



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK Glenna Frost, The Town Hall, Clarence Road,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1LD
Telephone: 01243 867744
E-mail: bognortc@bognorregis.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF **BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL** **HELD ON MONDAY 29th APRIL 2024**

PRESENT:

Mayor: Cllr. F. Oppler; Cllrs: K. Batley, J. Brooks, D. Dawes (from Min. 206.4), S. Goodheart, R. Nash, P. Ralph, N. Smith, Mrs. J. Warr, B. Waterhouse, P. Wells and Mrs. G. Yeates

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk) Mrs.
J. Davis (Assistant Clerk)
Mrs. R. Vervecken (Civic & Office Manager)

The Meeting opened at 6.05pm

202. WELCOME BY MAYOR

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.

203. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE AND THEIR APPROVAL, SUBJECT TO MEETING THE AGREED CRITERIA

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Barrett, Miss. Needs, Stanley and Woodall, with the Clerk recommending that the reasons given were acceptable. These absences were therefore **APPROVED** by Members.

204. 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 Chair reminded Members to declare their Interests as any arise or again at the relative point in the meeting if they have already.

Cllrs. Batley, Brooks, Goodheart, Nash, Oppler, Mrs. Warr and Mrs. Yeates all declared Ordinary Interests as Arun District Councillors

205. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND STATEMENTS

There were no members of the public seated in the public gallery, therefore, the meeting was not adjourned.

206. TO CONSIDER AND AGREE THE TOWN COUNCIL'S CORPORATE STRATEGY AND PRIORITIES FOR 2024 – 2028

The Chair gave thanks for the preliminary work carried out in bringing forward proposed amendments to the 2019 – 2024 Corporate Strategy (attached as **Appendix 1**), in order to update the Strategy for 2024 – 2028.

206.1 Purpose - A Councillor suggested changing the wording from 'economic development' to 'economic and social development'. Another Councillor noted the change from the previous Corporate Strategy 'purpose', from '...working in the interests of our residents to improve their quality of life', to the proposed phrasing for 2024 - 2028 '...in a manner that enables the residents to improve their quality of life'. Some discussion was had as to what was meant by 'enabling', with Members broadly agreeing that this change made for a 'fuller' statement, and through the provision of allotments and Grant Aid, this did indeed 'enable' residents to improve their quality of life, in the way suggested within the proposed 'purpose' for the new Corporate Strategy.

Members unanimously **AGREED** the 'purpose' should be amended to incorporate a change in the wording to 'economic and social development of

Bognor Regis’.

206.2 Vision - When reviewing the proposed new ‘vision’, a Member commented on the use of the phrase ‘... and create a happier Bognor Regis’, which she felt implied people were not happy already. Another Councillor asked if and how the Town Council were monitoring residents’ ‘happiness’ and satisfaction with their Town, to which the Assistant Clerk confirmed this was a specific question within the Community Survey, which was currently ‘live’ and had been advertised through various streams, including in the annual newsletter. The Assistant Clerk advised that the ‘large majority’ of those who had completed this question, had rated their happiness with Bognor Regis as at least a 3 out of 5.

Further comments were made regarding the use of the wording ‘more powerful’, with a Councillor proposing this be changed to ‘more proactive’, which he felt was much more suitable.

It was unanimously **AGREED** the ‘vision’ should be amended to incorporate a change in wording from ‘more powerful’ to ‘more proactive’.

206.3 Priority 1 - It was suggested the current wording ‘Build on the heritage and history of Bognor Regis in its traditional business, cultural etc..’ implies the Town Council is not progressing into the future with its aspirations, and suggested this be changed to ‘Build on the heritage and history of Bognor Regis in promoting business, cultural etc...’

Members unanimously **AGREED** priority one under ‘main priorities’ should be amended to read ‘Build on the heritage and history of Bognor Regis in promoting business, cultural...’

Cllr. Dawes arrived at the Meeting

206.4 Priority 2 - An addition was proposed to the end of the current sentence in this section ‘...to make the Town as sustainable as possible’.

Councillors unanimously **AGREED** to add to the end of the current priority two ‘... to make the Town as sustainable as possible.’

206.5 Priority 3 – It had been suggested earlier in the discussion that ‘to feel safe’ should be added within this heading, with some Councillors stating this would imply residents are not already safe.

Further to discussions, it was unanimously **AGREED** to make no changes to priority three.

206.6 Priority 4 - One Councillor stated he would like to have seen more reference made to encouraging arts and culture within the Town, as had been the case in the previous Corporate Strategy, under priority 4. Other Members disagreed with these sentiments, with the consensus that priority 1 covered these elements already.

Following the discussion, it was **AGREED** to make no changes to priority four.

206.7 A Member offered a suggestion for an additional priority, to specifically cover youth and youth provision within the Town, which was discussed by Members.

Further to these discussions, Members unanimously **AGREED** to add a fifth priority as follows: 'Ensure that Bognor Regis is a great place to grow up in, with support for parents and young people.'

206.8 Whilst taking account of the amendments to be incorporated as previously agreed, it was **RESOLVED** that the Corporate Strategy for 2024 - 2028 would be as follows: -

Purpose

Our purpose is to enable the economic and social development of Bognor Regis and the surrounding infrastructure in a manner that enables the residents to improve their quality of life in all aspects.

Vision

Our vision is to develop Bognor Regis to become more proactive and enterprising, working with others in partnership to boost the local economy, build civic pride and create a happier Bognor Regis.

Main priorities

1. Build on the heritage and history of Bognor Regis in promoting business, cultural, and artistic activities and events to make Bognor Regis a great place to live, work, study and visit. Using our resources, coupled with partners, to develop artistic and cultural activities and events to create economic benefits.
2. Work with partners to manage environmental impacts on Bognor Regis to make the Town as sustainable as possible.
3. Work to enable residents and community groups to live well and enjoy and take pride in our Town.
4. Work to remove barriers to enterprise within the Town.
5. Ensure that Bognor Regis is a great place to grow up in, with support for parents and young people.

The Meeting closed at 6.34pm

Corporate Strategy 2019-2024

Purpose

Our purpose is to lead Bognor Regis to a better future working in the interests of our residents to improve their quality of life.

Vision

Our vision is to develop Bognor Regis to become more powerful and enterprising, working with others in partnership to boost the local economy, build civic pride and create a happier Bognor Regis.

Main Priorities

1. Build on the success of Bognor Regis
2. Manage and reduce the environmental impact of Bognor Regis
3. Work to enable residents and community groups to live well and enjoy and take pride in our Town
4. Promote arts and culture to make Bognor Regis a great place to live, work, study and visit

Proposed Corporate Strategy 2024-2028

Purpose *amendments suggested*

Our purpose is to enable the economic development of Bognor Regis and the surrounding infrastructure in a manner that enables the residents to improve their quality of life in all aspects.

Vision

Our vision is to develop Bognor Regis to become more powerful and enterprising, working with others in partnership to boost the local economy, build civic pride and create a happier Bognor Regis.

Main Priorities

1. Build on the heritage and history of Bognor Regis in its traditional business, cultural, and artistic activities and events to make Bognor Regis a great place to live, work, study and visit. Using our resources, coupled with partners, to develop artistic and cultural activities and events to create economic benefits. *amendments suggested*
2. Work with partners to manage environmental impacts on Bognor Regis. *amendments suggested*
3. Work to enable residents and community groups to live well and enjoy and take pride in our Town. *no amendments suggested*
4. Work to remove barriers to enterprise within the Town. *amendments suggested*