



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON TUESDAY 22nd MAY 2018

PRESENT:

Cllr. A. Cunard (Chairman); Cllrs: J. Brooks, J. Cosgrove,
S. Goodheart, S. Reynolds, M. Stanley, Mrs. J. Warr and
P. Woodall

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
Mrs. S. Norman (Deputy Clerk)
2 Councillors in the public gallery
2 members of the press
14 members of the public in the public gallery

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

1. TO NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE AS AGREED AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

The appointment of Cllr. Cunard as Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee and Cllr. Stanley as Vice-Chairman was noted.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed everyone present and read the Council's opening statement. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs. Daniells who was on annual leave.

3. 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 noted that they should make their declaration by stating:

- a) the item they have the 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, 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. Reynolds declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 and made the following statement: I wish to make this meeting aware that I have made public statements in the past in a meeting of Arun District Council's Full Council that I supported the proposals for the regeneration of Bognor Regis, particularly the Hothamton site. These were my views that I held at that time. However, I have an open mind regarding this item and I will listen and consider all the relevant issues and interests presented to this meeting today and I confirm that I will reach my decision on merit and not bias. For the record I ask that this declaration be recorded in the Minutes of this meeting

Cllr. Brooks declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 and made the following statement: I wish to make this meeting aware that I have made public statements in the past in a meeting of Arun District Council's Full Council and in my election leaflets and written submissions, that I did not support the then proposals for the regeneration of Bognor Regis, and more recently the proposals regarding the Hothamton site. These were my views that I held at that time. However, I have an open mind regarding all items regarding regeneration plans for Bognor Regis and I will listen and consider all the relevant issues and interests presented to this meeting today and I confirm that I will reach my decision on merit and not bias. For the record I ask that this declaration be recorded in the Minutes of this meeting

Cllr. Stanley declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 and asked for an identical statement to that made by Cllr. Brooks be noted as follows: I wish to make this meeting aware that I have made public statements in the past in a meeting of Arun District Council's Full Council and in my election leaflets and written submissions, that I did not support the then proposals for the

regeneration of Bognor Regis, and more recently the proposals regarding the Hothampton site. These were my views that I held at that time. However, I have an open mind regarding all items regarding regeneration plans for Bognor Regis and I will listen and consider all the relevant issues and interests presented to this meeting today and I confirm that I will reach my decision on merit and not bias. For the record I ask that this declaration be recorded in the Minutes of this meeting

Cllr. Goodheart declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 due to his voluntary capacity at 4BR

Cllr. Dillon (in the public gallery) declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 and asked for an identical statement to that made by Cllr. Reynolds be noted as follows: I wish to make this meeting aware that I have made public statements in the past in a meeting of Arun District Council's Full Council that I supported the proposals for the regeneration of Bognor Regis, particularly the Hothampton site. These were my views that I held at that time. However, I have an open mind regarding this item and I will listen and consider all the relevant issues and interests presented to this meeting today and I confirm that I will reach my decision on merit and not bias. For the record I ask that this declaration be recorded in the Minutes of this meeting

Cllr. Dillon (in the public gallery) also declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 as a voting member of Arun Arts

Cllr. Cunard declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 5 as a member of Arun Arts

4. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Meeting adjourned at 6.41pm

Members of the public spoke in turn regarding the regeneration proposals and the consultation undertaken by Arun District Council with a summary of the following key statements/points noted:

How can the Linear Park be turned into a positive for the Town?
How can the strain on infrastructure be mitigated?
What can residents do to demonstrate their objection to the plans?
Are there any ideas for alternatives to ADC's current proposals?
Are ADC's current plans "redevelopment" rather than "regeneration"?
There is already a great deal of regeneration going on within the Town and ADC should be focusing on areas in need such as the Royal Hotel, Waterloo Gardens and the site of the fish and chip shop that burnt down.
Why can't ADC work with developers to bring forward plans that incorporate the best of all suggestions rather than working in opposition?

Any regeneration or redevelopment will have implications for traffic and could a park and ride system be introduced to mitigate this?

Need for cooperative working to impress on ADC the views of the people and to ensure that that these views are not ignored.

Several members of the public expressed concern over the previous consultations carried out by ADC in 2015 and 2016 with the suggestion that information was misleading, erroneous or not complete, that the reach and response was not adequate to qualify ADC's claim that the response was overwhelmingly positive and that therefore ADC should attend a public meeting to explain these issues.

Improved access to the Sunken Gardens would result in much greater use by residents and visitors.

Previous questions to ADC and its Leader regarding the benefit to the Town of the Linear Park have not received an adequate response.

It was reported that the public have rejected the proposal for more flats on four different occasions.

Meeting reconvened at 7pm

The Chairman informed the meeting that ADC is the responsible Authority and the Town Council has no jurisdiction and therefore can only work towards encouraging ADC to look at all areas and opinions.

5. **TO DISCUSS AND DETERMINE THE RESOLUTION ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF ELECTORS HELD 19th MARCH 2018 TOGETHER WITH THE MOTION BELOW AS REFERRED FROM THE ANNUAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD 14th MAY 2018 - "THIS COUNCIL: A) CONSIDERS THAT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN INADEQUATE CONSULTATION ON BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION AND THAT THE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE OPPORTUNITIES TO VIEW PROPOSALS BY SUITABLE MEANS AND B) DECIDES THAT THE COUNCIL WILL FULLY EXPLORE ALL COST-EFFECTIVE MEANS OF ACHIEVING THIS"**

The Chairman asked for and received Members agreement that the two Councillors present in the public gallery, who were not Members of this Committee, be allowed to take part in the debate.

Members noted the Resolution arising from the Annual Town Meeting of Electors held 19th March 2018 namely:

This Annual Meeting of Electors

Believes that local residents in the Bognor Urban Area must have a say in the final regeneration outcomes for the Town.

The Chairman re-read the Motion tabled before the Meeting as follows:

This Council:

- a) considers that there may have been inadequate consultation on Bognor Regis regeneration and that the public should have opportunities to view proposals by suitable means and
- b) decides that the Council will fully explore all cost-effective means of achieving this"

Members debated the Motion and the depth of public feeling was acknowledged.

Discussion regarding the purpose of any consultation took place with concern expressed that ADC will push forward with their plans, with it being noted that the tender document for the Linear Park had already been published, regardless of the public feeling. The consensus was that the options put forward at previous consultations should be made available to all and the opportunity offered to feedback about elements that are wanted and those that are not.

Some Members agreed with the comments from the public gallery that the consultation processes undertaken in the past by ADC had been inadequate and flawed and that ADC should be challenged on this issue.

A Member expressed concern that local people were suffering from consultation fatigue and any further consultation by the Town Council could contribute to this. Furthermore, it was stated that care needed to be taken not to offer or suggest an outcome that the Town Council has no power to deliver or enforce and must be mindful that all expenditure comes from the public purse.

A Member voiced a desire for the Leader of ADC to attend a meeting of the Council for Councillors and the public to hear from them.

Cllr. Cosgrove proposed an amendment to the Motion by the addition of the following:

- c) proposes that a Working Group of the Council should be formed to make recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee, within one month, as to how to implement any decision taken regarding (b).

The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Goodheart and following the vote, the amendment was **CARRIED**. Cllr. Reynolds abstention was noted.

Following the debate, Cllr. Goodheart proposed a second amendment with the revised Motion to read:

"This Council:

- a) considers that there has been inadequate consultation on Bognor Regis regeneration and that the public should have opportunities to view proposals by suitable means and

- b) decides that the Council will fully explore all cost-effective means of achieving this and
- c) proposes that a Working Group of the Council should be formed to make recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee, within one month, as to how to implement any decision taken regarding (b)"

The amendment was seconded by Cllr. Brooks and following the vote, the amendment was **CARRIED**. Cllrs. Cunard and Reynolds abstentions were noted.

Cllr. Stanley, in his summing up as proposer before a vote was taken, noted the issue of consultation fatigue but, in his opinion, that this often arises when nothing happens following a consultation. Cllr. Stanley rounded off the debate by stating that Councillors are elected by the community and when that community is not happy about something, then the Council should lobby on their behalf.

The Motion was therefore moved to **RECOMMEND** to **COUNCIL** the following:

This Council:

- a) considers that there has been inadequate consultation on Bognor Regis regeneration and that the public should have opportunities to view proposals by suitable means and
- b) decides that the Council will fully explore all cost-effective means of achieving this and
- c) proposes that a Working Group of the Council should be formed to make recommendation to the Policy and Resources Committee, within one month, as to how to implement any decision taken regarding (b)"

and having been proposed by Cllr. Stanley and seconded by Cllr. Enticott at the Annual Town Council Meeting held 14th May 2018 (Min. 28 refers), a recorded vote requested.

FOR

Cllr. Brooks
Cllr. Cosgrove
Cllr. Goodheart
Cllr. Stanley
Cllr. Mrs. Warr
Cllr. Woodall

AGAINST

ABSTENTIONS

Cllr. Cunard
Cllr. Reynolds

Members therefore **AGREED** that the Motion should be **RECOMMENDED** to **COUNCIL**.

Members subsequently discussed the membership of the Working Group and **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to Council that the membership should consist of Cllrs: Cosgrove, Mrs. Daniells, Enticott, Goodheart, Stanley and Mrs. Warr.

Cllr. Cunard stated that he would be happy to serve as a reserve Member but could not commit to full membership.

The Meeting closed at 7.33pm