



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT & LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2010

PRESENT: Cllr. Mrs. J. Gillibrand (Chairman), Cllrs: E. Anderson, Mrs. S. Daniells,
S. McDougall, J. Passingham and K. Scutt

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. G. Frost (Deputy Town Clerk)
One Councillor in the Public Gallery (Part of the Meeting)

The Meeting opened at 7.02pm

96. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed those present. Apologies had been received from Cllr. Mrs. J. Warr.

97. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of personal and/or prejudicial interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda.

Members and Officers should declare an interest by stating:-

- a) The item they have an interest in
- b) Whether it is a personal interest and the nature of the interest
- c) Whether it is also a prejudicial interest
- d) If it is a prejudicial interest, whether they will be exercising their right to speak under Question Time.

They then need to re-declare their interest and the nature of the interest at the commencement of the item or when the interest becomes apparent.

In accordance with good practice, individual forms were available to those Councillors present in order that they could personally record their interests - both Prejudicial and Personal. These forms to be returned to the Deputy Town Clerk at the end of the meeting to enable all declarations of interest to be accurately recorded in the Minutes.

Cllr. Passingham declared a Prejudicial Interest in Bognor Regis Seafront Lights and any funding they may have applied for or any event they arrange or help to arrange

Cllr. McDougall declared a Prejudicial Interest in the Reinstatement of Olby's Clock

The Committee noted that there were two Declarations of Interest made at this point in the Meeting.

98. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21st DECEMBER 2009

The Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 21st December 2009, were agreed as an accurate record and were signed by the presiding Chairman.

99. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr. Brooks referred to the additional agenda item due to be discussed this evening in relation to play area proposals secured through S106 agreement funding and reminded the Committee of the tour of the town that was undertaken in April 2009. An area of the mounds on the corner of Clarence Road and the Esplanade was identified at that time for possible removal to allow the ground to be flattened for leisure use.

Cllr. Brooks declared a Prejudicial Interest in the Regis Centre as a Trustee of Arun Arts

Reference was made to the overgrown area of land adjacent to the Regis Centre private car park where the twinning tree had once been and it was suggested that an alternative use for this area be considered.

100. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES WHICH ARE NOT SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS

100.1 21st December - Min. 85.1 Public Conveniences Working Party Meeting

Members noted that the meeting of the Working Party that had been arranged for Wednesday 13th January 2010 did not take place due to bad weather conditions and had now been rescheduled for Tuesday 9th February 2010.

100.2 *Cllr. McDougall declared a Prejudicial Interest in the Reinstatement of Olby's Clock as his Wife is an employee of Staffurth & Bray Solicitors. He did not therefore take part in any discussion on the next item*

100.3 21st December - Min. 87 Olby's Clock Update

The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that the Structural Engineer had written to A.D.C. enclosing copies of the drawings he had prepared to seek confirmation on the requirement for building regulation approval. A reply was awaited.

Members noted that the Deputy Town Clerk had spoken with the Cumbria Clock Company who had confirmed that they hoped to be in a position to answer the queries raised in connection with the yearly wattage, the weight of the clock and supply a pictorial representation and details of the cost for annual maintenance of the clock in the very near future.

100.4 9th November - Min. 70.2 Approach to the owner of the Pier to request a meeting

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Mr. Ayers had not been forthcoming regarding the Committee's request for a round the table discussion to consider the Pier's future as he wanted to know the background behind the request before considering whether he wished to take this forward. Discussions had been held before that had not amounted to anything and he wanted to ascertain whether the Council had something concrete to offer rather than just talking possibilities. Members noted Mr. Ayers views and the benefits of progressing with this further unless concrete proposals could be put forward were discussed. Following some discussion, it was AGREED to put this on hold for the time being.

101. WARD ALLOCATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BUDGET - PROPOSALS FOR ORCHARD, HOTHAM AND PEVENSEY WARDS - MIN. 84.2 REFERS

The Committee noted that proposals for projects within Orchard, Hotham and Pevensey wards that could be funded from the Ward Allocations Environmental Projects budget were still awaited. The Deputy Town Clerk reminded the Committee that unless specific projects had been identified prior to the end of the financial year, this funding could not be earmarked and carried forward. Members were therefore asked to give consideration to how they wished this funding to be used so that this could be discussed again and decisions taken at the next meeting on 15th March. Councillors from Marine ward would also need to give consideration to allocating the balance of their budget so that this can also be discussed at this meeting.

102. DOG BINS AND POSSIBLE USE OF SIGNAGE AT THE ENTRANCE TO ALLEYWAYS IDENTIFIED AS BEING MAJOR PROBLEM AREAS - UPDATE FROM CLLR. PASSINGHAM - MIN 85.4 REFERS

102.1 Cllr. Passingham reported that he was still awaiting a reply from A.D.C. and that this was more about a pathway stencil 'Bag It Bin It' than the bins themselves. It was AGREED to defer this item to the next meeting to allow time for Cllr. Passingham to follow this up.

102.2 A Councillor commented that he believed the Asset Management Review being undertaken by A.D.C. was due to be completed by December 2009 and spoke of the need to establish the outcome.

102.3 Reference was made to the article in the local newspaper concerning the level of dog fouling on the pavement in Nyewood Lane resulting in a local mother putting her life and the life of her seven-month-old son at risk by walking in the road. The possibility of looking at a clearance project as part of the ward allocations budget was suggested by a Councillor.

The Chairman referred to Church Path footpath and reported that this used to be cleaned on a fortnightly basis. However, she was unaware if this was still the case. Cllr. McDougall commented that dog cleansing and litter were the responsibility of A.D.C. despite the footpaths being the responsibility of the County Council. He AGREED to investigate whether cleansing of footpaths was still undertaken and report back to the next meeting.

103. MILLENNIUM CLOCK REPAIR UPDATE AND CONSIDERATION OF THE WAY FORWARD - MIN 86 REFERS

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the original quotation from Smith of Derby Ltd. to have the lights repaired had been for £440 plus VAT. This included replacing the lighting system within the clock turret and re-wiring. The electronic controller would also be serviced and reset so that all is left safe to operate and allow for the lights to be illuminated automatically during periods of darkness. Following the approach to A.D.C. to cover this expenditure, their electrician had quoted to replace 4 x 4ft vapour proof lights at a cost of £160.00 plus VAT. This however, did not take into account the additional works detailed in the original quote. Concern that the Council's maintenance agreement with Smith of Derby Ltd. may be invalidated if works are carried out on the clock by a third party was stressed. Members felt that it was not the responsibility of the Town Council to pay the difference between the two quotations. Comment was made that this should be dealt with through the District Council's

insurance as the Town Hall is their building. The importance of the clock tower being made watertight prior to the repair being undertaken was also stressed. The Deputy Town Clerk would write to the Head of Surveying and Estates at ADC again to express the Committee's views and to try to progress this matter. An update on the current position would then be reported to the next meeting.

104. PROVISION OF NEW PUBLIC SEAT - TWINNING GIFT FROM WEIL AM RHEIN CONSIDERATION OF WAY FORWARD - MIN 88 REFERS

Members noted that the financial gift from Weil Am Rhein to the value of £442.16 (500 Euros) had now been received directly into the Town Council's bank account. The Deputy Town Clerk had started to research the availability and costs of wooden seats and asked for some guidance from the Committee as to the type of seat required so that further information could be brought to the next meeting. Consideration of a location would also need to be given. Members spoke against locating the seat on the seafront or Place St. Maur as this would then have to be relocated when the proposed regeneration of this area was progressed. A Councillor suggested that the Committee give consideration to the provision of a circular seat (tree seat) that could be installed around the Sun Sculpture at the junction of the High Street and London Road. It was noted that additional funding would probably be required to provide a seat of this design. The Town Mayor suggested the overgrown area of land adjacent to the Regis Centre private car park where the twinning tree had once been as an alternative location for a wooden seat if the tree seat option was not progressed. It was AGREED to refer this matter to the next meeting for further discussion to allow time for further information to be obtained.

105. ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE PARTNERSHIP PROJECTS BUDGET 2010/2011 - TO RATIFY FUNDING ALLOCATION FOR SEAFRONT LIGHTS

105.1 *Cllr. Passingham declared a Prejudicial Interest in Bognor Regis Seafront Lights as Chairman of this Working Group and left the meeting during the discussion on this item*

105.2 It was noted that the budget for the seafront lights had been set at £8,100 for the financial year 2010/2011. Following a brief discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that funding to this level should be awarded to the Bognor Regis Seafront Lights Working Group.

105.3 Members noted that all Town Council grants including Grant Aid, Sponsorship, Cultural and Partnership Projects would be paid out in the new financial year commencing 1st April 2010. All awards given by the Town Council are subject to receipt of signed, certified accounts in accordance with Council procedure.

106. MAYOR'S GOOD CITIZEN AWARD - TOWN MAYOR TO REPORT

The Mayor reported on the person she wished to nominate to receive the Mayor's Good Citizen Award for 2010 in recognition of services rendered to the town. The Committee **RESOLVED** to support this nomination and it was noted that the award would be presented at the forthcoming Civic Reception. The name of the recipient would remain confidential until this time.

107. RATIFICATION OF PAYMENT OF 2010 MEMBERSHIP - NATIONAL PIERS SOCIETY SUBSCRIPTION

The Committee **RESOLVED** that payment of the subscription in the sum of £20.00 be made.

108. CONSIDERATION OF LETTER OF SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL PIERS SOCIETY IN CONNECTION WITH NOMINATION OF BOGNOR REGIS PIER FOR PIER OF THE YEAR AWARD - REFERRED FROM TOWN COUNCIL MEETING 25th JANUARY 2010

The Committee **RESOLVED** to support the proposal to nominate Bognor Regis Pier for the Pier of the Year Award for 2010. The Deputy Town Clerk to write to the National Piers Society accordingly.

109. CONSIDERATION OF PURCHASE OF SECURE STORAGE FOR MET SITE EQUIPMENT - REPORT FROM PROJECTS OFFICER

The Projects Officer had requested that the Committee consider purchasing a secure lockable storage unit to house meteorological equipment at the Waterloo Square Meteorological Station. Details of a galvanized steel sliding door shed were circulated amongst Councillors present. Members generally felt that such a unit should be more in keeping with the area and spoke strongly against the purchase of a unit that looked like a metal shed. The possibility of relocating the Bathing Machine artwork currently located at the museum to Waterloo Square and having this converted to lockable storage was suggested as an option worth consideration. Cllr. Passingham requested that the Deputy Town Clerk email him with the size of the unit that is required and he would research some alternative options that were more suited to the surroundings and forward these to the Deputy Town Clerk. It was **AGREED** that this item would be referred to the next meeting to allow time for further details to be obtained.

110. CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE - CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS IN THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th JANUARY 2010

110.1 The Minutes of the meeting were circulated to those present. A Councillor spoke positively about the new Electrical Contractor who was bringing new ideas to the Sub-Committee for Christmas 2010. Mr. Tyson from Merlin Lighting Installations had confirmed that he felt confident that, with the knowledge and experience he and his team had gained during the 2009 Christmas season, the Council can look forward to many years of successful displays.

110.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** to accept the Resolutions, Recommendations and Reports from the Minutes of the meeting held on 20th January 2010.

111. REPORTS

111.1 Financial Reports

The Committee noted the financial reports, which had been previously circulated.

111.2 Any Other Reports

There were no other reports.

112. TO CONSIDER PLAY AREA PROPOSALS SECURED THROUGH S106 AGREEMENT ARISING FROM PLANNING APPLICATIONS BR/209/02 AND BR/340/07 - LETTER FROM A.D.C. COPIED TO COUNCILLORS

The letter from A.D.C. requesting the Town Council's comments on the play area proposals secured through S106 agreement was noted as being received, copied to Councillors. The proposal included spending £15,400 on the enhancement of Hothamton Gardens play area, £10,000 to be spent on the enhancement of the Mounds and £8,000 to be spent on play provision at Hampshire Avenue play area. Having spoken further with the A.D.C. Landscape Officer he had confirmed that no decision has been made on the choice of play equipment. However, it is likely that Hampshire Avenue will have equipment installed that targets older children; in addition to the recent improvements. At Hothamton Gardens general enhancements would be made, possibly including replacing the toddler multi-unit, swings and some surfacing.

Cllr. Passingham referred to Cllr. Burt being in contact with Arun's Parks and Greenspace department in August last year in connection with the refurbishment of the Rock Gardens play area and the lack of new equipment that had been returned to the site, which A.D.C. had confirmed was down to the lack of resources. However, they were expecting to have some Section 106 funding in the future which would enable further refurbishment of the play area. Details of this had been emailed to the Chairman and the Deputy Town Clerk and Cllr. Burt had requested that the Committee raise this issue again with A.D.C. in any response now Section 106 funding had again become available.

Members queried the value of enhancement of the Hothamton Gardens play area with the proposed redevelopment of the area and felt that this funding would be better utilised in the Hampshire Avenue play area. A Councillor commented that she believed that some new equipment had already been installed in Hothamton Gardens. Following further discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that a letter should be sent to A.D.C. requesting that some provision of play equipment be made for Rock Gardens play area from this Section 106 funding. It was further **RESOLVED** that more information should be requested as the Committee felt unable to give due consideration to the District Council's proposals with the limited information that was available to them and no details of designs or equipment to be used. Whilst writing, reference to the correct spelling of Hothamton should also be made.

113. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee noted receipt of the correspondence as detailed - **Appendix '1'**

The Meeting closed at 7.59pm

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE FOR ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE COMMITTEE
MEETING 1st FEBRUARY 2010

1. W.S.C.C. - Email with details of the Bus Shelter Grants Scheme inviting new applications for 2010/2011
2. A.D.C. - copy of email to local resident from the Services Director concerning the seating in the Town Hall Council Chamber
3. A.D.C. - various emails regarding disruption to refuse and recycling collections during the period of bad weather
4. National Piers Society - Piers Journal Issue No. 94, Winter 2009
5. Armourseal Signs NW Ltd. - anti vandal signs and glass reinforced plastic interpretation board product information
6. Civic Pride UK Ltd - In Bloom services, street furniture, litter bins, benches, notice boards, signs and planters product information
7. W.S.C.C. - copy of the Approved Traders Directory 2010
8. Railwatch Magazine Issue No. 122, December 2009 - copy for each Councillor previously circulated and Railondon Newsletter Issue No. 106, December 2009
9. Energy and Climate Change Committee - details of second and third oral evidence sessions for its inquiry into *The Proposals for National Policy Statements on Energy* on Wednesday 13th January 2010
10. W.S.C.C. - Email with details of The Real Hedge Fund, the new West Sussex County Council grant scheme aimed at hedgerow planting
11. South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust - Email regarding important changes being planned to the local NHS Ambulance Service - email circulated to Councillors for information
12. W.S.C.C. - Email with details of the Library Redesign: Opening hours consultation being undertaken in libraries from 1st to 20th February - Cllr. Passingham requested a copy of this information be forwarded to him
13. A.D.C. - letter regarding Clean and Safe Grant Fund - It was AGREED that this information should be copied to all Councillors on the Committee for their perusal
14. Southern Stakeholder Brief Gatwick Express, January 2010
15. Civic Pride UK Ltd. - Winter Newsletter, January 2010
16. Communities and Local Government Committee - details of one off oral evidence session on 8th February 2010 discussing reforms to the Fire and Rescue Service
17. W.S.C.C. - Email with details of Select Committee comments on the draft Budget proposals for 2010/11