

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 1 September 2008

- PRESENT** Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds (**Committee Vice Chairman – Deputy Mayor**), Brian Elliott, Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall (**Committee Chairman**), Sonia Holmes, Frank Palmer, David Russell, Mary Smith, Sam Souster (Mayor)
- IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Paul Osborne and Shaun Rogers; County Cllr Keith Glazier; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 6 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.54

11 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

12 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

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|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|---|
| Cllr Granville Bantick | <i>personal</i> | item 16 | Member of Skate Park Management Committee |
| Cllr Sonia Holmes | <i>personal</i> | item 15c) | Member of authority providing marketing funding |
| Cllr Paul Osborne | <i>personal</i> | item 16 | Member of Skate Park Steering Group |
| | | Item 17 | Member of Sports Centre Management Committee |
| Cllr David Russell | <i>personal</i> | items 15a) & 15c) | Member of authority providing marketing funding |
| Cllr Sam Souster | <i>personal</i> | item 15a) | Past RMG Chairman |

13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 23 June 2008 (LT01) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

14 MATTERS ARISING

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5 Rye Christmas Festival (thanking Peter Cosstick for his efforts) Actioned.

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(c) *Marketing Review (providing Cllr Potter with copies of the Marketing Review proposals)* Actioned.

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8 *Public conveniences (ascertaining status of the former Tower ST pc)* RDC was inviting expressions of interest from prospective lessees.

10 *Rye Sports Centre (young people's access/charges)* Cllr Souster advised that this remained under review.

10 *Rye Sports Centre (ladies' hairdryers not working)* See main agenda item 17.

15 **MARKETING**

(a) **Rye Marketing Group**

Cllr Hall's report on the Rye Marketing Group (RMG) meeting held on 28 August included reference to:

- Graham Burgess and Emma Oldham confirming that the Cabinet would release £15,000 of the funding allocated to the (vacant) Rye Town Manager post in 2008-09, subject to RTC contributing an additional £5,000. A position statement would be available for the Town Council meeting on 15 September.
- 1066 will produce the *Rye Guide 2009* in-house with the RMG having considerable influence over the content. Advertisers will benefit from a free listing in the *1066 Guide* and a presence on its web site. 'Market research' post cards would be available for accommodation providers' rooms.

Both the Acting Chairman of RMG, Cllr Russell – and the previous Chairman, Cllr Souster – suggested that a main difficulty with the RMG was inconsistent attendance by member organisation representatives and 'sectional interests/agendas'.

Cllr Russell advised that the RMG's membership was as follows: Chamber of Commerce (2 reps); Rye HotCats (2 reps); TIC Manager; RTC; Partnership Board (1 rep); Nature Reserve (1 rep); Environment Agency (1 rep); Rye attractions/festivals (2 reps). RDC (Regeneration Dept) and 1066 Country attended as non voting members.

Cllr Souster observed that following the loss of the Town Manager marketing and event organisation/promotion was now undertaken almost exclusively by volunteers. Marketing needed to be taken more seriously and a step in this direction would be ensuring that the RMG comprised committed members.

It was agreed generally that RTC should aim to increase its RMG representation.

(b) **1066 Country Campaign Committee**

Cllr Hall advised that the Committee had not met since the last L & T Committee meeting.

(c) **Marketing**

RESOLVED To note that, on 15 September, Council will be considering the Rother Cabinet's proposal that it releases £15,000 of Rye town management monies for marketing,

subject to Rye Town Council contributing £5,000 – and that the Regeneration department will be providing a marketing position statement for that meeting.

(d) Events

(i) A Taste of Rye

Cllr Hall advised that the guide had been published (tabled). Outlets included: the Heritage Centre, local businesses/public buildings; Hastings Information Centre and the De la Warr Pavilion. All funding was now in place and banners had been ordered. The Farmers' Market Committee would be organising the launch of the new Saturday produce market at the Cinque Ports Hotel.

RESOLVED To thank Cllr Hall for her considerable contribution towards organising this year's Festival.

(ii) Flower & Vegetable Show 2008

It was considered by those who had attended/exhibited that this had been highly successful. Cllr Smith congratulated Cllr Hall, Rye in Bloom and the Rye Allotments' Association on holding such a fun and highly-accessible event.

Cllr Hall took the opportunity to report on two other events:

The Second Rye Medieval Conference, Rye College, 18-19.10.08 The conference details/booking form was distributed around the table.

Rye HotCats meeting (22.7.08) There remained no interest in the vacant Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer positions. However, the present incumbents agreed to remain on the Board until members decided to call an AGM or one was required constitutionally (Feb 09). Rye Lodge would continue to provide office space, telephone and email facilities – and would arrange the AGM. Subscription fees would be waived for 2008.

16 RYE SKATE PARK

It was noted that the project had been completed and that Rother District Council had been asked to release the two outstanding Community Project Grants of £5,000 each. The Clerk advised that he intended to ask RDC to undertake some tree work around the site in order to improve the drying time of the ply surface (and extend its lifespan).

17 RYE SPORTS CENTRE

Cllr Souster advised that, following complaints about cleanliness, he had inspected the Centre recently. Three members of staff were generally – but not always - on duty at reception, in the gym and in the swimming pool. However, they are expected also to clean these areas. The cleaning schedule in place at the time of the inspection was not current. This matter would be raised at the next Sports Hall Management Committee meeting.

The terms of reference of the Committee – which was closer to an advisory (rather than management) body – needed to be reviewed, being drafted prior to the construction of the pool.

At the recent Rye Primary School meeting with concerned local residents, it was reported that a travel plan was not yet available and that 19 Sports Centre car parking spaces would be allocated to the setting down/picking up of pupils/students. Although the Management Committee had discussed the problem of non-Centre users parking (FOC) in the car park – particularly on Thursdays – a year ago, the matter had still not been addressed.

Speaking from the Public Gallery, Cllr Glazier advised that:

- a) following his intervention, RDC and ESCC had now agreed who (RDC) would manage the car park - but it could take 6 weeks for the licence to come into effect.
- b) a daft travel plan had been submitted with the original Primary School, planning application – the governing body/head teacher was obliged to publish the final version within 12 months of opening.
- c) Thursdays presented the main difficulty – the majority of cars parked on the site were non-Centre users – including local businesses.

Councillors agreed that whatever car park controls were introduced, legitimate Centre users should not be penalised.

Speaking from the Gallery, Cllr Osborne reported that parents of children attending the new school had been invited to an induction day which included an overview of transport arrangements. The Primary School would open 15 minutes before – and would close 15 minutes earlier – than Rye College. Cllr Smith doubted this would reduce congestion significantly.

Cllr Osborne added that the Government had provided RDC with sufficient funds to provide free swimming for the over 60s for 2 years and Rother was waiting for further monies to extend the facility to under 16s.

Cllr Fiddimore advised that Ann Cockerham was organising walking buses from the Station Car Park.

18 FUTURE OF THE COMMITTEE

Cllr Hall expressed concern that meetings tended to consist of her doing much of the talking, with contributions from Cllr Souster and the Clerk.

It was agreed generally that the work of the Committee was limited by: the contracting out of the HC to RTS; the Council not having responsibility for (for example) open spaces, allotments and the Sports Centre/Swimming Pool; the existence of the Rye Marketing Group.

RECOMMENDATION That the next Council meeting considers increasing RTC representation on the RMG. Clerk

RESOLVED To ask the Committee Chairman and Clerk to draft revised Terms of Reference for the Committee. Cllr Hall, Clerk

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.35.

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