

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 15 February 2010**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall – Town Clerk; 3 members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm.

128 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons logged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Bernardine Fiddimore, Paul Osborne and Sam Souster (Mayor).

129 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

130 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 1 February 2010 (PT20) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

131 MATTERS ARISING

Page 1

72 'Camber Castle Car Park' (endeavouring to get the Environment Agency or English Heritage to accept responsibility) A response was awaited from English Heritage.

Gibbet Marsh rail crossing (broken defective gates) Awaiting feedback from Network Rail's Inspector.

Page 2

122 Former Central Garage site (asking RDC to act to secure improvements to the appearance of the site) Actioned. RDC had advised that it was actively looking at the situation with a view to enforcement action.

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

John Izod advised that it continued to be difficult for the public to hear Councillors, particularly during meetings which were well attended by the public, who might be having discussions between themselves. It was suggested that Council/Committee Chairmen should ensure that distracting/disruptive behaviour emanating from the Gallery was dealt with swiftly.

The meeting reconvened.

132 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

RR/2010/156/A 96 and 98 High Street (George Hotel), Rye
RR/2010/194/L 900 x 900mm illuminated menu board to front elevation
(Del) of hotel.
Applicant: Alex Clarke, 98 High Street, Rye
SUPPORT APPROVAL

133 RYE HARBOUR FARM: HABITAT CREATION

Members were invited to consider whether to respond to an invitation to comment on the final outline (pre-planning application) plans leading to the creation of new salt marsh at Rye Harbour Nature Reserve. It was noted that area in question fell outside of the parish boundary.

RESOLVED To support the proposals in principle, subject to consideration of the planning application.

134 26 WATCHBELL STREET

Members noted that an appeal had been lodged against Rother District Council's decision to refuse planning permission in respect of the application (set out below) and that the Town Council had originally supported the application

*RR/2009/2524/P26 Watchbell Street, The Garden House, Rye
Complete modernisation of a private dwelling, including first floor front addition. New fenestration and internal partition reconfiguration. Proposal includes for widening of existing vehicular access from Watchbell Street. Works include solar paneling on south slope of new asymmetrical roof design and new first floor balcony on south elevation.*

The meeting was asked to consider, in the light of the Council having received a number of letters asking it to reverse its decision, whether the Council should modify its position.

Cllr Wright observed that the Committee's previous decision had been unanimous, that the Conservation Society and Rother Planning Officers had supported the application, and that the property was an iconic, modernist building in urgent need of refurbishment. After careful consideration it was concluded that the concerns raised relating to the number of existing bedrooms and who designed the property were not relevant planning considerations. Furthermore, it was concluded that the development proposed would not impact adversely on the amenity of the occupants of neighbouring properties.

RESOLVED To endorse the Council's original decision – ie to recommend that planning application RR/2009/2524/P be granted planning permission.
Clerk

The meeting ended at 6.56pm.

Date.....

Chairman.....