

Minutes of meeting of the FULL COUNCIL held on Wednesday, 18th July, 2018 in Civic Community Hall, Vicarage Lane, HAILSHAM (10.00 a.m. to 11.57 a.m.)

PRESENT: Councillors C Hardy (Chairman), P Doodes (Vice-Chairman), D Angel, J Bentley, K Balsdon, B Bowdler, L Clark, N Collinson, P Dixon, C Dowling, J Dunk, P Ede, H Firth, J Fox, R Galley, R Grocock, T Illingworth, S Isted, A Long, M Lunn, P Lunn, B Marlowe, R Moore, K Moss, D Murray, A Newton, A O'Rawe, C Reynolds, G Rose, Dr B Redman, P Roundell, R Reed, W Rutherford, D Shing, O L Shing, R Shing, S Shing, A Snell, R Standley, S Stedman, R Thomas, C Triandafyllou, P Waldock, N Waller, D Watts, G Wells, D White and J Wilton.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Coltman, D Dear, J Hollins, P Holloway, J Howell, M Pinkney and J Towey.

18/24 MINUTE'S SILENCE

At the commencement of the meeting the Chairman paid tribute to former-Councillor Norman Buck, who had passed away on 2 June, and for whom a service to celebrate his life had been held on 26 June, attended by a number of Members and Wealden Officers. The Chairman advised that Norman Buck had served 27 years on the Council, being elected initially in 1987, and continuing, save for the years 1997-1999, until he retired through ill health in 2011. He had served the Council as Chairman 2001-2003 and as Deputy Leader 2003-2006. The Chairman stated that Norman would be well remembered and he asked all those present to stand in remembrance.

The Council then stood for one minute's silence.

18/25 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In relation to agenda Item 9, Wealden Local Plan Proposed Submission Document, Councillor Stedman declared a personal arising from the fact that her ex in-laws owned a small plot of land in Horam identified in the Local Plan, and Councillors Collinson, Murray and Waller declared personal interests due to being Council-appointed Directors of Sussex Weald Homes Ltd. All remained in the room and voted in respect of the item.

The Chairman advised that Trevor Scott (Director of Governance and Corporate Services) had a prejudicial interest in relation to Item 7 on the agenda, Appointment of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service, and would leave the room for this item.

18/26 MINUTES

Further to Minute 18/17 Questions, Councillor Shing advised he did not believe he had received a written answer to his question on tonnage of garden waste generated in the summer and winter. Councillor Galley confirmed he would provide a written response. (Subsequent to the meeting it was established that a response had been sent directly to Councillor Shing after the May meeting).

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 May 2018 as printed and circulated be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

18/27 MEMBER'S ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

RESOLVED that the Council authorises the absence of Councillor Pinkney from attendance at Council and Committee Meetings pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 for a further six month period due to his current ill health.

18/28 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman made the following announcements:

- 1) Following the royal wedding the Chairman had written on behalf of everyone at Wealden to the newly appointed Duke and Duchess of Sussex to congratulate them and to express the wish that they might visit Wealden in the near future.
- 2) The Chairman advised that one of his charities, JPK Project, was holding its AGM on 16 August, and he invited any Members wishing to attend to notify Mrs Jill Parker MBE or Amy Evans. This would be an opportunity to view the recently completed Community Training Centre.
- 3) The Chairman stated that he was pleased to announce that the Council's Fraud Investigations Team had been shortlisted in Excellence in Fraud Investigation category of the Institute of Ratings, Revenues and Valuations Awards for 2018, which was looking for excellence in the area of counter fraud. The winners would be announced on 10 October.
- 4) It was confirmed that the Council had won the 2018 Landlord of the Year award for the South East of England in the National Energy Awards, in relation to its commitment to energy efficiency for its tenants, in particular for improvements to the 3,000 properties it managed, including the heat of efficiency of its rural housing where the reliance is on solid fuel heating. The awards were open to owners of residential, industrial or commercial properties and the Council was nominated by the contractor Ecosphere.
- 5) Two major housing developments in the District had been successful in this year's Sussex Heritage Trust Awards – Lavender Fields in Isfield and Wadhurst Place in Mayfield Lane, Wadhurst. For both projects the developers had worked with the planners to create sympathetic designs

and congratulations went to Millward Designer Homes and Newcourt Construction.

18/29 REPORT ON BEHALF OF THE CABINET BY THE LEADER

(A) UNRESERVED ITEMS FROM THE LEADER'S REPORT

RESOLVED to receive the following paragraphs of the Leader's Report and note and agree the recommendation therein:

Items dealt with **under delegation** by the Cabinet:

1. Annual Procurement Report 2017/18 (CAB 33/2018-LGF) (Leader's Report – Paragraph 2)
2. Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan 2017-2047 (CAB 34/2018-HB) (Leader's Report – Paragraph 3)
3. Wealden Crematorium Regulations for Consultation (CAB 42/2018-LGF) (Leader's Report – Paragraph 4)
4. Low Carbon / Renewable Energy Options (CAB 43/2018-LGF) (Leader's Report – Paragraph 5)
5. East Sussex Councils' Commercialisation Peer Challenge (CAB 44/2018-LGF) (Leader's Report – Paragraph 6)

Items dealt with **under delegation** by Individual Portfolio Holders:

6. Provisional Revenue and Capital Outturn (IND 31/2018-LGF) (Leader's Report - Paragraph 8)
7. Wealden Corporate Equality Objectives (IND 35/2018-CLHR) (Leader's Report - Paragraph 9)

Items **recommended to Full Council** by Individual Portfolio Holders:

8. Statutory Health and Safety Service Plan 2018/19 (Recommendation to Council) (IND38-PHCS) (Leader's Report - Paragraph 12)
9. Food Hygiene Service Plan 2018/19 (Recommendation to Council) (IND39/2018-PHCS) (Leader's Report - Paragraph 13)

(B) RESERVED ITEMS FROM THE LEADER'S REPORT – DELEGATED

The following items dealt with under delegation were reserved for discussion:

Performance Management Quarter 4 and End of Year 2017/18 (CAB 32/2018-LGF) (Leader's Report – Paragraph 1) – Having asked for the Chairman's permission to raise the matter on this item rather than under Councillors' Questions, Councillor Shing expressed his concern with the current situation relating to bin collection. He was concerned that the Council was promoting the fact that it was receiving income from the default payments imposed on the contractor, and suggested that all residents who reported a missed bin should receive £30. Councillor Isted echoed this request for an update on the bin collection situation.

Councillor Standley (as Leader of the Council) advised that the current missed bin rate was at the level of poor performance it had been at the start of the contract. However, he recognised that for the 1,000 people affected,

the situation was very difficult, and the Council needed to keep pressure on its contractor, Kier, to deliver the service until the end of its contract.

Councillor Galley (Portfolio Holder) responded that he was very disappointed with the declining performance from Kier and advised that the Council was levying the highest level of default fines. He advised that as of that day, all collection rounds had gone out, with two additional rounds in Wadhurst and Uckfield and one in Crowborough to clear the backlog. The teams had been advised to collect all the bins out and to mix in recyclables if needed to get them cleared. He reported that both he and the lead officer for the Joint Waste Contract were separately meeting the Managing Director of Kier, with a view to achieving a reliable service from now until the end of the contract in May 2019. He advised that in all 90,000 bins were collected a week, and despite the recent difficulties, 95% bins were being collected within 24 hours of the due date. He stated that he would keep Members updated, and paid tribute to Council staff who had been working on the issue.

Councillor Collinson echoed his thanks to the staff in the contact centre who had been dealing with the volume of calls, and asked Members to encourage residents to report missed bins online wherever possible.

Councillor Dowling commented to Councillor Shing that where residents had been waiting 4 weeks for a collection, they wanted the service, not additional income. Councillor Shing clarified that he had raised two separate points, and had not intended them to be conflated.

Councillor Lunn thanked Councillor Galley for his comprehensive response, but suggested that under a point of order that discussion on this item should be focused on past performance relating to the report. Councillor Illingworth also raised this as a point of order. Although stating he was inclined to agree, the Chairman allowed the discussion to continue to its conclusion.

Councillor Thomas applauded the work of Councillor Galley and the Officers for tackling this issue, but asked for assurance that the information on the number of vehicles and crews required for the service to work would be passed to the next contractor. Similarly, Councillor Ede asked for assurances that there would be severe penalties built into the next contract, and asked if the Council would take Kier to court for breach of contract. Councillor Galley assured Members that the lessons had been learnt for appointing the new contractor. He also re-iterated the importance of residents reporting missed bins and confirmed it was right that Kier was asked to pay default payments, but the motivation for this was not the income but an improved service.

Councillor Standley drew Members' attention back to the report, that advised that the Council was 62nd out of 350 Authorities on recycling, and that only 1% of Wealden's waste went to landfill compared to 5% for other East Sussex Authorities.

Joint Waste and Recycling Partnership - Update and Disposal Options from June 2019 (IND 30/2018-EDWM) (Leader's Report - Paragraph 7) – This item had been reserved by Councillor Shing, but it was confirmed that this had been covered in the previous item.

Enforcement of Unauthorised Advertisement Structures (IND 36/2018-PD) (Leader's Report - Paragraph 10) Councillor Shing asked when the

Town and Country Planning Act had been amended and asked if the Council could do more to stop unauthorised advertisements or licence them to receive an income. Councillor Newton responded that she could not answer the question on when it was amended, and would reply in writing. She advised it was excellent for the Council to have these powers to remove such advertisements, in addition to that held by the East Sussex County Council for removing of notices on the highway. In relation to adding new sites, Cllr Newton advised that planning permission had to be sought and these powers were to tackle advertisements displayed without that permission. Councillor Shing suggested that sites could also be licenced. The Chairman advised that this should be explored further with Cllr Newton if needed outside the meeting.

The Littering from Vehicles Outside London (Keepers: Civil Penalties) Regulations 2018 (IND 27/2018-PD) (Leader's Report - Paragraph 11)
Councillor Shing advised that he no longer wished to call this item.

(Note: Councillor Isted left the meeting at 10.50 am at the end of the discussion on this item)

18/30 WEALDEN LOCAL PLAN DRAFT PROPOSED SUBMISSION DOCUMENT

Councillor Newton moved the recommendation as set down in the agenda papers and introduced the report as follows:

“Following on from the meetings of the Local Plan Sub-Committee and Joint Planning Committees the week before last, it is now with great pleasure and admittedly some relief that I am bringing the Wealden Local Plan - Draft Submission Document - to Full Council this morning. Appendix C incidentally details the modifications made apropos of those meetings – it does not include any typographical or descriptive errors. These will be addressed before the document goes out to Representations.

Although it might not feel like it, the Plan has been completed in a shorter timescale than that of the Core Strategy, and I must thank officers for all their work but also fellow Councillors for their patience since the initial publication in March 2017. Also our residents who have been waiting with bated breath.

The Plan presents a 15 year plan period through to 2028, from the adoption of the Core Strategy in 2013. The Plan meets the Objectively Assessed Housing Need for the District of 950 dwellings per year and sets out in line with the NPPF requirement for regular five year reviews. I hope that you will agree that the Plan proposed is a fine balance between providing the economic growth we require whilst protecting the beautiful assets that we have here in Wealden?

The first section of the Plan relates to the vision, objectives and strategic growth policies including housing and the economy, infrastructure and the environment. It also contains an overview of the Habitats Regulations Assessment conclusions for the Ashdown Forest SAC, Pevensey Levels SAC and Ramsar Site and Lewes Downs SAC in relation to air quality along with the proposed approach to move forward with development. Policies AF1 and AF2 are particularly relevant here. Other policy areas include infrastructure and our other environmental assets. The second section

covers the sustainable settlement strategy with the third section dealing with development policies including the natural and historic environment and health and wellbeing.

Environmental and infrastructure constraints result in the Plan proposing that development is primarily focused away from the Ashdown Forest and concentrated in the most sustainable areas. Our transport model which models traffic flows, is used in conjunction with an air quality model and identifies the subsequent ecological impact, which forms the basis of the decisions on where development should be. There is a focus on South Wealden, however, development has also been identified for towns and villages to the north of the District in line with what parishes have asked for.

The Council has explored a range of alternatives to the level of development proposed in order to protect the Ashdown Forest SAC including lower levels, alternative distributions and development conditions. The conclusion to these studies is that we can achieve our OAHN of 950 dwellings per year with the inclusion of a range of mitigation measures but not beyond this number in the Plan period. Developer contributions will fund the mitigation measures similarly as with SAMMS and SANGS. We will also be working with Natural England, DEFRA and neighbouring authorities to jointly progress a Site Nitrogen Action Plan (SNAP) to proactively seek to further reduce levels of nitrogen deposition in the longer term.

The Draft Plan proposes development of 14,228 dwellings across the District between 2013 and 2028. Out of that number 2421 have been completed, 5279 dwellings have planning permission already, 4012 are allocated within the Plan with the addition of 2516 as windfall (WLP 7).

Page 64 details the Housing Trajectory and Monitoring illustrating a 'stepped' housing trajectory where the Plan will deliver an average of 750 dwelling per annum until the end 2020/21 and then an average of 1,179 dpa until 2028. This will be monitored and kept under review by the Council's Authority Monitoring Reports.

In relation to the economic strategy, the recommended approach is to still focus on South Wealden to enable less out commuting and more local employment opportunities. Some 22,500 sq metres of floor space of business premises will be delivered in the Plan period along the A22 corridor plus 4,350 sq metres net additional retail floor space (WLP 8 and TC2 refer).

The Plan considers Gypsy and Traveller provision and seeks to meet the pitch provision of 18 in a flexible way by allocating 21 pitches across two sites (WLP 2).

Development boundaries have been reviewed and included for all sustainable settlements - any development should be within those boundaries (WLP 3). Core Areas have been included for unsustainable settlements and a settlement capacity and in some cases houses numbers specified - inside or adjacent to - those Areas (WLP 5).

As mentioned earlier we will continue to monitor the level of the impact of nitrogen deposition which could be reduced if for instance electric vehicles became the norm. Should this happen it would automatically trigger a review of the Plan as would other matters such as the provision of an off-line A27 or a hiccup in the provision by Southern Water of enhanced

sewage disposal facilities by January 2022 – the details are in Policy WLP 13 on page 67.

Details of the strategic Infrastructure required are listed in INF 3 on page 73.

I do realise that some of you may have reservations about some of the items in the Plan particularly if they are personal to your own parishes. However, difficult it is, we must think strategically and we must have a Plan in place as soon as we possibly can. If we don't, the alternative, as I alluded to at the recent Joint Planning Committee meeting, is far worse. We will remain in a developer-led situation with the potential to having our planning decisions made by Central Government. Not a prospect I would advocate.

It is now only left for me to recommend to you all that we adopt the Plan today to enable the document to go out for the Representations stage which will run for 8 weeks commencing on 13 August and ending on 8 October 2018 and then to the Secretary of State for examination subject to any comment and further necessary amendments.”

Councillor Standley then seconded the motion.

Councillor White moved and Councillor Stephen Shing seconded a proposed amendment to Local Plan Appendix A as follows (published in full in advance of the meeting):

1. To delete Chapter 15 Lower Horsebridge and substitute the wording and plan set out in Amendment Appendix 1;
2. To delete paragraph 27.70 Lower Horsebridge Core Area (page 424) and substitute the wording set out in Amendment Appendix 2; and
3. To delete Map 77 Lower Horsebridge Core Area (page 425) and substitute the plan set out in Amendment Appendix 3.”

Councillor White explained his proposed amendment, which set out an alternative site to that identified to the East Side of North Street in Hellingly, was due to his concerns as to a history of flooding on the proposed allocated site. He stated that as there was another site in the vicinity which attracted a lower risk of flooding from all sources, was at a higher level and was further from the river, the sequential tests in the NPPF supported the need to select this site over that proposed. He advised that the site he was proposing would round off existing development, would only involve a very slight reduction of numbers by 7 which could be accommodated elsewhere in the vicinity, had little effect on 5-year land supply situation, did not impact on the transport models or travel movements and therefore on the protection of the Ashdown Forest, and was in line with local consultation responses.

Councillor Thomas advised that as a Member of the Southern Regional Defence Committee he would support concerns as to flooding in this area. Councillor Waller advised that the plan needed to go into representation stage, and that Councillor White could make those comments at that point. Councillor Stephen Shing asked the Council to support the local member on these matters.

Councillor Newton responded that she agreed that Councillor White could put these representations forward at the representation stage and public examination if he wanted and set out her reasons why she would not support the amendment. She advised that the proposed allocated site area had already been reduced to remove land that was subject to flood risk and therefore was wholly in flood zone 1, and had passed the sequential test for fluvial and surface water. Both sites were equal on their susceptibility to ground water flooding, and would require a sustainable urban drainage system to manage water flow. The allocated site had had assessments undertaken and the lead local flood authority had not objected to it subject to specific measures being put in place. It was similar to the other site except it would provide seven additional units, and was available and deliverable in a shorter time period, which must be taken into account in the plan, due to the Council's lack of five year land supply.

Councillor White asked for the right to reply on this amendment, but this was not allowed under the Council's standing orders.

The amendment was put to the vote and declared LOST.

(Councillor Thomas asked that his abstention in relation to this vote be recorded).

The Chairman then invited questions and comments on the recommendations before the Council, and Councillors made comments and raised questions on the following points:

- Councillor Shing thanked Officers for their work on the Local Plan but advised he could not support the Plan at this stage as he did not think the proposed mitigation was sufficient to address issues of the impact on the Ashdown Forest, flooding, air quality and road improvement.
- Councillor Thomas expressed his concern at what point infrastructure was sufficient for sites to go ahead, in particular the highways infrastructure at Manchester Road, Ninfield (NIN2) and Ghyll Road, Heathfield (HEA2). Councillor Newton responded that she understood the concerns on the Manchester Road site, but that East Sussex Highways team had raised no objections. On Ghyll Road, Heathfield, it was recognised that, as one of the five biggest towns in Wealden with a lot of amenities and facilities, there was a need for housing there, and this site was close to the central area and visually well-contained. Traffic calming measures and improvements to existing footpaths were already proposed in the area, but any development would be subject to provision of a safe and suitable access.
- Councillor Rose advised that he was disappointed and angry at the plan and could not vote for it as he felt that the proposal to extend the development boundary in Crowborough in line with the current hostile applications, rather than siting it alongside the A26 corridor, was not supported by anyone locally and would be a blight on the area and its road system. Councillor Newton stated that she understood that these matters were personal to Members. However, she highlighted that this development boundary sought to protect the sensitive landscape and to minimise outward encroachment into the AONB. It was not proposed to have an allocation, but a windfall allowance. Any application coming

forward for which a highways objection was sustained and not overcome, would be considered on a case by case basis.

- Councillor White stated his concern that although Councillors could raise matters at representation stage, in many cases this would be too late as sites would have already been approved through the planning process, which would make them irreversible. He also expressed concern that the mitigation proposed on the Ashdown Forest was insufficient, and doubts that the infrastructure would come forward to support the development. He expressed concern on the policy in relation to a contribution to new community halls, and the impact of land raise on existing residents. Councillor Newton responded that the plan coming forward was based on the consultation at Issues and Options stage. It was recognised that some sites would be approved before the plan was adopted, but that was inevitable given the length of the Local Plan approval process, and it was not in the Council's power to set the timetable for the Inspector. The Plan had taken on board the advice of Natural England and DEFRA and other agencies on the mitigation measures required for the plan to proceed. Southern Water was required to put in capacity by 2022, and the appropriate activity on this was on programme, but was outside the Council's control. The offline development of the A27 was not due until 2030, but this was outside of the plan period, and none of the proposals in the plan depended on this.
- Councillor Ede expressed some concerns as to discrepancies in the boundary drawn for the core area near Berwick Station and a discrepancy on the allocation numbers, and that one of the sites matched exactly the number in a pending application. He also expressed concern overall as to the weight of development in the south, where he felt the supporting infrastructure was some way off. He advised that he would raise such matters at representation stage, but overall welcomed the inclusion of windfalls as part of the totals. Councillor Newton agreed to check the matter of land near Berwick Station with Councillor Ede to ensure any error was corrected. She advised that it was understandable that the allocation number for the site matched an existing application, as part of developing the plan had to be putting together sites which were available and deliverable.
- Councillor Waller echoed his support for Officers for delivering the draft Plan to Members at this stage, to go forward to representations. He commented that the plan was formulaic and process driven, particularly on flood and highways issues, and derived housing numbers in relation to medium super output areas. He asked that the Portfolio Holder clarify the representation stage, and hoped that pragmatism would ultimately trump process, and include the option to take account of local knowledge at the next stage. Councillor Newton confirmed that constructing the Local Plan was by definition process-driven. She reiterated that Members could discuss matters with her.
- Councillor Watts asked for clarification as to whether the numbers in the Draft Plan would be the final numbers, or would they change in the life of the plan. Councillor Newton responded that the numbers were unlikely to change, as they were tied into air quality and transport models, and were constrained by these. However, this also made it

difficult to swap numbers between areas, and the evidence for the selections was supported by the sustainability appraisal.

- Councillor Redman asked how much the plan could change at representation stage, as he expressed his concern that some of the proposals in the plan in relation to Mayfield had come as a surprise to him and he believed to the Parish Council. He stated that he believed that there was a lot in the plan that was right, but some did not make sense locally. Councillor Newton responded that she had been in dialogue with Councillor Redman and the Parish Council over a period on the matters raised and was awaiting for clarification from the cricket club. If the site was not available, it would trigger a further review of that site in 3-years time. Councillor Newton advised that much of the plan was based on that discussed in March 2017, and there had been a long dialogue with Members in the preparation of the plan with extended meetings, briefings, Cabinet advisory Groups and an extended Cabinet Advisory Group, which all Councillors had had the opportunity to attend.
- Councillor Stedman, as the Chairman of the Joint Planning Committee, thanked the Planning Policy Team and the Portfolio Holder for their assistance in putting forward the modifications appendix setting out the Committee's proposals. She supported the need to move the Local Plan forward at this stage, but spoke of her regret that the plan no longer included the flexible approach in relation to rebuilding rather than conversion of rural buildings, but emphasised that this was a plan not only about housing but also about business and local employment. Councillor Newton responded that she understood that the flexible approach had served the Council well in some areas, but had gone too far in others, and had been a Member-led approach. There was still exceptional circumstances where this could be possible. She also recognised that there were many live planning applications which would need to be looked at carefully in the light of this position.
- Councillor Michael Lunn stated that he welcomed the existence of the plan and the opportunity for the Council to work with it and debate it, rather than a developer or government led approach. He disagreed with Councillor White, in that he felt the plan was very supportive of community hall facilities, for example in Buxted and Maresfield. Councillor Newton thanked him for his support.
- Councillor Illingworth stated that he supported the draft plan. He welcomed all the briefings that had been held to date, and wanted Local Members to have the opportunity to discuss with Officers any views that they would wish to put forward at representation stage. Councillor Newton reiterated that there would be opportunities for members to discuss matters with her and Officers.
- Councillor Snell asked for assurance that the area in Polegate (PW1) would not move from being designated for education/medical facilities during the next stage to being designated for housing development. Councillor Newton advised that she would discuss this outside the meeting with Councillor Snell, but that the designation arose from the land being owned by East Sussex County Council and Brighton University and that was how the facilities would come forward.

- Councillor Standley stated that it was difficult for Councillors to balance the strategic and local roles at this stage, but that a lot of the issues had been discussed over a period of time. He advised that the Council had an opportunity to approve this plan before the release of the new NPPF. He stated that there was a need for the Plan to be evidence-based rather than pragmatic. Meetings had already taken place with County on the infrastructure delivery plan to support this plan. He asked all Members to support the plan to the next stage. He thanked Officers and Councillor Newton on their hard work in getting the plan to this stage. Councillor Newton echoed his thanks to Officers and Members.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Newton for her work and in reaching this stage in relation to the Draft Local Plan Submission Document.

RESOLVED that the Draft Proposed Submission Wealden Local Plan at Appendix A and the Wealden Local Plan Implementation and Monitoring Framework at Appendix B, incorporating the modifications set out at Appendix C, is approved by Full Council for publication for representations and submission to the Secretary of State for examination, subject to any further necessary amendments.

(Councillor White asked that his vote against this resolution be recorded)

18/31 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME UPDATE JULY 2018

This was approved as part of the vote on the unreserved items.

RESOLVED that the updated Local Development Scheme attached at Appendix A to the report is approved by Full Council.

18/32 QUESTIONS

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 7.5 the following questions were asked and answered:

Questioner	Respondee	Subject
Cllr Shing	Cllr Collinson	Cllr Shing asked if My Alerts could be used to provide updates on when follow-up bin collections would take place, when a bin was missed. Cllr Collinson thanked Cllr Shing for the suggestion. He advised that did not know if it was technically possible, but would look into it to see if this could be introduced.
Cllr Lunn	Cllr Galley	Cllr Lunn advised that some residents had reported missed bins to Councillors rather than to the contact centre and therefore missed the 24 hour deadline for the contractor to return straight away. This led to two bins being out at the next collection, with only one being collected each time. Cllr Galley responded that

		residents did need to report them to the contact centre, as it was the only way the Council and contractor knew where to return. However, he did advise that the Contractor had been instructed to empty all bins that were out, and if necessary while catching up on the service to mix waste and recycling.
Cllr Moore	Cllr Newton	Cllr Moore asked if Cllr Newton had responded to the High Weald AONB Management Plan consultation which was open for one more week. Cllr Moore also suggested that other Members look at South Downs National Park website or the plan lodged in reception and respond individually. Cllr Newton advised that she could not recall if one had been submitted as yet, but would ensure that a consultation response was made.
Cllr Illingworth	Cllr Standley	It was asked if Southern Water had indicated to the Council that a hose pipe ban would be imposed, given the current hot weather. The Leader advised that Southern Water had not, as far as he was aware, been in touch with the Council to indicate a hose pipe ban would be imposed; however it was sensible to ask residents to use water wisely, including not using clean water to water gardens.
Cllr D Shing	Cllr Dowling	It was asked if the Council had issued any Community Protection Notices and if so, how many had resulted in a prosecution? Cllr Dowling advised that she would provide a written answer to Cllr Shing.
Cllr Ede	Cllr Standley	Cllr Ede asked if there was any update on the plans for Vicarage Field. Cllr Standley responded that a draft plan was being developed with advisors and it should be ready to share with Councillors later in the year. In addition, the Audit and Finance Committee received regular updates on all the Council's commercial projects.

Councillor Collinson, as Chairman of the Personal Committee, introduced the report and moved the recommendation from the Personnel Committee that Mr Trevor Scott (Director of Governance and Corporate Services) be appointed to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service to commence on a date yet to be determined. Councillor Standley seconded the recommendation. Councillors Isted, Stephen Shing and White each welcomed Mr Scott's appointment.

Councillor Standley thanked all those who had taken part in the appointments process, including all the candidates. He confirmed that this had been a rigorous process and stated that Mr Scott would make an excellent Chief Executive. He also took the opportunity to wish Charles Lant well as he was currently on sick leave.

Councillor Collinson echoed his appreciation for the way in which the appointment process had taken place, and thanked all the Officers involved.

RESOLVED to approve the appointment of Mr Trevor Scott to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for Wealden District Council at the starting point to the salary scale, with effect from a date to be agreed.

Councillor Hardy
Chairman