

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on
Monday 17 March 2008**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; George Brown – Town Sergeant; Hugh Moseley – Mayor’s Chaplain; County Cllr Keith Glazier; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*, 1 member of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.30.

108 PRAYERS

Prayers were said by The Reverend Canon Hugh Moseley.

109 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Jonathan Breeds and Shaun Rogers.

110 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Keith Glazier	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 117(b)	Director of the company applying for funding
	<i>personal</i>	item 118	Chairman of Rye Partnership
Cllr Jo Kirkham	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 117(b)	Director of the company applying for funding
	<i>personal</i>	item 118	Director of Rye Partnership
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 117(b)	Company is preparing a tender for the work for which funding is sought
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 117(b)	Director of the company applying for funding
	<i>personal</i>	item 118	Director of Rye Partnership
Cllr David Russell	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 117(b)	Director of the company applying for funding
	<i>personal</i>	item 118	Director of Rye Partnership

In relation to items **117(b)** and **118** the Clerk asked for it to be noted that he is a Director of Rye Partnership.

111 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

By-election The date had been confirmed: 22 May.

Sea Cadets Members would have received a letter inviting them to consider becoming a member of the Cadets’ new ‘200 Club’. The funds raised would contribute to their c£8,000pa running costs shortfall.

US travel agents' visit The Mayor thanked Cllrs Hall, Kirkham and Souster for their assistance with hosting a visit of top US travel agents on 9 March.

Mayoralty In case he did not get another opportunity before Mayor Making, the Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor and Members for their support over the last year.

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

7.04 *The meeting reconvened.*

112 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 March 2008 (C13).

113 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Planning & Townscape

RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meetings held on 4 February 2008 (PT20), 18 February 2008 (PT21) and 4 March 2008 (PT22).

(b) Policy, Resources & GP

RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2008 (PR05).

(c) Leisure & Tourism

RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2008 (LT05).

114 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

The Clerk advised that, in order to help Members plan holidays, it had been suggested that the Council should agree its Timetable of Meetings prior to Committee Formation (usually May).

RESOLVED That, in respect of 2008-09, a Draft Timetable be presented to the next Policy Committee meeting (14 April) – but that, in future years, the Draft be presented directly to Council in January-early February.
Clerk

115 INTERNAL CONTROL 2007-08

RESOLVED To adopt the Statement on Internal Control (Appendix A) and the Recommendations contained therein.
Clerk

116 WILDLIFE WEEKENDS

Members considered the Leisure & Tourism Committee's request that the Council consider how it might support future Wildlife Weekends.

The Clerk explained that, over the past few years, ESCC had been seeking to 'transfer' responsibility for organising/administering the Weekend to another organisation. When RTC had last considered this matter, Members resolved to take steps to publicise the event. This was done via the Council's web site and 'newsletter'.

Organisations were reluctant to take on the event because of the considerable amount of administration associated with InterReg funding. Furthermore, the L&T Committee had established that County would not be prepared to continue to act as the 'accountable body'.

RESOLVED To advise ESCC that RTC does not have the capacity to manage the Wildlife Weekend. Clerk

117 GRANT APPLICATIONS

a) Rye Community Centre

Members were invited to consider a re-application from the Rye Community Centre for a grant towards the cost of purchasing safety bollards and railings - to be installed on the wall running alongside the external fire escape.

RESOLVED To contribute £1,500. Clerk
statutory power: Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 s 19

Cllrs Glazier, Kirkham, Osborne, Russell and Souster re-stated their prejudicial interest in the item following and left the Chamber.

Cllr Potter took the Chair.

b) Rye Fisheries

Members considered an email from the Partnership Chairman requesting a grant of £5,000 towards the redevelopment of Rye Fisheries.

The Clerk advised that RTC had no specific power to fund the project. Any contribution would have to be funded under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Prior to circulating a copy of the Partnership's Area Investment Framework (AIF) bid, Cllr Potter read out extracts from it relating to projected income and expenditure – including projected rental income from letting the existing/additional units. He added that, according to the bid document, a feasibility study had determined that it would be more cost effective to refurbish – rather than retain – the existing building.

It was agreed generally that RTC should be seen to be supporting the development/preservation of one of the town's main industries.

RESOLVED (unanimous) That the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the LGA 1972, should incur the expenditure following which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: making a grant of £5,000 towards the refurbishment of Rye Fisheries – subject to this being refundable should the project not be undertaken.

Clerk

Cllrs Glazier, Kirkham, Osborne, Russell and Souster returned to the Chamber.

The Mayor re-took the Chair.

118 RYE PARTNERSHIP

Cllr Wright, one of RTC's representatives, advised that he had attended recently both the formal AGM and the open Annual Public Meeting. The former included a review of the year (particularly financial) and a discussion on the Partnership's improving public relations strategy. The latter (21 Feb) was attended by over 40 people. It included a

summary of the Partnership's achievements since its formation and positive feedback from some of the beneficiaries of its projects.

119 RYE RELIEF IN NEED: GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Clerk advised Members that the charity currently had around £11,000 available for distribution (excluding £60,000 investments).

a) Relateen

Members considered a request from Relate for funding towards providing counseling sessions for younger people (*last grant: Dec 06, Rye Bursary Fund, £500*).

RESOLVED To make a grant of £1,000, subject to it being used for the benefit of Rye younger people only. Secretary

b) Sussex Air Ambulance Fund

Members considered a request for a donation towards the costs of providing the Sussex Air Ambulance. (It was noted that the Sussex Service is administered by the Kent Air Ambulance Service and that the Kent Air Ambulance is the closest to Rye.)

It was considered generally that Council's reserves would be a more appropriate source of funding.

RESOLVED That the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the LGA 1972, should incur the expenditure following which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interest of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: making a grant of £500 towards the Sussex Air Ambulance Appeal. Clerk

120 ANNUAL PARISH CONFERENCE

RDC had invited parishes to appoint up to 4 delegates to attend the Annual Parish Conference to be held at Northiam Village Hall on 3 April, 1.45pm.

RESOLVED To appoint Cllrs Bantick, Osborne, Souster and Wright. Clerk

121 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RESOLVED Adoption of the arrangements for distributing the flyer/mini poster to every residential property in the Parish.

It was agreed generally that it was desirable for those distributing flyers to refrain from delivering other material at the same time.

The Clerk added that, in addition to the A4 flyers, 12 A3 posters were available for display.

122 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items of business.

The meeting ended at 8.04.

Date Chairman