

Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy, Resources & General Purposes Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 19 January 2009

PRESENT Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Jonathan Breeds, Sonia Holmes, Jo Kirkham, Paul Osborne (**Committee Vice Chairman**), Shaun Rogers, David Russell, Sam Souster (Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllr Mary Smith; 4 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.35 and was chaired by Cllr Osborne.

51 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall and Ian Potter (**Committee Chairman**) and David Wright.

52 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Granville Bantick	<i>personal</i>	items 57	Rye Wheelers member
		Item 58	CDR member
		Item 61c)	Rye Wheelers member
Cllr Sonia Holmes	<i>personal</i>	item 61a)	RDC Member
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>personal</i>	item 61a)	RDC Member
Cllr David Russell	<i>personal</i>	item 61a)	RDC Member

53 MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Amended Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2008 (PR03) as an accurate record of the proceedings.

54 MATTERS ARISING

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39.1c) Budget Monitor (greater provision for elections) See main agenda item – 55.7

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41 Work Programme (chasing cycle path feasibility study) Outstanding.

47a) Rye Christmas Festival 2008 (additional £500 grant) Not required – the organiser will be writing to the Council requesting that it be ring fenced for Christmas 2009.

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Confidential

50 Town Hall Keeper (Resolution) Actioned.

55 FINANCE

55.1 Town Hall

a) Schedules of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income

RESOLVED That the Schedule of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income for October 2008-December 2008 be received and adopted.

b) Petty Cash

RESOLVED That the Petty Cash Account Statement as at 31 December 2008 be received and adopted.

c) Budget Monitor

RESOLVED That the Statement of actual income and expenditure to 31 December 2008 against that budgeted, be received and noted.

Cllr Osborne declared a personal interest in the first part of the agenda item following by virtue of being a Member of the authority seeking to place the contract.

55.2 Heritage Centre

RESOLVED 1 To note that the Council's bid to run Rye TIC 2009-12 had been submitted.

RESOLVED 2 To note that because of the increase in workload arising from managing the Heritage Centre from 1 November and preparing the tender application details of income and expenditure for November- December were not yet available.

55.3 Account Balances

The Clerk advised that RTC had still not received the two outstanding £5,000 Community Project Grants from RDC towards Rye Skate Park.

RESOLVED That the Statement of Account Balances as at 31 December 2008 be received and noted.

55.4 Earmarked Reserves

RESOLVED That the Statement of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 December 2008 be received and noted.

55.5 Internal Audit

RESOLVED To note that Paula Fisher will be stepping down as Internal Auditor and that the Clerk will be seeking a replacement for 2009-10.
Clerk

55.6 External Audit 2007-08

RESOLVED To note that the Council's external audit has been concluded and that the auditors have issued an unqualified opinion.
Clerk

55.7 Draft Budget 2009-2010

The Clerk explained that it was a 'tight' budget - with fewer provisions for asset renewal earmarked reserves - in order to allow RTC to contribute another £5,000 to Rye Marketing Group later in the year (which, in turn would allow it to draw down £15,000 from RDC). The main 'unknown' over the next year was the cost of taking/defending any legal actions.

Over the past year RTC had begun to draw on its reserves, mainly to increase grant funding. It could not do this indefinitely.

RECOMMENDATION That the Draft Budget 2009-10 be adopted.
Clerk

56 TOWN CLERK ACTIVITY SUMMARY

RESOLVED To receive and note the Clerk's Activity Summaries for October-December 2008.

57 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED To receive and note the summary of key tasks/projects as at 12.1.09.

58 DEVOLVED SERVICES

RESOLVED To note that the Clerk will be asking the Council to review and agree its position at the full Council meeting on 26 January.

59 REPRESENTATION

Cllr Bantick invited the meeting to consider the importance of the Council's representatives reporting from, and to, the organisations to which they have been appointed. He suggested that written reports to Council were preferable and was particularly concerned that RTC was not up-to-date with developments within the Chamber of Commerce.

The Clerk understood that there had been a problem with RTC's Chamber representative receiving agendas.

It was noted that the Council's current policy was that representative reports could be presented either verbally or in writing.

Cllr Souster stated that he tended to report on Rye Sports Hall Management Committee meetings verbally - to the L&T Committee - and would agenda separately any specific issues arising from HORAC meetings.

Cllr Jonathan Breeds observed that, 8-9 years ago, it was common for Councillors to present reports which were of limited interest.

60 LOCAL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk advised that the action planning process was on schedule, that some consultation with key target groups had been undertaken (younger people, older people, GP patients) and that around 150 questionnaires had been completed thus far.

61 CONSULTATIONS

(a) Byelaws

Members were asked to agree a response to Rother District Council's consultation on its proposal to review its byelaws at Camber Sands and Fairlight to Rye Harbour (seashore).

Cllr Souster – who had been participated in the Coastal Activities Board Working Group in 2005-06 (which had included a range of relevant stakeholders – observed that RDC had access to a number of documents to help it reach a view on appropriate byelaws including: *Managing Coastal Activities: a Guide for Local Authorities* (DEFRA 2004); *Review of Byelaw Powers for the Coast – Report of the Inter-departmental Working Party* (DETR 1998); *Model Byelaws for the Seashore* and existing byelaws; *Safer Sands for Camber – Pilot Study* (Atkins, 2006).

Cllr Souster emphasised the dangers posed by the use of personal water craft on the foreshore and related activities – such as kite surfing. He suggested that RDC could have provided/cited the relevant documentation on the subject.

RESOLVED To seek to ensure that RDC is aware of – and takes into account – the documents identified by Cllr Souster.

(b) Communities in Control

The Committee was invited to consider whether to respond to *Communities in Control: Real people, real power – code of recommended practice on local authority publicity*.

RESOLVED Not to respond.

(c) Cycling Strategy

Members were invited to consider whether to respond to East Sussex County Council's Review of its Cycling Strategy.

Cllr Osborne was unhappy with the document's emphasis on prioritising utility cycling.

RESOLVED To accept Cllr Osborne's offer to review the document.
Cllr Osborne

The meeting ended at 8.19.

Date Chairman