



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 25th APRIL 2022

PRESENT:

Cllr. B. Waterhouse (Chairman); Cllrs. J. Barrett,
J. Erskine, S. Goodheart (until Min. 163),
S. Reynolds, Mrs. J. Warr and P. Woodall (until Min.
163)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
Mrs. R. Vervecken (Civic & Office Manager)
1 Councillor in the public gallery: Cllr. J. Brooks
3 members of the public in the public gallery

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

158. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Cunard, due to work commitments. No apologies were received from Cllr. Jones.

159. 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. Erskine declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 as a Trustee of the Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre and stated he would take part in the discussion, but would not vote on this item

Cllr. Goodheart declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 4 owing to any discussion relating to Rox Music & Arts Charity and stated he would leave the Meeting when this item was discussed. Cllr. Goodheart also declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 as a Trustee of the Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre and stated he would take part in the discussion, but would not vote on this item

Cllr. Woodall declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 4 owing to any discussion relating to Bognor Regis Carnival Association and stated he would leave the Meeting when this item was discussed

160. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND STATEMENTS

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.40pm

A member of the public, who is also Secretary of the Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre, expressed his gratitude to the Town Council, for their support of and attention to youth projects, and the need for more provision of these for young people in the Town. He also implied that he was happy to answer any questions the Committee may have, concerning the work of the Youth Centre.

The same member of the public also commented on the ADC Masterplan and the need for the Town Council to submit their own ideas to ADC, for consideration. Disappointment was expressed that there had not been more progress on regeneration in the Town, despite many ideas having been presented to the District Council. The member of the public felt that the £12 million funding was not enough and that if ADC utilised some of the project ideas put forward and the money these would generate, this would provide some significant funding for making progress on other regeneration projects in Bognor Regis such as at the Pier.

Another member of the public spoke in support of the Rox Music & Arts Charity's application for match-funding, to be discussed during Agenda item 4 and the boost their proposal would give to the Town.

The Town Clerk clarified to a Councillor in the public gallery that half of the £25K match-funding, provided to the Town Council by ADC is to be spent on the 2022 Christmas projections, as was discussed at a recent Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee Meeting.

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting at 6.51pm

161. It was **RESOLVED** to vary the order of business and move Agenda item 4 to the last item to take account of the declarations of Interest declared by Cllrs. Goodheart and Woodall - S.O. 10(a)(vi).

162. TO CONSIDER ANY RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE EXTRAORDINARY COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19th APRIL 2022 IN CONNECTION WITH A REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM BOGNOR REGIS YOUTH AND COMMUNITY CENTRE WESTLOATS LANE

The Town Clerk's report detailing the recommendation from the Community Engagement and Environment Committee to support the Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre with a grant to the value of £5,000 subject to certain conditions was **NOTED**.

Members discussed the need for further youth provision in the Town and the positive effect this could have in reducing anti-social behaviour. Through the Chair, the Town Clerk confirmed that there is an underspend in the Town Council's 2021/22 budget, which if Members were inclined to support this proposal, could be used to fund this grant.

Following further discussion, Members **RESOLVED** that subject to the conditions previously identified by the Community Engagement and Environment Committee being met, £5,000 should be awarded to the Bognor Regis Youth and Community Centre from the 2021/22 budget underspends identified by the Clerk.

Cllrs. Erskine and Goodheart redeclared their Ordinary Interest in the above item and did not take part in the vote

163. TO CONSIDER HOLDING A FACILITATED MEMBERS BRIEFING TO DISCUSS THE EXISTING ADC MASTERPLAN FOR BOGNOR REGIS AND POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF A BRTC LED TOWN CENTRE VISION

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

Members spoke in favour of a BRTC led Town Centre Vision, and the need for ADC to work collaboratively with the Town Council and other stakeholders, so everyone understands the collective 'vision' for the Town

and progress on regeneration projects is pushed forward. Members spoke of the need for clarity on the current ADC Masterplan, and what it means in practical terms and the chance to discuss this in further detail was welcomed. Discussion was also held relating to the WSCC allocation of £431,000 public realm money, for improvements at The Esplanade to link with other investments being made to the Town.

The Chairman sought Members agreement to invite Ms. Rebecca White, Executive Director of the Bognor Regis Regeneration Board (BRRB), who was seated in the public gallery to speak on this item. This was agreed.

Ms. White thanked the Chairman for the opportunity to speak and confirmed that she would forward the Town Clerk the current ADC Masterplan (short and long version) and the report with information on the WSCC public realm improvements to The Esplanade, for Members information. Ms. White further reported that ADC have committed funding to create a new vision, they are not going back to the drawing board and will review the existing Masterplan. At a recent Town Centre Forum meeting, she had consulted with each member present, as well as members of the public at the Town Council's Annual Town Meeting of Electors and around 60 businesses from the Bognor Regis BID, to gain 'key points' to be forwarded to ADC, to help formulate the Town Centre Vision. Ms. White expressed the need for the Town Council to do the same, at this early stage in the process, to ensure all stakeholders are pushing their collective views on the District Council.

The Town Clerk informed Members that Professor Dave Cooper, Head of Business School at the University of Chichester, had kindly offered to assist with this process and had suggested a meeting date of Wednesday 18th May 2022 for initial discussions with Members.

Following further discussion, Members unanimously **AGREED** to hold a facilitated Members Briefing to discuss the existing ADC Masterplan for Bognor Regis and the potential development of a BRTC led Town Centre Vision. Professor Dave Cooper and Ms. Rebecca White will assist with facilitating the Briefing to be held on 18th May 2022.

NOTE: It has since been established that this date clashes with the Annual Council Meeting at ADC. An alternative date is now being sought

Cllr. Goodheart redeclared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 4 owing to any discussion relating to Rox Music & Arts Charity and left the Meeting

Cllr. Woodall redeclared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 4 owing to any discussion relating to Bognor Regis Carnival Association and left the Meeting

164. TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED IN LINE WITH THE CRITERIA AND CONDITIONS SET BY THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO ADC MATCH-FUNDING FOR EVENTS SUPPORTED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL'S GRANT AID PROCESS - MIN. 156 REFERS

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

Following the Extraordinary Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 5th April 2022, the Town Clerk wrote to the three organisations that had been identified by Members, as being potential recipients of a share of the £12.5K match-funding that had become available, detailing the agreed criteria to be met, for the organisations to be considered.

With a closing date of Friday 22nd April, the three organisations had submitted their applications, with proposals for new elements which, with additional funding, could enhance their events for 2022. The applications were tabled for Members consideration at the meeting.

Following some discussion, Members unanimously **AGREED** the three organisations would receive a share of the £12.5K match-funding, as detailed below and subject to certain conditions: -

Southdowns Music Festival -

The application was considered in some detail and the £500 for security/stewarding identified for each new event was highlighted by the Committee as not fitting within the criteria set. Members therefore agreed these amounts would need to be removed from any award to be made.

Following further discussion, Members unanimously **AGREED** that £5,550 should be awarded to Southdowns Music Festival for the provision of the two additional events, namely the Seafront Music Stage and Southdowns Dance Festival as identified within their application, subject to the following conditions: -

- That this funding is not to be used to fund stewarding or security elements of the events, as per the criteria agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee, which each applicant had been made aware of. This element would therefore need to be covered from other sources of funding and confirmation of this provided.
- That should the event for which the Grant Aid has been awarded as detailed in their application not proceed, the grant must be returned to the Town Council.

Rox Music & Arts -

Members unanimously **AGREED** that £4,000 should be awarded to Rox Music & Arts to enable the organisation to invite Grayson Perry and his wife (or an alternative TV personality should Grayson not be available) to open the art exhibition, subject to the following conditions: -

- That confirmation is provided that Grayson Perry's attendance/appearance (or an alternative TV personality) is focused within the town only, to ensure that this fits within the criteria agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee, which each applicant had been made aware of.
- That should the event for which the Grant Aid has been awarded as detailed in their application not proceed, the grant must be returned to the Town Council.
- One of the other conditions that applies to Grant Aid recipients of awards of £5,000 or over, which with this additional funding will now apply to Rox, is that a non-voting Council representative may be appointed to participate at all meetings that are pertinent to finances. Any nominated representative will therefore be appointed and confirmed after the Annual Town Council meeting, if required.

Bognor Regis Carnival Association -

With the various additions to the event already being planned and funding of these already identified from the Carnival reserves, Members were keen to identify the exact purpose of any award to ensure it fits within the criteria, as it is unclear from the application whether funding would be to facilitate the inclusion of the marching band from Germany or some of the other new elements identified in the application. It was noted that one of the new elements included "Live" music at West Park, which would not fit the criteria as use of any additional funding awarded must be solely used towards any new element of the existing event that is focused within the town only. Members therefore requested that further clarification on the use of the monies should be sought.

Members unanimously **AGREED** that £2,950 should be awarded to the Carnival Association for the provision of new elements to the existing event, subject to the following conditions: -

- That confirmation is provided as to exactly what this funding will be spent on, to ensure that this fits within the criteria agreed by the Policy and Resources Committee, which each applicant had been made aware of.
- That should the event for which the Grant Aid has been awarded as detailed in their application not proceed, the grant must be returned to the Town Council.
- One of the other conditions that applies to Grant Aid recipients of awards of £5,000 or over, which with this additional funding will now apply to Bognor Regis Carnival Association is that a non-voting Council representative may be appointed to participate at all meetings that are pertinent to finances. Any nominated representative will therefore be appointed and confirmed after the Annual Town Council Meeting, if required.

The Meeting closed at 7.30pm