



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 15th JULY 2019

PRESENT: Cllr. W. Smith (Chairman); Cllrs. J. Barrett, J. Brooks,
Miss. C. Needs and Ms. A. Sharples

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

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

20. 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. A. Cunard and Mrs. S. Staniforth who were on leave and Mrs. I. Erskine and H. Jones who had a clash of meetings.

21. 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 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.

There were no declarations of Interest

22. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 20th MAY 2019

The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20th May 2019 were approved by the Committee as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

23. ADJOURNMENT FOR PRESENTATION FROM ST WILFRID'S HOSPICE

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 6.34pm

A presentation was given by three Ambassadors of St Wilfrid's Hospice on their "Dying Matters" Campaign.

The Meeting was re-convened at 7.05pm

The Chairman thanked the Ambassadors on behalf of the Committee for their informative presentation.

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

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting at 7.05pm

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.

A written statement had been received from a member of the public regarding a number of issues in the Market Street area. A Member of the Committee reported that they had already been in contact with the member of public and was looking into the problems.

The following items were raised with Members:

It is well known that there is a lack of funding at West Sussex County Council, but the state of the roads and verges are now seriously being neglected, not just in the Town Centre but across the District. Gutters and

drains are not being cleared and this will cause problems during the winter. The BID and community groups would welcome a conversation with the Town Council to see if Town Force can assist in anyway especially in the Queensway area.

The Bognor Community Gardeners are working with WSCC to find an alternative to the use of Glyphosate.

There are serious concerns regarding the decline of bees.

Could there be some talk with Town Force regarding the forced flowers that are used in the planters and bedding areas and the waste at the end of the season.

Will the Town Council look at cutting out single use plastic?

Reference was made to the Which report - enough is enough!

Beach Access - Members were urged to accept the recommendations made by the Beach Access Topic Team to help move the project forward.

Will the Town Council recognise that carbon emissions and global warming is a real threat and by 2100 Bognor Regis will be underwater?

Have the Councillors read the IPCC report?

Given the talk about the beaches, Southern Water have been fined £26m for misreporting and have not revealed where spillages have occurred. How can they be trusted with our waste?

Could Town Force be issued with re-fillable water containers?

Will the Town Council advise/give guidance on waste and the carbon footprint?

Can something be done about the fly tipping and the waste refuse area at King George Court?

Can we think outside the box regarding recycling - keep it local.

There should be more Councillor activity regarding these subjects.

The elderly and frail are vulnerable and forgotten. The little changes such as sorting out the bin situation at King George Court can make a huge difference to them - remember the people who ask for little things.

Can anything be done to keep the art on the hoardings at Waterloo Square when they come down and can something similar be done at the Royal Hotel?

The Meeting was reconvened at 7.44pm

25. CLERK'S REPORT FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

25.1 25th March 2019 - Min. 116 - Community Space Audit

A recommendation was made by this Committee to Full Council to approve a nominal budget of £30.00 to cover any printing costs in relation to the Community Spaces information and this was approved at the Annual Town Council Meeting held 13th May 2019.

25.2 25th March 2019 - Min. 118 - Beach Litter posters

When the Minutes of the Community Engagement and Environment Committee Meeting held 25th March 2019 were received at the Annual Town Council Meeting on 13th May 2019, a Member expressed disappointment regarding the small size and roadside positioning of the poster to raise awareness to tackle Beach Access and asked for this Committee to look into the matter. Members are asked to note that at the

Committee Meeting on the 25th March, Members were given a number of options regarding posters sizes and where they should be displayed. It was agreed to purchase 3 x A1 posters and 20 x A4 posters and these have been printed and positioned as instructed. There is a remaining budget of £48.00 earmarked for additional and/or replacement posters and should Members wish to consider this further it would need to be made an Agenda item for the next meeting. Members **NOTED** the update and no further action was requested.

25.3 3rd June 2019 - Min. 8.1 - Update on Old Town Area

There was no update.

25.4 3rd June 2019 - Min. 17 - Update on "Beat the Street" Initiative

The Projects Officer gave a verbal update on the progress of the "Beat the Street" Initiative. Members were also encouraged to sign up and align themselves to CREATE to help them gain awards.

26. CONSIDERATION OF THE NOTES FROM THE PUBLIC QUESTION AND STATEMENTS TIME OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 20th MAY 2019 (MIN. 7 REFERS) INCLUDING:

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**.

26.1 Discussion on the Power to Change funding opportunities to help fund public ownership

Members **AGREED** to defer this item to allow for more research.

26.2 Discussion on applying for BognorCAN to be made an Asset of Community Value

It was reported that a community group had already made the nomination but are in the process of gathering evidence to support the application. Members **AGREED** to support this process where possible.

26.3 Discussion on raising funds from recycling and the possibility of starting a scheme in association with other community groups

Members noted that there was a lot of discussion regarding recycling, climate change and the need to address a variety of environmental issues during the public question and statement session. It was therefore **AGREED** that a forum be set up inviting all interested parties to participate to discuss these needs and requirements. Officers will make the necessary arrangements. There were no requests for any budgetary requirements.

26.4 Discussion on <http://www.hothampark.co.uk/> a website that appears on the top of a Google search for Hotham Park that is out of date

Following discussion, Members **AGREED** for Officers to undertake some investigation to see if the owners of the site would be willing to update it.

26.5 Members had no further items for inclusion on a future agenda.

27. BEACH ACCESS TOPIC TEAM INCLUDING: TO RECEIVE THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 9th JULY 2019; TO RATIFY THE APPOINTMENT OF CLLR. MRS. S. STANIFORTH TO THE TOPIC TEAM; TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS REGARDING DOGS ON THE BEACH - MIN. 12 REFERS

Members **NOTED** both the Projects Officer's initial report and the additional report including the Notes from the Beach Access Topic Team Meeting on the 9th July 2019, and considered the following recommendations:

27.1 To determine the level of support from Arun District Council and to secure written confirmation of any agreement

Members **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to ADC to determine the level of support and secure written confirmation of any agreement.

27.2 To seek permission from Arun District Council to be allowed to open a pedestrian access point for members of the public to use the Gloucester Road ramp when Jet Skiers are not present and to ask Bognor Regis Town Council to grant some Town Force man hours to keep the ramp clear of stones

Members **AGREED** that a letter should be sent to ADC to also seek permission to open a pedestrian access point at the Gloucester Road ramp. Should a favourable response be received from ADC then further consideration will need to be given to Town Force resources.

27.3 To look at the possibility of installing a Roller Track/Deck in the interim period to assist with access, and to further recommend that a budget of £3,000 is allocated to this part of the project

Members **AGREED** to make a **RECOMMENDATION** to the Policy and Resources Committee to allocate a budget from General Reserves of £3,000 to the project to install a Roller Track/Deck.

27.4 Members AGREED to RATIFY the appointment of Cllr. Mrs. S. Staniforth to the Beach Access Topic Team.

27.5 The Projects Officer read out a response from the ADC Group Head of Technical Services in response to a letter sent relating to the Byelaws and Regulations regarding dogs on the beach and in particular the area west of the dog zone, as follows:

"The ramp is close to the western extent of, but within, the seasonal dog-ban on the beach zone. I understand and accept that it would be useful for dog walkers to use the ramp to access the beach to the west of the ramp. No enforcement will take place in relation to use of the ramp for the purpose of accessing the beach to the west of the ramp.

A review of the dog controls giving rise to the seasonal dog ban on beach zones is due to be conducted by October 2020. This will include a public consultation. That review would appear to be a sensible opportunity to

revise the western extent of the Bognor seasonal dog-ban on beach zone to overcome the issue you have raised."

Members were pleased with the comments, **NOTED** the response and **AGREED** that no further action was required at the current time.

28. YOUTH SERVICES INCLUDING UPDATES ON CREATE AND THE SUMMER HOLIDAY PLAYDAY SESSIONS AS RECOMMENDED BY THIS COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING HELD 12th NOVEMBER 2018 - MIN. 78.3 REFERS

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**, and Members were pleased to hear that CREATE had been successful in its application for £10,000 of funding from National Lottery "Awards for All" Community Fund. It was noted that the ratification of the release of the Town Council's match funding would now be undertaken by the Policy and Resources Committee.

Members also noted the cost of the 10 Playday sessions over the school summer holidays of £3,500, as included in the 2019/20 budget, and this expenditure was **RATIFIED**.

29. TO NOTE AND DETERMINE ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED FOR THE FLEXIBLE COMMUNITY FUND TOGETHER WITH:

- **Consideration of letter of endorsement from this Committee regarding Bognor Rugby Club**
- **To receive an update regarding the previous application from Grandads Front Room - Min. 115, 25th March 2019 refers**

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**, and Members were asked to consider the following applications for the Flexible Community Fund, noting also that a further two applications had been received since the Projects Officer's report had been published:

29.1 Bognor Rugby Academy - £500 to help fund young people from low income families to attend a rugby summer camp

Members **AGREED** to **APPROVE** this application. Members further **AGREED** to write a letter of endorsement in support of the Club and its aims which will be of assistance to them when applying for other funding.

29.2 Bognorphenia C.I.C. - £600 to facilitate three workshops for two to twelve year olds at their annual Our Generation event

Members **AGREED** to **APPROVE** this application.

29.3 Ecoswap C.I.C. - £380 to supply safe storage for material and equipment at the workshops they are running during the summer holidays

Members **AGREED** to **APPROVE** this application.

29.4 Grandads Front Room previous application

The Projects Officer's comments regarding the progress of the Street Sheet production were **NOTED** when receiving the report.

30. TO NOTE THE EXPIRATION OF FIVE-YEAR LISTING PERIOD FOR THE ALEXANDRA THEATRE AS AN ASSET OF COMMUNITY VALUE AND AGREE ANY ACTION

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**, including that notification had been received from Arun District Council that the current Asset of Community Value ACV39 - Alexandra Theatre, Belmont Street, Bognor Regis will reach the end of the five-year listing period on the 13th August 2019.

Following discussion, Members **AGREED** to resubmit a new nomination to list the Alexandra Theatre as an Asset of Community Value for a further five years.

31. UPDATE ON COUNCIL SURGERIES

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED** and following discussion, Members **AGREED** to postpone any Drop-in Surgeries until after the summer holiday season. Officers will therefore make arrangements for a suitable date in September.

32. WARD ALLOCATION ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS BUDGET FOR 2019/20

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED**.

Members were reminded that the written support of all Ward Members was required before any proposal would be progressed.

33. BOGNOR REGIS IN BLOOM WORKING GROUP - CONSIDERATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS IN THE NOTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 27th JUNE 2019

The Projects Officer's report was **NOTED** including the notes of the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group Meeting held on the 27th June 2019 as previously circulated.

Members **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the following recommendations from the non-quorate Meeting held 27th June 2019:

- 33.1** That Mr Earl is Co-opted onto the Bognor Regis in Bloom Working Group with the appropriate **RECOMMENDATION** to **COUNCIL** for ratification.
- 33.2** The costs of £20.70 for refreshments and £280.00 for plants for the Guides Competition to be funded from the current year's Competition Expenses budget.
- 33.3** The costs of £22.00 for refreshments for the visiting French Students Beach Clean to be funded from this year's Environmental Projects budget.

33.4 The recommendation to withdraw the objection of the Stopping Up Order at 224 London Road.

34. REPORTS:

a. To note Financial Reports, previously circulated

The reports were **NOTED**.

b. Any further reports

There were no further reports.

35. CORRESPONDENCE

The Committee **NOTED** receipt of the correspondence list, previously circulated.

The Meeting closed at 8.37pm