



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 16th JULY 2018

PRESENT: Cllr. M. Smith (Chairman); P. Dillon, S. Goodheart
and Mrs. J. Warr.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. S. Hodgson (Projects Officer)
4 members of the public

The Meeting opened at 6.32pm

25. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed those present and read the Council's opening statement. Apologies had been received from Cllrs. Mrs. S. Daniells, who was away and D. Enticott. No other apologies had been received.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary and/or Ordinary interests that they may have in relation to items on this Agenda

- a) the item they have an interest in
- b) whether it is a Disclosable Pecuniary or Ordinary interest
- c) the nature of the interest
- d) if it is an Ordinary interest whether they intend to leave the room for the discussion and vote
- e) if it is a Disclosable Pecuniary 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.

In accordance with good practice, individual forms were available to those Councillors present in order that they could personally record their interests - both Disclosable Pecuniary and Ordinary. These forms should be returned to the Committee Clerk at the end of the meeting to enable

all declarations of interest to be accurately recorded in the Minutes. Members were reminded that it is their responsibility to notify the Monitoring Officer of all Disclosable Pecuniary Interests 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 were no Declarations of Interest

27. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21st MAY 2018

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st May 2018 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

28. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME EXTENDED TO A MAXIMUM OF 60 MINUTES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDERS (S.O. 31.8)

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.34pm

The Projects Officer read out the following statement:

During this time members of the public will be allowed to direct questions to the Committee or comment on any appropriate topic. Please note, during this session Councillors will not be able to make any decisions on any of the topics discussed and no Minutes will be documented. However, brief notes will be taken and any item that the Committee would like to debate or requires a decision will be made an agenda item for the following Community Engagement and Environment Meeting.

The following items were raised with Members

- A member of the public gave Members a brief overview of the Thumbs-Up Campaign, a voluntary organisation to raise awareness and provide better resources for people with learning difficulties
- Beach Access - will the Town Council look at the worsening problem of gaining access to the beach especially for disabled, elderly and people with pushchairs and buggies
- Power to Change - a Member highlighted a series of fundraising opportunities that are now available to Town and Parish Councils

Members were keen to support Thumbs-Up and asked for this to be an Agenda item for the Community Engagement and Environment Committee Meeting to be held on 17th September 2018.

The Meeting was reconvened at 6.56pm

29. ADJOURNMENT FOR PRESENTATION FROM SAMMY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT. MEMBERS TO SUBSEQUENTLY CONSIDER IF THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WORK WITH SAMMY COMMUNITY TRANSPORT TO ENGAGE WITH ISOLATED MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY - MIN. 12 REFERS

The Meeting was adjourned at 6.57pm

A Trustee from Sammy Community Transport (SCT) gave a presentation outlining some of the issues faced by the organisation.

SCT started in 1974 and has grown significantly over the years. It is a high-profile organisation and well known in the community. However, it still struggles to recruit volunteers. SCT run a fleet of minibuses and wheelchair adapted cars used to ferry members of the public who can't use buses or afford taxis to Town or to hospital and doctors appointments. Many of these people are socially isolated and depend on the services of SCT but with rising fuel, insurance and fleet maintenance costs, it is difficult to keep the fares low. To help combat mileage costs, SCT would like to find a local base to garage some of the fleet and would ask the Town Council for any assistance with this.

The Meeting re-convened at 7.13pm

Following discussion, Members pledged to help SCT by lobbying District and County Councils to help find a suitable location for a local base and to refer the issue to the next BRTC/ADC Liaison Meeting.

The Chairman thanked SCT for attending the meeting.

30. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES WHICH ARE NOT SEPARATE AGENDA ITEMS

30.1 Min. 7.3 refers - 21st May 2018 Update on Community Forums and Surgeries

The Projects Officer read out a response from Dominic Raab MP to the letters sent 30th January, 13th April and 18th June 2018. Mr Raab thanked the Committee for inviting him to visit Bognor Regis and regretted having to decline on this occasion. Mr Raab also outlined the Government's position on housing and the reforms announced in the Autumn Budget. Members asked for a copy of the letter to be made available to the Town Council's Planning and Licensing Committee for information.

30.2 Min. 10 refers - 21st May 2018 Consideration of item referred from public question time regarding the Foreshore Office and toilets on the promenade

The Projects Officer reported that to date there had not been a response to the letter sent to ADC highlighting the inadequacy of the facilities at the Foreshore Office regarding there not being a separate room for First Aid procedures to be administered.

30.3 Min. 13 refers - 21st May 2018 Consideration of a proposal by Cllr. Enticott to utilise an existing initiative regarding dog bins in residential areas

The Projects Officer read out a response received from the ADC Licensing Team Manager regarding the use of the existing preventative signage. ADC would prefer to encourage members of the public to contact them with problems, as they felt that continued use of the signage dilutes the impact and can result in flyposting.

31. TO NOTE AND DETERMINE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND

The Projects Officer's report was noted including the application from CREATE, a youth organisation. It was subsequently **AGREED** to award £350.00 from the Flexible Community Fund to assist with the continued set up and promotion of the group.

32. REPORT ON COUNCILLOR SURGERIES AND UPDATE ON OPEN FORUM SESSIONS HELD AT THE REGIS SCHOOL ON 13th JUNE 2018 AND 10th JULY 2018

The Projects Officer's report was noted including the following:

Open Forum:

The Projects Officer gave an overview of the successful Community Open Forum held at The Regis School on the 13th June and the invitation to attend an A' level student Geography class on the 10th July 2018 to discuss regeneration. A senior ADC Regeneration Officer was also in attendance and the feedback from the school has been very positive. Members were asked to consider the comments in the accompanying report to see if there were any issues that they could take up with District or County Councillors. Members were further asked to consider options for the August Community Open Forum. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to arrange an open meeting at the Regis Centre and invite members from various community organisations such as the Women's Institute and community groups to attend. Members also **AGREED** to invite Councillors from neighbouring parishes to be in attendance to assist with any neighbouring parish related issues.

Drop-in Surgeries:

The Projects Officer reported that the last session in London Road was the most heavily attended to date with a range of issues and comments being raised by members of the public. Although the Hastings Close session was not so well attended, there have been reports of positive feedback from residents that they were encouraged to see Members of the Town Council making the effort to engage and have a presence in the area. The Projects Officer also reported that following a recent meeting with the Safer Arun Partnership, it was indicated that a member of the team may be able to attend some of the London Road sessions and it is hoped that someone will be able to attend the surgery arranged for the 17th July.

The Projects Officer will continue to arrange a series of Councillor Drop-in sessions throughout August at various locations.

33. FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSAL FROM A COMMUNITY LEADER REGARDING A COMMUNITY 4 COMMUNITY INITIATIVE - MIN. 9 REFERS

The Projects Officer's report was noted. The Chairman allowed the Community Leader to speak from the public gallery, who reported that the newly formed Community Focus Group were producing a street sheet and were focusing on the issues surrounding homelessness. Members therefore **AGREED** to offer their support through the Community Focus Group and maintain a watching brief as proposed by the Policy and Resources Committee at their meeting of the 4th June 2018.

34. Members **RESOLVED** to vary the order of business to take the additional agenda item at this point.

35. BOGNOR REGIS IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP - CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS IN THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24th MAY 2018

The Committee **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the Resolutions, Recommendations and Reports in the Notes of the Meeting held on 24th May 2018.

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the cost of £7.96 for additional pumpkin seeds.

36. BOGNOR REGIS IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP - CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS IN THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5th JULY 2018

The Committee **RESOLVED** to **ACCEPT** the Resolutions, Recommendations and Reports in the Notes of the Meeting held on 5th July 2018.

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the cost of £15.13 for leaflet packs to be funded from the current year's Competition Expenses Budget.

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the cost of £15.00 for an additional voucher for the Guides Competition to be funded from the Earmarked Reserves Competition Budget.

Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the cost of £33.60 for the purchase of brackets to be funded from the current year's Environment Budget.

37. UPDATE ON YOUTH SERVICES PROVISION REVIEW AND TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE YOUTH WORKER STEERING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 4th JULY 2018

The Projects Officer's report was noted. Members were reminded that the 6-month trial period for the Youth Worker was due to expire at the end of July. Whilst there was absolutely no criticism of the Youth Worker who has undertaken a huge amount of successful engagement and made an enormous impact, concerns were raised about the lack of management of her time and the forward planning of the project by Sussex Clubs for Young People (SCYP). However, following a recent meeting with a representative from SCYP, the Chairman and Projects Officer, SCYP have agreed to continue to fund the Youth Worker for a further 12 weeks to allow her to continue her work whilst future funding is secured. The Chairman suggested that a letter be sent to SCYP expressing the Committees disappointment of their management and this was **AGREED**. The Chairman also reported that following a series of communications with the neighbouring parishes, Aldwick Parish Council have kindly offered to host a meeting with other parishes to see if there is an opportunity for some collaborative working on the Youth Worker project going forward. Members thanked the Chairman and the Projects Officer for their work throughout the project.

Members further considered and **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the Policy and Resources Committee that the £10,000 budgeted funds for 2018-19 Youth Provision be utilised as match funding for larger funding bids to further secure the position of the Youth Worker for another year.

38. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON PLAYING OUT TOPIC TEAM - MIN.19 REFERS

The Projects Officer's report was noted. Members **AGREED** to review the continuance of the Playing Out topic at the next meeting following the Playing Out Pavement Art Event that will take place on the 8th August as part of the Town Council's Funshine Days.

39. WARD ALLOCATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BUDGET INCLUDING UPDATE ON ANY EXPENDITURE AND REMAINING BUDGET FOR 2018/19

The Projects Officer's report was noted, and Members **RESOLVED** to **RATIFY** the payment of £500.00 from the Hotham Ward 2018/19 Ward Allocation Budget to The Regis School to purchase some recycling bins which will be branded as sponsored by the Town Council.

The Projects Officer gave an update on the arrangements for the Summer Play Scheme and Victoria Road Car Parking Area and reminded Members of the remaining budget for Marine and Marine North Wards.

40. TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL BY CLLR. ENTICOTT TO ADDRESS ANTI-SOCIAL STREET BEGGING IN THE TOWN - REPORT BY CLLR. ENTICOTT

No Report had been received from Cllr. Enticott and Members **AGREED** to defer this item to the next meeting.

41. CONSIDERATION OF BEACH ACCESS AS REFERRED FROM THE BRTC/ADC LIAISON MEETING OF THE 8th MAY 2018

Members noted that the issue of beach access is constantly being raised at Councillor Drop-in Surgeries and was brought to Members' attention during public question time. Members further noted the Projects Officer's report and following discussion, **AGREED** that the issue should become the subject of a Topic Team. The Chairman of the Committee along with Cllrs. S. Goodheart, P. Dillon and Mrs. J. Warr will sit on the Topic Team and other relevant stakeholders and members of the community will be invited to join the team. The Projects Officer will make the necessary arrangements.

42. REPORTS:

a. To note Financial Reports, previously circulated

The reports were noted

b. Any further reports

There were no further reports.

43. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee noted receipt of the correspondence list, previously circulated including the following additional items:

Downview Primary School - a letter from students raising their concerns over the dangers and impact plastic is having on the environment. Members asked the Projects Officer to reply.

Copy of an email to the Town Centre Manager regarding cycling in the precinct.

The Meeting closed at 8.18pm