

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 26 November 2007**

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds, Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall, Jo Kirkham, Paul Osborne (Mayor – **Committee Vice-Chairman**), Frank Palmer (**Committee Chairman**), Shaun Rogers, Sam Souster (Deputy Mayor), David Wright

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Granville Bantick, Brian Elliott and Sonia Holmes; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 6 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.31.

106 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Sylvia Willgoss.

107 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Granville Bantick *personal* **RR/2007/3065/P**
Friends of Rye Library Secretary

Cllr Frank Palmer *personal* **item 114**
Adjacent property owner

6.33 *The Chairman adjourned the meeting for contributions from members of the public. See Appendix*

6.41 *The meeting reconvened.*

108 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 12 November 2007 (PT14) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

109 MATTERS ARISING

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81 Camber Castle Car Park (obtaining details of ownership from Land Registry) Outstanding **Clerk**

97 Revised Rother Licensing Strategy (review) Cllr John Breeds had this in hand.

100 A259 (Strand Quay): parking bays (obtaining further information from InterRoute on its methodology) Outstanding. **Clerk**

110 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RESOLVED That the comments following be submitted to the Planning Authority:

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| RR/2007/2906/P
Del | 39A Winchelsea Road, Rye.
Conversion of dwelling to form 3 flats.
SUPPORT APPROVAL |
| RR/2007/2940/P
Del | 91 High Street, Rye.
Loft conversion to form bedroom and bathroom including addition of velux windows.
SUPPORT APPROVAL. Subject to the use of conservation velux windows. |
| RR/2007/3065/P*
Com | 53 Cinque Ports Street, Rye.
Revised proposals for a proposed new library and 10 apartments above, previously approved under planning permission RR/2006/1991/P
SUPPORT APPROVAL |
| RR/2007/3082/T
Del | 19 Watchbell Street, Rye – and rear of.
Removal of sycamore tree.
SUPPORT APPROVAL |

* Consideration of this application included the comments following: there is no vehicular access; those with mobility problems or those with pushchairs/toddlers would find crossing the road to the site hazardous; there is no potential to expand the new library in the future; if no 'community facility' is provided on the site SEEDA would require the money spent clearing it to be reimbursed; no site in Rye is ideal for a new library; access to The Monastery (on a cobbled street) would be difficult; the community has waited long enough for a new facility; ESCC Library Service has worked closely with the developer; the Rye CHP could perhaps remain at its present location if library space was an issue.

111 RETAIL NEEDS ANALYSIS

RESOLVED To appoint Cllr Fiddimore and Palmer to attend – with the Clerk - a retail needs stakeholders' briefing at Rye Town Hall on 5 December, 9.30-11.00am.
Clerk

112 PARISH PATHS EVENT

RESOLVED Not to appoint a representative to attend the launch of the County's Rights of Way Improvement Plan at Heathfield Community Centre, on 4 December, 9.30-12.30pm.

113 SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

(a) Funding

RESOLVED To write to East Sussex County Council and Rother District Council asking if they are holding any 106 Agreement/planning gain monies for the benefit of the Parish.
Clerk

(b) 'Wish List'

RESOLVED To initiate the compilation of a 'wish list' of infrastructure improvements which could be linked with significant planning developments in the Parish in order to 'ameliorate the impact of the proposed development'. Clerk

114 TRADERS PASSAGE/WATCHBELL STREET

Members were invited to consider whether to submit any comments on the County Council's proposed scheme (commencing January 2008) to replace concrete posts and chain mail fencing with traditional black railing in Traders Passage/Watchbell Street.

After re-stating his personal interest, the Committee Chairman advised that the fencing needed to be replaced because the concrete posts were beginning to 'blow'. The Hope Anchor had asked for the planned works to be deferred from December because it was concerned its Christmas trade would be affected adversely.

Residents of The Strand had experienced problems with younger people getting over/through the existing fence, dislodging rocks, leaving litter and, on one occasion, starting a fire. They were concerned that the railings proposed would not be sufficient to inhibit access to the cliff and that valuable screening – in the form of ivy – would be lost during installation.

RESOLVED To raise these concerns at the next County Liaison (SLR) meeting. Clerk

The meeting closed at 7.28.

Date.....

Chairman.....

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Speaking as Chairman of the Friends of the Rye Library, Keith Taylor advised that the group had considered the amended plans for the former Central Garage site and considered that they were not markedly different from the (inadequate) plan submitted with the previous planning application. Essentially, the application was for a block of 10 flats above a library. Together with the Rye Conservation Society, the Friends were not impressed by the design proposal. It believed it may have identified a more suitable and fitting site. The new owner of The Monastery had indicated that the company might be interested in accommodating the new library on two floors.

Having re-stated his personal interest, Cllr Bantick suggested that although the main entrance was more sympathetic the plans submitted do not give any indication of the proposed layout for the library and Community Help Point. Another concern – voiced previously by the Highways Authority was the absence of vehicular access and possible congestion this might cause. The possibility of an alternative site – a prestigious building dating from 1380 - had only just emerged.

Mary Smith considered that Rye needed a 'proper' library with sufficient space for books – to cater for an intelligent and articulate community.