

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 17 September 2007**

**PRESENT** Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds, Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall, Sonia Holmes, Jo Kirkham, Paul Osborne (Mayor), Frank Palmer, Ian Potter, Shaun Rogers, David Russell, Sam Souster (Deputy Mayor), Sylvia Willgoss, David Wright

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; County Cllr Keith Glazier; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 4 members of the public

*The meeting commenced at 7.24*

**53 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Brian Elliott.

**54 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Jo Kirkham	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 63</b>	Director of Rye Partnership
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 63</b>	Director of Rye Partnership
Cllr David Russell	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 63</b>	Director of Rye Partnership

**55 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Mayoral announcements.

*The Mayor adjourned the meeting for Public Question Time and the Reports of the County and District Councillors (Appendices A-B).*

**RESOLVED To reconvene the meeting and bring forward consideration of item 64, which included the issue raised by the member of the public under Public Question Time.**

**64 URGENT ITEMS**

**a) Unauthorised ice cream sales: Rye Heritage Centre**

The Clerk advised that he had written recently to the owner of the ice cream tricycles asking that they not be placed on Heritage Centre land. This had the desired effect for a couple of weeks but a tricycle had returned on 13 August. The vendor refused to move without the permission of the tricycle owner. The Clerk met with the owner on site to clarify the Centre's boundaries; however, trading continued over the weekend.

Cllr Potter suggested that it was unacceptable for unauthorised traders to take businesses from legitimate, rate-paying concerns. If it was so minded, the Council could seek an injunction under the Torts of Trespass and Nuisance. Should an injunction be granted the police would have the power to arrest anyone found to be in breach of it.

Cllr Souster observed that the tricycles tended to be positioned close to permanent 'competitors'. Considerable damage had been caused on land leased by Rother from Network Rail, opposite the Fat Controller.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) To seek an injunction. Clerk**

*The meeting adjourned for reports from the County and District Councillors (Appendices A-B).*

**56 COUNCIL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2007 (C7).**

**57 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**(a) Planning & Townscape**

**RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2007 (PT09).**

**(b) Policy, Resources & General Purposes**

*33 Grant application: Rye Community Centre* A number of Members observed that the Council makes grants regularly to the Community Centre, that it appeared to have sufficient funds within its accounts to undertake the project proposed; and that it is well-placed to run its own fundraising events.

**RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 28 August 2007 (PR02) with the exception of the Recommendation set out at Minute 33. Clerk**

**(c) Public Services**

**RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2007 (PS02).**

**58 PARTNERSHIP WORKING GROUP**

Members noted that Cllr Bantick had resigned as the Council's representative on the Information & Visitor Management Group.

**RESOLVED To appoint Cllr Wright. Clerk**

**59 QUEEN'S AWARD**

Referring to the PRGP Minutes of 28 August (item 31), the Clerk advised that he had formed the view that, based on his reading of the eligibility criteria and work of previous award winners, nominating Rye & District Bonfire Society was unlikely to be successful.

**RESOLVED To take no further action this year.**

**60 2012 OLYMPICS**

The meeting was invited to consider whether to authorise a Member to attend Making the Most of the 2012 Olympics, Battle Memorial Hall, 30 October 2007, 6.15pm.

**RESOLVED Not to nominate a representative.**

**61 FOUNDATION TRUST**

To consider whether to respond to the East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust public consultation inviting views on its proposal to operate as a NHS Foundation Trust.

Speaking from the Gallery, Cllr Glazier advised that one member of the public only had attended the Rye consultation event and suggested that the consultation provided an opportunity to influence the direction of the Trust. Advantages of Foundation Trust status included the right to retain budget services and greater local accountability and user/stakeholder involvement.

A number of Members expressed concern about the creation of another level of governance and increased management and administration costs.

**RESOLVED To support the proposal, in principle, but to convey the Council’s concern about the likely additional costs. Clerk**

**62 CYCLING REVIEW**

Members were asked to consider whether to contribute to the County Council’s Cycling Scrutiny Review Board.

**RESOLVED To accept the Mayor’s offer to draft a response. Cllr Osborne**

**63 RYE PARTNERSHIP**

Cllr Wright reported that there had been no Partnership Members meeting since the last Council meeting. At the next (27 September) he was hopeful that the results of the Town Management and Marketing Survey would be available.

Cllr Russell advised that the Partnership Board was continuing to address, with her employer, Rother DC, a personnel issue in connection with the Town Manager. A new Administration Assistant, Georgiana Keene had recently been appointed.

**64 URGENT ITEMS**

**b) Grounds Maintenance Review**

**Members considered – and agreed the Council’s response to – a short questionnaire distributed by Rother DC. (Appendix C) Clerk**

*The meeting ended at 8.34.*

Date ..... Chairman .....

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

Annette Ryecroft, owner of Terrassa for 12 years, reported that the presence of an ice cream tricycle on Heritage Centre land had reduced her takings substantially. On 13 August an authorised vendor had 'set up stall' outside the Centre's fire escape stairway. To compound matters some tricycle customers were eating their purchases whilst sitting at her tables. The unauthorised trading had placed her under considerable strain.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

*Monkbretton Bridge closure* A 50m section of King's Avenue would be closed for a month to allow any LGVs which had failed to follow the diversion to turn around and head back east. There was some discontent in Camber because the Council had not been consulted by the Highways Agency until late in the day.

**REPORT OF THE ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr Sonia Holmes**

*Recycling* Green wheelie bins had now been delivered. They would be collected and emptied separately from the general recyclables collection.

**Cllr David Russell**

Council Russell read from his written report (*see Appendix B*).

Responding to a question from Cllr Souster, Cllr Russell considered it unlikely that, unless a majority of Rother Members were supportive, it was unlikely that the parishing of Bexhill would be discussed again in the immediate future. The Mayor observed that there appeared to be a trend in the south-east for towns with Charter Trustees to look towards having their own town council.

RYE TOWN COUNCIL, 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007: REPORT OF ROTHER DISTRICT  
CLLR

**NALC Journal**

The front page of the September LCR Journal reports that “Parish and Town Councils are due to be placed at the centre of the ‘community empowerment’ agenda that is emerging under the Brown government”. Governments of different political colours have talked like this for twenty years – at the same time as drawing ever more power to the centre with the result that Local Authorities become at best ciphers and at worst stooges. Measures like the Sustainable Communities Bill are so much hot air unless Governments have the will to back off and allow local councillors to regain their lost authority.

**Monkbretton Bridge closure**

Rother’s Cabinet, following representations from our Mayor, decided at their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September to issue temporary car parking permits, free of charge, to those local residents living east of the bridge who need to use the Bedford Place car park, including for overnight stays, during the period of works in order to avoid as many as possible of the huge diversionary journeys which are going to be inevitable.

**Overview & Scrutiny**

Members are aware that a working group of Rother Councillors are investigating the future relationship between the Council and the De La Warr Pavilion Trust. The Council’s annual grant is match-funded by the Arts Council of England. I do not think that residents of rural Rother should get their hopes up that this relationship can be terminated at the stroke of a pen. It is undoubtedly correct that very few Rye residents are regular attendees at performances. Probably very few Rye citizens benefit from the tens of millions of pounds of taxpayers’ money awarded to arts projects all over the U.K. But this will be a rigorous exercise and we will soon have an opportunity to comment on the working group’s findings. What I do find unrealistic is Cllr Bantick’s assertion that all we have to do is divide ourselves up into Area Committees and then rural Rother can say “sod it” to Bexhill. My information is that the Eastleigh experiment, to which he regularly refers, would not produce that outcome. That Authority is ruled with a rod of iron by its cabinet; and the five Areas, with their co-ordinators and committees, do not have the licence to act and spend in the way which is claimed.

DR 17.09.07

Please see overleaf list of works currently undertaken by Rother District Council in your area

		Yes	No
1.	<b>Are you satisfied with the current level of service ?</b> If no are you unsatisfied with;	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a	- the frequency of work carried out	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	- the quality of work carried out	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	- the flexibility within the service to meet your needs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d	- quality of administration or supervision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Does your dissatisfied relate to:-			
e	- grass cutting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f	- sports pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
g	- ornamental areas (flower beds etc.)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h	- woodlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i	- children's play areas - esp. Kings Avenue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j	- RDC management / control	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
N/A			
2.	<b>Do you currently undertake grounds maintenance operations on land not owned by Rother District Council? (e.g. your own or privately owned land)</b> If so in what areas of work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
a	- grass cutting	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	- sports pitches	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	- ornamental areas (flower beds etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d	- woodlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e	- children's play equipment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f	- litter picking (inc. removing dog mess)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	<b>Are you, as an organisation, interested in undertaking grounds maintenance operations on Rother District Council land?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subject to agreement on funding and discussion on developing 'packages' of services		please proceed to Q4	Thank you for taking the time to respond
4.	<b>Would you seek to provide the service by:</b>		
a	- direct labour ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b	- voluntary labour ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c	- external contractor ?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Don't know which at this stage			

5. If you are interested in undertaking grounds maintenance in your area, would you include this with the other operations that you currently undertake?  
Please confirm which;

N/A

- a - grass cutting
- b - sports pitches
- c - ornamental areas (flower beds etc.)
- d - woodlands
- e - children's play equipment
- f - litter picking (inc. removing dog mess)

6. If you were to provide grounds maintenance operations on behalf of Rother District Council would you;

- a prefer a flexible management agreement with Rother District Council
- or
- b prefer to be formally invited to Tender for all the works in your area

} more information needed

Please return to: Alwyn Roebuck  
Rother District Council  
14 Beeching Road  
Bexhill-on-Sea  
East Sussex  
TN39 3LG

FROM: RICHARD FARHALL  
MVE TOWN COUNCIL  
TOWN HALL  
MVE TN31 7LA