



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK: Kate Gill, The Town Hall, Clarence Road
Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1LD

Telephone: 01243 867744 Fax: 01243 865744

E-mail - bognortc@bognorregis.gov.uk

MINUTES AND REPORT OF THE TOWN MEETING OF THE ELECTORS OF BOGNOR REGIS HELD ON MONDAY 26TH MARCH 2007

PRESENT (BRTC)

Cllr J Hayward, Town Mayor (in the chair)
Cllr Mrs S Daniells
Cllr D Eldridge
Cllr S McDougall
Cllr R Nash
Cllr Mrs S Olliver
Cllr F Oppler
Cllr Mrs J Warr
Cllr Ms White
Cllr K Scutt

(ADC)

Cllr D Biss
Cllr P Wells
(Note: Cllrs Mrs Daniells, McDougall, Mrs Olliver, Oppler, Mrs Warr and Scutt are also Arun District Councillors and Cllr McDougall is also a West Sussex County Councillor)

Nine Members of the Electorate (includes seven Town Cllrs)
One Representative of the Press

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr P Beckerson (Projects & Events Officer)
Mrs H Knight (Minutes Secretary)

COPIES OF DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR THE PUBLIC

Notice and Agenda for the Meeting
Minutes of the Town Meeting of Electors held on 16th October 2006
Audited Accounts to 31st March 2006
Balances and Expenditure to 15th March 2007
Proposed Expenditure for the year 2007/2008
Schedule of Councillors' Attendance at Meetings

District Councillor Jan Cosgrove and Town Councillors Mrs Jennifer Gillibrand, Rob Gillibrand and Michael Chapman had requested that their apologies be noted.

The Meeting opened at 7.35pm

1. TO APPROVE AND SIGN THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2006 AND ANY MATTERS ARISING

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Minutes of the Town Meeting of Electors held on Monday 16th October 2006 were agreed and signed by the Town Mayor as presiding Chairman.

2. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 16TH OCTOBER 2006

Cllr S McDougall declared an interest in matters relating to the former LEC site as a possible waste treatment site, as a member of West Sussex County Council.

Cllr R Nash declared an interest in matters relating to the possible development of a sports stadium at the former LEC site as a member of the Bognor Regis Town Football Club Committee.

Some discussion took place on the potential for the former LEC site to become a sports stadium and there was general agreement that this could be of much benefit to Bognor Regis. Some early talks were already underway with Arun District Council around this subject. It was pointed out that the site is actually within Bersted Parish Council and future use of the area would need to be discussed with that Council.

3. TO RECEIVE THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee presented his report on the Council's achievements during the past year. The town had won silver gilt in the South East In Bloom competition for the second year running, although the result of the silver prize for the Britain In Bloom competition had been more disappointing. It was hoped that the street scene problems that had lost marks would be better addressed for the forthcoming entry. The Town Force team were going from strength to strength with the addition of a Horticultural Apprentice, who had been an outstanding success already and has just passed the first tests of the course. A full programme of events had been delivered throughout the year. A new graffiti removal contract was about to commence, with funding from WSCC and ADC, which will cover the greater Bognor area for the first time. A dedicated member of staff would shortly be employed to provide a 'rapid response' to graffiti notification. The first phase of the Christmas Lights had been installed, with a few initial problems, and the second phase would take place this year. Partnership and Grant Aid funding had taken place as usual, with a significant number of youth projects being supported. The precept increase was 3.43%. New office accommodation had been taken up, there had been improvements to the existing main office and Town Force had moved into a new stores base area.

A Town Councillor, whilst thanking the Chairman for the full report, commented on the hope that the future administration would go forward with achieving Quality Council status, since it seemed very likely that Town Councils would gain considerably more powers in terms of devolved services within the next few years.

4. TO RECEIVE THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL YEAR ENDING 31ST MARCH 2006

The Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee reported on the Accounts of the Town Council to year ending 31st March 2006. These were duly noted as accepted.

5. TO RECEIVE DETAILS OF BALANCES AND EXPENDITURE UP TO A DATE AS NEAR AS POSSIBLE TO 31ST MARCH 2007

Details of the balances and expenditure to 15th March 2007 were duly noted and the Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee said that he would be happy to answer any questions.

6. TO RECEIVE OBSERVATIONS OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE PROPOSED EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR 2007-2008

The Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee reported on the proposed expenditure for 2007-2008. Some clarification was sought over differences from figures presented to the December Council Meeting and that the last EMR is shown as 2004 figure. Mr Paul Beckerson explained that several items had been affected by recent draw down of reserves, including costs associated with the dedicated graffiti cleaning appointment.

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

None had been received.

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

Cllr Ken Scutt reported as District Councillor for Marine Ward, reading from his written report (copy appended to Minutes).

Cllr Paul Wells reported as District Councillor for Hotham Ward, commenting on the regeneration that the Hotham area would be going through and that a suitable, sustainable entertainment facility must be ensured to continue the great work now being done by Hotham Arts Centre. Significant reductions had been gained in parking charges in the area following recent public meetings and liaison with Arun District Council.

Cllr Francis Oppler reported as a County and District Councillor, speaking also of the forthcoming regeneration of the Regis site which could become the 'jewel in the crown'. Many traffic issues around the town area had come to his attention, as well as growing concern over the number of new properties built with little or no parking.

Cllr David Biss reported as a District Councillor, speaking particularly about his involvement with Bognor Regis Youth Club and the plans for its development.

Cllr Simon McDougall reported as a County and District Councillor, commenting on the proposed rebuilding of Bognor Regis Community College and the benefits this would bring to the education of young people in the area.

Cllr Jeanette Warr reported as District Councillor for Hotham and spoke of how busy residents had been in the area, the many issues that had been solved and the importance of teamwork.

9. TO CONSIDER RESOLUTIONS OF WHICH WRITTEN NOTICE HAS BEEN GIVEN BY FRIDAY 16TH MARCH 2007

A motion had been received, signed by Michael G Jones and Michelle D White, as appended to these Minutes.

County Councillor Michael Jones explained the reasons for bringing the motion, commenting on the increasing problem of litter and cleansing in some areas of the town such as the north of town, South Bersted and Glenwood areas. A recent survey had revealed this to be of much concern to residents. Some very positive action had been taken to enhance the town, such as the work by Town Force, planted baskets, graffiti cleansing, but other steps forward needed to be organised, perhaps involving the whole community in a 'clean up'. Examples existed of other authorities recruiting members of the public, eg The Eyes of Islington, where members contact the relevant department, Crawley Borough Council provides 'concerned citizens' with litter-picking equipment and graffiti wipes. Another possibility would be to have a more formalised arrangement for councillors to go on a 'beat' around their ward perhaps with residents and a cleansing department person. People are more likely to become involved if they know that they will be listened to.

Councillors present discussed various issues regarding littering, cleansing etc. and general anti-social behaviour.

The Resolution was noted and it was **AGREED** that it would be referred to the first available meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee.

10. TO DEAL WITH ANY OTHER QUESTIONS

A member of the public asked whether the money that had been put aside regarding purchase of the Town Hall still remained and why the referendum the proposed referendum on the matter had not after all taken place.

The Leader of the Council confirmed that the funds remained in reserves. It was explained that the referendum would have cost £6-8,000 to carry out and was not therefore financially viable. It was to be hoped that the referendum could form part of the questionnaire that would be distributed to all residents with the Town Plan.

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

The Meeting closed at 9.57pm

Ken Scutt Reporting for Marine Ward

The Aldwick Road end of Marine Ward has gone through quite a few changes. It has been enhanced by the planters that have been put in by the Town Force. And certainly the entrance to Bognor in Aldwick Road has been very much improved by the new offices of Matthew Hantons the Accountants with that eye catching new clock.

There are several attractive new shops, but unfortunately there are also several shops that have closed and left.

The parking and the Tesco delivery lorries continue to create problems. Unfortunately the Tesco lorries rarely deliver at times when they are able to use the bay reserved for them, this problem is being addressed and I hope that there will be a satisfactory outcome before there is an accident.

The one hour parking is not being observed but once again the PCO has been around lately and a few parking tickets have been issued, which should make people think twice about parking in restricted areas.

The on street parking in some of the roads in Marine Ward gets worse as more and more flats are being built without any parking. This is a growing problem that is completely blocking some roads from one direction if a car is attempting to get through from the other end. Could be very dangerous if a Fire engine or Ambulance is attempting to get through.

We keep trying for a CCTV camera at the junction of Aldwick Road and Nyewood Lane but so far no joy but we will keep trying.