

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 28 April 2008**

**PRESENT** Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds (**Committee Vice Chairman**), Brian Elliott, Lorna Hall (**Committee Chairman**), Sonia Holmes, David Russell, Sam Souster (Deputy Mayor), David Wright

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllr Frank Palmer; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 5 members of the public

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*The meeting commenced at 7.07*

**71 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**72 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Granville Bantick	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 76</b>	Member of Skate Park Management Committee
Cllr Brian Elliott	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>item 75(c)</b>	Has submitted a proposal
Cllr Sonia Holmes	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 80</b>	Member of Sports Centre Management Committee
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 76</b>	Chair of Skate Park Management Committee
		<b>item 80</b>	Member of Sports Centre Management Committee
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 80</b>	Member of Sports Centre Management Committee

**73 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2008 (LT05) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

**74 MATTERS ARISING**

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*65 Allotments: Rents (supporting the Allotment Holders' Association position)*  
Actioned.

(b)(i) Rye Town Guide: Rother cabinet (echoing Cllr Souster's comments re: Town Guide funding reduction to £9k) Actioned – email response from Cllr Maynard tabled.

**75 MARKETING**

**(a) Rye Marketing Group**

Cllr Hall advised that its last meeting had taken place on 14 March (next: 30 April). Her report included the following:

- RTS and the Chamber of Commerce had drafted proposals for the Marketing & Town Management Review
- Work on the 2009 Town Guide should commence in June
- Cllr Souster had resigned as Chairman and was thanked for his contribution
- Jill Dain of Brochure Direct outlined the distribution arrangements for the 2008 Guide
- 18 businesses had been involved in the Scallop Festival and 9 events had been held over a 10-day period.
- Concern about the Rother Cabinet reducing the Guide grant by £1000
- The Rye Festival had requested marketing assistance

The Mayor observed that (for 32 years) the Rye Festival had made a substantial contribution towards promoting the town 'out of season'. Cllr Hall advised that it had a representative on the Marketing Group.

**(b) 1066 Country Campaign Committee**

Cllr Hall advised that the last meeting had been held on 19 March and included:

- Receipt of an updated marketing plan
- The print run of the main 1066 holiday guide being reduced from 75k to 60k (the attractions guide print run had been reduced)
- 1066 is concentrating on overseas 'familiarisation' trips with journalists
- Tourism SE and 1066 are exploring a joint membership scheme
- 1066 is looking at replacing/improving its tourist information signs
- RDC will be asking the stakeholders in the towns it supports with grant funding to consider whether they can use this money more effectively
- The *Sunday Telegraph* had run a piece on 1066 Country
- The 1066 web site receives c10k hits per month

**(c) Marketing & Town Management Review**

The Clerk advised that the proposals submitted by the Chamber, HotCats, RTS and Cllr Elliott would be considered by the Marketing Group on 30 April. The result of this deliberation – and the Town Council's position – would then be considered by the Partnership Board.

**76 RYE SKATE PARK**

The Clerk advised that the third application submitted by the Rye Youth Services Manager for £5,000 from the County Youth Opportunities Capital Fund had been unsuccessful and that the Town Council was continuing to pursue the release of two £5,000 Community Project Grants from Rother District Council. The Mayor, Deputy

Mayor and Clerk would be pursuing this matter with Malcolm Johnston, RDC's new Director of Resources at an 'introductory meeting' on 30 April.

The Mayor observed that the Skate Park was well-used during school holidays (weather permitting).

#### **77 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

**RESOLVED To note that the Head of Amenities is minded to keep the Crownfields convenience open for Rye Fawkes 2008 on a trial basis.**

Cllr Hall advised that she had inspected the Gun Garden toilets on 4 occasions and had found them to be in good condition generally. A complaint about a sign had been rectified promptly.

#### **78 RYE COUNTERPARTS**

Cllr Hall advised that, at the Annual Town Meeting, she been approached with the suggestion that the town should develop links with other places sharing Rye's name.

She had researched the matter and found 8 such places. She had tabled a document containing a summary of 7 of them. Interestingly, many displayed similarities with Rye (UK). Cllr Kirkham had, that evening, provided some additional information.

Cllr Hall invited members to consider whether they wished to explore developing informal links with 'other Ryes'.

The discussion ensuing included the comments following: the Council has not pursued formal twinning in the past because of the high associated civic costs; towns on the Continent often display a strong culture of 'civic hospitality' – UK towns tend not to have equivalent budgets; the previous Town Manager had visited Rye (NY) and its Mayors had occasionally visited the Rye (UK) Town Hall; some informal contacts exist already; until around 6 years ago there was a strong relationship between St Mary's Church and Rye (NY).

**RESOLVED 1 To send a 'civic greeting' from the Rye Mayor to the 'Ryes' identified by Cllr Hall.**  
**Clerk**

Cllr Hall reported that she was aware of a request from a former TPCC student living in Sauternes, southern France, seeking some form of an 'association' between her town and Rye.

**RESOLVED 2 To ask Cllr Hall to respond explaining that the Council would be interested in 'liaison' but not a formal twinning arrangement.**  
**Cllr Hall**

#### **79 RYE MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL**

Members were advised that a company ([www.medieval-fayre.co.uk](http://www.medieval-fayre.co.uk)), which specialised in organising medieval fayres was in discussion with Rother about holding an event on the Salts.

#### **80 RYE SPORTS CENTRE**

Cllr Souster's report on the last meeting of the Sports Hall Management Committee(23.4.08) included:

a) *car parking* Non-Centre users parking on the premises – particularly on market Day – was continuing to inconvenience legitimate users. The relevant parties – ESCC, Freedom Leisure, RDC and TPCC – needed to identify a solution prior to the opening of the new primary school in September. Progress was slow.

b) *multi-use games area (MUGLA)* Funding is in place but there is no agreement yet on design, surfacing, usage, management and maintenance, These issues were being addressed by the Management Team.

c) *swimming pool tiling* Pilkington is hoping to replace these 21 April onwards.

d) *outstanding 'snagging' (funded from retention monies):*

- Grout floor of one changing room
- Tiling to floor of ladies and gents toilets
- Final clean

e) *complaints* a shortage of staff resulted in prospective gym users being turned away because there was no-one to assess them and give instruction. At least one member of the public consequently joined another gym.

f) *TPCC students* Following their presentation to Council, Cllr Souster had asked if older students – who no longer qualified for discounted Centre admission fees – could be allowed two free monthly visits. The request, supported by a TPCC Governor, was being considered.

g) *Centre membership* Within the last 14 months this had risen from just under 50 to 300.

**RESOLVED To support a review of the Centre charges levied on younger people and to encourage Freedom Leisure to respond positively (copied to TPCC).** Clerk

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.55*

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