

Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy, Resources & General Purposes Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 27 October 2008

PRESENT Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Jonathan Breeds, Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall, Sonia Holmes, Jo Kirkham, Paul Osborne (**Committee Vice Chairman**), Ian Potter (**Committee Chairman**), Shaun Rogers, Sam Souster (Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 6 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.48.

35 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs David Russell and David Wright.

36 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr John Breeds	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 47(a)	Director of a business engaged to provide alcohol at Christmas Festival events
Cllr Jonathan Breeds	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 47(a)	Director of a business engaged to provide alcohol at Christmas Festival events
Cllr Sonia Holmes	<i>personal</i>	item 42	RDC Member
Cllr Jo Kirkham	<i>personal</i>	item 47(a)	Director of Rye Partnership which has given the applicant a grant
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>personal</i>	item 42 Item 47(a)	RDC Member RDC Rye Partnership representative
Cllr Ian Potter	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 47(a)	Director of a business engaged to provide alcohol at Christmas Festival events
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>prejudicial</i>	item 39.2	Partner a RTS Director

37 MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on 18 August 2008 (PR02) as an accurate record of the proceedings.

38 MATTERS ARISING

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10 Stray dogs Resolution (seeking record keeping reassurance and pressing for more local kenneling) Communicated via Animal Friends web site and followed up with a letter 12.8.08. No response. Cllr Fiddimore advised that she and Cllr Russell

had discussed concerns about the contract with Rother officers. It had been acknowledged that there were problems with the re-homing procedure. Animal Wardens was not making the number of checks on stray dogs that an equivalent charity would make. There was no temporary kenneling facility locally – dogs were again going to Sevenoaks. Individuals finding strays locally were being asked to look after them for 7-28 days (which inevitably results in an emotional bond being formed). RDC would be reviewing the contract in April 2009.

12 Parish/Town Council grants (ascertaining anticipated source of match funding for applications from Bexhill community organisations) RDC Head of Finance response received and distributed.

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24.2a) Heritage Centre Working Group (formation) Actioned – one meeting held thus far.

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26 Work programme See main agenda item – 41.

27 Devolved services See main agenda item – 42.

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30 Town marketing – dealt with by Council

31 Local Action Plan See main agenda item – 43

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32 Robes & regalia See main agenda item - 44

33a) Grants – Rye Arts Festival (£250) Actioned.

33b) Grants – A Taste of Rye (£200) Actioned.

34 Art Loss (registration with Art Loss Register) Actioned.

39 FINANCE

39.1 Town Hall

a) Schedules of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income

RESOLVED That the Schedule of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income for August 2008 and September 2008 be received and adopted.

b) Petty Cash

RESOLVED That the Petty Cash Account Statement as at 30 September 2008 be received and adopted.

c) Budget Monitor

RESOLVED 1 To consider increasing the provision for elections within the next budget.
Clerk

RESOLVED 2 That the Statement of actual income and expenditure to 30 September 2008 against that budgeted, be received and noted.

Cllr Souster restated his prejudicial interest in the item following and left the Chamber.

39.2 Heritage Centre
a) RTS Trading Reports

RESOLVED To receive the monthly Trading Reports for July 2008 and August 2008.

Cllr Souster returned to the Chamber.

b) Future

The interim management arrangements at the Centre, following RTS's premature withdrawal from the Management Agreement, had been considered by Council.

39.3 Account Balances

RESOLVED That the Statement of Account Balances as at 30 September 2008 be received and noted.

39.4 Earmarked Reserves

RESOLVED That the Statement of Earmarked Reserves as at 30 September 2008 be received and noted.

40 TOWN CLERK ACTIVITY SUMMARY

RESOLVED To receive and note the Clerk's Activity Summaries for August 2008 and September 2008.

41 WORK PROGRAMME

Allotments Cllr Souster advised that RDC would be presenting RTC with 1-2 proposals concerning the ownership/management of Rye's allotments.

Cycle path The Clerk advised that Sustrans was still planning to undertake a mini feasibility study.

RESOLVED To chase up the study.

Clerk

42 DEVOLVED SERVICES

Members were invited to consider the Recommendations of the Devolved Services Working Group and summary of RDC's Rye-related costs and revenue (2008-09).

There was no discussion and so the Chairman moved to the next business.

43 LOCAL ACTION PLAN

The Clerk advised that, thus far, there had been two expressions of interest submitted by prospective Co-ordinators and the Steering Group would be considering progressing the appointment of a suitable individual at its next meeting (30 October).

44 ROBES & REGALIA

Given the economic slow down it was agreed generally that it would not be appropriate to replace a number of the tricorns.

RESOLVED To accept Cllr Fiddimore's offer to ask a relative who is a milliner to assess (FOC) whether the hats could be cleaned and stretched. Cllr Fiddimore

45 TILLING GREEN COMMUNITY FACILITY

RESOLVED To note that a petition is in circulation requesting that a community centre be provided on the former Tilling Green School site and to give 'in principle' support to the proposal.

46 MAKING OF BYELAWS

RESOLVED To accept Cllr Potter's offer to review the Government's Making and Enforcement of Byelaws consultation paper (deadline: 20 November). Cllr Potter

47 GRANTS

Cllrs John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds and Potter re-stated their prejudicial interest in the item following and left the Chamber.

Cllrs Kirkham and Osborne re-stated their personal interest in the item following.

Cllr Souster declared a personal interest in the item following by virtue of being a Director of the Rye Partnership, which had provided grant funding to the applicant.

(a) Rye Christmas Festival 2008

Members were invited to consider a request from the Project Co-ordinator for an additional grant of £500 (making a total of £1,500).

The Clerk advised that because of the economic downturn it was considered likely that some of the pledged business sponsorship might not materialise due to business failures.

It was considered generally that last year's Christmas Festival brochure had 'doubled up' as a valuable marketing tool for the town.

RESOLVED (unanimous) To contribute an additional £500 to the Rye Christmas Festival. Clerk
statutory power: Local Government Act 1972 s144

Cllrs John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds and Potter returned to the Chamber.

Cllr Fiddimore left the meeting.

48 EVENTS

(a) SALC AGM

The meeting was asked to consider whether to appoint two representatives to attend the Sussex Associations of Local Councils AGM at the South of England Showground, Ardingly on 7 November, 10am-11am. The Clerk advised that he planned to attend.

RESOLVED To appoint the Clerk as the Council's representative.

49 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED Not to exclude the public and press from the item following:

50 TOWN HALL KEEPER

Confidential – not included – see Appendix.

The meeting ended at 7.38

Date Chairman