

C2 ITEM 20

20 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES 2008-09
(to 27 April 2009)

Name	Policy 4	Planning 25	L&T 4	Public 4	Council 15
Bantick	4	N/A	4	4	14
Breeds John	4	24	4	2	14
Breeds Jonathan	4	14	N/A	N/A	7
Elliott	N/A	N/A	3	2	12
Fiddimore	3	17	1	N/A	10
Hall	3	N/A	4	3	15
Holmes	3	N/A	3	3	11
Kirkham	4	22	N/A	N/A	11
Osborne	4	15	N/A	3	14
Palmer	N/A	22	4	4	13
Potter	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	11
Rogers	4	20	N/A	2	13
Russell	3	N/A	3	N/A	13
Smith (a)	N/A	18/24	3/3	N/A	11/13
Souster	4	21	2	4	10
Wright	1	7	N/A	N/A	9

(a) Elected 22.5.08

**22b) Committee Membership
2009-10**

Policy (13)	Planning (9)	Leisure & Tourism (9)	Public Services (5 + co-opted)
Potter (Ch)	Palmer (Ch)	Hall (Ch)	Smith (Ch)
Osborne(VC)	Wright (VC)	Breeds, John(VC)	Vacant(VC)
Bantick	Breeds, John	Bantick	Breeds, John
Breeds, John	Breeds, Jonathan	Elliott	Elliott
Breeds, Jonathan	Fiddimore	Fiddimore	Holmes
Hall	Kirkham	Holmes	Souster
Holmes	Osborne	Russell	
Kirkham	Rogers	Smith	
Palmer	Souster	Souster	
Rogers			
Russell			
Souster			
Wright			

RYE TOWN COUNCIL

Appendix D

**OTHER ORGANISATIONS/COMMITTEES:
COUNCIL REPRESENTATION 2009-10**

Organisation/Committee	Representative
Action in Rural Sussex	(Clerk)
Age Concern	Paul Osborne
Chamber of Commerce	Ian Potter
Community Centre Association	John Izod*
Defend Our Coasts	Granville Bantick
East Sussex Community Rail Partnership	Granville Bantick
East Sussex CC Liaison Committee (SLR)	Clerk, Granville Bantick, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer, Sam Souster
Fair Trade Steering Group	Mary Smith
Marsh Link Action Group	Bernardine Fiddimore [sub:Granville Bantick]
Rother Assoc of Local Councils	Mary Smith, Clerk [sub: Mayor]
Rother DC Liaison Committee	Granville Bantick, Jo Kirkham, Frank Palmer, Sam Souster, David Wright; Clerk
Rural Rother Youth Forum	John Izod*
Rye & District Council for Voluntary Service	(Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter)
Rye Farmers Market	Lorna Hall
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee	Frank Palmer
Rye HotCats	Lorna Hall
Rye in Bloom	Bernardine Fiddimore
Rye Local Action Team	Sonia Holmes
Rye Marketing Group (Partnership)	Lorna Hall, Shaun Rogers
Rye Network	(Jo Kirkham)
Rye Partnership Members' Meetings	John Breeds, <i>vacancy x 2</i>
Safer Rother Partnership (Property Crime Action Group)	Sonia Holmes [sub: Brian Elliott]
Sports Hall Management Committee	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 (HORAC)	Sam Souster (09/2009)
Rye Art Gallery	John Breeds (5/2010)
Rye Grammar School Exhibition Foundation Governors	Jo Kirkham, Frank Palmer and the Mayor

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

* Non-Councillor appointed by Council

**GIBBET MARSH BENCHES – STATEMENT TO COUNCIL BY THE CHAIRMAN ON
11TH MAY 2009**

I was not originally happy that the benches were removed with the Council's knowledge and without any prior public consultation. Nevertheless, I was happy to accept the Council's original decision to endeavour to find a suitable alternative site. I even took part, with some other councillors, in this process, and assumed that the bench or benches were being provided and installed.

In January a number of emails passed between the Town Hall and a resident who wished the benches reinstated in their original location. It was suggested that I, as Chairman of Council, may be sympathetic in putting the matter on the Planning Agenda. I then checked with the Town Clerk that the 6 month time limit had expired, and it was placed on the Planning agenda of 16th February.

At that meeting and subsequent meetings I have expressed my opinion along with other councillors (but did not vote), and it is what I said at the Planning & Council meetings that was reported in the press. The only exception was and I quote "following the meeting Rye Mayor Cllr Sam Souster said 'A councillor's role, when they are elected, is to look after the interests of those they represent, not use the Council to further their own'"

THIS WHAT I BELIEVE AND THIS IS WHAT I DO.

Now, I will briefly comment on some of his three page statement that he read to Council at the meeting of 16th March. You all have a copy of Cllr Elliott's statement attached to the Minutes of the meeting (C14 appendix C)

At the time of his delivery I heard very little of it and I would have challenged the parts where I am named at the time. I will do so now.

COMPLAINT AGAINST COUNCILLOR B. ELLIOTT REGARDING HIS STATEMENT TO COUNCIL ON 16TH MARCH 2009

Cllr. Elliott's statement to Council on 16th March 2009, which he read

Allegations that I strenuously deny and want retracting with a written acknowledgement are as follows:-

Page 1 – 2nd Paragraph

Allegation – “The Mayor’s intentions to reinstate two benches opposite the Windmill”

It has never been my intention to reinstate the benches as I explained in my response, which details my involvement. The Council takes this decision.

Page 1 – Penultimate Paragraph

Allegation – “The Mayor first revealed his intention to reinstate two benches on Gibbet Marsh, **I am told** in the George Hotel over a pint with some other councillors a few months ago”

This is wholly untrue, is damaging and a distressing accusation without foundation.

Page 1 – Penultimate Paragraph

Allegation – “So I am very confused where this so-called public opinion has come from? And why have they contacted the Mayor?”

Again, a series of emails (which are available) came to the Town Hall and not to the Mayor, and the Town Clerk suggested that I may, due to the inactivity of replacing/repositioning the benches, wish to place it on a future Planning and Townscape meeting. This was done and generated much interest.

This procedure has been explained previously.

Page 2 – Last Paragraph

Allegation – “Individual issues the Mayor has raised in the local press”

All my comments on this subject reported in the press were made at Council Meetings, as were comments by other Councillors. (This has been confirmed. Copies of these newspaper reports are available).

In conclusion I would ask Cllr. Elliott to retract the references made to me in his written statement before I take it further, when he will be required to substantiate these allegations, which are wholly untrue and libellous.

He has also verbally accused me of orchestrating the petition from Tilling Green residents. This is also fabricated and untrue.

CLLR. S.H.SOUSTER
Mayor/Chairman, Rye Town Council

C2 ITEM 35

APPENDIX F

Rye Town Council

From: "Cllr David Russell" <cldr.david.russell@rother.gov.uk>
To: "Rye Town Council" <townhall@ryetowncouncil.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 May 2009 08:46
Subject: D. Russell notes, Allotments item RTC 11.5.09

Rother District Council provides and maintains allotments for cultivation in Rye – and has done for many years. If I have got my facts right, SOMEONE has a duty to provide this service in accordance with the relevant Act of Parliament which dates from 1908. As I understand it, Rye's new Town Council, in the period leading up to the 1974 reorganization of local government, baled out of its responsibilities (for whatever reason) – including this one.

The fact is that the service continues; and I know of no plans to discontinue the provision of allotments in Rye. There are 53 plots at Love Lane and 40 at South Undercliff; and almost no plots listed as vacant. There are, however, several plots which are not in cultivation. I noted that again last week when I was at Rock Channel looking at the path which links the fish quay ultimately with St Margaret's Terrace. The path is overgrown and is notorious for dog fouling. Whatever is decided between this Council and Rother as regards land ownership, we cannot escape the need to create improved pedestrian and cycle links between New Road and Strand Quay. Therefore, the only difficulty which seems to me to exist in the proposal offered by Rother's Director of Resources lies in the potential loss of a small strip of South Undercliff land for that public amenity purpose. A lease in excess of 50 years is almost as good as freehold; and there would be peppercorn rent payable.

Are the Rye allotments statutory allotments? It may be that Counsel's opinion is tendentious. It is based on an alleged legal agreement between the Councils in 1974 which never, in fact, existed. So we have an impasse between the Councils which Mr Johnston seeks to resolve. Now we could all go to court and waste tens of thousands of pounds of taxpayers' money testing the question of "ownership". Surely our only MISSION is that the service should continue. But some people will rest at nothing to promote discord between Rye and Rother. We need to build trust between the Councils – not destroy it; and seek much higher levels of co-operative working. Having a prejudicial interest in this matter, I certainly cannot vote on it; but I urge members to see the merits in the approach which Mr Johnston has suggested.

In a recent newspaper article, Mr Godwin advised that Cllr Smith would be putting down a motion **demanding** that Town Councillors make their position clear in respect of the legal fight. Mr Godwin reminded us that we find ourselves half way through the four-year electoral cycle. Clearly, we shall have to concentrate carefully. He says that it will be up to RTC to take Rother to court – hence Cllr Smith throwing down the gauntlet. It may be worth reminding her that Councillors are advised, in attending meetings, that it is reasonable to arrive for a debate pre-disposed towards a certain course of action but NOT having pre-determined the issue.

Finally, Mr Godwin asked: "Who runs Rother?" The short answer is that officers **propose**; and members **decide**....

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