

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Tuesday 27 May 2008**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllr Granville Bantick, Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*

The meeting commenced at 6.30

The Chairman welcomed newly-elected Member, Mary Smith to the Committee.

8 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Wright.

9 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There was none.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public questions. There was none. The meeting reconvened.

10 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 12 May 2008 (PT01) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

11 MATTERS ARISING

Page 2, 6 Planning changes (responding to ESCC questionnaire) Actioned.

12 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

RR/2008/987/P 1 Castle Mill Cottages, Harbour Road, Rye
Changes to existing front entrance porch. Removal of existing concrete garage. Erection of two-storey extension to side and rear.
SUPPORT APPROVAL

RR/2008/991/P 1 Castle Mill Cottages, Harbour Road, Rye
Erection of new summer house.
SUPPORT APPROVAL Subject to the application of a 106 Agreement to prevent the building being used as a separate dwelling.

6.41 Cllr Rogers arrived.

RR/2008/992/P

1 Castle Mill Cottages, Harbour Road, Rye
Temporary siting of steel storage container and
provision of a new screening boundary fence.
SUPPORT APPROVAL Subject to the application of an
appropriate time limit.

13 WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Members were invited to consider appointing a representative to review Southern Water's *Draft Water Resources Management Plan (consultation deadline: 25 July)*.

**RESOLVED To accept Cllr Souster's offer to review the document
with the Clerk. Cllr Souster, Clerk**

14 MOTORCYCLE PARKING

Cllr Souster asked Members to review the impact of motorcyclists parking their machines on – and around – the Environment Agency land at Strand Quay (particularly on the first Bank Holiday in May) and to consider whether any action should be taken. He added that, after the Bank Holiday on 5 May he had received a number of calls from residents of Strand Court complaining about the numbers of bikes parking in the vicinity and also noise levels throughout the day. A number of years ago he and the Clerk had spent the day preventing bikers from parking their machines around the Heritage Centre. Then, bikes had been parked on the pavement on the southern side of The Quay and the Traffic Warden had (discretely) issued a number of tickets – but he had felt intimidated by the volume of bikers in the area. As the Council's Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee (HORAC) representative Cllr Souster could raise any of the Council's concerns.

Cllr Palmer observed that the issue of the Environment Agency allowing bikes access to its land, problems of 'overspill' and the speed/noise of machines passing through Rye was a long-standing one.

(Cllr Kirkham left the meeting at 6.49)

The ensuing debate included the points following: the Environment Agency appears to make no attempt to manage the situation; the volume of bikes in the area is an issue only at certain times of the year; large numbers of visiting bikes are pro-actively managed in Hastings; the Strand Quay has become an established bike 'rest point' – publicised in the motorcycle media (including the web); it was possible to install barriers to prevent motorbike access but at the same time permit wheelchair access; preventing access to the EA land would probably result in a higher incidence of parking on pavements and private property; bikers seek safe parking, preferring to have their (often expensive) machines in view; the EA used to restrict access to boat owners; enforcement of highways regulations is properly the responsibility of the police; the bikes are generally not a problem at other times of the year; the bikers should not be discouraged – they bring useful revenue to the town and are 'legitimate' visitors; only a minority behave in an anti-social or dangerous manner; speeding motorcyclists is a common complaint amongst parishes in the District; the volume of bikes is intimidating and causes inconvenience; the police have difficulties enforcing traffic violations because of the sheer speed of offending riders; parked bikes attract some members of the public; the majority of bikers should not be penalised for the unacceptable actions of a minority; the police are usually fully stretched on Public Holidays.

**RESOLVED To agree that Cllr Souster could legitimately raise residents' concerns about the volume of bikes, noise levels and the situation not being managed at a future HORAC meeting.
Cllr Souster**

The meeting ended at 7.10

Date.....

Chairman.....