



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 4th OCTOBER 2021

PRESENT:

Cllr. W. Smith (Chairman); Cllrs. J. Barrett,
J. Brooks, H. Jones, Mrs. S. Staniforth and
Mrs. J. Warr

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. S. Hodgson (Projects Officer)
Mrs. J. Davis (Civic & Office Manager)
1 member of the public in the public gallery
1 member of the press in the public gallery
Cllr. S. Goodheart in the public gallery

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

33. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and read the Council's opening statement.

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Miss. Needs due to continuing Covid restrictions. No apologies had been received from Cllr. Cunard.

In the absence of Cllr. Cunard, Members unanimously **AGREED** that Cllr. Barrett be appointed Vice-Chairman for this meeting.

34. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

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, Other Registrable 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 or Other Registrable 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 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. 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, Other Registrable 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. Smith declared a Disclosable Pecuniary interest in agenda item 8 as a Director of Mancave Movement Ltd and requested it be recorded in the Minutes that he would be leaving the meeting during discussion

Cllr. Mrs. Staniforth declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 12 as an ADC Member and stated that she may make a different decision if considering the matter at the District Council at a later date

35. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9th AUGUST 2021

Members were asked if there were any objections to the Minutes of the last Committee meeting, held on the 9th August 2021.

There being no objections, the Committee **APPROVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th August 2021 as an accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman duly signed them.

36. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.34pm

The Clerk read out a Statement from the Chairman of the Beach and Sea Access Topic Team as follows:

"Bognor Regis Beach and Sea Access Topic Team's (BASATT) sole purpose is to help achieve Beach and Sea Access to the foreshore of Bognor Regis Beaches for all residents and visitors who have limited mobility over the shingle.

The ADC Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee (E&NS Committee) meeting held on 23rd September 2021 were lobbied by BASATT. All ADC E&NS Committee members, other ADC Councillors, all Bognor Regis Town Councillors together with the Chief Executive and Philippa Dart – ADC Director of Services were emailed regarding the proposed new Option 4A that DID NOT ACHIEVE Beach and Sea Access to Bognor Regis foreshore.

The E&NS Committee did not approve this recommendation but has asked for a working party to be set up for Bognor Regis Beach Access to the foreshore.

BASATT ask that the Bognor Regis CE & E Committee approve the following requests below and work with BASATT, ADC E&NS committee and the new working party to achieve Full Beach and Sea Access to the foreshore.

The requests are:

- 1. Support the request that members of BASATT be part of the working party. These members to be Bognor Regis residents who are not Councillors and should include persons with a disability and/or limited mobility*
- 2. CE & E Committee support BASATT recommendations and allow us to work independently with the Working Party if necessary*
- 3. That Bognor Regis Town Councillors give their support to BASATT and Bognor Regis Beach and Sea Access to the foreshore project*

Residents and visitors to Bognor Regis deserve complete Full Beach and Sea Access to the foreshore, anything less is unacceptable.

Apologies for not being able to attend committee meeting due to current mobility issues and thank you in anticipation of your support."

The Chairman stated that this would be discussed under Agenda item 12.

A member of the public said he was disappointed to see that the wind shields were not being used on the promenade bandstand during Sunday's concert when they were very clearly needed and asked if ADC could make sure they were available for the next concert.

The Clerk advised that this question would be taken to the next Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee Meeting as there was some relevant information relating to this comment pertinent to that Committee.

A member of the public also spoke of the advantages of using 70grm paper for printing over other weights as it is cheaper and has less impact on the environment. For example, using 70grm over 80grm has a saving of 12.5%, for 90grm 22.22%, and 100grm 30%. He reported that the ADC Climate

Change Officer is to recommend that this change be considered at ADC and would like BRTC to consider following suit.

Cllr. Goodheart raised the following points from the public gallery:

- To ask Members to support the proposal for extra funding for tree planting for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
- That he hoped that as Bognor Regis is a seaside resort, beach access was important to all Councillors and to appreciate the physical impact on regular users of the beach to gain access to the foreshore
- To advise Members that ParkVision are looking to resurrect their vision to plant more trees as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations
- That he was looking forward to hearing the debate on the Phoenix Centre and 39 Club as this is an important provision for the youngsters of the Town and he hopes Councillors will support this and take it forward
- That he agrees with the previous comments relating to the bandstand.

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting at 6.49pm

37. CLERK'S REPORT

37.1 Update on recycling of Poppy Wreaths - 12th April 2021 - Min. 157.1 refers

Contact has been made with Sarah Boote-Cook and arrangements are being made to progress this.

37.2 Appointment of Vice-Chairman

Members are asked to Note the appointment of Cllr. Cunard as the Vice-Chairman of the Community Engagement and Environment Committee as unanimously agreed by Council at their meeting held on 6th September 2021 - Min. 79.4 refers.

37.3 Climate Emergency Focus Group

Preparations are being undertaken to arrange a date for the next meeting during October.

37.4 Rampion 2

There are no further updates at this time .

38. TO RECEIVE THE NOTES FROM THE ONLINE COMMUNITY OPEN FORUM MEETING HELD ON THE 16th SEPTEMBER 2021

The Projects Officer's report, including the notes of the Online Community Engagement Open Forum held on the 16th September 2021, was **NOTED**.

There were no items from the report that Members wanted to include on a future agenda.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to return to Councillor Drop-in Surgeries for the daytime session and for Officers to make the necessary arrangements.

Members further unanimously **AGREED** that for the winter period, evening sessions would remain online.

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

The Projects Officer's report, confirming that there had been no expenditure since the last meeting requiring ratification, together with the accompanying Appendix were **NOTED**.

40. FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND INCLUDING: TO NOTE AND DETERMINE ANY APPLICATIONS; CONSIDERATION OF THE APPLICATION FROM MANCAVE MOVEMENT LTD; TO UNDERTAKE A REVIEW OF HOW THE FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND IS PROMOTED

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

Bognor Regis Money

Members were asked to consider a Flexible Community Fund (FCF) application received from Bognor Regis Money for the sum of £350.00 to support a community event in November as part of a nationwide Fraud Awareness campaign.

Following discussion Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to support the application from Bognor Regis Money to the tune of £350.00

The Chairman redeclared a Pecuniary interest in the following FCF application as a director of the Mancave Movement Ltd and left the room at 6.56pm

Members **AGREED** that the Vice-Chairman preside over the meeting for the next part of this Agenda item.

Mancave Movement Ltd

An application from Mancave Movement Ltd was received on the 23rd August 2021 and circulated to Members for consideration to enable the Town Clerk, in association with the Chairman, to determine under Delegated Authority.

At that time Cllr. Miss. Needs was the only respondent and, therefore, the Town Clerk was unable to process the application as a majority response is required. Therefore, Members are now required to consider the application as previously circulated.

A Member felt that although the application did not fully meet the criteria, mental health wellbeing for men was very much needed and to support this application would not only show confidence in what Mancave were trying to achieve but would also help them get off the ground. He further stated that he was aware that one of the other Directors was an ex-Councillor which in his opinion was reassuring.

Another Member stated that she too felt it was important to assist and support mental health provision which is crucial at this time.

Following discussion Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to support the application from Mancave Movement Ltd to the tune of £500.00

Cllr. Smith re-joined the meeting at 7.01pm and retook the Chair

Members were asked if they would like to undertake a review of how promotion of the FCF is interpreted to assist with future applications.

It was unanimously **AGREED** that the Clerk would put together a standard interpretation for all to use going forward.

41. PROPOSALS AND REQUIRED BUDGETS FOR 2022 TO 2023 FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE INCLUDING: FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND, YOUTH PROVISION, PLAYDAYS, WARD ALLOCATION, SURGERIES, OPEN FORUMS AND TOPIC TEAMS AND THE BOGNOR REGIS IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP

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

Following discussions, the following budgets were proposed:

41.1 Flexible Community Fund - current budget £5,000

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that this amount be raised to **£7,000** for the 2022/23 municipal year.

41.2 Youth Provision - current budget £10,000 for match funding opportunities

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that this amount remain the same at **£10,000** for match funding opportunities for the 2022/23 municipal year.

41.3 Playdays - current budget £3,500

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that this amount be raised to **£4,500** for the 2022/23 municipal year.

41.4 Ward Allocation - current budget £2,000

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that this amount be raised to **£4,000** for the 2022/23 municipal year.

Members felt that although the Ward Allocation budgets for some Wards had not been utilised, this was because the amounts are too small to do anything of relevance with.

41.5 Surgeries, Open Forums and Topic Teams - current budget £1,000

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that this amount remain the same at **£1,000** for the 2022/23 municipal year.

41.6 Bognor Regis in Bloom - current budget £1,750

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that this amount remain the same with a budget of £750 for Competition Expenses and £1,000 for Environmental Projects totalling **£1,750** for the 2022/23 municipal year.

41.7 Members were further asked to consider a recommendation from the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group for an additional budget to be made available to allow for tree planting as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and specifically as part of the Queen's Green Canopy initiative.

Members AGREED to suspend Standing Orders and adjourn the meeting at 7.20pm to allow Cllr. Goodheart to speak from the public gallery on this subject

Cllr. Goodheart reported that ParkVision were collaborating with ADC to create a "tree-lined avenue" located in, and around the boundary of, Bognor Regis and were seeking support from Bognor Regis Town Council and neighbouring parishes. He advised that they are looking at possibly 11 established trees at an estimated cost of £4,500 but would also like to expand this.

The BRTC Civic & Office Manager, who was also in attendance, advised Members that the BRTC Planning and Licensing Committee had, to date, received Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) payments totalling £750. One of the CIL projects agreed by the Committee was the planting of a tree-lined avenue in Bognor Regis, paid for using CIL monies and with funding sourced from partnership working. It was possible, therefore, that at least £750 could be sourced from CIL monies currently available to the Town Council.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 7.23pm

Following discussion Member unanimously **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that a budget of **£5,000** additional funding

be made available to the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group to allow for additional tree planting as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

42. 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 31st AUGUST 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 31st August 2021, was **NOTED**.

42.1 Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the expenditure of £305.80 for flowers for the 2 x flowerbeds, which had been planted up as part of this year's competition and a subsequent £20.40 for 2 x composite winners' plaques to be funded from the current year's Competition Expenses budget.

42.2 Members further unanimously **RATIFIED** the decision made under Agenda item 9, regarding additional funding being made available to allow for tree planting as part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - Min. 41.7 refers.

43. YOUTH PROVISION INCLUDING: TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE YOUTH PROVISION STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD 22nd SEPTEMBER 2021 AND UPDATE ON THE WSCC DECISION TO CLOSE THE PHOENIX AND FIND IT OUT CENTRES

The Project Officer's report, including the Notes of the Youth Provision Steering Group Meeting held on 22nd September 2021 was **NOTED**.

A Member spoke of the importance of ensuring that the Phoenix Centre and the Find It Out Centre buildings remain open and continue to be made available for young people and other community groups.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **SUPPORT**, in principle, Sussex Clubs for Young People's immediate plans as outlined in the report subject to; business plans/due diligence/support of the community and to further consider match funding opportunities at a later stage to secure these valuable assets for the community.

44. BEACH ACCESS INCLUDING; CONSIDERATION OF THE ADC DECISION FROM THEIR MEETING HELD 23rd SEPTEMBER 2021, CONSIDERATION ON HOW TO PROCEED

The Project Officer's report and accompanying appendix was **NOTED**.

Members were pleased that the beach access options are to be revisited by ADC and delighted that ADC Councillors are keen to bring the meetings to Bognor Regis and to undertake a site visit to see first-hand the problems facing access to the foreshore at Bognor Regis.

A Member drew attention to the fact that ADC initially suggested that BRTC should lead on this project which led to the formation of the Beach and Sea Access Topic Team (BASATT). Therefore, it was important that this group be represented within any working groups that ADC form. He also hoped that this would be a non-political group.

Members **AGREED** to lobby ADC Group Leaders to ensure the BASATT are included when they set the Terms of Reference at their November meeting and to further suggest they seriously consider feedback from disabled and ambulant disabled members of the community.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to send a letter to ADC Group Leaders to reflect these recommendations and further **AGREED** to hold a meeting of the BASATT as soon as possible.

45. UPDATE ON THE "SEASIDE GARDENS" 9th AUGUST 2021 - MIN. 24.3 REFERS

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

A Member spoke of his disappointment that ADC were not inclined to support a more formal bedding display in the Steyne Gardens along with the comments that in the past formal bedding has never worked well. He can provide photos over many years that show a very pretty display of bedding plants. However, he felt that it would be prudent to press on and seek advice from the ADC Parks and Greenspace Manager on what sort of bedding would work.

Following discussion in was **AGREED** to defer the item to allow Members to make further enquiries and bring it back to a future agenda. It was also suggested that Members talk to community gardeners, residents and the Town Council's Town Force team to see what has worked well in the past.

46. CORRESPONDENCE

The correspondence list as circulated with the Agenda was **NOTED**.

A Member asked for details of item 7 on the correspondence list to be forwarded to him.

The Meeting closed at 7.53pm