

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 13 June 2011**

PRESENT Councillors Gemma Blumire, John Breeds (Mayor), Bernardine Fiddimore, Mike Eve, Heidi Foster, Sonia Holmes, Nigel Jennings (**Committee Vice Chairman**), Jo Kirkham, Shaun Rogers (Deputy Mayor), Adam Smith (**Committee Chairman**)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall – Town Clerk; Cllrs Granville Bantick, Jonathan Breeds, Ian Potter and Mary Smith; 9 members of the public; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*

The meeting commenced at 6.32pm

7 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reason lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllr Sam Souster.

8 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public questions/comments. He indicated that any members of the public who wished to speak to a planning application would be permitted to do so at the relevant point on the agenda.

There were no comments/questions at this stage and the meeting reconvened.

9 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 23 May 2011 (PT01) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

10 MATTERS ARISING

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143 Bus shelters (approaching the manufacturer to establish if they can be modified) The Clerk had made personal contact with the UK distributor and was awaiting a call from the General Manager.

143 Bus shelters (approaching HBC to establish if it had received reports of problems in respect of similar shelters in the vicinity of The Azure (St Leonards sea front)) Outstanding.

6 Training The Clerk advised that he believed RDC's Head of Planning would be incorporating 'nuts and bolts' training for New Members within the Planning Seminar scheduled for 5 July – but may also be considering a separate training event (given the number of new Parish/Town Councillors).

11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

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

RR/2011/930/L 6 Lion Street, Rye
(Del) Removal of internal steel 'goal post' frame and replace with new structural frame.
Applicant: Mr & Mrs Benton, 6 Lion Street, Rye
SUPPORT REFUSAL The Council is concerned that the proposal does not reflect the historic character of the building and requests that the Conservation & Design Officer is asked to consider whether it is appropriate for English Heritage to be invited to comment.

The Committee Chairman adjourned the meeting for comments from the public on the application below:

Philip Harwin (94 Udimore Road) summarised his concerns:

- (a) The development was imposing, invasive and dominant*
- (b) It would set an undesirable precedent*
- (c) It would affect the view of the town*
- (d) It was out of keeping*
- (e) It would seriously overlook other properties – the roof terrace would look down on them*
- (f) There appears to be two offices – one in the dwelling and one in the garden*
- (g) The partially rendered breeze block wall was unsightly*
- (h) The previous planning application did not show the impact of the proposed development on neighbouring properties – if it had, there would have been objections lodged with RDC.*

Cecelia Andrews (92 Udimore Road) added that RDC did not seek the views on neighbours directly on the previous application, However, last week a young planning officer met with them with large scale plans.

The meeting reconvened.

RR/2011/1001/P 90 Udimore Road, Rye
(Del) Single storey extension and single storey side extension.
Applicant: Mr Paul O'Brien, 90 Udimore Road, Rye
SUPPORT REFUSAL The development would be out of character with and detrimental to the amenity of the neighbouring dwellings by virtue of its size.

12 CROWNFIELDS BUS SHELTERS - MODIFICATION

An update had been given under Matters Arising.

13 TOWN CENTRE ACCESS

Members were invited to consider a complaint about poor access in (and around) the High Street for those with mobility problems – and to agree a course of action.

The discussion ensuing included the contributions following: there are few dropped kerbs in the town and no designated disabled parking; RDC charges those with Blue Badges to use its car parks; the Committee Chairman had raised the problem with Angela Alexander who was assessing community transport needs – she would raise it with a Highways Officer; RDCVS undertook an accessibility audit in the early 1990s (when A boards posed a particular problem) and one of the outcomes was the installation of dropped kerbs and a traffic island in the vicinity of the (old) Post Office; the Hastings & Rother Disability Forum is interested in undertaking a survey of the town; it is difficult to find locations in the High Street where two dropped kerbs could be installed opposite each other – with no loss of parking spaces; the Mayor’s father-in-law had, for many years, attempted to secure dedicated disabled parking spaces in the town – without success; it is very difficult to cross the High Street in a wheelchair; some form of a tram taking a circular route from Station approach, taking in the town centre, would be welcomed by those with mobility problems.

Speaking from the Gallery, Jane Frazer-Hay confirmed that there were insufficient crossing places for wheelchairs in the town and advised that, some years ago, she drew up a ‘wheelchair route’. Occasionally assistance with getting people around the town is sought from RDCT.

RESOLVED To accept Cllr Kirkham’s offer to liaise with the Disability Forum regarding an access audit – and to receive a progress report at the next meeting. Cllr Kirkham, Clerk

14 COBBLED STREETS

Members noted that the Conservation Society had contacted a range of stakeholders concerning the deterioration of the town’s cobbled highways and had proposed a possible solution – in the form of an offer from retired dental surgeon, Kyriacos Hajikakou to be responsible for replacing loose cobbles, without charge.

It was agreed that Rye’s cobbled highways were not being properly cared for and was noted that Cllr Glazier is discussing the offer with Rupert Clubb, Director of Transport & Environment.

RESOLVED To support the offer in principle (subject to the necessary safety and insurance considerations being addressed.)

The meeting ended at 7.10pm.

Date.....

Chairman.....