

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 9 July 2007**

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds, Lorna Hall, Paul Osborne (**Committee Vice Chairman - Mayor**), Frank Palmer (**Committee Chairman**), Sam Souster (Deputy Mayor), Sylvia Willgoss, David Wright

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

The meeting commenced at 7.31

27 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Bernardine Fiddimore, Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter and Shaun Rogers.

28 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Granville Bantick	<i>personal</i>	item 34	Udimore Road resident
Cllr John Breeds	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 34	Lives adjacent to proposed development
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>personal</i>	item 34	Udimore Road resident
Cllr Sylvia Willgoss	<i>personal</i>	item 34	Udimore Road resident

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

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

29 MINUTES

Page 1, Item 21 – Disclosures of Interest, Cllr Jonathan Breeds

RESOLVED

To delete 1038/P and insert 1588L

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 25 June 2007 (PT04) – as amended - were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

30 MATTERS ARISING

Page 2, 25 Planning White Paper (drafting a response) Cllr Souster had commenced work on this.

31 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

RR/2007/1675/L 21 Mermaid Street, Rye.
Installation of two CCTV cameras under canopy of doorway.
SUPPORT APPROVAL

32 WASTE

a) Commercial

Cllr Jonathan Breeds asked Members to consider recommending that the Council contributes to the launch of a prototype scheme to allow local businesses to recycle their (bottle) glass waste.

The Chamber of Commerce – which had introduced successfully a cardboard recycling scheme - had approached him (as the Council's Chamber representative) to help secure a £250 grant from the Council.

Cllr Breeds advised that businesses produced far greater quantities of glass waste than householders and it was envisaged that the scheme would become self-financing as the number of participating businesses increased.

Businesses would take the glass to a collection point, provisionally a lockable container adjacent to the Gibbet Marsh recycling point (away from residential properties).

The Clerk explained that local councils did not have the power to fund the collection of waste. Therefore, the Council would need to 'legitimise' the expenditure under s137 of the Local Government Act 1972 and justify the decision on the grounds that a number of the parish's inhabitants – or the area - would benefit from the Council's support for the scheme. He was aware that at least one parish had used s137 to support its decision to purchase bottle banks.

RECOMMENDATION That the Council, in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the expenditure following which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure: a grant of £250 to the Rye & District Chamber of Commerce, being a contribution towards the introduction of a glass recycling scheme for businesses located within the Parish of Rye.

b) Bulky items

Cllr Hall had been approached by Rye residents who have difficulties accessing the Pebsham and Mountfield household waste sites and asked the meeting to consider whether the Council should request that a waste container lorry visits Rye on a weekly basis.

Similar arrangements were in place not only in parts of Kent but also Crowborough and Uckfield – usually supervised and on a Sunday for a couple of hours on a Sunday.

Such a facility would reduce the number of (polluting) trips to Mountfield/Pebsham and fly tipping which costs typically RDC £30-£100 per instance. Rother's bulky waste home collection service starts from £12 for a single item. The Environment Agency supports the provision of smaller waste collection sites.

The Mayor observed that the Cattle Market had been put forward as a possible location for the service in the past but it is privately owned and there is the risk that items could be dumped on sites prior to the arrival of the waste truck.

It was noted that Rother would continue to be pre-occupied with the new waste and recyclables kerbside collection contract for the foreseeable future – accordingly:

RESOLVED To pursue the introduction of a weekly bulky waste collection service at the next Rye-Rother Liaison meeting.
Clerk

c) New contract

Speaking from the Gallery, Cllr Bantick suggested that the Committee might like to make representations to Rother District Council concerning problems arising from the introduction of its new kerbside waste and recycling service. Rother was continuing to receive numerous complaints from householders that their collection dates were being missed. Cllr Bantick had emailed his concerns to Rother's Director of Services.

The Clerk advised that RDC's CEO would be addressing concerns from parishes at the RALC AGM on 11 July.

The Mayor advised that he was a member of Rother's Waste Working Group which would be meeting next on 18 July. Responsibility lay mainly with Verdant: it had redeployed its front line to areas in Rother with which they were not familiar and they were not used to handling two separate wheelie bins. Verdant's staff had collectively made representations directly to Rother. Changes were being made.

Cllr Souster considered that had Rother's PR firm, Envirocomms fulfilled its brief properly the public – whose support was essential to maintain a well-run scheme – would be more sympathetic and 'engaged'. However, many residents did not receive their Information Packs prior to delivery of the wheelie bins and there had been little publicity about the various dispensations available – for those with mobility problems, larger families etc. A properly-run scheme would reduce 'residual' (ie non recyclables) waste to c40%.

Addressing the meeting from the Gallery, Cllr Russell emphasised the importance of all complaints being logged with Rother or one of its Community Help Points. This would help build up a picture of the worst affected areas, which could then be prioritised.

33 THOMAS PEACOCKE

Members considered a letter from Highway's Traffic and Safety Manager, Brian Banks seeking the Council's view on Thomas Peacocke Community College's request for the installation in the town of four College directional signs.

It was noted that this matter had been discussed at the last Information & Visitor Management Group meeting. The Group – which had been involved closely in attempts to reduce ‘signage clutter’ in recent years – expressed a preference for the College to be permitted to have one small directional sign at the junction of Cinque Ports Street and Rope Walk.

It was noted that visitors following signage for the Sports Centre/Swimming Pool would find themselves in the near vicinity of the College. The Mayor considered that the College had a good case for additional signage.

It was noted that a similar request could well be made by the new primary school. Given that the two educational establishments would be adjacent to each other it would be sensible for them to combine their signage requirements.

RESOLVED To await information on the new primary school’s signage requirements before considering the request further.
Clerk

Cllr John Breeds re-stated his prejudicial interest in the item following and left the Chamber.

Cllrs Bantick, Souster and Willgoss re-stated their personal interest in the item following.

34 LAND NORTH OF UDIMORE ROAD

Speaking from the Gallery, Cllr Bantick invited a Committee member to propose that the Council writes to the developers and Rother District Council asking, should planning permission be granted on land north of Udimore Road, whether each would enter into a legally binding agreement to compensate the occupants of neighbouring properties in the event of flood damage attributed to the construction of the proposed new estate.

The Mayor observed that the land had not been released for development and there was a risk of pre-determining partly a planning application.

Cllr Souster appreciated the concerns raised and suggested the issue of flooding fell within the remit of the re-formed Rye Emergency Planning Group. The possibility of flooding arose only in relation to the Old Brickyard and the Tilling Green Estate – houses to the north side of Udimore Road were higher than the site and were unlikely to be affected by surface water run-off. The concerns of these residents centred around loss of amenity and increased traffic flow – all planning issues. He considered that the efforts of those opposed to the development should be concentrated on keeping the site on the Local Plan Reserve List. Furthermore, Rother’s response to the flood risk concern in relation to the site was known already and was set out in a recent letter to Cllr Bantick. Rother had resolved to investigate alternative brownfield sites but progress was unknown.

RESOLVED To pursue the concerns highlighted once a planning application had been received.

Cllr John Breeds returned to the Chamber.

35 A259 MONKBRETTON BRIDGE

Cllr Wright, who had attended the last Information & Visitor Management Group meeting in the absence of the Mayor, spoke to his report on the meeting as it affected the repairs proposed to Monkbretton Bridge. (Appendix B.)

A copy of the draft diversion routes was distributed also.

InterRoute had been asked for the LGV diversion route to be staffed in case it proved necessary to prevent HGVs trying to use an unsuitable route. InterRoute would be meeting with County's Passenger Transport Manager, Don Benn on 26 July.

The Mayor confirmed that he had discussed with Rother's CEO the provision of temporary parking for New Road and Kings Avenue residents on the western side of the Bridge. One of the reasons meetings were being held at the Town Hall was to ensure that the Town Council was involved in preparations for the repair scheme – particularly Phase II.

The meeting closed at 8.42

Date.....

Chairman.....

Rye Town Council PT05

9 July 2007

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

With reference to item 34, Cllr John Breeds advised that, some time ago, he had written to the Head of Planning and all Rother DC Members, suggesting that development on the land north of Udimore Road would cause considerable rainwater/surface run off and that the developer and Rother could be held liable for any associated flood damage within the Old Brickyard/Tilling Green Estate.

At that time he had endeavoured to take an objective position and had calculated – using a formula sourced from the US – that a 5 degree rise in incline increases water run off by a factor of 10.

RYE TOWN COUNCIL - PLANNING & TOWNSCAPE COMMITTEE

Monday 9th July 2007

Agenda Item 35 – A 259 Monkbretton Bridge repairs, Cllr David Wright

I attended the meeting of the Information & Visitor Management Group (I & V M G) of the Rye Partnership on behalf of the Mayor on the 4th July 2007 where the above agenda item was discussed. The following report summarises the current, stated, position in relation to these repairs.

1. Painting and refurbishing the bridge (phase 1) has been delayed until 23rd/30th July. This apparently will not delay the main bridge works and will cause minimum disruption – maybe overnight traffic signals?
2. The bridge closure to all traffic will commence on the 1st October for 4 weeks, this would therefore include the half-term holiday. Access over the bridge will be maintained for pedestrians and emergency vehicles only.
3. Diversion routes have been agreed by ESCC and Inter Route. For HGV's i.e. vehicles over 3 tonnes, the diversion route will be A268 / A28 / B2080 (Brenzett to Tenderden). Light vehicles will be diverted along Military Road to join the B2080.
4. Signage would be provided to both east and west approaches to Rye (at yet to be specified locations) to indicate that the A259 was closed and to direct diverted traffic along diversion routes. It was strongly recommended that the signage should be at least tri-lingual (and possibly one of the Slavic languages as well!); this was rejected by Inter Route on the grounds of space. It was also strongly suggested that key diversion points should be manned to ensure a high compliance with the diversions.
5. It was suggested that all media should be briefed to announce the closure. This could include local TV and Radio, announcements on both ferries and tunnel. The provision of leaflets at both the ports and in lorry driver's restrooms on the channel crossing and of course the local press. The Highways Agency press office (open 24/7) would be handling all enquires.
6. Leaflets were being designed for distribution to all local residents (including Camber Parish). It was agreed that I & V M G would be given sight of this publication before going to print. It had been decided that no public exhibition would be held.
7. Local public transport operators, community transport, taxi companies, healthworkers and Pontins had yet to be briefed. It was stated that this would take place this week i.e. 12 weeks before closure. Whether operators would be able/prepared to terminate their services each side of the bridge to allow transfer across by foot wasn't known at this time. It was suggested that perhaps Marshlink might increase the number of trains stopping at Appledore to facilitate carriage into Rye.
8. Negotiations had yet to take place concerning possible secure parking each side of the bridge. The suggestion being Skinners car park to the west and Rye Rugby Club to the east. No provision would be made to transport physically challenged pedestrians (or those with heavy shopping) over the bridge due to Health & Safety considerations.
9. It was agreed in view of the tight timescale that future meeting of this group would be held on a monthly basis.