



# **BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

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

**HELD ON MONDAY 10<sup>th</sup> JULY 2023**

### **PRESENT:**

Mayor: Cllr. F. Oppler; Cllrs: J. Barrett, K. Batley, J. Brooks, D. Dawes, R. Nash, Miss. C. Needs, P. Ralph, N. Smith, M. Stanley, Mrs. J. Warr, P. Wells and Mrs. G. Yeates

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)  
Mrs. J. Davis (Assistant Clerk)  
Mrs. R. Vervecken (Civic & Office Manager)  
AC Kraig Melville-Bellwood (Mayor's Cadet) (part of meeting)  
Cllr. S. McDougall (ADC Councillor) (part of meeting)  
3 members of the public (part of meeting)

***The Meeting opened at 6.34pm***

### **38. WELCOME BY MAYOR AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The 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.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Goodheart due to family reasons, Cllr. Waterhouse who was unwell and Cllr. Woodall due to personal reasons.

### **39. 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. Batley declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda items 14 and 16 as an Arun District Councillor***

***Cllr. Brooks declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 16 as an Arun District Councillor***

***Cllr. Nash declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 16 as an Arun District Councillor***

***Cllr. Miss. Needs declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 16 as an Arun District Councillor***

***Cllr. Oppler declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 16 as an Arun District Councillor***

***Cllr. Ralph declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 15 as a Bersted Parish Councillor***

***Cllr. Stanley declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda items 14 and 16 as an Arun District Councillor***

***Cllr. Mrs. Warr declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 16 as an Arun District Councillor***

***Cllr. Wells declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any discussion relating to the Bognor Regis Concert Band as the supplier of their uniforms. He further declared an Ordinary Interest in any discussion relating to the Bognor Regis BID, as a levy payer, as well as any discussion regarding Bognor Regis Pier Trust, as a member of the Trust. Cllr. Wells lastly declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 15 as a Bersted Parish Councillor***

***Cllr. Mrs. Yeates declared an Ordinary interest in Agenda items 14 and 16, as an Arun District Councillor and Agenda item 15 as a Bersted Parish Councillor***

**40. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22<sup>nd</sup> MAY AND THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2023**

The Minutes of the Annual Town Council Meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> May and the Special Council Meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were unanimously **APPROVED** by the Council as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

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

Cllr. Nash addressed Members as a dual-hatted Councillor, reporting on the recent UKSPF meeting held at Arun. Just over £1m UKSPF funding has been secured, and of the 25 projects agreed at the meeting, Cllr. Nash was pleased that a number of these were within the Bognor Regis area. Underspend was also discussed at the meeting, with the potential of using this as part of an 'enterprise education' initiative in secondary schools. Cllr. Nash spoke positively of the meeting, describing it as interesting.

Cllr. McDougall, an ADC Councillor for Pevensy Ward seated in the public gallery, spoke of his displeasure at the previous administration's financial handlings at the District Council. He stated that they had failed to make £2m worth of cuts with, he believed, a further £2m in cuts needing to be made. He described the Housing Revenue account as being in poor order and verging on bankruptcy, in his opinion. As a Member of the Arun's Planning Committee, he also felt that the Local Plan was in disarray but acknowledged that things had been moving along in relation to regeneration sites. Cllr. McDougall expressed his hopes of a more positive four-year term, within the new administration.

The Town Clerk gave a verbal report on behalf of Cllr. Patel, WSCC Councillor for Bognor Regis West and Aldwick. The report advised of an upcoming road closure at Hook Lane to Lower Bognor Road and Pagham Road. West Sussex Fire and Rescue Service are establishing a new Wildlife Prevention Patrol, which aims to minimise fire risks. Lastly, Members were advised that WSCC is investing a further £4.5 million into maintaining the county's highways, following a sharp increase in safety defects and potholes reported by residents.

**42. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS**

There were no questions from Councillors.

**43. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND STATEMENTS*****The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.42pm***

A Member of the public, who had proposed the Resolution made at the Annual Town Meeting of Electors, held on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2023, spoke again of his disappointment with the Regis Centre development, which he didn't believe was 'real' regeneration although it was welcome. He hoped that the current plans for the theatre could be classed as 'phase one', with the possibility of having 'phases two and three', to take improvements further. Comment was made regarding the boarded-up building, which was previously the Brewer's Fayre, and the potential of turning this into a 'boardwalk', to link this and the theatre project together. The member of the public spoke of the 'key' development area being the Hothampton car park and his hopes that the Town Council would support expanding regeneration within the Town.

The same member spoke in favour of his suggestion for asking ADC to conduct a second review of parishing arrangements (as per Agenda item 15) to establish how democratically healthy they are. There has been a sharp increase in unelected Councillors on some Council's within the District, who are able to make large financial decisions, which he stated was a concern. He believed that the public should be consulted about what they want.

Finally, the member of the public commented about the noticeboard situated outside of the Picturedrome Cinema, which was described as being in a poor state, and asked if anything could be done about it.

The Town Clerk read a written question which had been received from a member of the public, concerning plans to close railway ticket offices around the country, including in Bognor Regis. The question sought to ascertain how Town Councillors felt about these proposals, which the member of the public claimed would restrict passengers' access to the best value tickets, worsen passenger services, limit access to disabled, elderly and vulnerable rail passengers, affect safety and security to staff and passengers, and lead to the widespread de-staffing of the country's railway stations.

Members present spoke in agreement with the sentiments expressed, concurring that closing the ticket office would only have a negative impact on the customer experience.

The Town Clerk advised that this would usually be referred to the Community Engagement and Environment Committee for discussion, but due to the current public consultation being held by GTR on these proposals closing on 26<sup>th</sup> July, this subject would be added to the Agenda for the Planning and Licensing Committee meeting to be held next Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> July, for any official comment from BRTC. Any Members interested in discussing this further were encouraged to either make representation as individuals or to attend the Planning Meeting, to which the member of the public who sent the question would also be invited.

Cllr. Wells asked the Town Clerk whether it was possible to review the Town Council's Standing Orders, to allow for any urgent actions, such as this, to be discussed at Council meetings, without the need for referring to the next relevant Committee, which ultimately takes time. The Town Clerk will investigate the feasibility of implementing this for actions deemed urgent and will report back to Members.

Another member of the public requested an Agenda item to be added to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee, to discuss and address the recent closure of banks within Bognor Regis Town Centre. The Town Clerk confirmed that this matter had already been discussed at the last meeting of the Committee, having been referred from the Annual Town Council Meeting. A letter was sent to Barclays and HSBC, who had both announced the closure of their branches in Bognor Regis, expressing the Town Council's discontent at not being consulted with. A further letter was sent to the remaining banks in the Town Centre to ascertain their future plans.

Lastly, a member of the public spoke positively about the management team at The 39 Club who, despite recently closing their doors, were working hard to get the Centre running in some capacity, and looking at grants that they may be able to apply for. He expressed hope that the Town Council will continue to support The 39 Club. Cllr. Batley, who is the Town Council's representative to the club, advised of a meeting he had been invited to attend to discuss their future plans.

***The Chairman thanked the members of the public for their questions and reconvened the Meeting at 7.03pm***

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

There were no written dispensation requests received from Town Councillors.

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

**46. Policy and Resources Committee Meeting of 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr. Waterhouse, the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Wells, reported. There were no recommendations to Council.

**47. Community Engagement and Environment Committee Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Barrett, reported.

**47.1 Min. 7.1 – Recommendation to appoint the following Co-Opted Members to the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group: Mr. P. Dillon, Ms. G. Edom, Mr. E. Fane, Mrs. S. Hamilton Jones, Mrs. M. Huntingdon, Mr. B. Jackson, Mrs. J. Jackson, Mr. J. Jones-McFarland,**

**Ms. P. Keane and Mrs. S. Teverson**

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the following Co-Opted Members to the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group: Mr. P. Dillon, Ms. G. Edom, Mr. E. Fane, Mrs. S. Hamilton Jones, Mrs. M. Huntingdon, Mr. B. Jackson, Mrs. J. Jackson, Mr. J. Jones-McFarland, Ms. P. Keane and Mrs. S. Teverson.

**47.2 Min. 7.2 - Beach and Sea Access Topic Team**

Members discussed the ongoing project of beach access and vented frustration at the lack of progress made in recent years. Hope was expressed that under the new ADC administration, this could be moved forward. Several Councillors spoke of the project undertaken on Worthing seafront, where beach wheelchairs are being hired out for use on a single all-terrain rollator to help disabled residents and visitors access the beach. Cllr. Nash, in his capacity as Chairman of the Environment Committee at ADC, agreed that this provision should be actively looked at by ADC. A fellow dual-hatted Councillor stated that full consultation, in relation to beach access in Bognor Regis, had been carried out by ADC with an Engineer's report presented for consideration. There appeared to have been little progress, despite the consultation findings, and Members hoped that the project would now regain some momentum.

**48. Planning and Licensing Committee Meetings of 23<sup>rd</sup> May and 6<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Mrs. Warr reported. There were no recommendations to Council.

**49. Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee Meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Batley reported. There were no recommendations to Council.

Cllr. Dawes spoke of the success of the Town Council's Drive through Time Motor Gala event, which took place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July and thanked the Events team and Town Force for their hard work. The Mayor, who was in attendance concurred, as did other Councillors present.

**49.1 Min. 13.9 - Further consideration of utilisation of funding to support Bognor Regis Concert Band**

A Councillor expressed disappointment that a meeting with the Bognor Regis Concert Band had not yet taken place. Cllr. Batley confirmed that a meeting would be taking place within the next week and the Mayor further advised that he would soon be meeting the Band in person.

**50. 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'.

**51. TO NOTE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS AND TRANSFERS MADE IN APRIL AND MAY 2023 AND TO NOTE THE BALANCES, BANK RECONCILIATIONS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS (JUNE 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 April and May 2023 and to note the balances, bank reconciliations and financial reports (June not yet available) and outturn and approval of the contents and their publication.

**52. TO CONSIDER PURCHASING A PLAQUE TO COMMEMORATE THE LATE ALDERMAN MRS. PAT STINCHCOMBE - MIN. 5 REFERS**

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

Members spoke highly of the Late Alderman Mrs. Stinchcombe, with many comments made on the important work she had undertaken at both District and Town level and her 'formidable' character, being a lighting beacon for the formation of Bognor Regis Town Council.

It was suggested that, as such an important figure in the community, a local street could be named in Mrs. Stinchcombe's honour with the unnamed highway located directly in front of Bognor Regis Town Hall considered as the perfect place.

Members unanimously **AGREED** a maximum spend of up to £350 for a wooden plaque with a brass engraved plate, on which appropriate wording would be dedicated to Alderman Mrs. Pat Stinchcombe, to be displayed in the Council Chamber at Bognor Regis Town Hall. It was further **AGREED** that the Town Clerk would liaise with Mrs. Stinchcombe's family about the wording and that what was proposed would be circulated to Councillors for approval.

**53. PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE - TO CONSIDER ANY APPOINTMENTS TO FILL THE CURRENT VACANCIES - MIN. 10.1 REFERS**

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

Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the appointments of Cllrs. Ralph and Miss. Needs onto the Planning and Licensing Committee for the remainder of the municipal year 2023/2024.

As there were no other nominations for the remaining vacancy, this will be deferred to the Council Meeting to be held on 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023. Any Members interested in filling this vacancy on the Planning and Licensing Committee are asked to contact the Town Clerk.

**54. TO CONSIDER ANY ADDITIONAL APPOINTMENTS OF REPRESENTATIVES TO 'OUTSIDE' BODIES DEFERRED FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING - MIN. 11 REFERS**

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

**54.1 Arun Partnership Advisory Board - Early Help**

Following the Officer recommendation, and since no further information had yet been received from the Board, Members **AGREED** to **DEFER** the appointment of a Representative to the Arun Partnership Advisory Board Early Help to the Council Meeting in September.

**54.2 Arun District Association of Local Councils (ADALC)**

With no nomination for a second Representative to ADALC forthcoming, Members **AGREED** to **DEFER** the appointment of a second Representative to the Council Meeting in September.

**54.3 Bognor Regis BID Board and Bognor Regis BID Town Centre Task Force Delivery Group**

With a response received from the Bognor Regis BID in time for the meeting, the Town Clerk gave a verbal report following the Town Council's request to consider allowing the appointment of a Town Councillor Representative, alongside the current Officer only representation (Min. 11.3 refers). Members **NOTED** that, on this occasion, the request had been denied and it was agreed that, owing to the lengthy written responses received, these would be circulated by the Clerk to Members for information.

***Cllr. Wells declared an Ordinary Interest as a member of the Bognor Regis Heritage & Arts Partnership Board***

**54.4 Bognor Regis Heritage & Arts Partnership Board**

Although, at the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Cllr. Wells had expressed an interest in being appointed as the Reserve Representative to the Bognor Regis Heritage & Arts Partnership Board (Min. 7.2 refers), he informed Members that he had not yet stepped down from his current position on the Board and, therefore, asked that consideration of his appointment be deferred to the September Council meeting.

**54.5 Rampion 2 Community (Coastal) Project Liaison Project**

Following confirmation that the organisation was agreeable to the Town Council's request, and there being no other nominations, Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the appointment of Cllr. Goodheart as the



reserve Representative to the Rampion 2 Community (Coastal) Project Liaison Group.

**54.6 Stonepillow (Christian Care Association)**

Following an approach by Stonepillow for Cllr. Barrett to become a Representative to the charity for 2023/2024, Members unanimously **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the appointment of Cllr. Barrett, as a Representative to Stonepillow, in addition to the Mayor of Bognor Regis' automatic role as Patron.

**54.7 West Sussex ALC Ltd.**

With no nomination for a Reserve Representative to West Sussex ALC Ltd. forthcoming, Members **AGREED** to **DEFER** the appointment of a second Representative to the Council Meeting in September.

**55. CONSIDERATION OF ANY RESOLUTIONS MADE AT THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS ON 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023**

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

The Chairman invited the Town Clerk to read the Motion as follows:

***"Urges Arun District Council to treat the proposed improvements to the Regis Centre theatre (which are not regeneration) as the first stage of a regeneration process that will take in the rest of the site. The Hothamton Car Park site and other areas (such as a new Medical Centre, The Pier and the local fishing industry) to achieve cultural, economic and social regeneration;***

***Calls on Arun Council to engage with those who submitted regeneration ideas at Arun's request and others to examine their ideas and sources of inward private and other investment in this process;***

***Calls on Arun Council to undertake the public consultation it promised concerning Bognor's Regeneration;***

***Calls on Bognor Regis Town Council also to adopt this Motion and to undertake a Consultation if Arun does not."***

A Member queried how many electors had attended the Annual Electors Meeting, to have voted on this Motion. The Assistant Clerk confirmed there were less than 10 electors present, which although a low turnout, is unfortunately a fairly standard attendance for these meetings.

The Motion was discussed at length with many agreeing that although the Regis Centre redevelopment was not necessarily 'perfect', it was at least taking the Town in the right direction and should be looked at as the first phase of the process. A Member stated that regeneration for the Town was 'moving in the right direction', disagreeing with the statement in the Motion, which said the current proposals were 'not regeneration'.

Some felt that many of the previous regeneration proposals would no longer be feasible due to the Place St Maur development, and that residents want to see progress, not continual consultations or the discussion of old ideas. A Member believed that the consultation carried out in 2015 was comprehensive and that the last thing people wanted to see was another wide-scale consultation, but to see delivery.

Members discussed the news that officers at ADC had been asked to investigate the feasibility of reinstating the old Royal Hall, which had the potential to provide 500-600 additional retractable seats. The Mayor spoke of the Bognor Coastal Arts Trail Exhibition event which he had recently attended. The organisers had commented that the Town was lacking in indoor spaces to display exhibits, with the same comments having been made by the Bognor Regis Arts Society.

Further comments were made by Members on the importance of delivering regeneration projects in a timely and decisive manner, particularly where funding has been granted by the government (such as the Levelling Up fund).

Concerns were raised as to the position of Arun Arts during the project, and where they would be relocated to.

***Cllr. Nash declared an Ordinary Interest as a volunteer to Arun Arts***

A Member reminded those present of the importance of ensuring local community groups, such as Arun Arts, were not faced with huge price increases for using the theatre, once completed.

***Cllr. Stanley redeclared an Ordinary Interest as an Arun District Councillor***

It was proposed, and seconded, that the Resolution simply be noted by Members to allow the Town Council the flexibility to look at other options going along. Following a vote, Members **AGREED** to **NOTE** the Resolution.

**56. CONSIDERATION OF WHETHER TO INCLUDE A RESIDENT'S REQUEST FOR THE TOWN COUNCIL TO ASK ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL TO CONDUCT A REVIEW OF PARISHING ARRANGEMENTS, FOLLOWING THE SMALL NUMBER OF THOSE VOTING IN THE ARUN PARISHES DURING LOCAL ELECTIONS IN MAY 2023 ON A FUTURE AGENDA - MIN. 16 REFERS**

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

***Cllr. Wells redeclared an Ordinary Interest in this Agenda item as a Bersted Parish Councillor***

Further to brief discussion, Members **AGREED** not to include this item on a future agenda.

**57. TO CONSIDER THE APPOINTMENT OF A WORKING PARTY AND ITS MEMBERSHIP, TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF BOGNOR REGIS TOWN HALL**

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

***All dual-hatted Councillors redeclared their Ordinary Interest as an Arun District Councillor***

The Mayor stated that he had sought the advice of the Monitoring Officer at Arun District Council, specifically relating to the setting up of a Working Party and the involvement of dual-hatted Councillors in such discussions. Some fellow dual-hatted Councillors shared their belief that they, and others, should not sit on a Working Party that related to the future of Bognor Regis Town Hall. A Member recommended that the Working Party be a cross-party group.

Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to set up a Working Party to facilitate discussions on the future of Bognor Regis Town Hall.

With no formal approach having yet been made by ADC, the Town Clerk suggested deferring the membership. Following a vote, Members **AGREED** to **DEFER** considering the membership of the Working Party to the September Council Meeting. It was further **NOTED** that if discussions needed to be expedited, an Extraordinary Council Meeting could be called.

**58. MAYOR'S REPORT AND DUTIES UNDERTAKEN**

The Civic & Office Manager's report was **NOTED**.

The Mayor spoke favorably of the Town Council's Drive through Time event, which took place on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> July, having attended in his formal capacity, alongside the Town Crier, and requested his thanks to be passed onto the Events team. He went on to reference other Town Council organised events and paid tribute to the multi-talented staff involved.

The Deputy Mayor spoke of her enjoyment of the four events she'd attended, and her honour at being part of the Parade for the Littlehampton Armed Forces Day event.

A Member commented on the events listed on the report as having not been attended, and asked whether another Councillor could be invited, should neither the Mayor nor Deputy be able to attend. The Civic & Office Manager confirmed that one of the events was very last minute, after the new Mayor and Deputy had been appointed, with two of the other events having been attended by another Councillor. She further confirmed that it is not always the case that another Councillor is automatically invited, and that it is dependent on the invitation, and whether those organising the event would be agreeable to the attendance of another representative should the Mayor or Deputy be unavailable.

**59. TOWN CRIER'S REPORT AND DUTIES UNDERTAKEN**

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

The Mayor expressed his gratitude to the Town Crier for the excellent job she does for Bognor Regis, of which Members concurred, and wished her luck for the upcoming Town Crier Guild Championship competition.

**60. REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

***Cllr. Wells declared an Ordinary Interest in any discussion relating to the Bognor Regis BID Warden Scheme, as a BID levy payer***

Members **NOTED** that reports had been received from the following representatives to other organisations and had been emailed to all Councillors.

**60.1 Cllr. Barrett** - Bognor Regis Heritage & Arts Partnership Board; BRTC/ADC Liaison Meetings; Rampion 2 Community (Coastal) Project Liaison Group.

**60.2 Cllr. Batley** - BRTC/ADC Liaison Meetings; The 39 Club; Bognor Regis Foodbank; UK Harvest.

**60.3 Cllr. Smith** - Bognor Regis Heritage & Arts Partnership Board; Bognor Regis Regeneration Board.

**60.4 Cllr. Woodall** - BRTC/ADC Liaison Meetings; Bognor Regis Carnival Association; Grandad's Front Room; Southdowns Music Festival.

**61.** It was **RESOLVED** to vary the order of business to allow the additional Agenda item, to be discussed at this point of the meeting - S.O. 10(a)(vi).

**62. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM OFFICERS FOLLOWING ANY ATTENDANCE AT THE MONTHLY ARUN PARISH MEETING WITH THE NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING TEAM (IF AVAILABLE)**

The Assistant Clerk's verbal report was **NOTED**.

Included within the verbal report was the news that Bognor Regis Town Centre had been identified for special funding from the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, as a hotspot for anti-social behaviour, with high levels of crime.

As a business owner in the Town Centre, a Member disagreed with the statement expressed in the report, that Sussex Police are 'working with businesses to see what impact anti-social behaviour is having', stating that 95% of businesses in the 'East End' of Bognor Regis haven't been spoken with. He advised that upon recently approaching a PCSO in the Town Centre, they stated that they were the only PCSO on duty at that time for all of Bognor Regis and Littlehampton. The Member expressed views that the Crime Commissioner's Office should do more to engage with businesses as a whole, and not just prioritise communication through the Bognor Regis BID's Crime Reduction Partnership.

Another Member, with a business in the Town Centre, suggested that graffiti was one of the biggest problems, and felt that no action was being taken by Sussex Police, despite the crimes being reported.

The Mayor wished to bring to Members' attention a letter he'd received from a constituent, advising that Portsmouth Water would be installing a water meter at her property, despite her not asking for one, with an engineer arriving to do so just a few days after the letter was received. On contacting the company, Cllr. Oppler learnt that Portsmouth Water apparently has the right to install water meters at any customer's address regardless of whether it is then put into operation.

The Assistant Clerk confirmed that the above comments would be passed on at the next Arun Parish Neighbourhood Policing Team Meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

### **63. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE**

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

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

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

- 64.1** Members **AGREED** that a Members' Briefing should be held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2023 at 6.30pm, to allow for the mechanisms of the Bognor Pier Company Limited, loans etc. to be explained to Councillors.

Questions were raised regarding the status of the access ramp and whether it would be a permanent fixture at the cinema. The Town Clerk confirmed that, as far as she was aware, the ramp would be permanently in situ, as per the plans.

Another Member asked the Town Clerk whose responsibility the exterior decoration of the cinema was. It was confirmed that Bognor Pier Company Limited had ultimate responsibility for the exterior décor, however, the new doors are the responsibility of the tenant.

Comments were made regarding the neon signage and the tower illumination which a Member expressed disappointment in hearing that planning permission is now required.

It was suggested that the Town Clerk forward appropriate dates for Members who would like to have a tour of the Picturedrome, which would most likely be in autumn prior to the half term school holidays, due to the upcoming summer holidays. This was **AGREED** with a Member requesting that a tour during the daytime be considered.

***The Meeting closed at 8.31pm***