

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 22 December 2008**

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Bernardine Fiddimore, Jo Kirkham, **Frank Palmer (Committee Chairman)**, Shaun Rogers, Sam Souster, David Wright

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; 5 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.32

107 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Paul Osborne (**Committee Vice Chairman**) and Mary Smith

108 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

The Committee Chairman adjourned the meeting for public questions.

The questions/comments addressed agenda item 112. Cllr Palmer confirmed that RTC had no knowledge that a planting scheme was to be undertaken. It was observed that, although a RDC officer had stated that RDC had no wish to alter the appearance of the area, this was exactly what was happening. In the last 30 years there had been no hedging adjacent to the river – mainly trees, self-seeded trees, brambles and wild plants. The removal of the brambles had affected adversely the area's biodiversity value and the hedge would spoil the view of the river.

109 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 8 December 2008 (PT16) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

110 MATTERS ARISING

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105 LDF Core Strategy The LDF public meeting on 16 January had been confirmed.

106 Central Garage site The Clerk had distributed previously a letter from the owner which updated Members and advised them that it was hoped to commence work on the Library and apartments in January. He undertook to repaint the hoarding. Cllr Souster confirmed that this had been done and expressed his disappointment that the owner had been required to commission archaeology work in addition to that undertaken previously by the Rye Partnership. He hoped that the member of the public who had expressed

concern about the appearance of the hoardings at a recent Council meeting would be satisfied.

111 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

- RR/2008/3207/P** Strand Quay – land at, Rye
Construction of a footbridge over Strand Quay with adjoining footpaths constructed to meet existing pathways.
Applicant: Environment Agency, attn Mr K Talbot, Guildbourne House, Chatsworth Road, Worthing, West Sussex
NO COMMENT
Explanatory note Although the Council has no objections to the development on purely planning grounds it does have a number of concerns about the proposal – including: access to the bridge from the southern side would be rather ‘circuitous’; uncertainty that the benefits to be derived from the development outweigh the cost; completing the tidal flood defence scheme to protect land east of the River Rother at New Road (A259) should take priority; doubts that the development will add to the visual amenity of the area.
- RR/2008/3064/P** 13 West Street, Rye
Change of use of part of the ground floor from residential to art gallery.
Applicant: Miss S de Sherburne, 13 West Street, Rye
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2008/3065/L** 13 West Street, Rye
Change of use of part of the ground floor from residential to art gallery.
Applicant: Miss S de Sherburne, 13 West Street, Rye
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2008/3375/L** 21 Mermaid Street, Rye
Construct new timber stud partition to separate first floor maisonette access from shop.
Applicant: Juel Ltd, 21 Mermaid Street, Rye
SUPPORT APPROVAL
- RR/2008/3417/P** Lalapanzi (formerly Green Hedges)
Single storey extension of kitchen to side of dwelling to include reconstruction of existing side extension as orangery. Demolition of existing front garage and erection of new garage.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Cross, Lalapanzi, Rye Hill, East Sussex
SUPPORT APPROVAL

112 TILLINGHAM AVENUE FOOTPATH

Members were invited to consider concerns expressed by a resident about the management of the riverbank and to agree a course of action.

The discussion focused on the construction of three large 'pens' containing a newly-planted range of indigenous trees and shrubs. The ensuring debate included the points following: there had always been an open vista at the site over the last 60 years; some trees had been present but the elm trees had succumbed to disease; the pens were unattractive and unlikely to deter determined vandals; the hedge proposed would be more suited to an alternative site further north (towards Love Lane); the pens will collect leaves and litter; it was intended that the pens would remain in place for 3 years; the planting scheme is out of place and not in keeping; an inappropriate planting scheme could have been avoided had RDC notified RTC about its plans; it would be possible to transplant the plants over the winter period.

RESOLVED To ask RDC for a site meeting to discuss the planting scheme and to invite Mrs Donald. Clerk

113 PUBLIC SPACE, WISH WARD

Members noted that:

- (a) On 18 November the Council resolved that its preference was for the area to remain accessible to the public;
- (b) The owners of number 7 Wish Ward have planted and maintained the area at their own expenses for many years, with Rother District Council's expenditure being limited to emptying the bin;
- (c) In support of their aspiration to take possession/manage the site, Mr & Mrs Hyatt supplied Rother with a plan showing public access being restricted to an area immediately around the seat and inspection cover – which was unacceptable to the Head of Amenities – and were asked to consider a suggestion from Rother that responsibility for the site be transferred to the Town Council.

RESOLVED To advise the Head of Amenities that RTC might consider taking on the site as part of an appropriate package of devolved services. Clerk

The meeting ended at 7.20.

Date.....

Chairman.....