

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye,
on Monday 12 May 2008**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; 1 member of the public; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*

The meeting commenced at 6.30

14 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Jo Kirkham and David Wright.

15 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

16 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor thanked his predecessor for chairing the Council so competently over the past 2 years, and those Members who had attended Mayor making and/or sent him a card afterwards. He reiterated his aim to develop further co-operative relationships between RTC and principal authorities but emphasised that the achievement of this was dependent on Town Councillors working together. Cllr Wright's recent piece in the *Observer* about the Landgate Tower highlighted the need to secure RDC's co-operation.

Lastly, he thanked the Deputy Mayor for attending the SAAFA Service of Thanksgiving held in Winchelsea on 11 May.

17 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED 1 page 3, line 1 To delete 'ensuring' and insert 'ensuing'.

RESOLVED 2 To adopt the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 22 April 2008 (C15).

18 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Planning & Townscape

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning & Townscape Committee held on 14 April 2008 (PT25) and 28 April 2008 (PT26).

(b) Policy, Resources & GP

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meetings of the Policy, Resources & GP Committee held on 14 April 2008 (PR06).

(c) **Leisure & Tourism**

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee held on 28 April 2008 (LT06).

19 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES

RESOLVED To receive and note the Record of Attendances for 2007-08 (as at 28.4.08) (Appendix A).

20 MEETINGS START TIME

RESOLVED That Rye Town Council's usual meeting start time should remain at 6.30pm.

21 COMMITTEE FORMATION

a) Number and title of Committees and number of Members appointed to each Committee

Cllr Potter proposed – and Cllr Palmer seconded – disbanding the Policy and L&T Committee and dealing with their business at Council meetings. Last year the Council held 58 meetings (some relatively short). The action proposed would significantly reduce the number Members would be required to attend in 2008-09.

Cllr Fiddimore – seconded by Cllr Hall – proposed an amendment to the proposal: dealing only with the Policy Committee's terms of reference at Council meetings.

RESOLVED To suspend Standing Orders 28j) (not speaking more than once) and 29 (requirement to stand).

The debate following included the comments following: If abolished, the business considered by Policy and L+T would be accorded insufficient attention; Council meetings could extend to 10pm; the Council had previously altered its structure to empower committees by devolving more decision making; committees of 8 Members were able to make decisions – there was no opportunity for other Members to seek a review of committee decisions at subsequent Council meetings; Standing Orders allow two Members to refer matters to Council before a final decision is made; it would be preferable to have more time to consider the implications of the proposals; some of the work of the committees 'crossed over'; the scheduled meetings for 2008-09 had been reduced by two; a minimum of 6 Council meetings a year must be held to retain RTC's Quality Status; the influence of the L&T Committee is 'undermined' to a degree by the existence of the Rye Marketing Group, which has its own budget; special Council meetings are arranged to deal with urgent issues; the committee structure provides Members with opportunities to gain experience of chairing meetings; increasing the business of Council would place additional pressure on the Mayor; the L&T Committee was disbanded before but was reinstated because of the importance to the town of its visitor economy; the Record of Attendances suggested that the number of meetings presented a couple of Members with difficulties; the Council needs to be run efficiently; the matter could be considered more thoroughly after the meeting – with a view to implementing agreed changes at a later date; the meetings of neighbouring parishes can last 3 hours; RTC meetings used to continue to a late hour.

Both the proposal and amendment failed to achieve sufficient support.

RESOLVED To reinstate Standing Orders 28j and 29.

RESOLVED That the following Committees be adopted:

- (i) Policy, Resources & GP**
- (ii) Planning & Townscape**
- (iii) Leisure & Tourism**
- (iv) Public Services**

b) Members appointed to Committees

RESOLVED Appointment of Members to Committees as specified in Appendix B.

The meeting adjourned and each Committee convened and appointed Chairmen.

Policy, Resources and General Purposes

RESOLVED The election of Cllr Potter as Chairman and Cllr Osborne as Vice Chairman.

Planning & Townscape

RESOLVED The election of Cllr Palmer as Chairman and Cllr Osborne as Vice Chairman

Leisure & Tourism

RESOLVED The election of Cllr Hall as Chairman and John Breeds as Vice Chairman.

Public Services Committee

RESOLVED 1 The election of Cllr Bantick as Chairman

RESOLVED 2 To consider the appointment of a Vice Chairman at the next committee meeting.

The meeting reconvened.

22 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION TO ORGANISATIONS

RESOLVED The appointment of representatives as recorded at Appendix C.

23 FIXED TERM/DETERMINED REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED The appointment of representatives as recorded at Appendix C.

24 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

The meeting ended at 7.35.

Date Chairman

APPENDIX A

RYE TOWN COUNCIL

C2 ITEM 19

19 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES 2007-08

(to 28 April 2008)

Name	Policy 6	Planning 26	L&T 6	Public 4	Council 16
Bantick	6	N/A	5	4	15
Breeds John	4	26	5	N/A	14
Breeds Jonathan	2	11	N/A	N/A	11
Elliott	4	N/A	6	N/A	13
Fiddimore	5	22	N/A	N/A	13
Hall	N/A	24	6	4	14
Holmes	5	N/A	6	4	14
Kirkham	5	24	N/A	N/A	13
Osborne	6	21	3	4	15
Palmer	6	26	N/A	N/A	14
Potter	3	11	N/A	N/A	12
Rogers	N/A	20	N/A	4	13
Russell	6	N/A	4	0	15
Souster	6	25	6	4	15
Willgoss (a)	N/A	16/21	N/A	2/3	9/12
Wright	6	25	4/5	1/1	14

(a) Resigned 28.2.08

RYE TOWN COUNCIL

APPENDIX B

C2 21b) COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP 2008-09

Policy (13)	Planning (12)	Leisure & Tourism (9)	Public Services (9 + co-opted)
Potter (Ch)	Palmer (Ch)	Hall (Ch)	Bantick (Ch)
Osborne(VC)	Osborne (VC)	Breeds, John(VC)	TBD (VC)
Bantick	Bantick	Bantick	Breeds, John
Breeds, John	Breeds, John	Elliott	Elliott
Breeds, Jonathan	Breeds, Jonathan	Fiddimore	Hall
Fiddimore	Fiddimore	Holmes	Holmes
Hall	Kirkham	Palmer	Osborne
Holmes	Rogers	Russell	Palmer
Kirkham	Russell	Souster	Rogers
Rogers	Souster		Souster
Russell	Wright		
Souster	<i>vacancy</i>		
Wright			

RYE TOWN COUNCIL

APPENDIX C

C2 22 & 23 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION TO ORGANISATIONS 2008-2009

Organisation/Committee	Representative
Age Concern	John Izod*
Chamber of Commerce	Ian Potter
Community Centre Association	John Izod*
Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Forum	Shaun Rogers
East Sussex Community Rail Partnership (Marsh Link)	Granville Bantick
East Sussex CC Liaison Committee (SLR)	Clerk, Granville Bantick, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer, Sam Souster
Festival Council	(John Izod)
Information & Visitor Management (Partnership)	<i>(until disbanded)</i> David Wright
Local Action Plan Steering Group	Bernardine Fiddimore, Paul Osborne, Sam Souster, David Wright, Clerk
Marsh Link Action Group	Bernardine Fiddimore
Rother Assoc of Parish & Town Councils	Sam Souster, Clerk [sub: Paul Osborne]
Rother DC Liaison Committee	Granville Bantick, Jo Kirkham, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer, Sam Souster; Clerk
Rural Rother Youth Forum	Sonia Holmes
Rye Area Police-Parishes Liaison Group	Shaun Rogers
Rye & District Council for Voluntary Service	(Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter)
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee	Frank Palmer (on behalf of The Mayor)
Rye HotCats	Lorna Hall
Rye in Bloom	Bernardine Fiddimore
Rye Local Action Team	Sonia Holmes
Rye Marketing Group (Partnership)	Lorna Hall
Rye Network	(Jo Kirkham)
Rye Partnership Members Meetings	John Breeds, Shaun Rogers, <i>vacancy</i>
Safer Rother Partnership (Property Crime Action Group)	Sonia Holmes
Sports Hall Management	Sam Souster

FIXED TERM/DETERMINED REPRESENTATION

Organisation/Committee	Representative/s
Cinque Ports Confederation Standing Committee	The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk
Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee	Sam Souster (09/2009)
Rye Art Gallery	John Breeds (5/2010)
Rye Grammar School Exhibition Foundation Governors	Jo Kirkham, Frank Palmer and the Mayor

() appointed independently but Councillor has offered to report anything of interest to the Council.

* Non-Councillor appointed by the Council