



BOGNOR REGIS TOWN COUNCIL

TOWN CLERK Glenna Frost, The Town Hall, Clarence Road,
Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 1LD
Telephone: 01243 867744
E-mail: bognortc@bognorregis.gov.uk

MINUTES OF THE ONLINE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2020

PRESENT ONLINE:

Cllr. J. Erskine (Vice-Chairman); Cllrs: J. Barrett,
A. Cunard (until during Min. 185), S. Goodheart,
Ms. A. Sharples, Mrs. J. Warr and P. Woodall

IN ATTENDANCE ONLINE:

Mrs. G. Frost (Town Clerk)
Mrs. S. Norman (Deputy Clerk)
Mrs. J. Davis (Civic & Office Manager and Meeting
Host)
No members of the public attended via Zoom
18 members of the public viewing via Facebook

The Meeting opened at 2.30pm

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman took the Chair for this meeting only.

182. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN 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, live streamed via 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.

Members were advised that Cllr. Stanley had sent his apologies due to work commitments.

No apologies for absence had been received from Cllr. Jones.

183. 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.

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.

Cllr. Cunard declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 4 for any discussion relating to Arun Arts and the Twinning Association as he was a member of both organisations

Cllr. Erskine declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 4 for any discussion relating to West Sussex Guitar Club due the applicant being an acquaintance of the family and stated that he would not take part in any discussion

Cllr. Goodheart declared an Ordinary Interest in Agenda item 4 for any discussion relating to 60 Minutes of Classical Music and Rox Music and Arts, stating that he would not take part in the discussion

184. ADJOURNMENT FOR THE CHAIRMAN TO READ PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS

There were no public questions.

185. CONSIDERATION OF GRANT AID FUNDING 2021

The Chairman referred Members to the summary and supporting documentation for all the applications received, that had been uploaded and were accessible in the Members' Area of the website. He hoped that Members had reviewed the paperwork prior to the meeting as it was not practicable to display these remotely.

The Grant Aid paperwork available on the Town Council's website provides guidelines/criteria to applicants which includes information regarding organisations in receipt of Grant Aid who may be required to have a Town Council appointed non-voting observer as a representative to any of the organisation's meetings. This appointment will be at the discretion of the Town Council and will enable them to take part in discussion and debate only and to also give input/feedback in relation to the Town Council's agreed position and policy on issues relating to the discussion. Representatives are there to represent the Town Council and not as individuals. They should not therefore under any circumstances agree anything on the Town Council's behalf that has not been approved previously by the Town Council. Town Council representatives will respect any issues of confidentiality that might arise from the outside organisation.

The Chairman referred back to the Grant Aid awards for 2020 and informed Members that many of the successful event applicants for 2020, unable to proceed with their planned activities due to COVID-19, have had funds earmarked for 2021 and these organisations would be written to in the New Year to discuss how those funds can be released.

Members were further advised that when agreeing to earmark these funds, at the Council Meeting held on the 8th of June 2020 (Min. 228 refers), it was resolved that any application received for Grant Aid 2021 from an organisation that already had their 2020 Grant Aid award Earmarked, must include an explanation to stress the material difference that warrants the additional funds being requested.

The Chairman highlighted that the Southdowns Folk Festival had 2020 funds earmarked to be returned to them, and a had also submitted a new application for 2021 to be considered this afternoon, but the application had distinguished between the two different purposes for the grants.

An update was also provided to Members from Arun Arts Limited who had contacted the Town Council to advise that due to COVID-19, they were still waiting for their 2019 accounts to be finalised but that they were in the process of catching up and would send the latest accounts once they have been finalised.

Finally, before moving to review the applications, Members were reminded that as noted in the Grant Aid Guidelines/Criteria, the Bognor Regis Town Council Vision is to develop Bognor Regis to become more powerful and enterprising, working with others in partnership to boost the local economy, build civic pride and create a happier Bognor Regis.

In support of this Vision, the Town Council has agreed the following strategy and priority headings for 2019-2024 and Grant Aid applicants were therefore asked to show how their application would meet one or more of these: -

- Build on the success of Bognor Regis
- Manage and reduce the environmental impact of Bognor Regis
- Work to enable residents and community groups to live well and enjoy and take pride in our Town
- Promote arts and culture to make Bognor Regis a great place to live, work, study and visit.

It was confirmed that the amount available for Grant Aid 2021 was £46,000. It was noted that, as many of the events that usually applied had their 2020 Grant Aid Earmarked for release in 2021, the total value applied for in 2021 was markedly lower than in previous years at £61,886.60, only £15,886.60 over the budget available.

The Chairman subsequently opened the debate on the applications. Considerations that were expressed during the debate that influenced the decisions included:

- The extent that the applicant was based and active within 5 wards of Bognor Regis.
- The level of reserves.
- A desire to support activities for young people together with organisations that are assisting with the impact of the pandemic on local residents.

Cllr. Goodheart redeclared his Ordinary Interest during the discussions relating to 60 Minutes of Classical Music. He also declared an Ordinary Interest in Bognor Shopmobility having previously used their services for a friend

Cllr. Erskine redeclared his Ordinary Interest in West Sussex Guitar Club

Cllr. Cunard left the Meeting during the debate and only took part in the initial discussions on the applications from 4 Sight Visions, Arun Arts Ltd, Rox Music and Arts, South Downs Folk Festival, Dementia Support, Shopmobility, 60 Minutes of Classical Music and the Arctic Fox Explorer Scout Unit

Members carried out an initial review deciding to: -

- Reject the applications from Dementia Support and Brent Lodge Bird and Wildlife Trust;
- Provisionally award 4Sight Vision, Bognor Shopmobility, Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur, Livability Ashley Place and Southdowns Folk Festival 50% of the applied for amount;
- Provisionally award Crimsham Farm CIC £250.

Members were subsequently informed that, taking into account the decisions taken so far, there remained a sum of £7,151.40 that could be used to increase the provisional awards made previously. Members therefore agreed to increase the awards to 4Sight Vision, Bognor Shopmobility, Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur and Southdowns Folk Festival to 100% of the amount applied for.

Finally, having fully considered the individual applications for Grant Aid 2021, Members **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the awards as summarised to Members by the Civic & Office Manager, and as attached to the Minutes as **Appendix 1**.

The Meeting closed at 4.11pm

Grant Aid 2021 Applicant	Amount Requested	Committee Decision
4Sight Vision	£2,356.00	£2,356.00
60 Minutes of Classical Music	£2,800.00	£2,800.00
Arctic Fox Explorer Scout Unit	£1,104.60	£1,104.60
Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice	£3,000.00	£3,000.00
Arun Arts Ltd	£9,000.00	£9,000.00
Bognor Regis Town Youth FC	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Bognor Shopmobility	£5,000.00	£5,000.00
Brent Lodge Bird & Wildlife Trust	£5,000.00	£0.00
Crimsham Farm CIC	£750.00	£250.00
Dementia Support	£10,000.00	£0.00
Girlguiding Bognor Regis Division	£500.00	£500.00
Girlguiding Bognor Regis South District	£200.00	£200.00
Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Livability Ashley Place	£1,320.00	£660.00
Making Theatre Gaining Skills	£7,300.00	£7,300.00
Rox Music and Arts	£1,868.00	£1,868.00
Southdowns Folk Festival	£5,400.00	£5,400.00
UK Harvest	£3,288.00	£3,288.00
West Sussex Guitar Club	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
Total Amount Awarded	£61,886.60	£45,726.60
Remaining Balance (<i>overspend</i>)	<i>£15,886.60</i>	£273.40