



# **BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

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## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD ON MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022**

### **PRESENT:**

Town Mayor: Cllr. J. Barrett; Cllrs: J. Brooks, Mrs. S. Daniells, S. Goodheart, H. Jones (until Min. 96), Miss. C. Needs, S. Reynolds, W. Smith, M. Stanley, Mrs. J. Warr and B. Waterhouse

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)  
Mrs. J. Davis (Assistant Clerk)  
Mrs. R. Vervecken (Civic & Office Manager)  
Major Matt Butler (part of meeting)  
Cllr. F. Oppler (West Sussex County Councillor) (part of meeting)  
Cllr. K. Greenway (West Sussex County Councillor for Bersted)  
1 member of the public  
1 member of the press

***The Mayor's Chaplain, Major Matt Butler from the Salvation Army, led prayers prior to the Meeting***

***Prior to the Meeting, a minute's silence was held in memory of Barry Jones OBE, who had recently passed away***

***The Meeting opened at 6.52pm***

### **87. WELCOME BY TOWN MAYOR AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Town Mayor welcomed all those present. The Council's opening statement was read, and particular attention was drawn to the evacuation procedure in the event of the fire alarm sounding and the Council's Standing Orders relating to public question time.

The Town Clerk gave apologies for Cllrs. K. Batley who had work commitments, A. Cunard who had a work-related emergency, Mrs. S. Staniforth due to family commitments and P. Woodall due to personal reasons.

No apologies had been received from Cllr. J. Erskine.

**88. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary, Other Registrable and/or Ordinary Interests that they may have in relation to items on this agenda and are reminded that they should redeclare their Interest before consideration of the item or as soon as the Interest becomes apparent and if not previously included on their Register of Interests to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

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 leave the meeting for the discussion and vote
- e) if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary or Other Registrable Interest, and therefore must leave the room 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. Mrs. Daniells declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda items 25 and 28 as an employee of the Picturedrome Cinema***

***Cllr. Reynolds declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda items 25 and 28, as an employee of the Picturedrome Cinema***

**89. TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AND WELCOME A REPRESENTATIVE FROM SUSSEX POLICE TO PROVIDE A REPORT ON LOCAL POLICING (IF AVAILABLE)**

The Town Clerk reported that no representative was able to be present and unfortunately no written report had been received either. It was not, therefore, necessary to adjourn the meeting.

A Councillor expressed disappointment that Sussex Police have not been sending representatives, nor providing any local policing updates at Council

meetings, on a regular basis. Cllr. Greenway, who was present in the public gallery, showed sympathy, noting that Bersted Parish Council had experienced the same problems. The Parish Council had been advised to make contact if they had any specific questions.

The Town Clerk confirmed the importance of these updates had been made clear to Sussex Police and will ensure Councillors' disappointment at the lack of communication is impressed upon them.

**90. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022**

The Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were **APPROVED** by the Council as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**91. REPORTS FROM WSCC COUNTY AND ADC DISTRICT COUNCILLORS (IF AVAILABLE)**

The written report from Cllr. Patel (WSCC for Bognor Regis West and Aldwick), was read by the Town Clerk and was **NOTED**.

Cllr. Oppler (West Sussex County Councillor for Bognor Regis East), briefed Members on the updated proposals for the redevelopment of the Alexandra Theatre, following the consultant addressing ADC Councillors, at a recent Committee meeting. The 'vision' unveiled for the Theatre, as part of these plans, was not looked upon favourably by the ADC Committee Members nor the Leader of the District Council and did certainly not entail all that was originally promised. Cllr. Oppler, along with Town Councillors present at the meeting, expressed huge concern over what the next stage of the project will be and questioned the value for money for the residents of the Town, with the development costing in the region of £15 million. Discussion was held on the desperate need for a 'corridor', linking the Town Centre to the seafront, and these proposals, were not indicative of this. Those present stressed the importance of the seafront needing a major attraction to entice visitors. Cllr. Oppler asked Members to consider putting pressure on ADC to ensure the Town is delivered what it's been promised for many years.

The WSCC Councillor went on to convey his disappointment that the ice rink will not be on the Place St Maur, nor the Regis Centre car park this year, but instead, is planned to be in situ in the lorry car park in London Road. He and Councillors present discussed the importance of the ice rink for drawing crowds into the Town Centre each Christmas, and comment was made on the vast investment made by the Town Council in the new Christmas lighting display, which along with a thriving ice rink in the Town Centre, would have provided a fantastic focal point for 'Christmas in Bognor Regis'. Cllr. Oppler believed ADC had informed the ice rink organisers that the Place St Maur, despite being redeveloped for its primary purpose as an 'outdoor event space', was not suitable to house the ice rink. With ADC further insisting the Regis Centre car park, which sited the rink last year, was also not an option,

the WSCC Councillor and Members present, expressed their frustration that this will affect Town Centre businesses, who rely on the major attraction of the ice rink to draw people into Bognor Regis.

Concern was raised by one Councillor, as to the ease of access of the lorry park, compared to the Place St Maur, which is flat, central to the town and within a short distance to most local residents. The venue previously had made wheelchair access simple, and the Councillor was concerned the change in venue would make what should be an enjoyable activity for all, that much harder to access.

Councillors unanimously concurred with the opinions expressed, and frustrations that ADC had reassured the Town Council and the public throughout the Place St Maur project, that the site would be suitable for outdoor events, which seemingly, is now not the case.

Cllr. Keir Greenway (West Sussex County Councillor for Bersted) updated Members on his work to resolve traffic issues in West Meads Drive, and Chalcraft Lane, including his efforts to get speed cushions installed following complaints from residents that speeding around these roads is getting 'worse by the day'. Cllr. Greenway will ensure he updates Members on any progress.

Unauthorised parking outside schools in the Bersted division, is also a problem, with Cllr. Greenway confirming to Members that he had written to WSCC on the unsatisfactory regulating of this, which not only causes problems for other drivers needing to use these roads at school times, but also causes potentially dangerous hazards, particularly at Nyewood and Bersted Green Schools, where parking on the zig zag lines is a persistently reported problem.

Finally, the WSCC Councillor told Members of the recent Bognor Regis Action Group (BRAG) meetings, organised by Danny Dawes, which act as a useful community network. He is also working with Bognor Regis BID, following an expression of interest from an artist to increase the level of art in the Town.

## **92. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

There were no written questions from Councillors.

## **93. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS**

***The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 7.07pm***

Further to the earlier discussion on the ice rink, a member of the public, seated in the gallery, expressed his concern at the new location proposed for the ice rink this year. Considering the national footfall figures of people shopping in their Town Centre has been dwindling, since the pandemic, the local business owner was dismayed at why ADC are not supporting the local economy by ensuring such an attraction is being delivered in the heart of

the Town. Particularly as so much money has been invested on enhancing the Christmas experience this year, with the Town Council funding a costly new lighting display. The member of the public went on to explain that many local business owners concurred with his feelings on this and thought it only courteous for ADC to have discussed this potential move with stakeholders such as the Bognor Regis BID and local business owners, before making such a drastic decision, which will affect so many.

***The Chairman reconvened the Meeting at 7.12pm***

**94. TO CONSIDER ANY WRITTEN DISPENSATION REQUESTS RECEIVED FROM TOWN COUNCILLORS**

There were no written dispensation requests received from Town Councillors.

**95. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS, MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES (OTHER THAN ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA)**

**96. Policy and Resources Committee Meeting of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and the Extraordinary Meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> October (if available)**

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Waterhouse reported.

Members **NOTED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of 31<sup>st</sup> October were not yet available, and these will therefore be presented to the next Council Meeting in January 2023.

***Cllr. Jones left the Meeting***

**96.1 Min. 65 - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - Adoption of updated documents, including: - Equality Policy Statement; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy (new); and Modern Slavery Policy (new)**

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to adopt the Equality Policy Statement; Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and Modern Slavery Policy.

**96.2 Min 55.1 – 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - Terms of Reference for the Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee**

The Town Clerk reminded Members that comments for consideration for the Terms of Reference meeting with Pete Cooper on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm, needed to be received by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November. It was clarified that this review was for all the Terms of Reference.

**96.3 Min. 55.3 - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 – Fisherman’s Huts**

The Chairman recalled for those who were not present at this meeting, issues ADC were experiencing with getting responses from the Fisherman’s Association in a timely manner. A Councillor reasoned delays could be due to historic issues with the site, with another Councillor confirming that since the meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> September, contact had been established.

**96.4 Min. 57 - 26<sup>th</sup> September 2022 - To consider a request from a member of the public that the Town Council look at ways to reduce the precept 2023/24 in light of the cost-of-living crisis**

The Chairman advised Members that meetings were underway regarding this request, in preparation for recommendations to the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

**97. Community Engagement and Environment Committee Meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Smith reported.

**97.1 Min. 38 - Adjournment for public questions and statements**

A Councillor asked Cllr. Smith for clarification on what support the Town Council are currently giving to youth provision and activities in the Town.

Cllr. Smith confirmed that a lot of the discussions at the meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022, centred around youth provision, with the Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre in Westloats Lane recently having put on half term activities, which were attended by over 300 youths, throughout the week. The Chairman confirmed the Committee had been involved with these events, which had been extremely well received.

Another Councillor asked the Chairman whether the same level of funding and support is being considered for mental health services within the Town. The Chairman confirmed that this was not currently the case, and that no approach has been made from any organisation regarding this. If an approach was made, then this could be further investigated, via the Community Engagement and Environment Committee.

**98. Planning and Licensing Committee Meetings of 11<sup>th</sup> October and 1<sup>st</sup> November 2022**

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Mrs. Warr reported.

The Town Clerk informed Members that the meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> November did not go ahead, due to not being quorate. Members of the Planning and Licensing Committee will instead be canvassed for their opinion on the applications on the Lists dated between 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022, and corresponding comments will be submitted to Arun District Council by the Town Clerk under their Delegated Authority.

A Councillor queried whether the electric charging points for Wood Street would be discussed via the Town Council, following several complaints from residents of Wood Street over the proposals. The Committee Clerk of the Planning and Licensing Committee confirmed that the consultation for Wood Street has been received and will be taken to the next Planning and Licensing Committee meeting for discussion, on 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2022.

Councillors discussed the possible reasoning behind the decision to propose Wood Street as an appropriate location, with many suggesting a car park, in the Town Centre would have been more sensible.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Clerk asked any Councillor receiving emails of concern from Wood Street residents, to please forward these to her, to enable all correspondence to be considered by Members, when discussing this application.

**99. Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee Meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Brooks reported.

**99.1 Min. 37.1 - Update on Promenade Bandstand wind shields - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

A Member asked whether the proposal for hiring out the Town Council's wind shields for the bandstand was going ahead, following a letter sent by the Projects Officer, advising ADC of the deposit cost of hiring these at £350. Cllr. Brooks confirmed the idea was still going forward but queried the amount stipulated for the deposit.

**99.2 Min. 37.3 - Update on new poster sites on the Promenade - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Cllr. Brooks expressed his disappointment that ADC are not helping to quickly progress the use of potential additional poster sites at the shelters, further to being advised that this would require licensing from Property & Estates, with potential agreement needed from Foreshores.

**100. TO FORMALLY RECEIVE THE MINUTES, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEES, AND REFER ANY SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS DECIDED UPON DURING THE MEETING BACK TO THE RELEVANT COMMITTEE, AND RATIFY ANY COMMITTEE ACTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY**

The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to 'formally receive the reports, Minutes and recommendations of the Committee, and refer any suggested amendments decided upon at this meeting back to the relevant Committee'.

**101. TO NOTE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS AND TRANSFERS MADE IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER 2022 AND TO NOTE THE BALANCES, BANK RECONCILIATIONS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS (OCTOBER NOT YET AVAILABLE) AND OUTTURN AND APPROVAL OF THE CONTENTS AND THEIR PUBLICATION**

The Council unanimously **RESOLVED** 'to note the payments and transfers made in August and September 2022 and to note the balances, bank reconciliations and financial reports (October not yet available) and outturn and approval of the contents and their publication'.

**102. NOTICE OF MOTION (S.O. 9.0) PROPOSED BY CLLR. M. STANLEY**

*"This motion instructs officers to engage with students at The Regis School and Felpham Community College with a view to producing a comprehensive report on what young people would like to see regarding youth provision within the Town. The aim of this work is to better understand what the needs of young people are within the 5 wards of Bognor Regis, then the Town Council's funding can be specifically targeted to support projects within these areas that meet these needs."*

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

Cllr. Stanley spoke for his Motion and complimented the work the Town Council has undertaken for the benefit of youth provision, through its various Committees, including the artwork initiative and partnership with CREATE. He explained that since WSCC have been less invested in youth provision in the Town, he felt the direction perhaps needs clarifying, to ensure the Town Council are certain of what support is wanted and needed. Cllr. Stanley suggested as the Town Council has a limited budget for this type of investment, that visits to local schools and youth groups are made possible, to tailor these requirements in the best way possible.

The Chairman of the Community Engagement and Environment Committee stated that this type of consultation is already being implemented through the Youth Provision Steering Group, with representatives onboard who feedback requirements of young people, after liaising directly with them. Cllr. Stanley, however, felt it was important to speak to young people face to face, rather than liaising through teachers and other representatives.

Following the Motion being moved and then seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Daniells, and as the Mayor did not deem the issue as urgent, Members **RESOLVED** to instruct that the issue be placed on the Agenda for the next Community Engagement and Environment Committee Meeting, in accordance with S.O. 9a.

**103. NOTICE OF MOTION (S.O. 9.0) PROPOSED BY CLLR. J. BROOKS**

*"Following our Community Open Forum, we are asking for support on the following: -*

*1. That this Council writes to Arun District Council and requests they hold a comprehensive consultation/exhibition in the Bognor Regis area on the design proposals for the Alexandra Theatre, before the planning application is submitted, in order to gauge support for it and to gain feedback and suggestions from residents, users and visitors.*

*2. In order to ensure the public are fully informed and well versed in the proposals and understand the project, and in the light of its' importance in the area, as a key building, we also ask this Council to support holding a*



*public meeting for interested residents to enable them to be presented with the details of the proposals, ask questions and comment on them, and that we invite the relevant officers from Arun to attend along with the Leader of Arun District Council, and a representative from Arun Arts Ltd."*

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

Cllr. Brooks spoke for his Motion, stating that in relation to the first part of the Motion, much disappointment was expressed regarding the new designs, which as alluded to earlier in the meeting, look completely different to the ones originally approved. The most recent proposal includes one large studio with 100 seats; four smaller studios with 60 seats; and up to 386 seats in the auditorium. However, there are currently 357 seats in the theatre, meaning the new designs provide just 29 extra auditorium seats. The initial rationale behind the redevelopment of the Alexandra Theatre was to extend the seating so that high quality acts would be attracted to perform, thereby attracting a wider audience.

With the Motion seconded by Cllr. Stanley, and the Town Mayor deeming the matter as urgent, Members discussed how the original Levelling Up Fund bid spoke of 2,700 square metres of additional floor space. Instead, the most recent proposals presented provide just over 2,700 square metres in total.

It is understood that Regeneration consultant Neil Taylor has promised to present costings for extra seating back to Arun Councillors and that architects are now looking to amend the designs for the project.

Since new designs are forthcoming and bearing in mind the difference of what has been presented by consultants thus far, in comparison to what was originally promised for the Alexandra Theatre, Councillors present unanimously **AGREED** that officers should write to ADC, requesting a consultation/exhibition in the Bognor Regis area on the design proposals for the Alexandra Theatre.

Regarding the second part of the Motion, Members unanimously **AGREED** that Bognor Regis Town Council should lead in arranging a public meeting whereby interested parties would be presented with the details of the amended design proposals. With an invitation to be extended to the relevant officers from Arun to attend, along with the Leader of Arun District Council, and a representative from Arun Arts Company Ltd.

Members felt that such a meeting would ensure the public are fully informed and well versed in the proposals for this key building of such significant importance in the area and provide an opportunity to gauge support for it and to gain feedback and suggestions from residents, users and visitors.

Members commented that although the requirement of the Levelling Up Fund is that works to the Alexandra Theatre must be completed in 2025, after waiting for over 40 years for such investment here, that the money would not be withdrawn at this stage and therefore, were of the opinion that there

is time to carry out meaningful engagement with residents of Bognor Regis, ensuring they are given the chance to be consulted on the amended design proposals that are to be presented.

**104. TO NOTE THE EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATE AND REPORT YEAR ENDING 31<sup>st</sup> MARCH 2022 ACCOUNTS AND CONSIDER ANY ACTION IF REQUIRED**

Following the Town Clerk's report, receipt of the External Auditor's Certificate and Report were **NOTED**. Members further **NOTED** that on the basis of their review of Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR), in their opinion the information in Sections 1 and 2 of the AGAR is in accordance with Proper Practices and no other matters have come to their attention giving cause for concern that relevant legislation and regulatory requirements have not been met.

**105. DELEGATED DECISIONS INCLUDING: PLANNING AND LICENSING**

The Town Clerk's report and relating appendix was **NOTED**.

**106. PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE - TO CONSIDER ANY APPOINTMENT TO FILL THE CURRENT VACANCY - MIN. 80 REFERS**

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

***Cllr. Waterhouse left the Meeting***

Cllr. Stanley confirmed to Members that due to the earlier start time of these meetings, he would be standing down as a Committee Member, therefore leaving a vacancy to be filled.

***Cllr. Waterhouse returned to the Meeting***

Members discussed whether online meetings would be easier for Members to take part in, particularly at the earlier time of 4pm, as had recently been implemented.

***Cllr. Reynolds left the Meeting***

The Town Clerk confirmed that it is currently illegal for Council meetings to take place online, although this is under review at Government level.

***Cllr. Reynolds returned to the Meeting and Cllr. Smith left the Meeting***

No nominations were received to fill the vacancy at this time.

***Cllr. Smith returned to the Meeting***

**107. TO NOTE THAT THE TOWN COUNCIL'S COMMUNITY WINTER RESILIENCE PLAN HAS BEEN UPDATED, AND SUBMITTED TO WSCC, FOR 2022/23**

The Town Clerk's report and relating appendix was **NOTED**.

**108. OUTSIDE BODIES INCLUDING: - TO APPOINT A NEW BRTC REPRESENTATIVE TO THE BOGNOR REGIS TOWN CENTRE FORUM; TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BRTC REPRESENTATION TO THE BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION BOARD - MIN. 81.2 REFERS**

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

**108.1 To appoint a new BRTC representative to the Bognor Regis Town Centre Forum**

After discussion on the various stakeholders involved in the Bognor Regis Town Centre Forum, Cllr. Brooks volunteered to be the representative for the Town Council.

The Clerk clarified that Cllr. Stanley filled the role, which he had now stood down from, whilst he was Chairman of the Policy and Resource Committee and suggested it therefore might be useful if the current Chairman of that Committee, Cllr. Waterhouse, consider filling the position.

With this in mind, Cllr. Brooks withdrew himself from consideration and Members **AGREED** Cllr. Waterhouse should be the Town Council representative on this Forum.

**108.2 To receive an update on BRTC representation to the Bognor Regis Regeneration Board - Min. 81.2 refers**

It was **NOTED** that the current representative, Cllr. Erskine had provided reassurance he would regularly attend these meetings and had been present at the last meeting of the Bognor Regis Regeneration Board on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2022, along with the Town Clerk.

**109. TO CONSIDER CHANGING THE DATE OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD 28<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AND AGREE THE NEW DATE OF THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022**

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to change the date of the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting scheduled to be held 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022 and further **AGREED** the new date of Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 6.30pm.

**110. REGENERATION INCLUDING: TO NOTE THE PUBLICATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 (IF AVAILABLE)**

The Town Clerk's report which advised that the Minutes of the last meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October were not yet available and would be noted at the next meeting, was **NOTED**.

Councillors present shared the concerns expressed earlier in the meeting by members of the public seated in the gallery, regarding relocating the ice rink away from the seafront area (i.e. Place St Maur and The Regis Centre Car Park) and how this would draw people away from the Town Centre with the potential to decrease the footfall for retail and hospitality providers, who are still recovering from covid lockdowns and now the fallout from the cost of living crisis. There was a sense of frustration that crowds will be drawn up to the ice rink in London Road Lorry Park, and the event running in conjunction in Hotham Park, when the Town Council have just doubled their spending on Christmas Illuminations in the Town Centre for this year (and the next two years).

Councillors understood ice rink operator Coles, had concerns about the suitability of installing the ice rink on Place St Maur since the site has been redeveloped. Councillors believed reasons for this included the lack of anchor points, concern about the materials used on Place St Maur and the infrastructure related to the water jets. Understandably, the operator may have been concerned that their vehicles would cause damage to the area and that they would subsequently be held liable for any repairs. For these reasons, Members could understand why Coles may be in favour of using the London Road Lorry Park instead this year, as disappointing as this was.

Throughout the regeneration process of Place St Maur, many dual-hatted Town Councillors sought assurances from Officers at Arun that the re-design of Place St Maur would make provision for the ice rink to be located there, to which a positive response was given.

Some Members also reported that organisers of the Southdowns Music Festival were asked to remove marquees from the Place St Maur because of concerns expressed by Arun.

Further to this, Members were of the opinion that what is being delivered at Place St Maur is not what was promised by Arun in providing an outdoor event space through the regeneration of the site.

One Councillor suggested that Coles requested to install the ice rink on the Regis Centre Car Park this year, as they did last year, but that this request was declined by Arun District Council, possibly because, at the time, The Regis Centre Car Park was supposed to be being utilised to store building materials ahead of the regeneration work to the Alexandra Theatre, but as this work is not programmed to begin until Spring 2023, Members believed it

would seem the reasons given for not using the Regis Centre Car Park are no longer valid.

Members **AGREED** the Town Clerk should write a letter to ADC, seeking explanation as to why, when every assurance was given that consideration of installing the rink on Place St Maur would be borne in mind throughout the regeneration process, do we find ourselves in a situation where not only is the area unsuitable for the ice rink but, apparently, also unsuitable for elements of other events such as the Southdowns Music Festival and what barriers there are causing this? Also, clarification on the reasons the rink on the Regis Centre Car Park this year was declined including confirmation on whether the decision to decline Coles' request to use the Regis Centre Car Park this year could be reversed, should they so wish? Finally, the letter should suggest that, whilst it may be too late to rectify the disappointing situation for this year, whereby the ice rink is located outside of the Town Centre, Members would welcome discussions about the location of an ice rink for next year.

#### **111. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT AND DUTIES UNDERTAKEN**

The report on the Mayor's activities was **NOTED**.

#### **112. TOWN CRIER'S REPORT AND DUTIES UNDERTAKEN**

The report on the Town Crier's activities was **NOTED**.

#### **113. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

##### **113.1 Cllr. Mrs. Daniells** – Arun District Association of Local Councils (ADALC); Bognor Regis Heritage & Arts Partnership Board; Bognor Regis Twinning Association; Chamber of Commerce; Southdowns Music Festival; West Sussex ALC Ltd.

In her verbal report, Cllr. Mrs. Daniells sought an update on the possible relocation of the Weil am Rhein bench to a more suitable location. The Assistant Clerk confirmed this proposal has been submitted to ADC, and an update would be provided soon.

She also queried whether there was any progress on the installation of an interpretation board, at the Place St Maur, to further connect Bognor Regis with its twinned town namesake, Saint-Maur-des-Fossés. The Assistant Clerk confirmed that this is currently being discussed by the Bognor Regis Heritage and Arts Partnership, in liaison with ADC, who have agreed in principle to the idea.

Cllr. Mrs. Daniells reported that although the Southdowns Music Festival for 2022 was generally very successful, unfortunately, the ticketed events did not prove so popular. Members were informed that the Festival is therefore likely to have to scale back its programme for 2023.

**113.2 Cllr. Brooks** – Bognor Regis Heritage & Arts Partnership Board; BRTC/ADC Liaison Meetings; Chamber of Commerce.

Cllr. Brooks informed Members of the recent 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Bognor Regis Chamber of Trade (now referred to as Bognor Regis Chamber of Commerce and Industry) and informed those present that he is trying to make contact with any local historians, who may know more about the history of the organisation. Cllr. Brooks asked Members to get in contact, should they have any information.

**114. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

The Committee **NOTED** receipt of correspondence as detailed in the list.

**115. PICTUREDROME SITE UPDATE INCLUDING: DIRECTOR'S REPORT, ANY URGENT ACTIONS TAKEN FOR RATIFICATION**

***Cllrs. Mrs. Daniells and Reynolds redeclared their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and left the Meeting***

Members asked the Town Clerk for any updates on the exterior of the building, which some felt still did not look inviting. The Town Clerk, through her written report, had provided the most up to date information available and further verbally reported on the works done in the past week, as well as works to the disabled access to the building. A new hot water system has also just been installed. The Town Clerk will ask the tenant what imminent works are planned for the exterior of the building, and will email Members any updates, in between meetings. This was **NOTED**.

**115.1 Director's report, any urgent actions taken for ratification**

The previously circulated Director's report was **NOTED**, with the actions taken, and expenditure **RATIFIED**.

**116. TO RESOLVE TO MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (S.O. 3d)**

The Council **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 (S.O. 3.d).

**117. RENT REVIEW OF TOWN FORCE UNIT**

The Town Clerk's confidential report was **NOTED**, as previously circulated to Members.

Members unanimously **AGREED** to give Delegated Authority to the Town Clerk to enquire about a small reduction in the proposed increase. Failing this, the increase in rent was **RESOLVED** to be accepted.

**118. PICTUREDROME SITE – CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Members **NOTED** the proposed monthly budget for 2023 for The Bognor Pier Company Ltd, as appended to the Town Clerk's confidential report and previously circulated to Members.

***The Meeting closed at 8.50pm***