

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on 28 September 2009

PRESENT	Councillors John Breeds (Committee Vice Chairman – Deputy Mayor), Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall (Committee Chairman), Mary Smith, Sam Souster (Mayor)
IN ATTENDANCE	Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Andy Hemsley – Rye Observer

The meeting commenced at 6.55.

11 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons lodged with the Clerk - were accepted from Cllrs Granville Bantick and Brian Elliott.

12 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 6 July (LT01) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

14 MATTERS ARISING

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9 Freda Gardham 'Middle Field' Cllr Smith had been advised by Rye United FC that, although the Planning Authority had responded positively in respect of its wish to relocate to the field, apparently ESCC had identified a purchaser. The Clerk would make enquiries. **Clerk**

7 Town Salts Play Area (asking RDC to provide as many additional seats as possible) There had been no response. Sponsoring a memorial bench had been suggested to David Proctor (who had approached the Council seeking some form a memorial to his ancestors) but he was not keen on the play area and it looked as though he would opt for funding a plaque to be fixed to one of the Environment Agency's new 'vandal-resistant' benches at Strand Quay.

Cllr Smith advised that at last week's Rye Partnership Assets Tour, Gina Sanderson had indicated that it might be possible to obtain funding via the Rother Play Partnership. The Clerk would make enquiries. **Clerk**

15 MARKETING

(a) Rye Marketing Group

Cllr Hall's report on the Rye Marketing Group (RMG) meeting held on 2.9.09 included reference to:

- Because monies are still outstanding from four establishments included in the *Rye Guide 2009*, in future payment would be required prior to publication
- The Minutes of a previous meeting had been amended to reflect the fact the RTC's £5,000 marketing grant had not been made for a specific purpose
- 1066 had been very successful gaining media coverage (regional, national and internal) for the town. Recent publicity included: articles in the *Independent on Sunday* and *Sydney Herald*; filming for *Coast* (to be broadcast Feb 10); the *Hairy Bikers* on the Strand Quay; and Dan Snow presenting a programme on the Royal Navy
- The Cinque Ports campaign (a 1066:Visit Kent collaboration was now in its second year. An educational DVD Pack would be sent to schools in the South-East
- (With the backing of the Chamber and HotCats) the format of the *2010 Rye Guide* would be a 32-page A5 booklet. The only additional cost would be replacing the town's leaflet holders
- A sub group was considering improvements to the Visit Rye web site
- The third Medieval Conference is scheduled provisionally for the w/e of 16.10.10
- Cycle racks, new benches, talking posts and a boules court have been (or are about to be) installed by the Environment Agency on the Strand Quay
- An Antiques Trail has been created by Andy McConnell and Tia Russell

Cllr Souster remained concerned that Rye was still not taking advantage of its links/natural affinity with Romney Marsh and its Cinque Port towns. He took every opportunity to raise this across the county border and had received widespread support for the two areas co-operating on marketing initiatives. He intended to raise the matter at the next RMG meeting (when he would be present as a replacement Partnership representative).

(b) 1066 Country Marketing Committee

There had been no meeting since the Committee had last met.

(c) HotCats

There had not been a meeting since the Committee last met. Cllr Hall sought guidance on how to deal with HotCats' refusal to make its Minutes available to non-members and also its view that non-members attending should make their own notes.

It was noted that RTC's Minutes are freely available (including online) and that RDC did not appear to be happy that HotCats no longer wanted representation from RDC.

It was agreed that the stance did not foster 2-way communication.

RESOLVED To ask HotCats if its (non-confidential) Minutes could be made available to the Council to ensure that Councillors have a full and accurate record of HotCats' discussions and decisions – thereby enabling the Council to identify easily areas where it could offer support.

Clerk, Cllr Hall

(d) Food Festivals: Taste of Rye 9-18 October

The Committee Chairman (and Festival Organiser) advised that preparations were on schedule, although the stock of promotional booklets had become largely depleted.

(e) Christmas Festival 2009

Cllr Hall had been advised that this year's guide was close to publication and that all the funding necessary had been sourced. The Festival was being co-ordinated by Neil Cunliff and Phipps & Co staff.

(f) Rye Farmers Market

The Committee Chairman reported that the Chairmanship had passed from Christopher Strangeways to John Botterell. The Committee comprised a good mix of stallholders and members of the public.

The Committee was looking into obtaining financial assistance from the Farmers Market Project. An Apple Day would be held on 21 October and the Christmas Market would take place on 23 December.

(g) Proposed Events Co-ordinator

There had been difficulties agreeing the employment status of this position. Eventually it had been decided that the Chamber would manage the post holder.

16 RYE SPORTS CENTRE

Cllr Souster advised that the Sports Hall Management Committee met only twice a year and it had not met since the L&T Committee had last met. However, he was able to report on the items following:

Name change The Committee was likely to be re-titled 'Advisory Committee' as this more accurately reflected its actual role.

Decision-making Because the Committee met every 6 months – and there was a wide range of stakeholders involved (including ESCC, RDC, Rye College, Freedom Leisure) - this was often frustratingly slow.

Car park The introduction of a pay and display scheme had been delayed – and an Off Street Parking Place Regulation Order had yet to be made. It was intended that the charges would be slightly higher than RDC's car parks in order to ensure sufficient spaces for Sports Centre/Swimming Pool users (who would be refunded). However, it would still be necessary to generate some income to cover maintenance etc.

A number of members expressed concern that if the car park was promoted as a 'general' car park there could be insufficient spaces for Centre users – particularly on Thursdays when the £1/day Cattle Market facility is unavailable. Centre users would not get reimbursed (presumably) if they were forced to park elsewhere. It was considered generally that the most problematic days were likely to be Thursdays and Bank Holiday Mondays – and some Saturdays. Cllr Souster agreed to convey these concerns at the next Management Committee meeting.

Maintenance There remained a number of longstanding minor repair issues – many of which could be traced back to unsatisfactory build quality.

MUGA Most of the funding was believed to be in place – a planning application would follow.

Climbing Wall This was on the agenda for the next meeting.

Minutes If any Member wished to peruse these they could be viewed at the Town Hall.

17 RYE FAWKES 2009

The Clerk advised that Rother District Council had been reminded to ensure that the Crownfields public convenience was kept open on 14 November.

RESOLVED To send RDC regular reminders. Clerk

18 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Members were advised that the opening of the town's conveniences was delayed recently until mid-morning because the SHS employee had phoned in sick at short notice.

Cllrs Fiddimore and Smith both reported bad odours emanating from Crownfields pc.

The Mayor observed that the Rye RDC Contract Compliance Officer had a considerable number of contracts to monitor.

RESOLVED 1 Members to carry out a joint inspection of the town's conveniences and report their findings to RDC. Clerk

RESOLVED 2 Where possible, to re-direct those complaining about the conveniences to the Rye CHP.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.58

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