



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 19th APRIL 2022

PRESENT:

Cllr. W. Smith (Chairman); Cllrs. J. Barrett,
J. Brooks, A. Cunard, Mrs. S. Staniforth,
M. Stanley and Mrs. J. Warr

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mr. M. Hall (Projects Officer)
Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk) in the public
gallery
Cllr. S. Goodheart in the public gallery
1 member of the public in the public gallery

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

97. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies had been received from Cllr. Miss. C. Needs who was on annual leave.

No apologies had been received from Cllr. H. Jones.

98. 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 no were declarations of Interest

99. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.32pm

The Chairman invited members of the public the opportunity to raise any questions or statements they wished to make.

A member of the public introduced themselves to the Committee and stated that he would be representing Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre in Westloats Lane following their request for funding. He gave apologies on behalf of the Trustees Chairman who was on annual leave and the Centre Manager who was unwell.

With the decision from West Sussex County Council to withdraw Youth Services from Bognor Regis, the member of the public spoke of the need to provide a consistent provision for young people in Bognor Regis and hoped that this Committee would support the request.

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting at 6.35 pm

100. TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM BOGNOR REGIS YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTLOATS LANE

The Chairman informed the Committee that several trustees and the manager of Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre had contacted him on this matter, with their hopes of providing a wide range of services to young people in Bognor Regis. At present the Community Centre have the ownership of the building, however they require funds quickly in order to offer services over the summer. They are requesting a sum of £5,000 from this Committee, which could help address the multiple issues facing young people, such as anti-social behaviour.

Members were reminded by the Chairman of their support for youth provision as per the Community Engagement and Environment Committee Meeting held on 6th December 2021 – Min. 53. refers, whereby Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** in **PRINCIPLE** to exploring possibilities and further opportunities to support youth provision for Bognor Regis. This decision in principle awarded £10,000 to Sussex Clubs for Young People, to which Sussex Clubs for Young People would seek match-funding.

The Chairman advised that he had been in contact with Sussex Clubs for Young People's Chief Executive, Chris Cook who stated the decision of match-funding will not be known until summer 2022 and that should Members wish to support this request, he would be supportive of that, as the funds are not needed immediately. In addition, the Chairman stated that he had approached the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee to potentially secure funds from unspent reserves.

The representative of Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre was thanked for the information provided to the Committee, but Members stated that given the importance of this project, they would have liked to have seen a larger representation at the meeting from those involved. Additionally, Members questioned whether this was the correct route to secure funds and that other applications for large funding requests require significant information in the first instance before being presented to a Committee.

Members suggested conditions such as full DBS checks, financial records, Health & Safety, Risk Assessments, as well as staggering the payments could be imposed should the Town Council be minded to support the request for funding to ensure that all statutory requirements are adhered to. In keeping with other applications that receive financial funds to this level from the Town Council, it was proposed that a member of this Committee should be appointed to attend future Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre meetings as part of the agreement.

A Member raised concerns in funding this request from the £10,000 that had been agreed in principle for Sussex Clubs for Young People, to which the Chairman reiterated that their Chief Executive, Chris Cook had advised he supports this request and is happy for some of this funding to be released in the interim. The Chairman also confirmed that any recommendation regarding funding would need to be presented to the Extraordinary Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to be held on 25th April 2022 to establish whether any alternative funding to the £10,000 might be available to support this request.

A Member stated that the location of the Bognor Regis Community Centre is in an optimal position within the community so that the proposed services can engage with young people, which was echoed by other Members as young people use the surrounding field.

Members AGREED to suspend Standing Orders and the Chairman adjourned the Meeting to allow Cllr. Goodheart to speak from the public gallery

As one of the new Trustees of the Centre, Cllr. Goodheart, wanted to voice his thanks to the Members for considering this request and spoke of the significance this venue has provided to the community over the years.

Standing Orders were reinstated and the Meeting reconvened

The Chairman addressed the issues regarding the apparent lack of representatives attending from Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre, as some were on annual leave or unwell, and the fact the request has been swift due to West Sussex County Council's decision to cease the Youth Services. He also stated that he had been invited to the Board of Trustees AGM Meeting to be held on Thursday 21st April 2022 at 6.30pm, and that should another Member wish to attend the Chairman would step down.

Members discussed this and **AGREED** that Cllr. Mrs. S. Staniforth would attend in place of the Chairman and be the appointed representative from the Committee.

Members then discussed the significance of DBS checks when submitting applications especially when involving staff working with young people. As this request did not come through the Grant Aid application process no check has been carried out confirming DBS checks are in place. Members spoke of stipulating that if funds are to be agreed upon, all Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre staff working with young people must have a full enhanced DBS check performed. Furthermore, it was discussed that in addition to checks regarding safeguarding young people, it was discussed that proper statutory checks for the maintenance (Health & Safety, Fire Safety etc) of the building should also be supplied.

As a result of the discussion, it was **AGREED** that the following recommendation be made to the Policy and Resources Committee for consideration: -

Members **RESOLVED** to **RECOMMEND** as follows: -

- To support the Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre with a grant to the value of £5,000
- The grant is to be released in two parts, 50% upon receipt of the Child Safeguarding Policy and confirmation that enhanced DBS Checks for all staff in contact with young people have been undertaken

- Agreement by the trustees that a Member of the Community Engagement and Environment Committee be appointed as a non-participating observer of the Board.
- The remaining balance to be released within 6 months, upon sight of up-to-date financial records and confirmation that all statutory obligations are being met in relation to the building including Health & Safety, Fire Safety, Risk Assessments, and Environmental Health.

Cllr. Cunard abstained from the vote.

Members further **RESOLVED** to request that the Policy and Resources Committee identify additional funding to enable the Committee to support this request at the Extraordinary Meeting to be held on 25th April 2022.

The Meeting closed at 7.20pm