

**Minutes of a Meeting of the  
Adur District Council**

**20 April 2023**

**QE2 Room, Shoreham Centre, Shoreham-by-Sea**

Councillor Andy McGregor, Chairman  
Councillor Joss Loader, Vice-Chairman

Councillor Tony Bellasis	Councillor Lee Cowen
Councillor Julia Watts	Councillor Gabe Crisp
Councillor Dan Flower	Councillor Angus Dunn
Councillor Jude Harvey	Councillor Emma Evans
Councillor Julian Shinn	Councillor Jim Funnell
Councillor Ann Bridges	Councillor Jeremy Gardner
Councillor Carson Albury	Councillor Paul Mansfield
Councillor Carol Albury	Councillor Steve Neocleous
Councillor Catherine Arnold	Councillor Carol O'Neal
Councillor Robina Baine	Councillor Joe Pannell
Councillor Vee Barton	Councillor Neil Parkin
Councillor Kevin Boram	Councillor Sharon Sluman
Councillor Mandy Buxton	Councillor Debs Stainforth
	*Councillor Rob Wilkinson

**\*Absent**

**c/135/22-23            Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies received by the Chairman.

**c/136/22-23            Declarations of interest**

Councillor Catherine Arnold declared an interest as a parent with a child at Swiss Gardens Primary School and as the CEO of Adur Voluntary Action.

Councillor Dan Flower declared an interest as a parent with a child at Swiss Gardens Primary School.

**c/137/22-23            Questions from the public**

The Chairman advised that 2 public questions had been received in advance of the meeting.

Q1 from Mr Ben Abbo to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources - Cllr Angus Dunn

*Given that section 5.5 of the Meads report recommending a hybrid pitch in the Meads fenced area states that the solution should deliver a significant improvement to the current drainage situation in the wider Meads:*

*Will there be a drainage and flood risk assessment of hybrid pitch solutions, undertaken by experts, independent of the pitch suppliers who understand the complex issues with the current local drainage system and the area's flood risks including the coming impacts of climate change, that includes the whole surrounding area, including the houses next to the school that already suffer from flooding and the school itself that has had backed up sewage incidents also affecting neighbouring gardens, and undertaken in winter, when the drainage system is most stressed and flooding and water logging commonplace?*

The Cabinet Member replied that as part of the project, advice would be sought from the Council's in-house team and consultants to advise on the implications for flood risk, mindful of the climate emergency. As you rightly point out, the intention is to make things better, not worse, as the Council delivers this important new facility that will improve opportunities for play and recreation at the Meads.

Mr Abbo asked the following supplementary question:-

*How much of the S106 money will be used for project management, including the cost of commissioning a drainage and flood risk assessment?*

The Cabinet Member replied that the Council didn't know at this stage in the project but would allow for this in its project management.

Q2 from Mr Tony Hodgson to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning - Cllr Steve Neocleous

*My main question is:*

*Now that new residential and commercial development along the Western Harbour Arm is well underway and a further large-scale planning application was recently approved, could the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning state what estimated economic value to the Adur District local economy is forecast by the current Joint Area Action Plan for the Western Harbour Arm and whether it is on track for Adur District to achieve this economic benefit?*

The Cabinet Member replied that the Shoreham Harbour regeneration supported development in two significant ways.

Firstly, by delivering the port masterplan which protects existing jobs by consolidating port-related activities along the Eastern Harbour Arm and Canal Basin. This would assist in facilitating the Port Masterplan and supported the existing 1,600 jobs from businesses located at the port.

Along with delivering housing 1,100 homes in Adur, the policies in the JAAP also supported the delivery of 23,500sqm of employment generating floorspace in the harbour area, increasing job opportunities and supporting economic growth.

Figures from the Home Building Federation indicated that the development of 1,100 homes would:

- Support the employment of 3,410 people
- Provide 37 apprentices, graduates or trainees

- Increase open space, community sport, leisure spending by £886,820 which could for example provide 50 x 5-a-side football pitches
- Create 330 affordable homes
- Generate £886,820 towards education spending which could provide up to 418 classroom spaces.
- Generate £13,258,300 in tax revenue
- Including £1,242,406 in council tax revenue

The Council knew from the planning applications coming through that Adur District was likely to exceed the 1,100 homes figure in the Joint Area Action Plan so it was likely that the Council would significantly exceed these figures and deliver a huge economic impact within Adur District.

Mr Hodgson asked the following supplementary question:-

*In the forthcoming update to the Adur Local Plan, does Adur Council intend to assess and estimate the actual overall economic value to the Adur District local economy of any strategic regeneration and development plans or policies that may be proposed?*

The Cabinet Member replied that the National Planning Policy Framework was clear that sustainable development was the balance between social, environmental and economic development and a key focus for the local plan would be on growing and supporting the local economy.

The Plan would be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal which would outline the anticipated economic value created by the development in the plan.

### **c/138/22-23 Confirmation of Minutes**

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2023 be approved as a correct record and be signed by the Chairman.

### **c/139/22-23 Announcements by the Chairman, Leader of the Council, Cabinet Members and / or Head of Paid Service**

The Chairman made the following announcement:-

‘The 27th January 2023 was Holocaust Memorial Day. I made no announcements at the subsequent meeting as it was the Budget meeting. This is, therefore, the first opportunity I’ve had to speak about the theme of Holocaust Memorial Day.

And the theme of this year's Holocaust Memorial Day was ordinary people. I was asked to say some words on this subject. I was very moved and found this subject difficult – I will explain later.

The crimes of the Holocaust would not have been possible/without the cooperation of ordinary people, either by actively taking part or/by standing by and doing nothing. As is often quoted, "All it takes/for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing". This is a real story. In 1944, a five-year-old boy, Martin Stern, the son/of a Jew, an ordinary person, still alive today, was at school in the time of the Nazi regime and Adolf Hitler.

Two young men, ordinary people, came to Martin's class at school and asked, "is Martin Stern here today?" The teacher, an ordinary person who knew what was going on, answered, "no, he's not here today". But Martin put up his hand and said, "I'm here". As he was being led out of the class, Martin looked back and saw the ashen face of the teacher. She knew where Martin was being taken.

Martin ended up with his sister in a prison camp. Martin saw many people being loaded as prisoners into cattle trucks. Ordinary people, railway workers and soldiers were just doing their jobs with no expression on their faces. One brave, local woman said she wanted to look after some of the children. She chose. Martin and his two-year-old sister. An ordinary man, came to their dormitory full of children and read out the children's names one by one. And those children were escorted onto a train until it was just Martin with his two-year-old sister in the arms of this brave local woman, an ordinary person, in the prison dormitory.

All the other children were taken to the Auschwitz extermination camp. What can we do, us ordinary people? We can choose. We could choose to be like the two young men who gathered up Jewish children for extermination. We could choose to be like those railway workers and train drivers, all ordinary people. But people who took innocent children to their deaths. We could choose to be like the man who read the list of children to be taken to their deaths. Or we could choose, like many people, to do nothing. Or we can choose to be like the teacher, an ordinary person who did her best to protect Martin. And we can choose to be like the local woman who saved a brother and sister from extermination. We can only pacify our conscience by the delusion that we can do no harm if we take no part in evil. Bad men need do nothing more to achieve their ends than have ordinary people look on and do nothing. As ordinary people, we should speak out wherever we see prejudice by being constantly vigilant to ensure that we ourselves do not have any prejudice.

And now I will tell you why I have struggled with this story. As an armed forces child, going to forces schools, I regularly saw children being called out of class by name. In the sixties, when I was just seven or eight, when their fathers were killed in Aden. And as a teenager at a forces boarding school in Germany in the seventies when their fathers were killed in Northern Ireland. I was never called and my dad is still alive – we never saw our classmates again and can not imagine how these tragedies affected their lives.

It is, of course, the duty of the Town Crier to gain silence and introduce the First Citizen. Especially at outdoor events. As it was such an emotional moment for me, I have to say how grateful I was to have the Town Crier's support on Holocaust Memorial Day'.

The Leader informed the Council that an official unveiling of a memorial bench for former Councillor George Barton, situated outside Sompting Parish Hall, had taken place earlier in the day. He thanked all those who had helped arrange the event and attended.

The Leader also advised that Adur District Council had won the iESE Green Council Gold Award for Sussex Bay. A presentation would take place at the Annual Council meeting in May 2023.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources commended all those staff who assist local residents to access the benefits to which they are entitled. However, he pointed out that there was also a significant number of commercial people in Adur that also paid taxes of one form or another including business rates. The Council was looking at ways in which all businesses in Adur could be better supported to identify and claim relief they were entitled to.

There were no further announcements.

**c/140/22-23                    Items raised under urgency provisions**

The Chairman announced that there were no urgent items.

**c/141/22-23                    Recommendations from the Cabinet and Committees to Council**

**7(a)                    Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 16 March 2023**

**Joint Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme Setting 2023/24**

The Chairman of the Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee introduced the recommendation from the Committee, which was seconded by Cllr Buxton and following a vote it was unanimously supported.

**Resolved:** that the Council approved the amended JOSC Work Programme for 2023/24 to bring Our Plan forward to the July meeting.

**c/142/22-23                    Report of the Leader on decisions taken by the Cabinet**

The Leader of the Council presented their report on decisions taken by the Cabinet since the last meeting of the Council, which were detailed in Item 8.

During consideration of the report a question was asked in relation to Article 4 directions being adhered to. The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Strategic Planning advised that issues should be brought to the Council's attention as there were procedures in place for dealing with such matters.

A Member sought an update in relation to the motion referred to the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee regarding Fair Tax, particularly in relation to actions around procurement. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources advised that a report on the matter was due to be brought back to the Adur Joint Strategic Sub-Committee.

Questions were also asked in relation to the decision regarding the Meads including, could the Cabinet Member indicate the envisaged timescales for the planning & procurement process and confirm that all significant final decisions following this process will be made by elected representatives and therefore subject to democratic scrutiny; would the facility be ready for the summer season and what funding had been made available for the delivery of the project. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources replied that at this stage the timetable was being developed by the Council's project manager in close consultation with the School and the County Council. As with any such project, any procurement activity that either the District Council or the County Council undertook involving significant expenditure would be subject to proper process and democratic scrutiny. It wasn't possible to say how long delivery of the project would take, however, the Council had taken ownership of the project and that it would be nice if work could be undertaken over the summer. The Cabinet Member also confirmed that Adur District Council were not receiving money from West Sussex County Council, but were managing the project on their behalf.

Before the Council was a report by the Proper Officer, the Director for Communities, a copy of which was circulated to all members, a copy of which is attached to the signed copy of these minutes as item 9.

Before the Council, was the schedule of meetings of the Council and joint meetings for 2023/24. Council was invited to formally approve the dates for its Meetings during this period whilst noting the proposed dates for other committees.

The Schedule of Meetings for 2023/24 was proposed, seconded and unanimously supported.

**Resolved,**

That Adur District Council approved the Schedule of Meetings for 2023/24.

**Rotation One**

Cllr Arnold asked the following question:

*In your outside interest role on Greater Brighton Economic Board (Adur). Can you tell us how you feel about the scrapping of Local Enterprise Boards (Spring Budget) and when you expect this to take place and how we can gain as much joint value out of the relationship before this council's exit?*

The Leader replied that the Council hadn't had the opportunity to truly reflect on the news about LEP's in the Spring Budget, however the Council welcomed the support from the Coast to Capital LEP over the years, especially with Local Growth Fund investment in Adur.

In partnership with other authorities across West Sussex, especially those coastal authorities that shared similar challenges and opportunities, the Council would be contributing and providing a coordinated response regarding this news. This would be complementary to other responses across the region, including the business community via Adur & Worthing Business Partnership and Coastal West Sussex.

The Council would continue to have active dialogue with Coast to Capital as they continued to support community-led work in Lancing, whilst also supporting a number of businesses via their Growth Hub services. The Council would continue to monitor the LEP over the course of the next 12 months as the services from Coast to Capital may change within that period.

Cllr Crisp asked the following question

*This question relates to the tidal wall from the railway bridge north along the boundary with the Waterfront development.*

*It has been widely reported that since the removal of the unsightly chain link fencing many people have been walking along the top of the tidal defence wall. There is a 2.4 m / 8' drop from the top of the wall down into the residents gardens. This is a significant risk which the*

*public walking past are not aware of. The residents have no redress to prevent accidents and protect their own property from damage. The Chair of the Waterfront Residents Association, John Burrows, asked a public question at the April planning meeting. Since then the issue has been passed to WSCC, Hyde homes and the Environment agency. However, there is still no signage and no identified process for resolving this. As the weather continues to improve and the river path is used more and more frequently the risk increases. It was shocking to see film (posted on facebook on Sunday) of a woman allowing her dog to walk along the wall.*

*What can ADC do to expedite a rapid investigation of and resolution of this significant risk to members of our community?*

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing replied that the Residents Association were advised at the March Committee that the Environment Agency (EA) had passed responsibility for the future maintenance of the wall back to the landowner (Hyde Housing). At this meeting it was also clarified that the District Council did not own any section of the riverside walkway.

Initially Hyde had not been prepared to accept the wall as it also shared some of the concerns of the Residents Association about safety but the EA did not consider it was necessary to install railings to the top of the flood defence wall.

The concerns of the Residents Association had been discussed with Hyde Housing and they had agreed to fund the cost of any warning signs along this section of the Riverside Walk. West Sussex County Council as the Rights of Way Authority had also been advised about the safety concerns and Hyde was liaising with WSCC to address the issue.

## **Rotation Two**

Cllr Arnold asked the following question

*We welcome the news of the extra £200 million for the 2023-24 financial year for potholes, announced in the Spring budget. Within your role as portfolio holder responsible for highways liaison, can we be assured that WSCC will prioritise their share of the spend and that Adur will get its fair share please?*

The Cabinet Member for Environment and Leisure responded that this was a welcome announcement, however the Cabinet Member was unsure of how the £200m would be distributed. Responsibility for the distribution of funding sat with the Highways Team at West Sussex County Council. However, the Cabinet Member would be championing the cause for Adur District as transport liaison.

## **Rotation Three**

Cllr Arnold asked the following question

*In your outside body role of Sussex Police and Crime Panel (PCP (Adur), can you tell me how the resourcing of local policing is going since we last saw Katy Bourne at JOSOC. What are you seeing as the major challenges to local policing?*

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Wellbeing replied that Cllr Arnold should be aware that the PCC Panel discussed this matter at length on 23 September 2022 under the

paper “The role of the Commissioner in ensuring Sussex Police demonstrated an efficient and effective approach to recruitment and retention”. A recording of the subsequent discussion and minutes are available on line.

Under Operation Uplift for years 2020/21 and 2021/22 the targets for 250 officers under that project had been met. It was planned during 2022/23 that 163 officers were to be recruited with a further 20 being funded by the precept and 9 for the Regional Organised Crime Unit. Additional officers were also being recruited to cover redundancy and retirement from the force. Therefore, it was likely that the force would meet its target. In respect of ethnicity recruitment, in 2021 11.5% of the recruits identified as Black, Asian or Ethnic Minority compared with 6.3% of the population of Sussex.

In respect of policing matters in Adur, consistent with the UK as a whole there had been an increase since Covid of Anti Social Behaviour. Whilst this was at a significantly lower level than the Council’s neighbours, the Cabinet Member had taken steps to deal with this matter, including chairing a multi agency meeting with residents and businesses, liaising with PCSOs and other officers and ensuring there were close links with senior schools, WSCC and the police. In addition there had been a marked increase in online romance fraud and the police continued to both educate the community of the risks and how to stay safe.

Given the hard work of Adur District Council officers, the police and the proactive approach, this council does not have significant levels of crime compared with other local councils. The Council considers that this matter is of significant concern to Adur communities, unlike other local councils, and therefore has maintained its own Community Safety budget of £261,570 for 2023/24. The Council increased its investment in Community Safety as part of the development of the 2023/24 budget by mainstreaming one additional community safety officer which had previously been funded by external funding (overall cost £41,000 of which £16,400 is the amount funded by Adur).

The Chairman used his discretion to allow 4 additional questions from Cllrs Stainforth, Crisp, Gardner and Dunn in relation to the self referral of Adur Homes to the regulator, the A27 consultation and targets in relation to increasing biodiversity.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.06 pm, having commenced at 7.00 pm

Chairman