



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 8th FEBRUARY 2021

PRESENT ONLINE:

Cllr. W. Smith (Chairman); Cllrs. J. Barrett,
J. Brooks, A. Cunard, Mrs. I. Erskine, H. Jones,
Miss. C. Needs, Ms. A. Sharples and Mrs. J. Warr

IN ATTENDANCE ONLINE:

Mrs. S. Hodgson (Projects Officer)
Mrs. J. Davis (Hosting the Meeting)

2 members of the public attending via Zoom
2 Councillors attending via Zoom. Cllrs: Mrs. S.
Daniells and S. Goodheart
11 members of the public viewing via Facebook

The Meeting opened at 6.32pm

138. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Online Meeting being held in accordance with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 and reminded Members that the Meeting was being recorded by Bognor Regis Town Council, streamed live on Facebook and may also be recorded or filmed by any member of the public.

The Chairman advised that in the event of any loss of internet coverage or power cuts, steps would be taken to recover the connection. However, if connection could not be re-established the meeting would stand adjourned at the point of loss of connection to be reconvened and continued at a publicised time in the future.

Finally, Members were reminded of the protocol for the Online Meeting, details of which had been circulated to all previously.

No apologies had been received.

139. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman addressed each participating Member in alphabetical order to ask if they wished to confirm any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and/or Ordinary Interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda.

If a Member were required to temporarily leave the Meeting for any Interest, they would be contacted by telephone and invited to re-join the meeting at the appropriate time.

As noted on the Agenda, Members and Officers should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item they have the Interest in
- b) whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary or Ordinary Interest
- c) the nature of the Interest
- d) if it is an Ordinary Interest whether they intend to temporarily leave the meeting for the discussion and vote
- e) if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, and therefore must temporarily leave the meeting for the discussion and vote, whether they will be exercising their right to speak on this matter under Public Question

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. They should request that it be recorded in the Minutes that they will leave the meeting and will neither take part in discussion, nor vote on the item.

As per the Agenda, it is each Member's own responsibility to notify the Monitoring Officer of all Disclosable Pecuniary Interests or Ordinary Interests notifiable under the Council's Code of Conduct, not already recorded on their Register of Interests Form, within 28 days.

The Chairman reminded Members to declare their Interests as any arise or again at the relative point in the meeting if they have already.

There were no declarations of Interest

140. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD 7th DECEMBER 2020

Members were asked if there were any objections to the Minutes of the last Online Committee Meeting, held on the 7th December 2020. It was noted that the Minutes had been forwarded to the Chairman and once agreed and duly signed, would be returned to the Town Clerk.

There being no objections, the Committee **APPROVED** the Minutes of the Online Meeting held on 7th December 2020 as an accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman duly signed them.

141. ADJOURNMENT FOR THE CHAIRMAN TO READ PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS

There were no Public Questions or Statements

142. CLERK'S REPORT FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

142.1 7th December 2020 - Min. 124 - Consideration of a proposal to make a recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee to earmark any unspent 2020/21 Ward Allocation funds from the current years allowance to carry forward to 2021/22

At the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on the 19th January 2021 (Min. 208 refers), it was unanimously **AGREED** that any unspent 2020/21 Ward Allocation funds as of 31st March 2021 should be earmarked and carried forward for use in 2021/22.

142.2 7th December 2020 - Min. 128 refers - Consideration of a proposal by Cllr. Daniells regarding the possible redistribution and recycling of the Poppy Wreaths laid at the War Memorial

The wreaths are currently being stored at the Town Council's Town Force Unit. A member of the community has agreed to be involved with this project and preparations are underway to contact all those who laid the wreaths to seek their permission to upcycle.

143. CONSIDERATION OF THE NOTES FROM THE ONLINE COMMUNITY OPEN FORUM MEETING HELD ON THE 15th DECEMBER 2020 INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Projects Officer's report, including the related appendix was **NOTED**.

There were no items from the open forum that Members wished to consider further.

Members **AGREED** for Officers to make arrangements to hold an evening community online open forum during February and further **AGREED** that going forward the online community forums would alternate between evening and daytime sessions.

144. CONSIDERATION OF THE PRESENTATIONS RECEIVED FROM RAMPION 2 AND PROTECT COASTAL ENGLAND ON THE 3rd FEBRUARY 2021

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**.

Following presentations received from Rampion 2 and Protect Coastal England, Members were asked to consider if they wished to support the Rampion 2 project and make recommendation to Council.

During the discussion, some Members raised concerns and objections relating to:

- The impact on the skyline
- The effect on tourism
- The potential size of the wind turbines
- The environmental impact

Comments were made that Rampion 2 is a corporate investment company and the presentation was nothing more than a sales pitch. Any benefit comes at too large a cost.

However, another Member felt that:

- as this Council had declared itself a Council of Climate Emergency it should be more committed to tackling climate change
- Rampion 2 is a corporate investor, but investment encourages investment
- The turbines would not prevent people coming to Bognor Regis and that has been reflected in other areas that have wind farms

Following discussion Members **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council **NOT** to support the Rampion 2 project.

145. WARD ALLOCATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BUDGET INCLUDING RATIFICATION OF ANY SPEND AND THE UTILISATION OF ANY REMAINING FUNDS

The Projects Officer's report, including the related appendix was **NOTED**.

Members **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the sum of £36.00 from the Hotham Ward allocation budget to St Mary's School as a contribution to enable the installation of a defibrillator.

146. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES FROM THE ONLINE CLIMATE CHANGE TOPIC TEAM MEETING HELD ON THE 21st JANUARY 2021 AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Projects Officer's report, including the related appendices was **NOTED**.

Members were asked to consider the following recommendations from the Climate Change Topic Team:

- To submit the collated responses relating to the 20 questions for Council's for consideration and possible recommendation to Full Council
- To request that a budget be identified to purchase some bee attracting seeds for distribution to encourage rewilding

Following consideration Members **AGREED** that all 20 questions be submitted to Full Council.

Members further **AGREED** to purchase some bee bombs for distribution to encourage bee corridors and rewilding.

Cllr. Mrs. Erskine reported that she would like to donate her Councillor Allowance towards the purchase of the bee bombs and would liaise with the Committee Clerk regarding arrangements for its return.

As there was some confusion over the costs for the bee bombs and the remaining balances of the Ward Allocation Allowance, it was **AGREED** that after deducting Cllr. Mrs. Erskine's Allowance, the Projects Officer would email Members with a list of possible options so Members could decide how many bee bombs to purchase and how to fund the remaining balance from the available Ward Allocation Allowance.

Cllr. Cunard asked for it to be noted that he did not wish his Ward Allocation allowance to be included.

147. FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND INCLUDING: TO NOTE THE UTILISATION OF THE FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND FOR THE 2020/21 ALLOWANCE, RATIFICATION OF THE REMAINING BALANCE OF £501 PAID TO ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL TOWARDS INSTALLATION COSTS FOR A DEFIBRILLATOR

The Projects Officer's report, including the related appendix was **NOTED** along with the utilisation of the 2020/21 Flexible Community Fund.

Members **AGREED** unanimously to **RATIFY** the payment of £501 to St Mary's Catholic School as a contribution toward the installation costs of a defibrillator.

148. UPDATE ON YOUTH PROVISION

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**.

A Member wished to acknowledge the work undertaken by U CAN Spray and expressed her gratitude to Keely Hardy and staff. She also felt the Council should do all it could to support youth provision and activities where possible.

The Chairman spoke about his concerns regarding the effect any disposal of WSCC built assets may have on youth provision and Members unanimously **AGREED** for Officers to gather further information to clarify the WSCC intended position and report back to the Committee.

149. TO NOTE THE UPDATE ON WORKS TO THE TOWN HALL CLOCKS AND RATIFY THE OVERSPEND OF THE MILLENNIUM & OLBYS CLOCKS MAINTENANCE BUDGET – MIN. 126 REFERS

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED** and Members **RATIFIED** the overspend of the Millennium and Olby's Clock Maintenance Budget by £709.17.

150. TO CONSIDER A BRIEF FOR THE BEACH ACCESS TOPIC TEAM IN RESPONSE TO THE ADC DECISION TO LOOK AT BUDGETING FOR BEACH ACCESS WHEN THEY SET BUDGETS FOR 2021/2022 – MIN. 136 REFERS

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**.

Following a brief discussion Members **AGREED** unanimously that the Beach Access Topic Team's current Terms of Reference gave sufficient guidance and the only addition required was to ensure the Topic Team give consideration to any latest developments as they arise.

151. CONSIDERATION OF A REQUEST FROM A MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC TO SUPPORT A "CHANGING PLACES" FACILITY FOR THE DISABLED TO BE INCLUDED IN FUTURE REGENERATION PLANS

Cllr. Cunard declared a Personal Interest during this item relating to a regeneration proposal

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**.

A Member reported that as of January 2021 building regulations require that all new builds and major refurbishment must now include a changing places facility. Therefore, with the likelihood of such a facility being included within the regeneration plans for the seafront promenade area, it was suggested that Members look at existing sites within other areas of the Town, such as the Station, Library or the Bedford Street toilets that could accommodate a changing place facility.

Following discussion Members unanimously **AGREED** that a letter be sent to the relevant authorities, drawing attention to the need for changing place facilities and to ask them to consider installing these facilities in their existing premises.

152. CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported some additional correspondence had been received following the circulation of the list as follows:

- Email from Bognor Makerspace giving an update on their project
- Email re Armed Forces Champions Event
- Email from a member of the public re adopting a telephone box
- Letter from St Mary's School thanking the Committee for their donation towards the installation costs for a defibrillator.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm