

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 11 June 2007**

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds, Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall, Jo Kirkham, **Frank Palmer (Committee Chairman)**, Ian Potter, Shaun Rogers, Sam Souster (Deputy Mayor), Sylvia Willgoss, David Wright

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Granville Bantick, Brian Elliott and Sonia Holmes; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 3 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.32.

13 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Paul Osborne (Mayor – Committee Vice-Chairman).

14 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for questions from Members of the Public (see Appendix).

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

15 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 29 May 2007 (PT02) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

16 MATTERS ARISING

Page 2

12 8-26 Fishmarket Road (awaiting confirmation of sale of site) The Clerk advised that the sale had not been concluded.

17 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RR/2007/132/L 67 Military Road, Rye.
Addition of French doors to rear elevation.
SUPPORT APPROVAL

RR/2007/1456/P 5 The Grove, Rye.
Erection of single storey side extension to kitchen including three roof lights.
SUPPORT APPROVAL

18 GIBBET MARSH PUBLIC SEATING

The meeting was invited to consider a proposal – signed by 9 Members - recommending to Council that it reverses its position of pursuing the reinstatement of public seating located formerly on the Gibbet Marsh footpath, opposite The Windmill.

The Committee Chairman adjourned the meeting to permit John Izod to address Members (see Appendix).

The meeting reconvened.

RECOMMENDATION That Council amends its position from one of seeking reinstatement of public seating to one of seeking identification of a suitable alternative location within the immediate vicinity.

19 A259 MONKBRETTON BRIDGE

Members considered a request from the Town Manager for comments on the Highways Agency’s proposed timetable for the repair/repainting/resurfacing of Monkbretton Bridge in 2007.

In response to a question put by Cllr Potter, Cllr Rogers advised that during the period of complete closure, emergency services’ access would be maintained by the services having the facility to call ahead so that barriers and the workforce are removed prior to their arrival.

RESOLVED to note the timetable proposed.

The meeting closed at 6.59

Date.....

Chairman.....

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Cllr Palmer indicated that he would adjourn the meeting again at item 18 in order to allow John Izod to speak in support of the proposal which he had initiated whilst serving as a Councillor.

Given that new Councillors had been elected to the Council in May, Mary Smith asked if the Council's response to the new Primary School planning application could be reviewed.

The Clerk advised that the County Council Planning Committee would be considering the application on 13 June. The Officer's supporting paper appeared to report faithfully all the representations received and addressed most of the concerns raised, mostly by local residents. He suggested that, should County decided to defer a decision for further information/consultation, if there was a will amongst the majority of present Town Councillors to re-visit the application, this was possible procedurally. However, he cautioned that it was unlikely that County would want to risk overrunning its completion deadline of September 2008.

18 GIBBET MARSH PUBLIC SEATING

Former Councillor, John Izod considered that when the previous Council resolved to pursue the reinstatement of the bench it had not undertaken sufficient research. The disruption associated with the use of the seating by younger people at night had caused a considerable nuisance to the owners of the Windmill and their guests. Requests to the police had not always been successful. Mr Izod observed that a replacement bench had been located further along the river bank and believed that there was a plan to install a footpath up to it.

The ensuing discussion amongst Councillors included the points following: the main issue at the time was that the benches had been removed by an external body; the replacement bench is obscured partially and difficult to access; if the seating is not reinstated an undesirable precedent will be established; removing public seating does not address the root problem and is likely to move the nuisance elsewhere; a proposal to remove a bench from outside the Tilling Green shops for similar reasons was opposed successfully by those using the bench whilst waiting for a bus; Badger Gate residents made use of the bench during short walks; the area around the replacement bench is uneven and prone to water logging; the recent introduction of CCTC in Station Approach may have contributed to an increase in anti-social behaviour at Gibbet Marsh; the benches were used by tourists as well as residents; although some Councillors had decided to support a further debate on the Council's position they did not, at the time, necessarily favour a reversal of Council policy;