



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK Glenna Frost, The Town Hall, Clarence Road,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex, PO21 1LD
Telephone: 01243 867744
E-mail: bognortc@bognorregis.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2022

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
Mrs. J. Davis (Assistant Clerk)
1 member of the public in the public gallery
Cllr. D. Edwards (Arun District Council) in the
public gallery

The Meeting opened at 6:30pm

62. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. A. Cunard who was working, Mrs. S. Staniforth and M. Stanley due to family illness, and Cllr. Miss. Needs and the Projects Officer who were unwell.

63. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman addressed those Members present 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.

There were declarations of Interest

64. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2021

Members were asked if there were any objections to the Minutes of the last Committee meeting, held on the 6th December 2021.

There being no objections, the Committee **APPROVED** the Minutes of the meeting held on 6th December 2021 as an accurate record of the proceedings and the Chairman duly signed them.

65. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.34pm

A member of the public asked if there was any update on the power requirements for Place St Maur for the Ice Rink, to avoid the need to use a generator in the future. They also referred to Min. 51.1 from the previous meeting, in relation to the benefits of the Town Council using 70gsm instead of 80gsm paper. The member of public questioned the figure quoted of £19.46 per ream for 70gsm paper, as this seemed expensive compared to other suppliers. It was confirmed, however, that this was the price quoted by the Town Council's stationery providers. The final comment from the member of public was regarding a recent quote from Lord Alan Sugar, who stated that "since the Covid-19 Pandemic, the UK staycation market has risen by 40%".

In response to the quote about staycations, the Chairman acknowledged that it had become apparent that staycations would increase, owing to the pandemic, and believed that the Town Council should capitalise on this fact. Following a suggestion that this might include signposting visitors to tourist attractions such as Marine Park Gardens and West End, the Chairman stated

that this would be a matter for discussion at a future Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee Meeting.

Cllr. Edwards, from Arun District Council (ADC), gave an update from the Environment Committee Meeting, held on 17th November 2021, at which it had been agreed that two places on ADC's Bognor Regis Beach Access Working Party would be offered to members of the Town Council's Beach & Sea Access Topic Team. Whilst there had been the suggestion that one of those places be allocated to Cllr. Goodheart, Cllr. Edwards, who is Chair of the Environment Committee, stated that the decision as to who those two places should be allocated was entirely up to the Town Council, and nothing to do with ADC. He was unable to give a precise date for the first meeting of the Working Party, but it was hoped that this would take place in the Spring. Cllr. Edwards gave profuse apologies that no official invitation had yet been extended to the Town Council, for the two places, but confirmed that a letter was on the way.

Referring to the comment from the member of the public in relation to any future power supply for Place St Maur, Cllr. Edwards stated that he was 99% certain that this had been taken into account but advised that he would follow up on this. Cllr. Mrs. Warr added that she had spoken with Joe Russell-Wells from ADC who had given his assurances that the power had been accounted for.

The Chairman read the following questions and statement, from a member of the public, that had been submitted in advance of the meeting: -

1. *Westloats Lane Youth and Community Centre. My concern is that it appears the trustees of the centre I've been having discussions with Grace Church about the letter taking over the building and registering it as a church. It is important that this community, with its disadvantage Issues good become a church and depart from its charitable purpose. I gather the current trustees wish to stand down. I have told chairman of trustees that there are at least 5 people who wish to take this on but I'm afraid he does not seem to be listening. I have spoken with Philippa dart at Arun about a land swap Wychwood see a new Centre built on the recreation ground freeing up that land for affordable housing as the council who is planning to build such Dwellings on the adjacent plot. I do not think that a church use is compatible with the charitable objectives in any case and having served the community of that area for 14 years as a Councillor and through more years than that with the Fun Bus, I am crystal clear that it needs an open-to-all centre. I asked, for example, what if a gay group wished to hire if run by the church, also e.g., another faith group wanted to hire Islam, Catholic etc. There are 5 people who are willing to take over as trustees (I am not one and the 5 are well-known in the community and indeed the Council. I am willing to help e.g., with raising money.*

2. *Youth activities - you will be aware of the Phoenix and 39 being offered for Community Asset Transfer, you also are aware of Sussex Youth Clubs interest, and the Council has been supporting work at both, now ceased. Whatever the outcome, it's vital for a whole raft of reasons, not least mental health per the pandemic, that a youth facility/provision remains, and that it's open access. I believe the Scouts are interested in 39 but my view is that its uniform requirements would create a barrier to that, not least re cost for families, and re Phoenix it was BUILT for youth provision, has not fired on all cylinders to say the least in that regard. Also, though technically not on the school campus, maybe for many kids both from there and from other schools, that proximity might pose barriers. So, one option might be for a new Westloats to regain its youth function. I do not think we should miss opportunities were working together might provide new solutions. One of the exciting ideas for Phoenix is a Weekend Arts College for young people, I know of the original project in Camden as I worked there.*
3. *The issue really ignored is children's play, I am very clear from my long experience that this cannot remain under-provided. Westloats has such a need as do other areas in the Town e.g., parts of Orchard. I can offer to come and speak on this issue at a future meeting, but this matter also relates to Phoenix, 39 and Westloats, and I am looking at a new mobile play project.*
4. *Please discuss making this part of the meeting more accessible by adopting a hybrid real-virtual approach. As it's not part of the Agenda, I see no legal impediment to this being trailed at least.*

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting at 6.51pm

66. CLERK'S REPORT

66.1 6th December 2021 - Min. 51.2 refers - Update on Poppy Wreaths

It was previously reported that a total of 14 wreaths were sold last year with £125.00 raised for the Royal British Legion. Members were advised that Sarah Boote-Cook had confirmed that she was happy to repeat the project again if Members would like her to do so and this would be referred to a future meeting for Member's consideration. This will, therefore, be an agenda item at the next meeting.

66.2 6th December 2021 - Min. 53 refers - Youth Provision Update on proposal from Sussex Clubs for Young People

At the Community Engagement and Environment Committee Meeting held on the 6th of December 2021 Chris Cook, Chief Executive of Sussex Clubs for Young People, was invited to give a presentation and Members were asked to consider the proposal to support the development of youth provision for Bognor Regis. As a follow up to the meeting the Town Clerk and the Projects Officer invited Chris Cook for an informal discussion to seek an update on the current position.

Chris was pleased to inform the Town Council that there had been over 200 public responses online in support of a proposal to take over the Phoenix Centre and Findit Out Centre, which far exceeds the requirement of having 50 supporters as set out by the Expression of Wish Stage set in place by West Sussex County Council which closes on the 8th of February 2022. If successful, the Business Case stage will start on 21st February. The decision for whether they have secured any of the buildings is expected to be announced at the end of March. The Community Asset Transfer process will start shortly after this but there would need to be a Building Conditions survey carried out of the locations, which would need funding.

Chris also gave a sound update on the synergies between the two locations of the Phoenix Centre and the FindItOut Centre (formerly known as the 39 Youth Club) and, for example ROX's food distribution ties that could be used to enable development of a café providing skills training to young people within one of the centres.

66.3 6th December 2021 - Min. 56 refers - Beach Access

Members were advised at that meeting that official notification from ADC of their decision for an invitation to be extended to Bognor Regis Town Council Access Group for two representatives to join the Working Party (without voting rights) was awaited. Once received, a meeting of the Beach and Sea Access Topic Team would be arranged in the New Year to consider this further. The Projects Officer and Chairman of BASATT are currently liaising regarding dates for a meeting and ADC has been approached for an update on their position so that this may move forward.

A Statement has been received from Jan Malpas, Chairman of the Beach and Sea Access Topic Team as follows: -

"On behalf of Beach and Sea Access Topic Team, we would like to thank you for the support that you have given us which has resulted in Arun District Council Environment and Neighbourhood Services Committee on 17th November 2021 approving 2 representatives from Beach and Sea Access Topic Team to be part of the Arun District Council Working Party for Beach and Sea Access to the Foreshore at Bognor Regis.

We shall be holding a Beach and Sea Access Topic Team meeting shortly to nominate these representatives and will advise the Community Engagement and Environment Committee who they are.

We are motivated and eager to start working with the 6 nominated Arun District Councillors on the Arun District Council working party towards achieving our goal of Beach and Sea Access to the Foreshore at Bognor Regis.

I understand that the Bognor Regis Project Officer is still awaiting a date from Arun District Council for the first meeting of the Working Party due in Spring 2022.

Please be assured that Beach and Sea Access Topic Team will do everything possible to make the outcome of this working party successful for Bognor Regis."

66.4 4th October 2021 - Min. 45 refers - Update on the 'Seaside Gardens'

This item was discussed at the meeting held on 4th October 2021, when 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. The Member advised he could 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, it 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. Members are therefore reminded that this item is still outstanding and further information is awaited from them to enable further consideration to be given to how this might be progressed.

66.5 4th October 2021 - Min. 37.3 refers - Climate Emergency Focus Group

The Projects Officer is aware that prior to the previous post holder leaving the Town Council, arrangements were being made to arrange a date for the next meeting during October. This will therefore be progressed as soon as it is possible to schedule a date in the diary.

67. WARD ALLOCATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BUDGET - RATIFICATION OF ANY SPEND AND THE UTILISATION OF ANY REMAINING FUNDS INCLUDING: TO RATIFY THE DECISION TO DONATE £424.00 FROM HOTHAM WARD ALLOCATION TO THE GLENWOOD COMMUNITY AND COFFEE CLUB FOR A COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

The Assistant Clerk's report, including the related appendix, was **NOTED**.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** that the amount of £424.00 from Hotham Ward Allocation be donated to the Glenwood Community and Coffee Club for a community notice board.

68. FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND INCLUDING: TO NOTE AND DETERMINE ANY APPLICATIONS

The Assistant Clerk's report, including the related appendix, was **NOTED**.

Members further **NOTED** that there were no new applications to be considered at this time.

69. TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE MAYOR'S GOOD CITIZEN AWARD

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

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the nomination for the Mayor's Good Citizen Award.

70. TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE MAYOR'S CITIZEN AWARD FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the nomination for the Mayor's Citizen Award for Young People.

71. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE HOSTING AN ONLINE COMMUNITY OPEN FORUM MEETING, TO BEGIN AT 6PM, ON EITHER MONDAY 21st OR MONDAY 28th FEBRUARY 2022 - AS AGREED AT THE PREVIOUS MEETING - MIN. 38 REFERS

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

Members unanimously **AGREED** to host an Online Community Open Forum Meeting on Monday 21st February 2022 at 6pm.

72. BOGNOR REGIS IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP - CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS IN THE NOTES OF THE NON-QUORATE MEETING HELD ON THE 11th JANUARY 2022

The Projects Officer's report, including the notes of the non-quorate Meeting of the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group held on 11th January 2022, was **NOTED**.

72.1 Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** to earmark £100 from the 2021/22 Environmental Projects budget for purchasing plants to be planted at Victoria Road South car park, if the project is not completed by the end of March 2022.

72.2 Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** to earmark £305.48 from the Environmental Projects budget to be set-aside for replacement or vandalism of any plants through the year.

72.3 Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** expenditure of £26.26 from the Competition Expenses budget for the Bognor Regis in Bloom Awards Evening.

72.4 Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** expenditure totalling £339.69 from the Environmental Projects budget for the Railway Station Christmas Tree.

73. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE ANY COMMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE EDWARD BRYANT SCHOOL, BOGNOR REGIS, CONSULTATION IN RELATION TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SPECIAL SUPPORT CENTRE

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

Members unanimously **AGREED** to respond individually, rather than as a corporate entity, using the online form included in the Projects Officer's report.

74. TO AGREE WHETHER ANY OF THE OUTSTANDING AGENDA ITEMS, AS REPORTED AT THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6th DECEMBER 2021, SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE LIST AND WHICH ITEMS SHOULD CONTINUE TO BE PROGRESSED - MIN. 51.6 REFERS

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

The following is a list of items that were brought to Members attention at the meeting held on 6th December, under Minute 51.6, and it was agreed that these would be brought to this meeting for further consideration:-

74.1 Update on Councillor Training for the use of Defibrillators - 22nd June 2020 - Min. 94.3 refers

Members unanimously **AGREED** to progress with this item.

74.2 Update on consideration to erect notices discouraging the feeding of birds on the Promenade - 22nd June 2020 - Min. 94.4 refers

Members unanimously **DISAGREED** to progress with this item.

74.3 Update on consideration of receiving a presentation from AccessAble - 22nd June 2020 - Min. 94.5 refers

Members unanimously **AGREED** to progress with this item and for it to be included on the next Agenda.

74.4 To consider setting up an Award for Businesses who can demonstrate good practice with regard to recycling and green issues: - 22nd June 2020 - Min. 97.2.3 refers

Members unanimously **AGREED** to progress with this item and for it to be included on the next Agenda.

74.5 To consider investigating the condition of the existing water fountains in the Town to establish if they are suitable for use and to further consider the installation of new fountains - 22nd June 2020 - Min. 97.2.6 refers

Members unanimously **AGREED** to progress with this item.

74.6 Further consideration of a recording booth and associated costs - 12th October 2020 - Min. 107.3 refers

Members unanimously **DISAGREED** to progress with this item.

74.7 Further consideration of the WSCC Initiative around Community Improvements - 12th October 2020 - Min. 107.4 refers

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **DEFER** the decision about whether this item should be progressed until the next Meeting to allow time for the Projects Officer to provide a more detailed report on the WSCC Initiative around Community Improvements.

75. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee **NOTED** receipt of the correspondence list, previously circulated.

A Councillor mentioned a photograph that had been recently circulated on social media of Queen Elizabeth II building sandcastles as a child, whilst on a visit to Bognor Regis. It was suggested that the image could provide a suitable tie-in to the Jubilee Celebrations. The Chairman suggested that this be referred to the next Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 7.24pm