

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 12 October 2009**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall – Town Clerk; Cllrs Granville Bantick, Brian Elliott, Lorna Hall, Sonia Holmes, Ian Potter, David Russell, Mary Smith; Peter Cosstick – Heritage Centre Manager; 4 members of the public; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*

The meeting commenced at 6.32pm.

66 APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

Cllr Kirkham advised that she had tendered her apologies for the last two meetings but they did not appear to have been conveyed.

67 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

6.34 *Cllr Fiddimore arrived.*

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for questions/comments from the public.

A resident of Cyprus Place expressed concern about the appeal against the Planning Authority's decision not to grant planning permission for additional car parking at land adjacent to Ferry Rd and Cyprus Place (ref: agenda item 73). He suggested that the development proposed would spoil the appearance of the town just for the sake of few more parking spaces. The proposed surfacing would cause the displacement of rainwater towards the side of his property.

Speaking from the Public Gallery Cllr Elliott declared a personal interest in this matter by virtue of living in close proximity to the site. He understood that the developer had not obtained permission from Euro Car parks to access the site and suggested that, allowing for access, 9 parking spaces only would actually be created.

Cllr John Breeds observed that it is now possible to submit comments to the Planning Inspectorate online.

68 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 28 September 2009 (PT10) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

69 MATTERS ARISING

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65 Rother Parish Planning Seminar (providing RDC with the names of RDC's representatives) Actioned.

70 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

RR/2009/2252/P 13 Eagle Road, Rye
Extension and alterations to rear kitchen. Change of colour of front door and rainwater goods from pea green to black.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Ainsworth, 13 Eagle Road, Rye
SUPPORT APPROVAL

71 GIBBET MARSH RAIL CROSSING

Cllr Rogers considered – and Cllr Souster concurred - that it was difficult to get bicycles through the two new gates. The gate on the western side was around 6' only from the track which offered limited space for manoeuvre. It was also unclear whether the gate should be 'pushed' or 'pulled'. The foundations on the post of one gate had loosened, possibly due to the force exerted during the gate's closure – which generated also an unacceptable level of noise. Furthermore, one gate had a padlock attached – a cause of further confusion.

RESOLVED To present the concerns identified to Railtrack.
Clerk

72 'CAMBER CASTLE' CAR PARK

Cllr Rogers observed that legitimate access was impeded because of the presence, at the entrance, of large (linked) concrete blocks – and suggested that RTC should explore ways of getting the car parking area re-opened.

It was noted that, in the recent past, no organisation/agency had been willing to accept responsibility for the (unregistered) land – although it had been resurfaced by persons unknown.

The Clerk advised that attempting to identify the owner of the site more thoroughly would incur costs and that, if no owner, could be found, the Crown had 'first refusal'.

It was believed that the Environment Agency had placed the blocks there, possibly at the request of the previous Police Inspector, following the death of the unauthorised occupant of the site.

The Committee Chairman advised that the Castle itself was the responsibility of English Heritage but that the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve manages the site on its behalf.

It was acknowledged that, because of its 'remoteness', management of the car parking area was problematic.

RESOLVED In the first instance, to endeavour to get English Heritage or the Environment Agency to accept responsibility for the car parking area, with a view to getting access reinstated.

73 LAND ADJACENT TO FERRY ROAD AND CYPRUS PLACE

Members noted that:

- (i) an appeal had been lodged against the Planning Authority's decision not to allow an application for a proposed (24 space) car park extension on this site;
- (ii) RTC objected originally on the grounds following: *Would compromise a valuable 'green lung'; drainage not addressed adequately; because of the possibility of remains on medieval vessels being in the vicinity a full archaeological survey would be appropriate.*
- (iii) RDC had passed RTC's comments to the Planning Inspectorate;
- (iv) the appeal will be decided on the basis of an exchange of written statements;
- (v) RTC has the option of modifying its comments by 27 October.

It was noted that local planning officers had recommended approval of the original application but that this had not been accepted by RDC's Planning Committee.

It was agreed generally that the town had no need of an additional 11-12 parking spaces. Cllr Fiddimore observed that more public spaces would become available at the Sports Centre with the introduction of the proposed pay and display scheme.

RESOLVED To reiterate RTC's original concerns. Clerk

The meeting ended at 6.58pm.

Date.....

Chairman.....