

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 23 June 2008**

**PRESENT** Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds (**Committee Vice Chairman – Deputy Mayor**), Brian Elliott, Lorna Hall (**Committee Chairman**), Frank Palmer, Sam Souster (Mayor)

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Ian Potter, Shaun Rogers and Mary Smith; County Cllr Keith Glazier; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 1 member of the public

*The meeting commenced at 7.35.*

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Bernardine Fiddimore, Sonia Holmes and David Russell.

**2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Granville Bantick	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 7</b>	Member of Skate Park Management Committee
Cllr John Breeds	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>Item 5</b>	Director of a business asked to provide bar services to a number of Festival events
Cllr Brian Elliott	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>item 6c)</b>	Had submitted a marketing proposal
Cllr Ian Potter	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 7</b>	Member of Skate Park Management Committee
	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>Item 5</b>	Director of a business asked to provide bar services to a number of Festival events
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>item 6c)</b>	Partner a Director of RTS - which had submitted a marketing proposal

7.35 *The Committee Chairman adjourned the meeting for a presentation by Peter Cosstick, the main organiser of the Rye Christmas Festival 2008 (see Appendix).*

7.45 *The meeting reconvened.*

**3 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting of 28 April 2008 (LT01) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

**4 MATTERS ARISING**

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*78 Rye Counterparts, Resolution 1 (sending a civic greeting to the 'Ryes' identified) Outstanding.*

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*80e) Rye Sports Centre: Centre membership (supporting the review of charges levied on younger people) See main agenda item – 10.*

*Cllrs John Breeds and Ian Potter re-stated their prejudicial interest in the item following and left the Chamber.*

**5 RYE CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL**

It was noted that the Rye partnership had been approached for funding.

**RESOLVED To thank Peter Cosstick for his considerable efforts.**

**Clerk**

*Cllrs John Breeds and Ian Potter returned to the Chamber*

**6 MARKETING**

**(a) Rye Marketing Group**

The RMG had met twice since the last L&T meeting. Cllr Hall's report included reference to:

- Cllr Russell becoming its Acting Chairman
- The print run of the *2008 Rye Guide* being reduced and targeted better to reduce wastage
- The need for more detail to accompany the Marketing Review proposals
- The RMG noting that RTC had allocated £5,000 towards the appointment of an individual to take forward a Rye Local Action Plan
- Delaying consideration of the *Rye Guide 2009* until the marketing Review had concluded
- The imminent circulation of the 1066 Marketing Plan
- Agreement on funding (£750) for the Medieval Academic Conference
- A Rye in Bloom funding request being re-directed to the Partnership Board
- Consideration of the four proposals pitching to take on Marketing for Rye & District
- A Kent-organised tourism marketing campaign which would include promoting all the Cinque Ports
- A Taste of Rye being run independently

**(b) 1066 Country Campaign Committee**

Cllr Hall reported on the 1066 Executive Board meeting on 4 June:

- Good results from advertising in *English Garden* and *In Britain* magazines
- 24,000 new visits to the web site so far this year
- Brochure requests down from 8,400 to 5,200 so far this year
- Production of a Cinque Ports DVD

- Joint 1066/Kent Tourism Authority (KTA) railways poster campaign
- Hosting, in 2007, of 19 press trips from overseas
- RDC working on Rye proposals around PR – including reviewing printed material and web sites
- Your Big Sussex Week – promoting local attractions to local people
- The Jerwood Foundation intending to build a prestigious art gallery on The Stade, Hastings. Provisional opening date: 2011.

Cllr Souster reported that all the 'Romney Marsh', Tenterden and Hythe Mayors were in favour of a closer association with Rye. Cllr Hall observed that 1066 was working with KTA.

*Cllrs Brian Elliott and Sam Souster re-stated their prejudicial interest and left the Chamber.*

**(c) Marketing Review**

Cllr Hall advised that the Marketing Group had voted 8:2 in favour of the marketing function being 'awarded' to RTS on the basis that it would work closely with 1066.

The Clerk advised that the Partnership Board had endorsed the RMG's recommendation and this had been communicated to the principal funder, RDC. The Board had considered that the assessment process adopted by the RMG had been as fair as it could have been given the circumstances (many members of the Group found themselves considering their own – or their organisation's – proposal). The Board had felt unable to support RTC's wish for the funding associated with the (vacant) Town Manager post to be used, in the short-term, towards employing an individual to take forward a Town Action Plan: the majority of stakeholder favoured the monies being used specifically for marketing. This would need to be approved by RDC's Cabinet.

The Clerk to provide Cllr Potter with copies of the Marketing Review proposals.

**Clerk**

*Cllrs Elliott and Souster returned to the Chamber.*

**(d) Events**

*A Taste of Rye (3-12 October)* Cllr Hall advised that she would be co-ordinating the festival as part of an independent group (including Paul Webbe, Katie Clark and Christopher Strangeways). It was hoped that one outcome of the Marketing Review would be the identification/appointment of an individual with responsibility for promoting/supporting events. The first press release had been issued and the guide would be going to print early August.

*Flower & Vegetable Show (30 August)* Rye Allotments Association had begun to take on responsibility for the event. The show schedule had been distributed.

*HotCats AGM (6.5.08)* Kerry de Courcy, Alison Simmons and Rita Cox announced that they were standing down as Chairman, Treasurer and Vice Chairman/Minutes Secretary. They agreed to defer their resignations for 3 months to give the organisation time to address the situation. The guest speaker, Paul King explained that his business, Text Rooms provided a means of making booking enquiries via text messaging.

**7 RYE SKATE PARK**

The Clerk advised that the Skate Park Committee was holding more money than anticipated and that, after allowing for the receipt of the £10,000 outstanding from RDC, there were sufficient funds to allow the project to be completed. However, there remained a shortfall of £410 – required to replace the ply on the original equipment (to be considered by Council on 21 July).

**8 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Clerk advised that the general standard of pc cleaning had declined recently because the contractor, SHS had had difficulty recruiting a local operative. The Gun Garden pc would be closed until an 'awkward' section of broken sewer pipe had been repaired.

Speaking from the Gallery, Cllr Smith advised that RDC was seeking a tenant for the closed Tower Street convenience. She wondered if a further attempt could be made to have the building Listed. (The Clerk had advised that a previous attempt by Cllr Holmes and others had failed because of the absence of much of the original pumping mechanism.)

Cllr Souster observed that RDC had not consulted RTC on its intention to close a pc and suggested that its selection of the Tower Street convenience had been based on 'commercial potential'.

**RESOLVED To ask RDC for the current status of the Tower Street pc.  
Clerk**

**9 HARBOUR ROAD CYCLE/FOOTPATH**

The Clerk reported that a County Transport Strategist had advised that the design of Phase IV of the cycle/footpath had been programmed for 2008-09 – with the construction to be scheduled subsequently. Phase IV had not been abandoned.

**10 RYE SPORTS CENTRE**

The Chairman of the Sports Hall Management Committee, Cllr Souster updated Members on the cost of younger people using the Centre/Pool. For the past year, 14-18-year-olds had been able to use the gym, pool and classes for £15 per month (payable by DD or card SO); for students over 18 the cost was £26. It was believed that the qualifying young people/students could not access the facilities weekdays prior to 4.30pm – but this would need to be checked. **Cllr Souster**

Cllr Hall reported that hairdryers in the ladies shower room were still not working, despite a number of complaints from customers. **Cllr Souster**

*The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.20.*

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

LEISURE & TOURISM

MINUTES LT01

**Presentation by Peter Cosstick, Rye Christmas Festival 2008**

Peter Cosstick (PC) explained that last year the Chamber asked a team of 6 volunteers to coordinate a Christmas Festival. It had taken up 4-5 months of PC's time. Despite appalling weather the Festival had been a success – approx 2000 people attended the procession and fireworks, a high quality brochure had been produced and c£2,300 had been raised for the nominated charity, Demelza House.

This year the Festival would start on 6 December – with a bigger procession leaving the Station at 4.30pm. Traders had requested that there be no official late night opening that evening but that one be organised closer to Christmas. A number of fundraising events had been organised – including a visit by the Glen Miller Orchestra. 10,000 copies of the brochure (which will list other Rye events organised for 2009) would be distributed and Demelza House should, once again, benefit.

This year's budget was £19k (2007: £20k). RDC would again be contributing £1,500. RTC had allocated £1,000. It was envisaged that the fundraising events would raise around £1600 and £10,000 could be raised from business sponsorship. Thus far, 37 businesses had been approached, pledging £3,000. Allowing for a £1,500 surplus from last year, there was a forecast deficit for the 2008 event of £3,400.

PC would not be organising future festivals.

Responding to a question from Cllr Hall, PC confirmed that he would be approaching 1066.