

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on
Tuesday 4 March 2008**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk

The meeting commenced at 7.26

101 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

102 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Lorna Hall *prejudicial* **item 105** Lives adjacent to site, sharing a boundary

103 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meetings held on 21 January 2008 (C11) and 29 January 2008 (C12).

104 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

The Chairman of the Annual Town Meeting Working Group, Cllr Wright spoke to the Group's last Progress Report (*distributed previously – see Appendix A*).

The Clerk estimated the likely cost of the ATM in the format proposed to be £269.

Cllr Palmer expressed concern that the new format would not prove popular.

It was acknowledged that attendance at ATMs had dwindled in recent years and agreed largely that the format proposed should be tried. Members of the Group were thanked for their efforts.

RESOLVED To support the proposal as presented.

Cllr Hall restated her prejudicial interest in the item following and left the Chamber.

105 FIRE-DAMAGED CHAPEL

Members were invited to consider Rother District Council's (internal) Options document, with a view to agreeing a position in respect of the fire-damaged chapel within Rye Cemetery.

The Clerk advised that senior Rother Officers would be meeting within a few days to consider a course of action. Both RTC and Rye Foreign PC had been invited to submit initial thoughts (the cemetery spans both parishes). Cllr Wright added that the Conservation Society had also been invited to contribute.

The Options identified by Rother could be summarised as follows:

- 1 Rebuild

- 2 Demolish
- 3 Demolish both chapels
- 4 Leave as feature ruin

Comments expressed during the ensuing discussion included: both chapels are no longer needed for services and are not 'fit for purpose'; a chapel might be required if Rother is able to purchase more burial ground; a feature ruin should be 'safe'; the chapels should be Listed; there appeared to be an element of doubt over whether the chapels are insured; it is unlikely the insurance pay-out would be sufficient to cover like-for-like reinstatement – the parishes could be asked to fund the difference – and the total cost could be prohibitive; it is difficult to reach a decision without having this information available; the remaining chapel – and any replacement for the damaged chapel – would remain vulnerable to malicious damage.

RESOLVED To advise RDC that the Town Council's preference is for Option 1 – that is, full reinstatement on a 'like for like' basis – however, the Council appreciates that the likely funding available for this purpose has yet to be ascertained. If, after careful consideration of the funding sources available, the cost of reinstatement proves to be prohibitive, the Town Council is minded to support Option 4 – 'feature ruin'. TC

Cllr Hall returned to the Chamber.

106 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

There being no members of the public present there was no need to resolve to exclude them from the confidential item following.

107 TOWN CLERK

Confidential – see Appendix B.

The meeting ended at 8.00.

104 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WORKING GROUP PROGRESS REPORT

<i>Generally</i>	<p>Try to keep as informal as possible and encourage 'mingling'. Registration (as usual) in foyer – Judy and David Pawsey.</p> <p>Identify a few Councillors to act as 'greeters'.</p>
<i>Layout</i>	<p>Some theatre-style seating. Round tables for 'Councillor-constituent chats'. Places will need to be reserved for Councillors.</p> <p>? Reserve a table at back for 'private' chats. Need to borrow table cloths – WRVS?</p> <p>Find sponsor/supplier for floral displays in lobby and on tables.</p> <p>Find wall hangings/similar to 'brighten up' venue. Councillors will need ID badges</p>
<i>'Surgeries'</i>	<p>All Councillors involved. In case Councillors unable to provide answers during evening, have forms on each table (for enquiry/problem, contact details etc). Ask Judy to design.</p>
<i>Stands</i>	<p>Confirmed: Police, Rye CHP and the Partnership (probable).</p>
<i>Key Speaker</i>	<p>Paul Riley, Rye Primary School Head (10 mins)</p>
<i>Reports</i>	<p>Mayor * (max 15 mins) District and County Cllrs (5 mins each) * Committee Chairmen should suggest 'highlights'</p>
<i>Questions</i>	<p>Encourage attendees to ask them informally after reports concluded.</p>
<i>Refreshments</i>	<p>Provide FOC. Landgate WI (probable) to provide tea, coffee and cakes/biscuits from Kitchen</p>
<i>Publicity</i>	<p>DW has drafted mini poster/flyer. BF's still to be considered.</p> <p>Flyer A4, black on tinted paper, 100gsm, quant. 3,000 – get quote from Adams – offer it advertising space to reduce cost.</p> <p>Flyer distribution: ask Councillors to take approx 150 each to distribute to households in streets provided between 17-26 March (7 days Notice has to be given of meeting). Flyers can be collected at Council meeting on 17 March.</p> <p>Ask Andy to publicise in <i>Observer</i> and ensure there will be a <i>Fixtures</i> diary entry.</p>
<i>Funding</i>	<p>No specific budget – possible sources (until Council has had an opportunity to consider): Civic Fund, Advertising, Contingency.</p>