

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 24 November 2008**

**PRESENT** Councillors John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Jonathan Breeds, Jo Kirkham, Paul Osborne (**Committee Vice Chairman**), **Frank Palmer (Committee Chairman)**, Shaun Rogers, Mary Smith, David Wright

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Granville Bantick, Brian Elliott, Lorna Hall, Sonia Holmes and Ian Potter; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 8 members of the public

*The meeting commenced at 6.31.*

**92 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Bernardine Fiddimore and Sam Souster (Mayor).

**93 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr John Breeds	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>RR/2008/3092/A</b>	Shareholder in a similar local business
Cllr Jonathan Breeds	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>RR/2008/3092/A</b>	Shareholder in a similar local business
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>personal</i>	<b>item 98</b>	Lead Cabinet Member for LDF
Cllr Ian Potter	<i>prejudicial</i>	<b>RR/2008/3092/A</b>	Shareholder in a similar local business

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting for questions from the public.*

*John Izod advised that the Rye Conservation Society – which appeared to have a formal working relationship with the Planning Authority - had written to 15 businesses about their A boards obstructing the highway. He suggested that – particularly during the current economic downturn – businesses needed to be able to use (responsibly) such means of publicity.*

*Cllr Palmer advised that views of the Town Council do not necessarily accord with any interest group because Members take into account the needs of residents, businesses and visitors.*

*Responding to a question from Kenneth Bird in relation to the LDF Core Strategy Strategic Directions consultation and linkage with the proposed Rye Local Action Plan, the Clerk advised that the Council had just appointed a Co-ordinator with a view to fast tracking the production of a plan by 31 March*

2009. The LDF is an evolving collection of documents and there would be opportunities to influence it via the Action Plan.

Kenneth Bird expressed concern about the Creative Arts Centre proposal for the former Freda Gardham School site – it could draw resources and people away from local arts/community venues.

Cllr Kirkham observed that the proposal was mainly a collaboration with Rye College to provide it with performing arts facilities.

The majority of the members of the public speaking about this matter – as well as a number of Town Councillors – were concerned not about the concept but that the Town Council – and people of Rye generally - had not been consulted about the future use of a community asset or the allocation of public monies.

Christopher Strangeways noted that the Rother Cabinet had allocated provisionally £25k towards the project.

Cllr Osborne (also a Cabinet Member) advised that the proposal had been put originally to ESCC by Ian Ross (behind the recent Class and Corruption performance). The site could not be developed in the short-term because of the flood risk and the 2-3 year proposal would ensure the building could be used to benefit Rye and its community, rather than be demolished/boarded up. Mr Ross had secured c£100,000 from SE Arts. RDC had allocated funding because the project met with its corporate aims and the Cabinet would consider the proposal further next week.

**94 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 10 November 2008 (PT14) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**95 MATTERS ARISING**

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96 Gypsies & travellers (Vice Chairman and Clerk completing the SEERA questionnaire) Actioned.

**96 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

Cllrs John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds and Ian Potter re-stated their prejudicial interests in the application following and left the Chamber.

<b>RR/2008/3092/A</b> (Del)	Cinque Ports Arms, Cinque Ports Street, Rye Addition of four internally illuminated lanterns. Applicant: Shepherd Neame, attn Julia Wafforn, 17 Court Street, Faversham, Kent SUPPORT APPROVAL
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Cllrs John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds and Potter returned to the Chamber.

**97 ANNUAL PARISH PLANNING SEMINAR**

The Committee was invited to appoint up to three Members to attend the annual Rother Parish Planning Seminar to be held at Brede Village Hall on Tuesday 9 December, 7pm-9pm.

**RESOLVED To appoint Cllrs Palmer, Smith and Wright.**

**98 CORE STRATEGY**

The Committee was asked to appoint Members to review the *Local Development Framework Core Strategy Consultation on Directions* (deadline: 30 January 2009) and report back to the Committee.

**RESOLVED To appoint Cllrs Palmer and Smith.**

**Cllrs Palmer and Smith**

It was noted that it was a public consultation and that Members were at liberty to respond in a private capacity.

The Clerk would advise Members when either Cllr Palmer or Cllr Smith no longer needed to refer to the consultation document. **Clerk**

Cllr Smith considered that the RDC staff attending the LDF public exhibition on 20 November had been approachable, knowledgeable and professional – and suggested that residents would appreciate further opportunities to engage with the consultation.

Speaking from the Public Gallery, Christopher Strangeways advised that the Chamber of Commerce was interested in being involved with a public meeting/exhibition. He suggested that early January would be the appropriate time and that, given the urgency, the Town Council should agree to arrange such a meeting immediately.

The Clerk advised that the proposal did not appear on the agenda and so could not lawfully be considered. He suggested it could be discussed at the next Committee meeting and, in the meantime, the Chamber could start preparations – such as identifying a date and venue.

Cllr Wright reported that Planning Strategy staff had advised him that they would be happy to return to Rye to address questions/concerns and he suggested that the Chamber and CDR might like to consider making a start on the organisation of the event proposed.

The Clerk would make enquiries prior to the next meeting. **Clerk**

**99 8-26 FISHMARKET ROAD**

Members were invited to consider the RDC Director of Services's response to the Town Council's letter of complaint dated 16 October.

**RESOLVED To request an update on Rother's recent meeting with the Chunnel Group and to seek regular updates. Clerk**

*The meeting ended at 7.15*

Date.....

Chairman.....