

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye,
on Monday 5 February 2007**

PRESENT Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds, Roger Breeds, Paul Carey, Peter Dyce, Frank Palmer, Sonia Holmes, John Izod, Jo Kirkham, **Paul Osborne (Mayor)**, **David Russell (Deputy Mayor)**, Sam Souster, Eric Streeton, Keith Taylor

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; George Brown – Town Sergeant; The Reverend Hugh Moseley – Mayor’s Chaplain; Rye County Cllr Keith Glazier; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; Rye Town Services – Geraldine & Robert Bromley, Kerry de Courcy, Rita Cox; Alison Simmons; 8 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.00.

84 PRAYERS

Prayers were said by The Reverend Hugh Moseley.

85 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Jonathan Breeds, Sonia Holmes and Ian Potter.

86 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Granville Bantick	<i>personal</i>	item 88c)	Resident of Udimore Rd - his report refers to a proposed development on adjoining land.
Cllr Jo Kirkham	<i>personal</i>	item 93	Director of Rye Partnership
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>prejudicial</i>	adjournment (first) & item 88	Partner a Director of RTS
	<i>personal</i>	item 93	Director of Rye Partnership
Cllr David Russell	<i>personal</i>	item 93	Director of Rye Partnership

87 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Charity Cycle Ride The Mayor would be visiting all Cinque Ports towns on 8 and 9 April, cycling 140 miles to raise funds for his Mayoral Charities – Rye Sea Cadets and Rye Scouts.

Car Parks Petition Prior to Christmas the Mayor had received (via the Clerk) a petition organised by the Campaign for a Democratic Rye asking for the net income from Rye’s car parks to benefit the town directly. The petition had been highlighted at a subsequent RDC-RTC Liaison meeting, the primary focus of which was devolvement of services from principal authorities. Further to this, Rother’s CEO had confirmed that his authority was willing to consider the request as part of a ‘devolved package’ of services. Members were at liberty to agenda items on this subject at any time.

Cllr Souster emphasised that RTC needed to be sure that it had the capacity to take on functions from principal authorities and suggested that negotiating for single functions was less efficient than agreeing a 'package'.

6.05 *The Mayor adjourned the meeting for a presentation by Rye Town Services on its request for Council support for its proposed rebranding/upgrade of the Heritage Centre (see Appendix A).*

6.44 *The meeting reconvened.*

88 RYE HERITAGE CENTRE

Members were asked to consider Rye Town Services's plans for the Centre.

RESOLVED To support, in principle, RTS's desire to incur capital expenditure in order to develop the Heritage Centre.

Members were then asked to consider whether the Council should contribute towards Phase I of the rebranding/upgrading proposed.

Cllr Carey suggested that, until the point that Rother District Council reneged on an undertaking to provide £50,000 towards the cost of running its Rye Tourist Information Centre (reducing the contribution to £30,000), RTC had run the Centre successfully for 14 years. He accepted that direct internet bookings were now making a significant impact on accommodation bookings commission but considered that, in return for a 'rent' of at least £5,000pa, RTS had secured the Centre cheaply. He felt unable to support the payment of the (suggested) £5,000 of tax payers' money to RTS, especially in a (costly) election year. Taxing for this purpose would increase the precept by around 7.5%.

It was noted that £5,000 could be vired from a number of 'relevant' Earmarked Reserves and that £2,000 for a Heritage Centre Business Plan that had been vired to the General Reserve during the current financial year could be utilised.

PROPOSAL That Council contributes £5,000, or one-third of the total cost (whichever is the lower), towards Phase 1 of Rye Town Services's proposed rebranding/upgrading of the Rye Heritage Centre.

Cllr Carey requested a named vote.

For Izod, John Breeds, Kirkham, Russell, Palmer, Roger Breeds, Streeton, Bantick, Taylor

Against Carey, Dyce **CARRIED**

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

7.53 *The meeting reconvened.*

89 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2006 (C8).

90 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Planning & Townscape

RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meetings held on 19 December 2006 (PT16), 8 January 2007 (PT17) and 22 January 2007 (PT18).

(b) Policy, Resources & General Purposes

Page 4, 64 Honorary Freeman, Recommendation 2 The Clerk advised that under the Local Government Act 1972, local authorities currently with the power to appoint honorary freeman may do so only at a specially-convened meeting of the Council where there is a majority of two-thirds of those present and voting.

RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2007 (PR05) – with the exception of item 64 Recommendation 2.

(c) Leisure & Tourism

RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2007 (LT03).

(d) Public Services

RESOLVED Adoption of the Minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2006 (PS03).

91 DRAFT BUDGET 2007-08

RESOLVED Adoption of the Draft Budget 2007-08, as amended at the PRGP Committee meeting held on 15 January 2007. TC

92 REVISED CODE OF CONDUCT

The Council was asked to appoint a Member – or Members – to consider the Draft Revised Code of Conduct for Members. (Deadline: 9 March.)

RESOLVED To accept Councillor Carey's offer. Cllr Carey

Cllr Souster re-stated his personal interest in the item following:

93 RYE PARTNERSHIP

Although there had been no Members' meeting since the last Council meeting, the Partnership's AGM had been held at the Town Hall on 23 January. Cllr Dyce reported that the business conducted included appointing Directors. Those attending were advised that admin costs had risen by 50% (mainly the consultant's fee) and that the Partnership was in need of new projects.

Speaking from the Gallery, Cllr Glazier advised that the Directors had recently had an 'away day' at which there was a general consensus that there was a need to 're-engage' with Members and work more closely with the Town Council – especially in relation to the proposed Local Action Plan.

Cllr Carey expressed concern about the method employed to re-appoint Directors.

94 URGENT ITEMS

There were no urgent items to consider.

The meeting ended at 8.10

Date Chairman