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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Town Council held in the New Millennium Chamber, Manor House, Church Street, Littlehampton on Thursday 24 March 2022 at 6.30pm

Present:

Councillor Molloy – Town Mayor
Councillor Blanchard-Cooper
Councillor Buckland
Councillor Butcher
Councillor Chace
Councillor Long
Councillor Northeast
Councillor Price
Councillor Rhodes
Councillor Tilbrook*
Councillor Turner
Councillor Dr Walsh KStJ

2021 to 2022

50. Evacuation Procedure

The Town Mayor outlined the evacuation procedures.

51. Filming of Council Meetings Use of Social Media and Mobile Phones

The procedures were noted.

52. Apologies

There were apologies from Councillor Woodman and Councillor Tandy.
Councillor Tilbrook advised he was delayed and would join the meeting later.

53. Declarations of Interest

Members and Officers were reminded to make any declarations of disclosable, pecuniary or personal and or prejudicial interests that they might have in relation to items on the Agenda. The standing declarations were noted.

54. Minutes

The Minutes of the Council Advisory Group meeting held on 20 January 2022 and the Extraordinary meeting of the Council held on 21 January 2022, previously circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Mayor.

55. Town Mayor's Report and Urgent Items

55.1. Town Mayor's Report

The Town Mayor gave a message of support to residents affected by the situation in Russia and Ukraine. Council received the Town Mayor's report of engagements, attached to the minutes. The Mayor reported that her attendance at the Rotary Arun Youth Awards and leading out the team at the recent Littlehampton Football Club match were highlights. Looking forward, she reminded everyone that the Annual Town Meeting would be held on 21 April at 6pm in the Chamber. It would be the first time since 2019 that the Council had been able to host this meeting and she very much looked forward to presenting the Town Merit Awards.

In a welcome return to normality, the events season would soon start with the Love Local Arts' Easter Eggstravaganza on 9 April followed by the Easter Out and About sessions on 13 and 20 April. She invited Members to help promote and support these events the details of which could also be found in the What's on Leaflets and on the Visit Littlehampton Website.

56. Public Forum

Councillor Turner declared a personal interest in the following matter as member of Protect Coastal Sussex, an organisation aligned with the Campaign for the Protection of Coastal Sussex.

There were nine written representations regarding the Rampion 2 wind farm development. Details of the representations and responses had been provided and were circulated at the meeting, copy also attached to the minutes. There were ten members of the public present some of whom addressed the Council with their previously submitted written representations.

57. Correspondence or Issues in Respect of the District or County Council

There were none.

58. Reports from Committees – Non-Exempt

58.1. Recommendations from Committees

Council considered a report, previously circulated, which drew together the recommendations from the last cycle of Committee meetings that needed to be approved by Council.

58.1.1. Governance and Audit Committee: 8 February 2022

Minute 8.3 – Annual Governance Review

Council received a recommendation from the Committee proposing that a clause be added to the Town Council's Code of Conduct regarding compliance with sanctions. This had been received from the Monitoring Officer and aimed to strengthen the Code.

It was Resolved that:

A clause be added to the Town Council's Code of Conduct stating that Members must comply with any sanction imposed on them following a finding that they have breached the Code of Conduct.

Minute 8.4 – Annual Review of Internal Controls

It was Resolved that:

Statements 2, 5, 6 and 7 of the Annual Governance Statement be approved.

Minute 8.5 – Annual Review of Corporate Risk Register

Council was recommended to approve the updated Risk Register and Corporate Risk Management Strategy and Procedure.

It was Resolved that:

The Council's Corporate Risk Management Strategy and Procedure be approved.

58.1.2. Policy and Finance Committee: 14 March 2022

Minute 36.2 – Annual Investment Strategy 2022 to 2023

Council was recommended to approve the Annual Investment Strategy.

It was therefore Resolved that:

The Annual Investment Strategy 2022 to 2023 be approved.

58.1.3. Community Centres Sub-Committee: 10 March 2022

Minute 29.1 – New Youth Centre in Wick

The progress of the Project was noted.

It was Resolved that:

The work to date be endorsed and that authority be delegated to the Sub-Committee to appoint the building contractor, linking with Arun District Council as appropriate.

58.2. Committee Minutes – Non-Exempt

58.2.1. Planning and Transportation

Council received the Minutes of the meetings held on 31 January and 28 February 2022, previously circulated, with no matters arising.

58.2.2. Governance and Audit

Council received and noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022, previously circulated, with no matters arising.

58.2.3. Community Resources

Council received and noted the Minutes of the meetings held on 17 February and 17 March 2022, previously circulated.

Regarding 57.3.2 Minute War Memorial Maintenance Contract, it was noted that the contract included a maintenance and inspection regime and that an annual report would be provided

58.2.4. Policy and Finance

Council received and noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2022, previously circulated, with no matters arising.

58.2.5. Community Centres Sub-Committee

58.2.5.1. Council received and noted the Minutes of the meetings held on 24 January and 10 March 2022, previously circulated. Regarding project costs, it was still too early to say what impact inflation might have. It was however noted that the pre-tender estimate of circa one million had attracted sufficient interest for the tender process to proceed. Members supported the Sub Committee's stance regarding the use of sustainable energy. It was noted that a mechanical and engineering consultant had been appointed to explore options in terms of sustainable resources and technology for powering the Centre. The need to ensure that the necessary infrastructure was in place to support this was also emphasised.

58.2.5.1. The update regarding the ownership of the fencing on the eastern boundary, some of which was in a poor state of repair, was noted. Whilst additional landscaping protection on this part of the site boundary was planned, Members were concerned that residents were not affected by the increased activity at the site and that the boundary proposals complimented the new centre. It was noted that the Arun District Council as the landowner would be retaining responsibility for the boundary and external provision at the site and that the project had no budget provision for additional fencing. Following further discussion on the matter Members considered it prudent that the District Council be contacted and requested to confirm their proposals in this respect.

It was therefore resolved that:

Arun District Council be requested to confirm their proposals for the boundary treatment at the Eldon Way site.

59. Officer Reports

*Councillor Tilbrook joined the meeting at 7.15pm.

59.1. Disposal of Street Furniture

Council received a report, previously circulated, which set out options regarding disposal of the street furniture in the High Street. There was a strong view that the furniture was part of the town's maritime heritage and should therefore be retained for the continued benefit of residents. Whilst Members had no issue with local groups having items, it was considered that the furniture should be re-sited in areas in need of seating within Littlehampton and wished to further explore potential within the Town Council's allotments as well as other public open spaces. It was also suggested that the potential to reuse items such as the bike racks at the new youth centre in Wick be included. This would require further investigation including permissions and suitability and a further report would therefore be brought back to Council for consideration.

It was therefore resolved that:

The High Street furniture be retained by the Town Council and options to reuse or re-site it as far as practical in the parish be explored.

59.2. Boundary Commission Parliamentary Constituencies Review 2023

59.2.1. Council received a report, previously circulated, which explained the current review of all parliamentary constituencies and the potential implications for Littlehampton. Should the changes proceed, the current Bognor Regis and Littlehampton constituency would be re-drawn to include more rural parishes and renamed Arundel and Littlehampton. The final consultation on the proposals was due to end on 4 April and Councillor Butcher had been monitoring the review closely and reported that there was a strong view emerging that it would be detrimental for the Town if the proposal went ahead. Arundel Parish Council had also registered their opposition to these plans earlier in the review process and it was suggested that the Council should now make a representation.

59.2.2. A counter proposal had been drafted which aimed to meet the Boundary Commission's brief whilst protecting the identity of the parish. Members proceeded to consider the Boundary Commission proposal in more detail and the consensus was that it should be opposed on the grounds that it would significantly dilute representation for the parish. Furthermore, considering the counter proposal, Members were of the strong view that this better reflected a community of common interests shared by the neighbouring coastal towns whilst also achieving the Boundary Commission's objectives.

It was therefore resolved that:

1. The Boundary Commission proposals be opposed, and the counter proposal attached at Appendix A be supported.
2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk in consultation with the Mayor to agree the final response.

60. Reports of Representatives on Outside Bodies

There were none.

61. Exempt Business

There was none.

The meeting closed at 7.58 pm.

Town Mayor

Mayoral Events attended between 15 October 2021 to 20 January 2022 – Councillor Michelle Molloy

	Date	Organisation	Activities at Event	Venue
51	21/01/22	Littlehampton Musical Productions	Aladdin	Windmill Theatre
52 **	31/01/22	Shirley Belchamber Funeral	Shirley Belchamber Funeral	Crematorium
53 **	04/02/22	St Catherine's Church	New Priest & Reception	St Catherine's Church
54	05/02/22	West Sussex Prayer	High Sheriff Breakfast Meeting	Virtual – Zoom
55	09/02/22	Bersted Parish Council	Chairman's Network Meeting	Virtual – Zoom
56 **	11/02/22	Littlehampton Town Council	Rosemead Planting – Queen's Canopy	Rosemead Park
57 **	13/02/22	Sussex Tornadoes	Sussex Tornadoes Showcase	Lineside Industrial Estate
58	14/02/22	Littlehampton and District Guild of Co-operators: For Peace and The Common Good	Mayors For Peace Meeting	Mayor's Parlour
59	15/02/22	Wick Information Centre	Wick Information Centre reopening	Wick Information Centre
61	26/02/22	Littlehampton Town Council	Pancake Olympics	Littlehampton High Street
62	04/03/22	Littlehampton Town Council	Mayor and Museum Curator Meeting	Virtual – Teams
63	06/03/22	Writing around the Kids	Writing around the Kids Celebration	Virtual – Zoom
64	12/03/22	Littlehampton Town Football Club	Littlehampton versus North Shields Match	Sports field
65	23/03/22	Littlehampton & Bognor Rotary Clubs	Rotar Arun Youth Community Awards	Windmill

** Deputy Mayor Attended Event

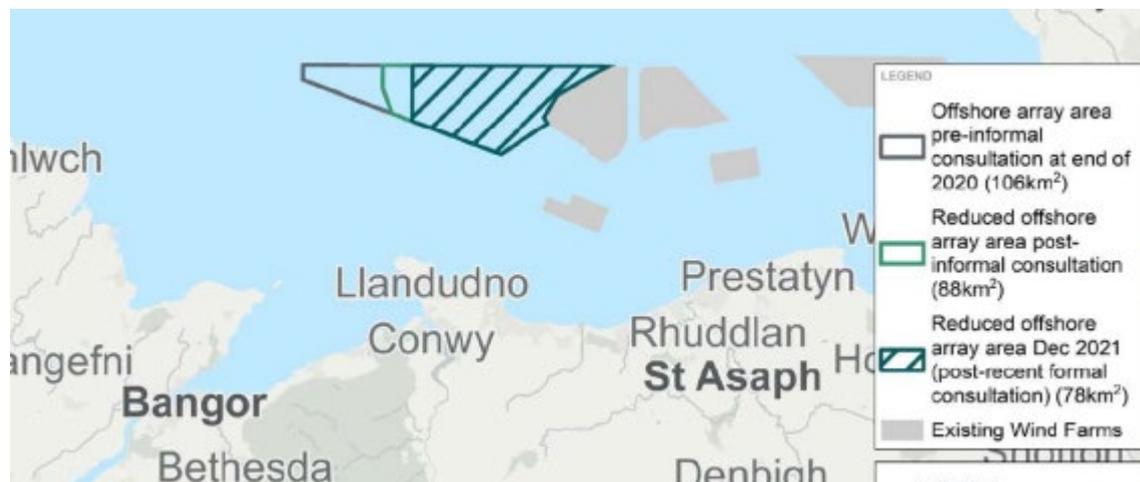
Dear Members of the **Littlehampton Town Council**

It is hoped this finds you all in good spirits. Thank you for taking a moment out to read this letter which is very pertinent to this area.

In recent BBC press an article was printed:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-59712566> regarding this project:
<https://awelymor.cymru/offshore-wind-farm-north-wales/awel-y-mor-project-details/>

This article highlights the detrimental effects that a 91-turbine marine wind-farm proposal would have on tourism on the North Wales coast. Because of the concern that was raised to the developer by the local Council, the project has been scaled back from 91 to between 35 and 50 turbines.



ACTION BY THE LOCAL COUNCIL

“In October a Conwy Council committee rejected the original scheme, citing concerns about the size and possible impact on tourism.”

Last year Protect Coastal England (PCE) contacted Janet Finch-Saunders MS to discuss the similarities of the proposed Awel Y Mor wind farm and the proposed Rampion 2 wind farm and the potential negative impact of these wind farms extensions on the local economies.

The local Conwy Council undertook a visitor survey in April 2021 which identified the importance of their beaches as a key attraction for visitors.

Ms. Finch Saunders MS coordinated a response to the OESEA4 consultation with PCE in May 2021 identifying the importance of limiting offshore wind farms to be

sufficiently far from shore or small in scale to minimise the impact on the local economy.

Conwy council sponsored a detailed 25-page report on the range of impacts the proposed wind farm would have on the area. (This included a section on the likely significant negative impact the wind farm would have on the local economy via a significant drop in tourism)

The Council submitted an objection to the proposed development. This resulted in RWE scaling back its plans for the wind farm off Conwy as in the announcement at the top of the message. In this case where the local council takes coordinated action then the developer reacts.

The proposal was not only scaled back in size but the area far away from the existing wind farm was eliminated. If this were reflected in the proposed development in the Sussex Bay the equivalent would be a reduction of the Western end in the Littlehampton/Bognor/Pagham end.

YOUR POWERS and LOCAL REACTIONS

As County and District authorities, you have the power to make a difference in the outcome of this proposed development.

The Littlehampton Society (formerly the Littlehampton Civic Society) has surveyed the membership regarding Rampion 2 and the resounding response was OPPOSED to the project. This information is available should you wish to view it. This Action Group is sprung from smaller groups of individuals with similar views. These groups are extremely pro-active and the word is spreading all across West Sussex and into East Sussex. The reaction: people are mostly unaware of the Rampion 2 project and when made aware they are disturbed and feel this is not the right location for such a large power station.

TOURISM IN OUR LOCALITY

Tourism is highly valid, as being seaside resorts tourism is the lifeblood that keeps businesses afloat along these coasts. The LOCALISM ACT (2011) specifically provides for us to speak on behalf of local interests, including stewardship of natural capital. And the national safeguards (OESEA) say to avoid harm to coastal communities who alone would bear the harm, that there should be a provision of a 40km (25 miles) visual buffer for such turbines. These OESEA guidelines are not being respected.

There is the scientific analysis [here](#) that gives resounding evidence that this is not the correct location.

SUSSEX KELP FARM REGENERATION

The regeneration of the Kelp is a major ongoing project which will be extremely vulnerable to the millions of cubic metres of sediment released into the water column during construction and decommissioning.

VITAL MIGRATION ROUTES ON OUR ENTIRE ECOLOGICAL POPULATION

The above water situation is extremely dangerous to all migrating birds, bats and insects that use this route to make their journey. The RSPB has come out recently against wind-farms in areas such as this due to the effect it will have on our birds, and the entire UK ecological population that rely on these species. While there are projects to re-wild large swathes of Sussex including the Duke of Norfolk's Peppering Project, the Knepp Castle Estate and the projected Weald to Waves program instigated by landowners the Bairds at Clymping, this windfarm will endanger the successful outcomes.

SUSSEX WIND EFFICIENCY

The Sussex Bay is one site of the lowest wind efficiency of all UK coastal waters. It would be a waste of resources here and cause untold upset to ecology and people's well-being mentally and economically.

If you could answer this, the answer will be shared with the West Sussex Society at large: **Will you ignore the views, the goodwill and the trust of the people who you speak for, or will you petition the County and District to listen closely to the concerns of the people it represents?**

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,

The Littlehampton Society

info@thelittlehamptonsociety.org.uk