



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 12th APRIL 2021

PRESENT ONLINE:

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

IN ATTENDANCE ONLINE:

Mrs. S. Hodgson (Projects Officer)
Mrs. J. Davis (Hosting the Meeting)
Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
1 member of the public attending via Zoom
8 members of the public viewing via Facebook

Prior to the Meeting, a minute's silence was held following the sad announcement of the death of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

The Meeting opened at 6.32pm

153. 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 from Cllr. Jones.

154. 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.

Cllr. Brooks declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 11 as he had been involved in the initial stages of producing the GreenMap

155. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING HELD 8th FEBRUARY 2021

Members were asked if there were any objections to the Minutes of the last Online Committee Meeting, held on the 8th February 2021. 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 8th February 2021 as an accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman duly signed them.

156. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS

There were no Public Questions or Statements.

157. CLERK'S REPORT FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

157.1 8th February 2021 - Min. 142.2 refers - Consideration of a proposal by Cllr. Mrs. Daniells regarding the possible redistribution and recycling of the Poppy Wreaths laid at the War Memorial

Arrangements have been put in place for some historical research to be undertaken that will be attached to the wreaths. Restoration work will begin Mid-September to ensure the wreaths will be ready for recycling in time for the Remembrance Day tide.

157.2 8th February 2021 - Min. 144 refers - Consideration of the presentations received from Rampion 2 and Protect Coastal England on the 3rd February 2021

Following this Committee's recommendation not to support the Rampion 2 project, at the Council Meeting held on 8th March 2021 (Min. 357.2 refers) Members received the recommendation and subsequently agreed to amend the recommendation, subsequently resolving not to support the Rampion 2 project *at this time*.

Members are further asked to Note that Cllr. Ms. Sharples has expressed a wish to withdraw from being the Town Council representative at the Rampion 2 liaison meetings but will remain in position until the Committee restructure in May. This will therefore be an agenda item for the June Meeting for Members to consider if they wish to re-appoint another representative.

157.3 8th February 2021 - Min. 151 refers - 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

At the last meeting Members noted that as of January 2021 building regulations require that all new builds and major refurbishment must now include a changing places facility. However, Members felt there was a need for changing place facilities to be installed within existing premises and agreed for a letter to be sent to the relevant authorities, drawing attention to this need and to ask them to consider installing these facilities in their existing premises.

Letters were sent to ADC and WSCC to ask if following the Government's announcement to make £30 million available for Councils to install these facilities into existing buildings, what plans they had to refurbish/upgrade some of the older community buildings and existing toilet facilities within Bognor Regis.

The response from the ADC Director of Services was as follows:

"Thank you for advising of your Committee's recent discussion on this subject. We are aware of the potential funding and are keeping a close eye on proceedings.

At this stage there is very little detail known about how the fund will actually work and we are waiting further guidance. On this basis Arun does not have any definitive plans but we are obviously looking at all potential options that may be available and keeping an open mind at this stage. This obviously includes a desire for such a facility in Bognor Regis.

Hope this clarifies matters at this stage."

The response from the WSCC Head of Assets, Asset Management & Estates and Property & Assets Directorate was as follows:

"I acknowledge receipt of your correspondence. I need to consult with my colleagues and I will respond in due course."

158. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES FROM THE ONLINE COMMUNITY OPEN FORUM MEETING HELD ON THE 24th FEBRUARY 2021 INCLUDING: CONSIDERATION OF ANY ITEMS FOR A FUTURE AGENDA AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The Projects Officer's report, including the Notes of the online Community Open Forum Meeting held on the 24th February 2021, was **NOTED**.

158.1 A Member asked for further discussion on the item relating to "seaside gardens" including traditional displays in Steyne Gardens and this will be included on a future Agenda for consideration.

158.2 Members unanimously **AGREED** for Officers to make arrangements to hold an evening online Community Open Forum.

159. WARD ALLOCATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BUDGET INCLUDING: TO NOTE THE OPENING BALANCES FOR 2021/22, RATIFICATION OF ANY SPEND AND THE UTILISATION OF ANY REMAINING FUNDS

The Projects Officer's report, including the related Appendix detailing the Ward Allocations balances for 2021/22, was **NOTED**.

Members **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the sum of £100 for the purchase of bee bombs and to earmark £400 for Playranger playday events from the remaining 2020/21 Pevensy Ward Allocation.

160. FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND INCLUDING: TO NOTE THE OPENING BALANCE FOR 2021/22, TO NOTE AND DETERMINE ANY APPLICATIONS

The Projects Officer's report, including the related Appendix was **NOTED**, along with the opening balance of the 2021/22 Flexible Community Fund.

There were no applications to determine.

161. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES FROM THE ONLINE CLIMATE CHANGE TOPIC TEAM MEETING HELD ON THE 25th MARCH 2021 AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Projects Officer's report, including the notes for the online Climate Change Topic Team Meeting held on the 25th March 2021, was **NOTED**.

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

- To change the name of the Climate Change Topic Team to the Climate Emergency Focus Group

Members **AGREED** to change the name of the Climate Change Topic Team to the Climate Emergency Focus Group.

162. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES FROM THE ONLINE BEACH ACCESS TOPIC TEAM MEETING HELD ON THE 18th MARCH 2021 AND CONSIDERATION OF ANY RECOMMENDATIONS

The Projects Officer's report, including the notes of the online Beach Access Topic Team held on the 18th March 2021 was **NOTED**.

Members were asked to consider the following recommendation from the Beach Access Topic Team:

- To change the name of the Beach Access Topic Team to the Beach and Sea Access Topic Team

Members unanimously **AGREED** to change the name of the Beach Access Topic Team to the Beach and Sea Access Topic Team.

163. BOGNOR REGIS IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP - CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS IN THE NOTES OF THE NON-QUORATE ONLINE MEETING HELD ON THE 22nd MARCH 2021

The Projects Officer's report, including the notes of the non-quorate Online Meeting of the Bognor Regis In Bloom Working Group held on 22nd March 2021, was **NOTED**.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to ratify the following recommendation from the Bognor Regis In Bloom Working Group for the GreenMap, as detailed in the report, to be implemented by the Town Council, including the Bognor Regis In Bloom Working Group for planting projects going forward.

164. TO RATIFY LOCALITY MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2021/22

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

Members unanimously **AGREED** to ratify the Locality Membership Subscription for 2021/22.

165. CONSIDERATION OF PLAYRANGERS PLAY DAYS EVENT FOR AUGUST 2021

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

Members unanimously **AGREED** for Officers to submit a provisional event application to Arun District Council for a series of play day events during the summer holidays.

Members further unanimously **AGREED** for Officers to liaise with event providers as detailed in the accompanying report, keeping Members advised by email and to ratify any requirements at the June meeting.

166. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee Clerk drew Member's attention to item 6 on the correspondence list which was received post publishing of the Agenda. The Clerk will forward a copy of the email to Members for their information.

167. Before moving to the next item, under which Members would be receiving a confidential update on Youth provision, the Committee Clerk gave a verbal update on concerns raised by Members at the last meeting regarding the effect that any disposal of WSCC built assets may have on youth provision as follows:

"WSCC are currently undertaking a review of their Early Help Service provision. Statistics show that the centre-based offer is not reaching those in most need (vulnerable) and that footfall to centres are declining. They are therefore proposing some closures which for the Bognor Regis area include the Phoenix Centre and the Find it Out Centre. The Treehouse Centre will remain open providing walk in access.

However, although Early Help services will no longer be operating from these buildings, WSCC are intending to transfer the administration of these centres to other organisations to allow continued utilisation. A Register of Interest

has already been set up for interested parties. Due to a number of covenants within the leases none of these buildings will be sold."

A Member spoke of his concerns that not enough was being done to promote the use of these buildings.

The Project Officer's update was **NOTED**.

168. TO RESOLVE TO MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (S.O. 3d) – (ITEM OF A SENSITIVE NATURE)

Members **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw, with broadcasting live to Zoom and social media streaming also terminated (S.O. 3.d) - Agenda items 16 (items of a sensitive nature).

169. UPDATE ON YOUTH PROVISION – CONFIDENTIAL

Before receiving the Projects Officer's report, Members were reminded that the update they were about to receive contained highly confidential information and to discuss the matter with anyone not present at this meeting, including Town Councillors not on the Community Engagement and Environment Committee would be a clear breach of the Code of Conduct which could result in further action.

Members **NOTED** the Project Officer's report as per the confidential report appended to the file Minutes.

The Meeting closed at 7.15pm