



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE EVENTS, PROMOTION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2021

PRESENT:

Cllrs: Mrs. S. Daniells (left during Min. 42),
S. Reynolds, M. Stanley and P. Woodall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
Mrs. J. Davis (Civic & Office Manager)
Cllr. S. Goodheart in the public gallery
1 member of the public in the public gallery

The Meeting opened at 6.03pm

40. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

In the absence of both the Chairman, Cllr. Batley and Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Brooks, those present **AGREED** that Cllr. Reynolds should be elected as Chairman for this meeting, and he took the Chair.

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Batley due to work commitments and Cllr. Smith due to being unwell.

No apologies had been received from Cllrs. Brooks, Erskine or Mrs. Warr.

41. 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.

Cllr. Mrs. Daniells declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda item 5 as she is a personal friend of the potential recipient of the grant, and she has also publicly agreed to sponsor the event. Cllr. Mrs. Daniells stated that she would not take part in the discussion and would leave the Meeting when Agenda item 5 was discussed. However, she would like to exercise her right to speak on this matter under Public Question Time

Cllr. Stanley declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 in a volunteering capacity as he has supported the organisation of an event by a community group

Cllr. Woodall declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 as he is a volunteer on the Bognor Regis Carnival Association

42. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.07pm

Cllr. Mrs. Daniells confirmed that she fully supports trying to continue with the event, funding the event, and giving some money over to the public. However, she would not be voting on this for the reasons already given.

Cllr. Mrs. Daniells redeclared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest then left the room and did not return to the Meeting

A member of the public requested that the idea of the generic posters on the seafront be brought back to the next meeting for further discussion.

The original concept of the generic posters was to advertise attractions that could not be seen from the promenade such as Hotham Park, the Picturedrome, Marine Park Gardens and the West End, these would then be temporarily covered with events posters and then removed after the event so that there would always be something attractive there to look at. He also advised that two of the poster sites had been empty for some time and he queried whether the Council had any spare posters that could be put up. The Clerk advised that this would be investigated, and the matter would be referred back to the next meeting.

Cllr. Goodheart suggested that Members consider the inclusion of Billy Bulb in the activities as part of their discussions this evening for the event.

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting at 6.10pm

43. TO RESOLVE TO SUSPEND STANDING ORDERS TO CONSIDER REVISITING PREVIOUS DECISION (S.O. 7a) REGARDING EARMARKING THE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON BUDGET FOR 2021 (MIN. 39 REFERS)

The Committee **RESOLVED** to Suspend Standing Orders (S.O. 7a refers) to consider revisiting the previous decision regarding earmarking the Christmas Lights Switch-On budget for 2021 - Min. 39 refers.

Members **RESOLVED** to further consider their previous decision and Standing Orders were therefore reinstated.

44. NOTICE OF SPECIAL MOTION (S.O. 9) SIGNED BY CLLRS: STANLEY, MRS. WARR, MRS. DANIELLS AND BROOKS

44.1 *"That this Committee consider rescinding the previous decision to earmark the Christmas Lights Switch-On budget for 2021 (Min. 39 refers) to allow for consideration to be given to awarding grant funding to a Community Group for an independent alternative Christmas event for this year from this budget, subject to a proposal being received and the necessary permissions being granted by WSCC/ADC".*

A Member spoke to the proposal. He confirmed that the four Councillors signing the Special Motion were in support of the decision made at the Extraordinary Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee Meeting. However, following the community feedback, those four Councillors and Cllrs. Goodheart and Woodall independent of the Town Council entered into discussions with others about holding an event in the community and offered to help out to progress this as volunteers and not as Town Councillors.

With agreement for the previous decision to earmark the Christmas Lights Switch-On Budget for 2021 to be rescinded, the following proposal was then put forward: -

That this Committee resolves to utilise the original £3,500 budget for the Christmas Switch-On Event in the following way:

To award £3,000 to the Bognor Regis Carnival Committee to arrange a Switch-On Event to be held before 12th December 2021. If no event is arranged the funds are to be returned and utilised to enhance the 2022 Switch-On Event;

To delegate authority to the Town Clerk to arrange an alternative timing for the Christmas Lights Switch-On for 27th November 2021, to be done in consultation with the Bognor Regis Carnival Committee up to the sum of £500.

This was duly seconded, and it was unanimously **RESOLVED**.

- 44.2** Members discussed the inclusion of Billy Bulb in the event. The Clerk reported that as previously advised, the Insurers will only allow the mascot to be used at events if it is manned all the time for the duration of the event as there is no cover if it is left unsupervised. A Member queried whether this can be done on a rota basis, or did it need to be one named person? It was also queried whether the area around the mascot could be fenced off as an alternative to personal supervision for the duration of the event. The Clerk confirmed that she would need to liaise with the Insurers to clarify the position as it was her duty to ensure that the Council was protected from any potential claim.

The Clerk would liaise with the Carnival Committee further regarding the timing of the Christmas Lights Switch-On and the position with inclusion of Billy Bulb at the event once clarification was sought from the Insurers.

The Meeting closed at 6.19pm