20 Careers Hubs nationwide, so attracting £200,000 external funding. The East Sussex Careers Hub, which launched in November 2018, will link all secondary schools, special schools and colleges with employers, support organisations and higher and further education providers to improve the guidance and support offered to students. Projects which help young people make the right career choices will also be expanded, including the Industry Champions network (a network of more than 80 champions from local businesses), apprenticeship roadshows, Supported Internships and Apprenticeships for people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and Open Doors, where businesses open their doors to allow students to visit and learn about the world of work. In November 2018, 44 businesses participated in Open Doors and received workplace visits from over 500 students.

81.5% of secondary schools are judged by Ofsted to be good or outstanding, 1.5 percentage points above the national average of 80% as at end May 2018. 92.9% of primary schools in East Sussex are judged to be good or outstanding against the national average of 89.9%. 100% of special schools are judged to be good or outstanding against the national average of 93.4%. Across East Sussex, results for GCSE English and Maths improved with 41.9% of pupils earning grade five – a strong pass or above, an increase from last year's figure of 38.4%.

BERWICK PARISH ASSEMBLY

Keeping vulnerable people safe

ESCC became one of the few local authorities to achieve the highest possible rating for its work with vulnerable families. Following an Ofsted inspection, ESCC Children's Social Services is now rated 'Outstanding'. Inspectors were particularly impressed with the 'connected practice' model which places emphasis on social workers creating enduring and trusting relationships with families and children.

Members of ESCC demonstrated their commitment to protect residents by becoming SCAMBassadors for Friends Against Scams. The East Sussex Against Scams Partnership, run by the Safer East Sussex Team, helps to protect residents by raising awareness through over 100 partner organisations, such as local businesses, charities, church groups, community enterprises and councils. Nearly 3,000 residents have participated in Friends Against Scams awareness sessions. Trading Standards have also continued their fight against rogue trading in the county, providing support to the most vulnerable and pursuing those who target them. To date, the team have carried out 180 positive interventions to prevent fraud and other scams, and installed 27 call blocking devices to prevent telephone scams.

ESCC was awarded a silver award under the Ministry of Defence Employer Recognition Support Scheme, which honours employers that show a commitment to supporting current and former military personnel. Award judges were impressed with the support given to armed forces cadet volunteers and Army Reserve members

Hastings Community Support Service, based in Bexhill, which helps people with learning disabilities live independent lives was rated 'Outstanding' – the highest possible grading in its report from the Care Quality Commission. The service provides specialist support to adults in their own homes, including support with social activities, daily living skills and personal care.

ESCC again took part in the White Ribbon Campaign's 16 Days of Action to help eliminate domestic violence and abuse against women and girls. During the campaign, ESCC promoted a series of events designed to highlight support available to victim, as well as encouraging people to speak out against violence and abuse.

Helping people help themselves

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex visited our Joff Youth Centre in Peacehaven, where they met 50 young people gathered from youth groups around the county, including the elected Youth Cabinet. Their visit focused on the issue of youth mental health which has been a top priority of the Youth Cabinet this year. In November 2018 over 50 young people took part in our Annual Takeover Day to discuss mental health.

ESCC has worked with the 5 district and borough authorities to set up a new scheme which offers up to 100% Council Tax discounts to Care Leavers aged 18-24, using a single protocol and process. We are one of only nine shire counties in England to adopt such a scheme and one of only four to have a countywide scheme.

BERWICK PARISH ASSEMBLY

There have been further improvements against Adult Social Care. Delayed Transfers of Care from hospital per 100,000 population (aged 18+) has improved from 12.7 in November 2017 to 10.3 in November 2018. The November figure had already reduced from 24.4 in April 2017. The proportion of older people (aged 65+) who are still at home 91 days after discharge from hospital into reablement or rehabilitation services for April to September 2018 is 92.7%, up from 91.7% over the same period in 2018.

The end of 2017-18 saw the end of the current five year cycle for NHS Health Checks. In this period, the Council achieved the highest proportion of people being offered and receiving their check in the South East.

Making the best use of our resources

The Council's budget and Council Plan for 2019/20 were approved at the meeting of Full Council on the 5th February 2019. The budget includes spending of £375 million on services for East Sussex. It also includes savings of £5.1 million. The savings required in the budget were significantly less than first anticipated due to the success of sustained lobbying of central Government by the Council's Leader and Deputy Leader. The additional funding amounted to:

- Health and Social Care – additional money to continue the Winter Pressures funding, plus extra for Adult and Children's Social care – in 2019-20 this is an extra - £7m (2.586m+£4.417m)
- Business Rates Retention Pilot - £1.6m in 2019-20
- Potholes, bridges and other repair work – Capital Funding of £4.7m – received in 2018-19
- Children's Services – ISEND funding - £1.138m – in 2019-20 (and the same in 2018-19)

ESCC also published its 'Core Offer' – a basic but decent level of service which we believe is the very least residents should be able to expect, even with the intense financial pressures we face. As well as meeting our legal duties across all services delivered, the Core Offer includes measures to grow the economy of East Sussex and make sure we invest resources in some preventative and early intervention work where greater costs may otherwise build up. Views were sought on the Core Offer and over 1200 responses to the questionnaire were received. Feedback from the questionnaire set out that most people – 78% considered that the Government should allocate more funds to meet the financial gap ESCC faces.

Through our capital programme we have delivered improvements to schools buildings and expansion of facilities across the county providing approximately 1,100 additional school places across primary, secondary and special educational needs provision'.

6. Annual Report from the District Councillor

District Councillor David Watts introduced himself and said;

- The number of District Councillors has been reduced from 55 to 45.
- Wealden District Council now consists of 34 Conservatives. 11 are from other parties or are independent
- District Councillors will find out which committees they are on next week. Bob Standley is likely to remain as Leader.

BERWICK PARISH ASSEMBLY

- The Wealden Local Plan is being examined by the Planning Inspector. Her Report is expected in September.
- Work is expected to start on improving the existing A27 this year.
- There will be a Public Open Day at the new Crematorium in Horam on the 15th June.

7. Reports from Clubs and Associations

There were no reports from any Clubs and Associations on this occasion.

8. Open Forum

There were no questions from any members of the public on this occasion.

There was no further business and this meeting closed at 7.30pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:
