



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PLANNING AND LICENSING COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2019

PRESENT: Cllr. Mrs. J. Warr (Chairman), Cllrs: J. Cosgrove,
Mrs. S. Daniells, P. Dillon, S. Goodheart and P. Woodall

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs. J. Davis (Civic & Office Manager)
1 Councillor in the public gallery: Cllr. J. Brooks

The Meeting opened at 6.30pm

207. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman welcomed those present and went through the evacuation procedure in the event of a fire. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Stanley who was working. No apologies were received from Cllr. Enticott.

208. 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 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 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.

Cllrs. Mrs. Daniells and Dillon stated that, as Members of Arun District Council, they would be voting on the matters before them having regard only to such information as placed before the Town Council. If they should come to consider any matters again at the District Council, and further information may be available, they would consider the information available at that time and may come to a different decision

Cllr. Brooks, seated in the public gallery, stated he was also a Member of Arun District Council and may consider these matters again at the District Council

209. ADJOURNMENT FOR PUBLIC QUESTION TIME AND STATEMENTS

Meeting adjourned at 6.32pm

A Councillor in the public gallery, on behalf of a member of the public who had been unable to attend the meeting in person, spoke about the façade of the building located at 2-4 Waterloo Square, Bognor Regis.

Meeting reconvened at 6.33pm

210. UPDATE ON 2-4 WATERLOO SQUARE, BOGNOR REGIS AND ANY ACTIONS ARISING

A Councillor gave an update regarding the current state of 2-4 Waterloo Square, Bognor Regis, and the apparent demolition of the building that had already commenced.

As a result of the progress with the demolition, Members acknowledged that there appeared to be little more that could be done to preserve the building. However, there would be an opportunity for the Town Council to be consulted on what might replace the demolished building once a planning application has been submitted.

Members **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** that the Clerk write to the applicant, B5 Ltd, asking that they take on board the Town Council's wish to see the building at 2-4 Waterloo Square, Bognor Regis replaced with a structure of similar character and appearance, in keeping with the Conservation Area and Neighbourhood Plan.

The matter of land ownership and leasehold was discussed, with Members expressing disappointment at the lack of transparency from Arun District Council in providing information, following a Freedom of Information request submitted by a Town Councillor, pertaining to this matter. A Member will seek to obtain this information from HM Land Registry.

Further discussion resulted in Members expressing deep concern as to how the case of 2-4 Waterloo Square had been handled, and a shared opinion that demolition may never have been necessary were the property maintained properly in the first place. Consequently, questions were raised as to Arun District Council's performance as stewards for the Town of Bognor Regis and its heritage.

A Member proposed that the Town Council seek accountability into this matter with an investigation into ADC's stewardship, and this was seconded.

Following a vote, Members **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the following: -

- A letter be sent to ADC's Cabinet Member for Technical Services (including responsibility for Property and Estates) Councillor Stephen Haymes, on behalf of the Town Council's Planning and Licensing Committee, stating that Members bitterly regret the outcome of the process carried out regarding 2-4 Waterloo Square, Bognor Regis;
- A letter be sent to Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, asking that an investigation be conducted into ADC's handling of the case regarding 2-4 Waterloo Square, Bognor Regis;
- Recommendation that Full Council support the actions of the Planning and Licensing Committee, as agreed at the Extraordinary Committee Meeting held on 25th February 2019.

The Meeting closed at 7.22pm