



# **BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

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## **MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL**

**HELD ON TUESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2018**

### **PRESENT:**

Town Mayor: Cllr. S. Reynolds; Cllrs: J. Brooks, J. Cosgrove, Mrs. S. Daniells, P. Dillon, D. Enticott, M. Smith (during Min. 90), 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. G. Chambers (LCS Ltd.) (Town Council Consultant)  
2 members of the public (part of meeting)  
3 members of the press (part of meeting)

***The Meeting opened at 6.30pm***

### **85. WELCOME BY TOWN MAYOR AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

The Mayor welcomed all those present and read the Council's opening statement. Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. Batley, Cunard, and Toovey who were working, Cllrs. Gardiner and Woodall who each had a prior engagement, Cllr. Goodheart who was on annual leave, and Cllr. Lineham due to family commitments. Apologies were also received from Cllr. Smith who would be arriving late to the meeting.

### **86. 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 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***

**87. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions.

**88.** Members **RESOLVED** to vary the order of business to take agenda item 5 at this point.

**89. PRESERVING THE HERITAGE OF BOGNOR REGIS - TO RECEIVE A REPORT FOLLOWING THE MEMBERS BRIEFING HELD 3<sup>rd</sup> JULY 2018 INCLUDING: PROCUREMENT OF THE ROYAL HOTEL BOGNOR REGIS: OPTIONS APPRAISAL, OPPORTUNITIES FOR JOINT VENTURE PARTNERING**

The Town Clerk's report was noted.

The Chairman welcomed the Town Council's consultant, Mr. G. Chambers (Local Community Solutions Ltd.), to the meeting.

Mr. Chambers gave a brief verbal report reminding Members of the presentations received, and discussions that then ensued, at the Briefing Meeting held 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2018.

Having drawn attention to the conclusion published within the Town Clerk's report, Members were invited to consider whether further options should be considered or whether the Royal Hotel project be terminated.

Councillors spoke both in favour of and against the idea of procuring the Royal Hotel for a variety of potential uses, but most predominantly as a hotel that incorporates a training facility for young people wanting to work in the hospitality industry. Discussions were also had regarding the different ways in which the project could be funded, including grant funding, partnership working and possibilities within the private sector.

Members agreed that they would like to preserve the heritage of the Town by seeing this building restored but questions were asked as to at what cost this could be achieved, and the impact that such costs might have on council tax levels. The Town Clerk was asked to report back to Members, on this issue, at a future meeting.

In light of the project being unlikely to succeed for grant funding and as it was not a viable project for Public Sector Partnerships (PSP) as detailed in the Town Clerk's report, Members were asked to consider whether to investigate further options relating to procurement of the Royal Hotel.

Discussion followed about other, more local potential partners that could work with the Council to move the project forward and who could share the costs of the project.

Following debate, it was proposed that the issue be kept open for one more meeting cycle and discussed again at the November Council Meeting. Furthermore, it was suggested that Members report back to the Town Clerk within four weeks with any suggestions as to who should be contacted to enquire about any interest in working in partnership with the Council to enable the purchase of the Royal Hotel.

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

<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTENTION</b>
Cllr. Brooks	Cllr. Mrs. Daniells	
Cllr. Cosgrove	Cllr. Dillon	
Cllr. Enticott	Cllr. Stanley	
Cllr. Reynolds	Cllr. Mrs. Warr	

With a tied vote, the Mayor used his second, and casting, vote (S.O. 6.5(i)) and it was **RESOLVED** to investigate further options relating to potential partners to facilitate the procurement of the Royal Hotel.

It was **AGREED** that upon receipt of reports from Members, the Town Clerk would write to potential partners to gauge their interest in the project, and that possible funding schemes be further investigated, with a report coming back to Members at the November meeting.

Finally, Members considered possible future collaborations with Public Sector Partnership (PSP) and the wider Arun area. Members proceeded to unanimously **AGREE** to consider further involvement with PSP including identification of potential sub regional projects and a presentation to JWAAC on opportunities for joint working and development of relational partnerships.

***Cllr. Enticott left the Meeting***

**90. TO RATIFY AMENDED COSTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE TOWN HALL AND TO RECEIVE INFORMATION REGARDING A POTENTIAL FUNDING STREAM TO ASSIST WITH THE INVESTIGATIVE WORK REGARDING POTENTIAL USES OF THE BUILDING - MIN. 80 REFERS**

The Deputy Clerk's report was noted.

Members **AGREED** to **RATIFY** the additional expenditure of £200 for the architect services as detailed in the report.

***Cllr. Enticott returned to the Meeting***

The Town Clerk reminded Members that it had been agreed, at the Council Meeting held 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2018, that Company A be chosen to proceed with investigations on potential uses of the Town Hall along with associated costs to prepare the building for preferred uses (Min. 80 refers).

Having received information regarding a potential funding stream to assist with the costs arising from investigative work into potential uses of the Town Hall, Members considered the item and a Councillor asked whether the work required to support an Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF) Project Viability Grant Application could incur additional expenditure, with the Deputy Clerk confirming that it could.

Following the discussion and a vote, Members **AGREED** that the potential funding should be considered further and that an invitation be extended to the Project Support Officer for AHF South East to attend a meeting to explore an application for a Project Viability Grant in relation to the Town Hall.

It was highlighted to Members that whilst the decision had already been taken to accept the quotation for architectural services from Company A, there would now be a delay in instructing the works to proceed until discussions with AHF had taken place, as any grant awarded by AHF could

not be retrospective and the costs for the architectural services would form part of any Project Viability Grant application.

***Cllr. Smith arrived to the Meeting***

**91. TO RESOLVE TO MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (S.O. 31.1)**

The Council **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 7 (contractual).

**92. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON OFFICE PROVISION AND AGREE ANY ACTION**

Members received and, having been afforded the opportunity to read and appraise themselves of its contents, noted the confidential report from the Civic & Office Manager.

Members discussed the suitability of a property for the potential intended use in both the short and long term, and the possible options for funding such a project.

It was proposed, and seconded, that further investigations into the identified property, in relation to both future office provisions and alternative community and commercial uses, be carried out and reported back to Members at the Council Meeting to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2018. This was **AGREED**.

***The Meeting closed at 7.54pm***