

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on  
Monday 9 July 2007**

- PRESENT** Councillors Granville Bantick, Jonathan Breeds, Lorna Hall, Sonia Holmes, Paul Osborne (Mayor), Frank Palmer, David Russell, Sam Souster (Deputy Mayor), Sylvia Willgoss, David Wright
- IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; George Brown – Town Sergeant; Hugh Moseley – Mayor’s Chaplain; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 5 members of the public

*The meeting commenced at 6.30.*

**37 PRAYERS**

Prayers were said by The Reverend Canon Hugh Moseley.

**38 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Brian Elliott, Bernardine Fiddimore, Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter and Shaun Rogers.

**39 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Sam Souster *personal* **item 46** Director of Rye Partnership

Cllr David Russell *personal* **item 46** Director of Rye Partnership

In line with best practice, the Clerk declared a personal interest in item 46 by virtue of being a Director of Rye Partnership.

**40 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Corp John Rigby* On behalf of the Town the Mayor had attended his funeral service at Dover Castle.

*Items 48-49* These items could not be discussed because it had been confirmed that the applicant was not eligible for assistance from Rye Relief in Need.

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

7.04 *The meeting reconvened.*

**41 COUNCIL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** To adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2007 (C4).

**42 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

**(a) Planning & Townscape**

**RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meetings held on 15 May 2007 (PT01), 29 May 2007 (PT02), 11 June 2007 (PT03) and 25 June 2007 (PT04).**

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

**Minutes of 4 June 2007 (PR01)**

*Page 5, 5.9 Past Mayor Badges* Cllr Palmer added that the badges could be worn also at Cinque Ports Mayors events and queried whether Cllr Kirkham had been the first to re/introduce them.

**RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2007 (PR01).**

**(c) Leisure & Tourism**

**RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 June 2007 (LT01).**

**(d) Public Services**

**RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2007 (PS01).**

**43 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

**RESOLVED To accept Cllr Wright's resignation as a member of the Public Services Committee and to appoint him to the Leisure & Tourism Committee.**

**44 LEISURE AND TOURISM**

The meeting was advised that three of the Members of the Leisure & Tourism Committee were District Councillors and, to minimise the risk of their attendance at Rother meetings contributing to Leisure & Tourism meetings being abandoned because of inquoracy, Members were asked to consider changing the Committee's scheduled meetings dates.

**RESOLVED To change the dates of meetings of the Leisure & Tourism Committee as follows:**

From	To
<b>20 August 2007</b>	<b>23 July 2007 [Clerk not available 13 August]</b>
<b>15 October 2007</b>	<b>1 October (after Planning &amp; Townscape)</b>
<b>7 January 2008</b>	<b>Tues 4 December 2007</b>
<b>3 March 2008</b>	<b>4 February 2008 (after Planning &amp; Townscape)</b>

**45 NEW CODE OF CONDUCT: PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

The Clerk advised that it appeared that District Monitoring Officers and specialist solicitors could not agree on whether para 12(2) of the Code of Conduct applied also to the adjourned section of a council/committee meeting. The Standards Board for

England (SBE) had responded that Rye TC should seek legal advice on compliance with the Code.

**RESOLVED That, in view of the lack of clarity, the Council does not, for the time being, amend its Standing Orders but proceeds as follows:**

At Council and Planning & Townscape meetings: **Members with a prejudicial interest wishing to speak will do so during the Public Question Time adjournment at the start of the meeting and then absent themselves when the relevant agenda item is reached.**

For all other Committees: **the Member with the prejudicial interest wishing to speak will notify the Chairman/Clerk before the meeting starts so that the Chairman can use his discretion (Standing Order 68) to adjourn the meeting at the relevant time to hear from that Member and any members of the public wishing to speak on that agenda item. The Member with the prejudicial interest will leave the Chamber at the point the meeting is reconvened.**

The Clerk suggested that it might prove desirable to introduce a time limit for adjournments called under Standing Order 68.

*Cllrs Russell and Souster re-stated their personal interests in the item following.*

#### **46 RYE PARTNERSHIP**

It was noted that two of the Council's 3 representatives (Cllrs Elliott, Rogers and Wright) were not present.

Cllr Souster advised that he had re-joined the Partnership Board to reinvigorate the organisation now that its main funding streams (SRB and Market Towns) had run their course. The revenue generated from the Rye Fisheries, 2 flats, Partnership Office and shop and flats at Rye Harbour was sufficient to meet the company's running costs. New projects needed to be identified – together with potential funding sources.

Cllr Wright had attended the re-launch of Animate which had included a presentation on the facilities/services to be offered: as well as the usual advice surgeries and computer suite, a catering suite would enable the delivery of appropriate NVQ training. The Centre would be open to young people and the public 25-26 July onwards.

#### **47 URGENT ITEMS**

*Harbour Road Cycle Path* The Mayor advised that Phase I had been completed and that Phases II and III (brought forward) were due to start in September. The Lead County Cabinet Member, Cllr Mathew Locke was enthusiastic and had informed that Mayor that if the Town Council wrote to him he would try and ensure the path was named Graham's Way. The Chairman of Icklesham had expressed support for this name.

*The meeting ended at 7.24.*

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

Rye Town Council C5

9 July 2007

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

**Clifford Jordan** *Would the Council make enquiries about the progress of the plan to provide a new library on the former Central garage site?*

Speaking from the Gallery, Professor Keith Taylor advised that he had met recently with the site owner, Bob Heather. Mr Heather and his architects were having problems amending the plans in order to comply with the planning permission conditions.

**Mary Smith** expressed her appreciation for the Council asking for, and receiving advice from the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners on the status and ownership of Rye's allotments. The Mayor flagged up the impending publication of the draft Rock Channel Development Brief.

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

No report.

**REPORT OF THE ROTHER DISTRICT COUNCILLORS**

**Cllr David Russell**

Council Russell read from his written report (*see Appendix B*) – adding that Rother DC was making an annual revenue contribution towards the De La Warr Pavilion of £560,000.

**Cllr Sonia Holmes**

Cllr Holmes read from her written report. *See Appendix C.*