

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 19 February 2007

PRESENT Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds (**Committee Chairman**), Sonia Holmes, John Izod, Paul Osborne (Mayor), Frank Palmer, David Russell (Deputy Mayor), Sam Souster, Eric Streeton (**Committee Vice Chairman**)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Roger Breeds, and Keith Taylor; Andy Hemsley - *Rye Observer*, 2 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.37.

38 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

39 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Granville Bantick	<i>personal</i>	item 45	Member of Skatepark Management Committee
	<i>personal</i>	item 46	Rye Wheelers member
Cllr Sonia Holmes	<i>personal</i>	item 45	Rye Wheelers member
Cllr John Izod	<i>personal</i>	item 45	Member of Skatepark Management Committee
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>personal</i>	item 45	Chairman of Skatepark Management Committee

40 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 8 January 2007 (LT03) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

41 MATTERS ARISING

Page 2

31 Allotments (joining NSALG) See main agenda item – 42.

Page 3

32 IVMG – asking County to send draft LATS schemes to RTC directly. Actioned.

35 Cycle Path – setting up working group See main agenda item – 46

37 Open Spaces Assessment – referring completion of questionnaire back to the consultant/RDC. Actioned.

42 ALLOTMENTS

RESOLVED To note that the request to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners for assistance with resolving the disputed status of Rye's allotments is under preparation. TC

43 VISITOR AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT GROUP

Cllr Bantick advised that there had been no meeting of the Visitor and Information Management Group since the last Committee meeting.

44 RYE MARKETING GROUP

Cllr Izod advised that there had been no meeting of the Marketing Group since the last Committee meeting. However, he was able to report that the 2007 Scallop Festival had been very successful. There was more publicity than the previous event – including an item on *Countryfile*. The Mayor advised that he had been interviewed for a BBC radio webcast.

45 RYE SKATE PARK

Members received an update on progress towards sourcing the funding necessary to complete the entire project and were asked to consider how to fund the projected shortfall of £513.

RESOLVED To attempt to negotiate a discount with the contractor. TC

46 CYCLE PATH

Cllr Holmes advised that she had met recently with a representative from Sustrans.

RESOLVED To note that the provisional date for the inaugural meeting of the Cycle Path Working Group was 1 March.

47 RYE SPORTS CENTRE

The Chairman of the Sports Centre Management Committee, Cllr Souster advised that it had not met since the last Committee meeting.

48 DESTINATION MANAGEMENT

Cllr Souster reported that a draft Destination Management Strategy, prepared by Locum had been presented to the Rother Cabinet on 15 January. Members had not been overly impressed with the report – commissioned by SeaSpace in 2005 – in that it contained little new material. The Cabinet asked Officers to develop recommendations based on the report's action plan.

Cllr Souster observed that Rye had just 7 lines in the report, which was biased towards Hastings & Bexhill. The report appeared to accept that it was desirable to continue to promote the area via the 1066 Country Campaign – even though Rye has a closer affinity with Kent. HotCats had similar concerns but thought there was

some merit in changing '1066 Country' to '1066 & Coast'. He asked Members to consider whether it would be more advantageous for Rye for the funds allocated to the 1066 Campaign to be given directly to the main tourist towns.

Cllr Bantick offered to raise this matter at the forthcoming Chamber of Commerce meeting.

Cllr Izod confirmed that the Partnership had established a 'mutually-advantageous' web link with Cranbrook. It was unfortunate that Rye no longer had a presence within the Kent Attractions brochure.

It was noted that Rother's own tourism promotion activity was limited – preferring to make a contribution to 1066 Country. Given that Hastings BC provides the bulk of the funding for 1066 and is run effectively by a Hastings officer, concern was expressed that if RDC funding went directly to Rye, Rye could end up being worse off.

RESOLVED To consider this matter again after the information following has been obtained:

a) A breakdown of 1066 Campaign funding sources

b) A breakdown of total RDC expenditure on tourism

TC

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.20

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