



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING

OF BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 30th APRIL 2018

PRESENT:

Town Mayor: Cllr. P. Woodall; Cllrs: K. Batley, J. Brooks, J. Cosgrove, A. Cunard, Mrs. S. Daniells, P. Dillon, D. Enticott, T. Gardiner, S. Goodheart, S. Reynolds, M. Smith, M. Stanley and Mrs. J. Warr

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
Mrs. S. Norman (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs. J. Davis (Civic & Office Manager)
Mr. P. Cooper (LCS - Town Council's Consultant)

The Meeting opened at 7.00pm

192. WELCOME BY TOWN MAYOR AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Town 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.

Apologies had been received from Cllr. M. Lineham, who had a medical appointment.

193. 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

Members and Officers should declare an interest by stating: -

- a) The item they have an interest in
- b) whether it is a 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 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, not already recorded on their Register of Interests Form, within 28 days.

Cllr. Brooks declared an Ordinary Interest as a Member of Arun District Council and stated that he will be voting on the matters before him having regard only to such information as placed before the Town Council. If he should come to consider any matters again at the District Council, and further information may be available, he will consider the information available at that time and may come to a different decision

Cllr. Mrs. Daniells declared an Ordinary Interest as a Member of Arun District Council

Cllr. Dillon declared an Ordinary Interest as a Member of Arun District Council

Cllr. Reynolds declared an Ordinary Interest as a Member of Arun District Council

Cllr. Smith declared an Ordinary Interest as a Member of Arun District Council

Cllr. Stanley declared an Ordinary Interest as a Member of Arun District Council

194. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no questions.

195. TO RESOLVE TO MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (S.O. 31.1)

The Committee **RESOLVED** that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted it is advisable in the public interest that the public be temporarily excluded, and they are instructed to withdraw (S.O. 31.1) - Agenda item 5.

196. TO RECEIVE A REPORT REGARDING POTENTIAL PROPERTY PURCHASE AND TO AGREE FURTHER ACTIONS

Members were provided with confidential reports to read, prior to the meeting.

The Mayor introduced Mr. Peter Cooper, from Local Community Solutions Ltd, and thanked him for joining the meeting. Mr. Cooper then presented a report he had prepared regarding potential property purchase.

Cllr. Cunard left the Meeting for a short period during the presentation

Following the presentation of the report, the Mayor invited Members to put questions to Mr. Cooper.

Members went on to discuss the matter at length. Consideration was given to the possible purchase of Bognor Regis Town Hall, and the subsequent possible use of the property. Alternative property purchase options were also discussed. Of particular concern to Members was the financial commitment required to purchase any property, and the impact that any possible loan taken on by the Town Council would potentially have on the Precept in future years.

Cllr. Enticott left the Meeting for a short period during the debate

Members expressed concern at making any decisions without the opportunity to first carry out investigations into matters such as: potential, viable uses for any properties purchased; site visits to inspect the standard of the property being considered; the availability of rental office space elsewhere within the Town and associated costs to the Town Council.

Cllr. Cunard suggested that a proposal be made whereby no decision be taken at this time until further investigations into some of the suggestions made were carried out. Cllr. Cosgrove seconded such a proposal.

Cllr. Cosgrove moved that the question be now put on this proposal, which Members approved and subsequently **AGREED** to a short adjournment to enable the exact wording of the proposal for Members consideration to be finalised.

The Mayor adjourned the Meeting at 8.07pm

The Mayor reconvened the Meeting at 8.29pm

The Mayor read to Members the final proposal put forward by Cllr. Cunard, and Members were asked whether they would like to vote en bloc for the proposal, or on each individual part. A vote was taken, and Members **AGREED** to vote en bloc for the proposal. Cllr. Gardiner abstained from this decision and asked that this be noted.

Cllr. Cunard therefore proposed the following resolution, and this was seconded by Cllr. Cosgrove.

That there be no immediate action to submit an offer to Arun District Council to purchase the Town Hall.

To agree in principle (subject to obtaining prior costs) to take architectural and commercial advice on potential uses of the building along with associated costs to prepare the building for preferred uses, which will inform the Council should they wish to submit an offer at a future date.

To continue to investigate alternative property which could provide accommodation for the Town Council and facilitate the Council's strategic proposals.

To investigate the availability and price of purchasing and/or leasing suitable office accommodation in the Town.

A recorded vote was requested, the results of which were as follows.

FOR

AGAINST

ABSTENTIONS

Cllr. Batley
Cllr. Brooks
Cllr. Cosgrove
Cllr. Cunard
Cllr. Mrs. Daniells
Cllr. Dillon
Cllr. Enticott
Cllr. Gardiner
Cllr. Goodheart
Cllr. Reynolds
Cllr. Smith
Cllr. Stanley
Cllr. Mrs. Warr
Cllr. Woodall

The Motion was **CARRIED**.

The Meeting closed at 8.35pm