



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

HELD ON MONDAY 7th SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT:

Town Mayor: Cllr. P. Woodall; Cllrs: J. Barrett, K. Batley (until Min. 284.3), J. Brooks, A. Cunard (until Min. 282), Mrs. S. Daniells (until Min. 282), J. Erskine, S. Goodheart, H. Jones, Miss. C. Needs, Ms. A. Sharples, Mrs. S. Staniforth (until Min. 271), W. 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)
1 member of the public (part of meeting)

The Meeting opened at 6.32pm

263. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Chairman, welcomed everyone to the Online Meeting being held in accordance with The Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 and reminded Members that the Meeting was being recorded by Bognor Regis Town Council, streamed live on Facebook and may also be recorded or filmed by any member of the public.

The Chairman advised that in the event of any loss of internet coverage or power cuts, steps would be taken to recover the connection. However, if connection could not be re-established the meeting would stand adjourned at the point of loss of connection, to be reconvened and continued at a publicised time in the future.

Finally, Members were reminded of the protocol for the Online Meeting, details of which had been circulated to all previously.

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr. Mrs. Erskine due to family commitments.

264. 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 Interest - 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. Batley declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 19, due to his personal connection to the previous tenants of 1b Linden Road and stated that he would leave the Meeting

Cllr. Cunard declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda items 17 and 19, as the tenant of the Picturedrome Cinema, and stated that he would leave the Meeting when these Agenda items were discussed

Cllr. Mrs. Daniells declared a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in Agenda items 17 and 19, as an employee of the Picturedrome Cinema, and stated that she would leave the Meeting when these Agenda items were discussed

Cllr. Goodheart declared an Ordinary Interest in any discussions pertaining to Regeneration, Rox or In Bloom

265. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE ONLINE MEETING OF BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON 10th AUGUST 2020

Cllr. Ms. Sharples stated that no response had been received to her question to the Mayor. The Mayor apologised and stated that he would look into this and respond accordingly.

The Minutes of the Online Meeting of Bognor Regis Town Council held on 10th August 2020 were **APPROVED** by the Council as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

266. REPORTS FROM WSCC AND ADC COUNCILLORS

Members were advised that invitations to address the Council Meeting had been sent to Cllr. Oppler for ADC and Cllrs. Oppler and Patel for WSCC.

Cllr. Patel had sent his apologies but had provided the following update which was read to Members by the Chairman:

- (i) The Director of Education has now approved Award of contract to Chichester College Group to deliver Education provisions for Pupils aged 14-16 years with special educational needs and disabilities for three years, from Sept 2020 in conjunction with the Department of Health and Social Care.
- (ii) WSCC with Department of Health And Social Care has set up COVID 19 testing centre at Tangmere Airfield. One still needs to book appointment.
- (iii) Nineteen Million pounds has been allocated to improve roads and footways in West Sussex for next 6 months.

267. WRITTEN QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Chairman informed Members a question for the Mayor had been received from Cllr. Stanley.

The Chairman then invited Cllr. Stanley to read his question as follows: -

In light of the ongoing situation regarding the Covid-19 pandemic and the consistent rise in new Coronavirus cases of late, would the Mayor write to the Local Government Secretary Robert Jenrick and our MP Nick Gibb to ask for their support to ensure Local Authorities maintain to powers to hold public meetings virtually indefinitely. This will enable Councils to make their own decisions on how meetings should be held in

future, as well as much needed flexibility should local lockdowns be imposed.

The Mayor chose to respond immediately to the question and informed Members he felt that the Town Council's move to virtual meetings had gone very well and agreed that in these uncertain times maximum flexibility was required. The Mayor stated that he was therefore happy to write to the Ministers identified to support the continued ability to hold virtual meetings.

268. ADJOURNMENT FOR THE MAYOR TO READ PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS

There were no questions received from members of the public.

269. It was **RESOLVED** to vary the order of business and take the Additional Agenda item next (S.O. 10 a vi).

270. TO CONSIDER CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE EVENTS, PROMOTION AND LEISURE COMMITTEE AND AGREE A REPLACEMENT VICE CHAIRMAN

The Town Clerk's report, including notification of the withdrawal of Cllr. Mrs. Erskine from the Events, Promotion and Leisure Committee and replacement by Cllr. Erskine, was **NOTED**.

Members proceeded to receive nominations of Cllr. Brooks and Cllr. Mrs. Staniforth for the position of Vice Chairman of the Committee and following a Vote, it was **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Mrs. Staniforth be duly appointed.

Cllr. Mrs. Staniforth gave her apologies stating that owing to family illness, she needed to leave the meeting

271. TO RATIFY DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE TOWN CLERK IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DELEGATED AUTHORITY AND PROCESS

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**, and the following decisions **RATIFIED**:

- Addition of Allotments Sub-Committee Meeting on 9th November 2020

272. TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER REPORTS, MINUTES AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF COMMITTEES (OTHER THAN ANY SPECIFIC ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA)

273. Planning and Licensing Committee Online Meeting of 18th August 2020

The Chairman of the Committee, Cllr. Goodheart, reported. There were no recommendations to be considered.

274. TO FORMALLY RECEIVE THE MINUTES, REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEES, AND REFER ANY SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS DECIDED UPON DURING THE MEETING BACK TO THE RELEVANT COMMITTEE, AND RATIFY ANY COMMITTEE ACTIONS AS MAY BE NECESSARY

The Council **RESOLVED** to 'formally receive the reports, Minutes and recommendations of the Committee, and refer any suggested amendments decided upon at this meeting back to the relevant Committee'.

275. TO NOTE THE LIST OF PAYMENTS AND TRANSFERS MADE IN JULY 2020 AND TO NOTE THE BALANCES, BANK RECONCILIATIONS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS (AUGUST NOT YET AVAILABLE)

The Council **RESOLVED** 'to note the payments and transfers made in July 2020 and to note the balances, bank reconciliations and financial reports'.

276. TO CONSIDER AND APPROVE A CALENDAR OF MEETINGS FOR JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**, and Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the calendar of Meetings for January to December 2021.

277. TO NOTE CHANGE IN POLITICAL AFFILIATION OF FORMER LABOUR COUNCILLOR

The Town Clerk's report, including confirmation that Cllr. Ms. Sharples would now be an Independent Councillor, was **NOTED**.

Cllr. Ms. Sharples informed Members that her values remain the same and she would continue to serve the residents of Marine Ward to the best of her ability.

278. TO RECEIVE FURTHER DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED USE OF FUNDING IDENTIFIED IN THE 2020/21 BUDGET AS HIGH STREET INNOVATION FUND (MIN. 164.1 COUNCIL MEETING 6th JANUARY 2020 REFERS) AND TO AGREE WHETHER TO RELEASE THE FUNDS

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

The matter, including the Brief supplied by Artswork which was circulated to all, was discussed at length with the following points, for and against, made:

- Concern at the level of input from the Town Council, something that had been raised when the matter had first come to Members for consideration;
- Concern that it is very Town Centre orientated when there are other areas of the Town that could benefit;
- This was a pre-COVID initiative and priorities may have changed;
- With the COVID review underway, is this the right time for this type of initiative;
- This is an opportunity to invest in local groups;
- The proposals promote partnership working and are for the benefit of the Town Centre, young people and civic pride - all Town Council priorities;
- Town Council would be on the selection panel and would therefore have input;
- Money would be better spent giving directly to local groups rather to a third party.

Following the debate Members voted and **RESOLVED** by a majority not to continue to support and contribute to the collaborative working with ADC and Artswork.

As the decision had been taken to not support the proposal, the remaining decisions regarding the release and earmarking of funds were no longer required.

279. COVID-19 MEMBERS' AWARENESS SEMINAR

The Mayor informed Members that, as they were aware, the Seminar had been held on 3rd September. From that event the proposal to arrange Working Groups to consider the impact of COVID-19 on the Town Council's activities and services would now be progressed by the Policy and Resources Committee and therefore no discussion would take place on this item at the current time to enable the due process, as agreed at the Seminar, to take place.

280. REGENERATION INCLUDING TO NOTE BRIEFING NOTES FROM THE BOGNOR REGIS REGENERATION BOARD MEETING HELD ON 22nd JULY 2020

The Town Clerk's report was **NOTED**.

Following a brief discussion on the recent Minutes, and the need for collaborative working with the Board, Members **NOTED** the Minutes of the Meeting held on 22nd July 2020.

Cllr. Smith left the Meeting

281. TO RECEIVE CORRESPONDENCE AND NOTE CIRCULATION BY EMAIL OF LIST UP TO 1st SEPTEMBER 2020

The Committee **NOTED** receipt of correspondence as detailed in the list.

Cllrs. Cunard and Mrs. Daniells redeclared their Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and left the Meeting

Cllr. Smith returned to the Meeting

282. PICTUREDROME SITE UPDATE

The previously circulated Director's Report was **NOTED**, and actions taken as detailed were **RATIFIED**.

283. TO RESOLVE TO MOVE TO CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS (S.O. 3.D) - (CONTRACTUAL)

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, with broadcasting live to Zoom and social media streaming also terminated (S.O. 3.d) - Agenda items 17 & 19 (contractual).

284. PICTUREDROME SITE UPDATE - CONFIDENTIAL

284.1 The Town Clerk updated the circulated Confidential report to advise that the Cinema had been able to have two screens open for the past three weeks and gave details of other activities being considered.

284.2 The previously circulated confidential Director's Report was **NOTED**, and actions taken as detailed were **RATIFIED**.

Cllr. Batley redeclared his Ordinary Interest and left the Meeting

284.3 With regard to a potential new combined lease for 1a and 1b Linden Road, after discussion it was unanimously **AGREED** that the Town Clerk, through the Agent, should continue negotiations regarding the proposal

to reach a mutually agreeable conclusion to include the amendments to the proposal as detailed in the confidential report appended to the file Minutes.

284.4 Turning to the second Confidential Director's Report in connection with 1b Linden Road, Members **NOTED** and **RATIFIED** the actions as detailed. Furthermore, Members unanimously **RESOLVED** to proceed as per the offer relayed by the solicitor, as detailed in the Confidential Director's Report previously circulated to Members. However, it was requested that there be a deadline of 28 days, to finalise the matter, from the time of the solicitor actioning this decision. Any default would result in the alternative option in the Confidential Director's Report being instigated.

The Meeting closed at 8.22pm