

Minutes of a Meeting of the Leisure & Tourism Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 8 January 2007

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Roger Breeds, Paul Carey, Keith Taylor and Ian Potter; Andy Hemsley - *Rye Observer*

The meeting commenced at 6.10.

26 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

27 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Granville Bantick	<i>personal</i>	item 34	Member of Skatepark Management Committee
Cllr John Izod	<i>personal</i>	item 34	Member of Skatepark Management Committee
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>personal</i>	item 34	Chairman of Skatepark Management Committee
Cllr John Potter	<i>personal</i>	item 34	Member of Skatepark Management Committee

28 VICE CHAIRMANSHIP

Cllr Osborne proposed, and Cllr Holmes seconded Cllr Streeton.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Streeton was declared to be appointed Vice Chairman.

29 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 6 November 2006 (LT02) were approved as a correct record of the proceedings.

30 MATTERS ARISING

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17 Allotments (joining NSALG) See main agenda item – 31

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19 IVMG - Removal of A259 Strand Quay parking bays (discussing with Inspector Franklin) Inspector Franklin would support removal of the bays.

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20 Rye Marketing Group – Rye Guide (exclusion of ungraded accommodation – discussing with Town Manager). The owner of the Regent Motel intended to discuss her situation with Tourism SE later in the week. The Town Manager understood that TSE accepted that its reclassification of inspected premises had caused problems for small motels and would be reviewing sympathetically its classifications.

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24 Wildlife Weekend (publicizing) In hand.

25 Rye United (accepting request for a presentation to a future meeting) Actioned.

31 ALLOTMENTS

RESOLVED To note that, having not received the required application form until 2 January, the Council's affiliation application to the National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners will be submitted on 9 January – and be followed by a request for legal advice on the proper status of Rye's allotments.

TC

32 VISITOR AND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT GROUP

Referring to his report of the meeting of the Visitor and Information Management Group held on 22 November 2006, Cllr Bantick highlighted:

- *Landgate Arch* The need for this to be resurfaced in the spring
- *LATS* Sight of the revised scheme for Station Approach – with implementation scheduled provisionally for Feb-April 2008
- *Monkbretton Bridge* Around £400,000 has been set aside by the Environment Agency to address serious corrosion.
- *New Road* Addressing the issue of speeding was likely to be incorporated within the Gateway Plan.
- *Litter bins* Another five had been ordered.
- *Safer Rother Partnership* Vehicles have been 'targeted' with leaflets advising drivers not to leave belongings on car seats to deter thieves.

The Clerk advised that the Public Services meeting scheduled for 15 January would be considering a questionnaire from County on its review of speed limits.

The Mayor observed that neighbouring villages on the A259 – such as Winchelsea, Icklesham, Guestling and Brenzett – had the benefit of traffic schemes but not Rye.

Although RTC has representatives on the Rye Local Area Transport Strategy Steering Group, concerns were expressed that County appears to be using the Visitor & Information Management Group for consultation purposes and not involving the Council directly. Any schemes submitted to RTC could be considered promptly by the Planning & Townscape Committee.

RESOLVED To ask the County's Transport & Environment Department to send all draft LATS schemes directly to RTC for its consideration.

TC

33 RYE MARKETING GROUP

Cllr Izod advised that, since the last Committee meeting, the Rye Marketing Group had not met. However, at the next Group meeting he intended to request that greater emphasis be placed on Rye's maritime past rather than its medieval history.

34 RYE SKATE PARK

Members received verbal updates on progress towards sourcing the funding necessary to complete the project.

The Mayor advised that the Rye Youth Development Manager was working with skate park users on another bid for £5,000 from the County's Youth Opportunity Capital Fund, and the RDCVS had applied for a further £5,000 from Rother's Community Grants Fund. The outcome of both applications would be known shortly.

The Skate Park Management Committee would be meeting again on Thursday.

35 CYCLE PATH

Cllr Bantick declared a personal interest in the item following by virtue of being a member of Rye Wheelers.

On behalf of Rye & District Wheelers, Cllr Holmes asked the Committee to consider a proposal for a cycle/footpath around Rye and how it could be taken forward.

Cllr Holmes outlined the case for the linking of the two sections of the National Cycle Path to the east and west of the town on environmental, health and safety grounds. As they are classified legally as bridleways, Parish/Town councils have the power to install and maintain cycle paths. Talking to a plan, she emphasised that all the schools – including the new primary school – and major sports and recreation areas would be accessible by bicycle.

The proposal – much of which had been identified some years ago by Sustrans - was well-received by Members as being laudable and potentially-achievable. Cllr Palmer observed that much of the route proposed exists already as a footpath and a section of it could be incorporated within the proposed Tillingham Avenue new primary school 'bridge link'.

It was suggested that, aside from sourcing funding, the most problematic aspect would be land acquisition – especially railway property.

Cllr Carey and the Mayor observed that, in the near future, there could be some 'planning gain' funding available.

Resources available included the County Cycling Officer and Rother's Sports Development Officer.

RESOLVED To set up a working group comprising Cllrs Bantick, Holmes, Osborne and Streeton.

TC

36 RYE SPORTS CENTRE

Speaking from the Gallery, Cllr Carey advised that the Rye Sports Centre Management Committee had not met since the last Committee meeting.

Cllr Souster added that the new operating company would be holding an open day at the Centre on 13 January.

37 OPEN SPACES ASSESSMENT

Cllrs Bantick and Potter declared a personal interest in the item following by virtue of being a member of the Rye Skate Park Management Committee.

Members considered a request from Rother District Council's consultants, PMP, for assistance with an assessment of open space, sport and recreational needs in Rye.

It was considered generally that completing the questionnaire could be very time-consuming and, as owner of the majority of the open spaces and recreational facilities in Rye, Rother was well-placed to answer the questions posed.

RESOLVED To advise the consultant that RTC was content for him – or Rother – to complete the questionnaire. TC

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.24

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