



# BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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## MINUTES AND REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF BOGNOR REGIS HELD ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2009

### PRESENT (BRTC)

Cllr J Gillibrand, Town Mayor (in the chair)  
Cllr E Anderson  
Cllr J Brooks  
Cllr G Burt  
Cllr Mrs S Daniells  
Cllr P Dillon  
Cllr D Eldridge  
Cllr R Gillibrand  
Cllr S Kerrigan  
Cllr J Passingham  
Cllr K Scutt  
Cllr Mrs J Warr  
Cllr P Wells  
(Note: Cllrs Mrs Daniells, Scutt, Mrs Warr and Wells are also  
Arun District Councillors)

### (WSCC)

Cllr F Oppler

### IN ATTENDANCE

Mrs K Gill (Town Clerk)  
Mrs H Knight (Minutes Secretary)  
One Representative of the Press

### COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC

Notice and Agenda for the Meeting  
Minutes of the Town Meeting of Electors held on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008  
Audited Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008  
Balances and Expenditure to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2009  
Proposed Expenditure for the year 2009/2010  
Schedule of Councillors' Attendance at Meetings

*The Meeting opened at 7.00pm*

*County Cllr S McDougall had requested that his apologies be noted.*

**1. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD ON MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008 AND ANY MATTERS ARISING**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Minutes of the Town Meeting of Electors held on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008 were agreed and signed by the Town Mayor as presiding Chairman.

There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

**2. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL**

The Town Mayor reported, highlighting some of the features of her year in office. These included attending the 'send off' on New Year's Day and 'welcome back' in October for Colin Snook who walked round Britain for charity; Bognor In Bloom Working Party achieving silver-gilt in South & South East in Bloom, the re-opening of Aldersmead Care Home and the Lion's Club It's A Knockout Competition, the installation of the Town Council's new flagpole, the continuing project researching a new home for the Museum, to name a few. She had met many diverse people and groups, mostly volunteers, working hard for Bognor Regis and had been very proud to be Civic Head. The Mayor handed over to the Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee for the financial reports.

Cllr G. Burt, Chairman of Policy & Resources, advised that it had been a prudent year financially, with the Council being mindful of the recession. Having been reprimanded consistently by the auditor for not having enough funds in Reserves, the Council had addressed this and were now only £22,000 short of recommended levels, meaning that unexpected expenditure such as town polls could be paid for. This year's precept reflected a realistic amount to be taking from tax payers and putting into projects. An increase of 4.3% equated to a Band D increase of 3.48%, not quite as low as County or District Councils but lower than the Police Authority. Some savings had been made across administration and the workforce and the staff was thanked for its continued hard work. Projects the Council had supported included the Museum, public toilets and the weather station.

**3. TO RECEIVE THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2008**

The Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee reported on the Accounts of the Town Council to year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. These were duly noted and accepted.

**4. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF BALANCES AND EXPENDITURE UP TO A DATE AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2008**

Details of the balances and expenditure to 11<sup>th</sup> March 2008 were duly noted.

**5. TO RECEIVE OBSERVATIONS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2009-2010**

The Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee reported on the proposed expenditure for 2009-2010 and the proposals were duly noted.

**6. TO RECEIVE ANY WRITTEN REPORTS FROM THOSE APPOINTED TO REPRESENT THE TOWN COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS**

Cllr. K. Scutt reported as representative to The Number 18 Project (attached to Minutes).

**7. TO RECEIVE ANY OBSERVATIONS FROM COUNTY AND DISTRICT COUNCILLORS FOR THE AREA**

Cllr. P. Wells addressed the meeting as District Councillor for Hotham Ward, mentioning various matters such as the wonderful restoration of Hotham Park, delays over the long awaited regeneration of Bognor Regis and housing development projects affecting the area.

Cllr. F. Oppler addressed the meeting as County Councillor for Bognor Regis, citing several issues particularly concerning residents, such as the planning application by ASDA and Safer Routes to Schools schemes. A Town Councillor queried the length of time taken to resolve the many potholes in local roads and in responding Cllr. Oppler acknowledged that there was a good deal of anger from residents regarding the poor state of roads. He advised that the basic reason for delays in repairs was underfunding over several years combined with extreme weather conditions. Another two teams had been taken on by WSCC Highways but it was still likely to be several months before improvements would be evident. It was also likely that the patchwork repairs would need to be done again by mid winter next year.

**8. TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY FRIDAY 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009**

None had been received.

**9. TO DEAL WITH ANY OTHER QUESTIONS**

Councillors discussed the reason for poor public attendance at the electors' own meeting and considered ways in which residents could be encouraged to come. Suggestions included arranging for a speaker on a topic of general interest to attend; each Councillor being asked to bring two or three residents to the meeting; better publicity regarding the meeting; provision of a buffet, perhaps paid for by sponsorship.

In order to encourage the democratic right of electors being able to have their own meeting and question local government, it was suggested that attendance at the Electors Meeting could be an agenda item for Policy & Resources, when it was hoped to explore ways of making the Annual Meeting of Electors more appealing to the electorate.

*The Mayor thanked those present for attending and closed the meeting.*

*The Meeting closed at 7.40pm*

## Report from the No. 18 Project

**"This past year the No 18 project has seen a lot of good work with young people; this takes a variety of forms ranging from the teenage drop-in coffee bar to counselling. With 10% of the UK's sexually active under 25's unknowing having Chlamydia, which in turn can lead to infertility, the sexual health clinic is a particularly important aspect of No 18's activities.**

**The last year has also seen the retirement of the project manager who put in many years of excellent work, I'm sure we all wish the new manager well in this important local project"**