

485

**MINUTES
OF A
MEETING OF THE ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL
HELD IN THE ARUN CIVIC CENTRE
ON 2 MAY 2018 AT 6.00 P.M.**

Present:- Councillors Mrs Pendleton (Chairman), Gammon (Vice-Chairman), Ambler, Mrs Ayres, T Bence, Mrs Bence, Bicknell, Blampied, Mrs Bower, R Bower, Brooks, Mrs Brown, L Brown, Buckland, Charles, Clayden, Cooper, Mrs Daniells, Dillon, Dingemans, Elkins, English, Mrs Hall, Mrs Harrison-Horn, Haymes, Hughes, Mrs Neno, Mrs Oakley, Oppler, Patel, Mrs Porter, Mrs Rapnik, Reynolds, Miss Rhodes, Smith, Mrs Stainton, Stanley, Tyler, Warren, Wensley and Wotherspoon.

540. WELCOME

The Chairman welcomed Councillors, representatives of the public, press and officers to the Council Meeting.

541. FORMER DISTRICT COUNCILLOR MRS FRANCES KERLEY

The Chairman announced that it was with great sadness that she had to report the death of former Councillor Frances Kerley who had sadly passed away on 6 April 2018.

The Council then stood in silence to her memory.

542. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors Ballard, Cates, Chapman, Dendle, Edwards, Hitchins, Mrs Madeley, Northeast, Oliver-Redgate, Purchase, Dr Walsh, Wheal and Wells and from all of the Council's Honorary Aldermen, Mrs Goad, MBE, Mrs Morrish, Mrs Olliver, Mrs Stinchcombe and Squires.

543. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

544. QUESTION TIME

The Chairman invited questions from members of the public who had submitted their questions in advance of the meeting in accordance with the rules of the Council's Constitution.

The Chairman announced that two questions had been received. The first question, to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown, asked the Council if it could consider a proposal to house community groups within the new Linear Park redevelopment as they assisted the Council and the Police in assisting with and preventing anti-social behaviour in some of the Council's parks in Bognor Regis, mainly the Sunken Gardens in Hothamton.

The second question, to the Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services, Councillor Wotherspoon, asked when the Council's Arun District Play Strategy would be updated and made public.

In the absence of the two questioners, the Chairman announced that as the full detail of two questions had been circulated to the meeting, a written response would be provided to each questioner by the appropriate Cabinet Member.

[To view the full detail of the questions submitted and the answers provided in writing – please refer to the Council's Public Question Time page on its web site - <https://www.arun.gov.uk/public-question-time>]

545. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS WITH PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

There were no Questions from Members with prejudicial/pecuniary interests.

546. PETITIONS

The Chairman confirmed that a petition containing 2,557 signatures had been received from the Bognor Regis Civic Society asking the Council to provide a permanent ice rink for Bognor Regis.

Having invited the Petition Organiser to hand over the Petition to the Council, the Chairman confirmed that a response confirming how the Council proposed to deal with the Petition would be sent within ten working days following this meeting.

547. MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 March 2018 were approved by the Council as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

548. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman alerted Members to the list of engagements and events that had been attended since the Meeting of the Council held on 7 March 2018 – these had been emailed to Councillors recently.

549. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE – 14 MARCH 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Bower, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 14 March 2018.

550. OVERVIEW SELECT COMMITTEE – 20 MARCH 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Dingemans, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Overview Select Committee held on 20 March 2018.

Councillor Dingemans alerted Members to a recommendation at Minute 514 [Filming and Photography Draft Policy] and stated that this Policy had been reviewed since its introduction five years ago. Councillor Dingemans then formally proposed this recommendation which was seconded by Councillor English.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the Filming and Photography Policy be agreed.

551. LICENSING COMMITTEE – 23 MARCH 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Cooper, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Licensing Committee held on 23 March 2018.

552. CABINET – 9 APRIL 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Mrs Brown, presented the Minutes from the Cabinet Meeting held on 9 April 2018.

Full Council – 02.05.18

553. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL COMMITTEE – 11 APRIL 2018

The Chairman, Councillor Bower, presented the Minutes from the meeting of the Development Control Committee held on 11 April 2018.

554. MOTIONS

No Motions had been submitted to this meeting.

555. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13

A question had been received as set out below:

- (1) from Councillor Stanley to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown, regarding the Linear Park consultation conducted last year.

The full detail of the question asked and the response provided can be found at the back of these Minutes.

556. FINAL UPDATE ON THE COUNCIL'S 2020 VISION PROGRAMME "WORKING TOGETHER FOR A BETTER FUTURE"

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown introduced this report reminding Members that the 2020 Vision Programme had been established in 2016 to provide the strategic direction required to help the Council become a more effective and sustainable one and to enable it to meet the future demands that would be placed upon it.

The 2020 Vision Programme had set out proposals across a range of services to contribute towards the required financial savings to assist reducing the Council's continued resilience on its General Fund Balances.

The report updated Members on the final outcome and savings identified as a result of Members and Officers working together over the last two years leading towards the 2018/19 budget, as approved by a Special Meeting of the Council on 21 February 2018.

Councillor Mrs Brown confirmed that savings from the programme [measured between the five year period 2016/17 to 2020/21] had confirmed an annual saving to the Council of slightly over £3m. With this in mind, Councillor Mrs Brown urged Members to acknowledge this latest update and the successful financial outcome achieved. Councillor Mrs Brown then formally proposed this recommendation which was then duly seconded by Councillor Wensley.

The Council

RESOLVED

That the latest position of the 2020 Vision Programme and the successful financial outcome be acknowledged.

557. DATA PROTECTION POLICY

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown, presented a report which outlined that the Council had been reviewing its data protection policies and guidance to meet the requirements of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which would be coming into force on 25 May 2018.

A draft corporate Data Protection Policy, explaining the measures that the Council had put into place to meet these obligations under GDPR, was presented to the Council for approval. Councillor Mrs Brown then formally proposed the two recommendations as set out within the report and these were then duly seconded by Councillor Wensley.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the Data Protection Policy, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) the Group Head of Council Advice & Monitoring Officer be given delegated authority to make any necessary consequential changes to the Data Protection Policy as a result of new legislation or alternative practices.

558. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE FOR EMPLOYEES

The Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown, presented a report setting out a revised Grievance Procedure for employees. This had been approved at the Council's formal UNISON/Employer Consultation Panel meeting held on 29 March 2018. This Procedure now needed to receive formal approval by Full Council so that it could be fully adopted and used.

In formally proposing the recommendations set out in the report, Councillor Mrs Brown outlined that the Grievance Procedure set out how employees could raise complaints with the employer; how these would be investigated; and how the appeals process operated. The Procedure followed the principles of ACAS guidance and so the changes made had been for clarity and ease of reference. Councillor Mrs Brown therefore urged Members to approve this Policy which has been attached as an appendix to the report. Councillor Wensley then duly seconded the two recommendations.

The Council

RESOLVED – That

- (1) the Grievance Procedure for Employees be approved and adopted; and
- (2) the Group Head for Corporate Support be given delegated authority to make any necessary consequential changes to the Grievance Procedure as a result of new legislation or alternative practices.

559. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

No changes to Committee Memberships were reported.

560. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

No changes to representation on Outside Bodies were reported.

(The meeting concluded at 6.28 pm)

Subject to approval at the next meeting

COUNCIL MEETING – 2 MAY 2018

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS PURSUANT TO
COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 13**

Q1: Councillor Stanley to the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown

Q1 Following the support of officers at Arun District Council it was reported that 120 people attended the Linear Park consultation last October.

Question 2 on the consultation questionnaire asked:-

"The proposal is for a high quality, public park with a leisure and cultural focus. Is this something you would use and what are your views about this as a proposal?"

19 people responded that they liked the proposal.

I respectfully ask the Leader to delay spending £300,000 to progress the Linear Park project to the next stage before the following two points can be evidenced.

Firstly, that the £3.5million due to be spent on the Linear Park will provide value for money for the tax payers who will have to pay the bill.

Secondly, that the Linear Park is widely supported by the majority of Bognor Regis residents.

A1 A verbal response was provided by the Leader of the Council, Councillor Mrs Brown at the meeting as set out below:

Thank you for your question. As you will be aware the Council has had a long term aspiration to see the regeneration of two key sites the Council owns in Bognor Regis – the Regis Centre Site and Hothampton Car Park.

In the summer of 2015 the Council carried out extensive public consultation to ask the community what they would like to see these sites used for. This threw open the debate to all residents on how these sites could be developed. The response was excellent and it was clear from this that development is very much wanted by people living both within and outside of Bognor Regis, and sooner rather than later.

Subject to approval at the next meeting

The Council took every opportunity to reach as many residents as possible in the District, including the 'hard to reach' groups such as young people and the elderly, and we did this through hosting consultation events and setting up information displays in key locations across the District, visiting schools, colleges and universities and via an on-line feedback survey on our website.

Consultation went on for 6 weeks and we held events in Pagham, Aldwick, Bognor Regis Methodist Hall, the Regis Centre, Felpham, Bersted, Middleton-on-sea, Barnham, Arundel, Littlehampton and Angmering. Permanent displays for the 6 weeks were also at Bognor Regis Town Hall, the Civic Centre in Littlehampton and Bognor Regis library

Restaurants, cafes, theatre & arts, public spaces, gardens and water features gained the most positive feedback from those who took part in the consultation exercise. This consultation feedback was used to inform what should be included in the new regeneration master plans – the Winter Gardens and Linear Park proposals were the result of this.

These proposals are unashamedly ambitious and will be transformational for Bognor Regis. But this is what is needed to change the perception of the Town and set us apart from the rest.

In February 2017 the Council fully endorsed the proposals for the Winter Gardens and the Linear Park. Work on the Linear Park has been progressed first and in January of this year more detailed designs for the park, the likely costs to build it and how the development could be delivered were considered by the Council.

As part of the preparation for this report, further consultation was conducted to gather views on some of the design ideas for the park. This was not intended to be a choice on the park happening or not – that decision had already been made, but a chance to consider some of the design ideas.

It was decided the Council would fund and deliver the scheme itself because this would ensure the quality of the new amenity; would reduce costs; and could better control when work would start.

The scheme, which is estimated to cost around £3m, will be a good investment and the Council will also take every opportunity to bid for grant funding from other Government agencies to help finance it.

The next step will be to work up more detailed designs for the park and secure planning permission. As is usual, there will be opportunities for further consultation within the planning process.

This proposal is welcomed by many in Bognor Regis and will bring many benefits to both the local community and visitors as a new amenity they can all use.

Subject to approval at the next meeting

We are a well-run Council. We have a balanced budget. The fact that we are building a new £19m Leisure Centre in Littlehampton from our reserves is an example of how fiscally prudent we are and that we make best use of tax-payers money. We consider it extremely important that we also make investment in Bognor Regis.

The regeneration of these two important sites has been a long held aspiration of the Council and we have public support for this. Timing is everything, and the community is tired of waiting for things to happen.

We are confident that Bognor Regis is on the cusp of a renaissance; over £60m of investment is already coming into the Town from just two new developments by the University of Chichester and Butlin's.

We wish to drive this renewal on and the new Linear Park will be one further step in the right direction. I hope that all Members in the Chamber will support this ambition.

Supp

Q In experiencing dealing with my constituent's concerns, there have been lots of concerns expressed around the Linear Park proposals. Arun District Council Officers were unable to attend a recent public meeting held to field the concerns of constituents. I am wondering whether if it is possible for the Leader of the Council to attend a public meeting to discuss her views on the Linear Park proposals with Bognor Regis residents.

Supp

A I have already explained these proposals in more than enough detail and, as highlighted in my response, a thorough consultation exercise on the Linear Park proposals has taken place. There will be a further chance of consultation when we get to the planning application stage. I do have to say, what is the point in having a further consultation meeting when the decision has been made.