

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy, Resources & General Purposes
Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on
Monday 12 April 2010**

- PRESENT** Councillors Granville Bantick, John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Lorna Hall, Sonia Holmes, Paul Osborne (**Committee Vice Chairman**), Frank Palmer, David Russell, Sam Souster (Mayor), Shaun Rogers, David Wright
- IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Peter Cosstick – Heritage Centre Manager; 2 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.22 and was chaired by Cllr Osborne.

57 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons (lodged with the Clerk) - were accepted from Cllrs Jo Kirkham and Ian Potter (**Committee Chairman**).

58 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Sonia Holmes	<i>personal</i>	item 66	RDC Member
Cllr Paul Osborne	<i>personal</i>	item 66	RDC Member
Cllr David Russell	<i>personal</i> <i>personal</i>	item 63(c) item 66	HORAC member RDC Member
Cllr Sam Souster	<i>personal</i>	item 63(c)	HORAC member

There was no need to adjourn the meeting at this point for the Rye FM presentation because the Station Manager, Andy Bantock was not present.

59 RYE FM

There had been no presentation for Members to consider.

60a) MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2010 (PR04) as an accurate record of the proceedings.

60b) MATTERS ARISING

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50 Work Programme (re-instating RDC-RTC Liaison meeting) Actioned.

51 Devolved Services (enlisting the assistance of the Rye District Councillors to progress the devolved services discussion) Actioned.

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53 Quality Council status, Recommendation (forming working group) See main agenda item 68).

As an adjacent landowner, Cllr Hall declared a prejudicial interest in the matter following and left the Chamber.

54 Rye Cemetery (asking RDC if the older area could be re-used for burials) It was noted that the Cemetery Officer, Rosemary Burt had advised that all the graves had been used in the top part ('Third Division') of the Cemetery and, in order for them to be re-used, it would be necessary to amend the Local Authorities' Cemeteries Order.

RESOLVED To ask why unmarked graves can not be moved and to request that RDC considers seeking an amendment to the Order.

Clerk

Cllr Hall returned to the Chamber.

55 'Dungeness C' (asking if the appropriate Minister if its 'omission' from the list of preferred sites could be re-considered) To be actioned after the General Election.

56 Community Rail Partnership (advising that it would need to approach the Mayor for free lets as and when required) Actioned.

61 FINANCE

61.1 Town Hall

a) Schedules of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income

RESOLVED That the Schedule of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income for January 2010 and February 2010 be received and adopted.

b) Budget Monitor

RESOLVED That the Statement of actual income and expenditure to 28 February 2010 against that budgeted, be received and noted.

61.2 Heritage Centre

a) Progress report

The Heritage Centre Manager, Peter Cosstick (PC) spoke to his summary (*tabled – see **Appendix***) – adding:

- Opening times are adjusted to meet demand
- The HC had very little stock in April 2009
- At PC's suggestion, Rye DIY now hires out wheelchairs
- Over Easter the HC promoted Rye Museum, resulting in it receiving at least 50 additional visitors
- A piece in the *Rother Bulletin* about Rother's TICs suggested that Rye visitor numbers were down by 29%; however, the basis of the calculation was not a fair reflection of activity in the town - for August 2009-February 2010 the figures did not take into account visitors to the HC (a proportion of whom visited the premises specifically for tourist information)
- The reinstatement of a Town Model service contract had proved to be beneficial – the (aging) Model operates virtually every day of the year
- Group bookings were up 15%
- There was a possibility of producing a Camber Castle audio tour
- The Harbour Master had offered two boules sets and was happy for the HC to hire them out; however, the insurance implications would need to be assessed

- The HC was continuing to benefit from accommodation booking 'walk-ins'; however, it remained the case that some accommodation providers failed to provide the HC with vacancies information

b) Payments and income

RESOLVED To receive and adopt an Income by Customer Report 1 January 2010-28 February 2010 and Supplier Balances Report 1 January 2010-28 February 2010

c) Budget Monitor

RESOLVED To receive and note the actual income and expenditure to 28 February 2010

61.3 Account Balances

RESOLVED That the Statement of Account Balances as at 28 February 2010 be received and noted.

61.4 Earmarked Reserves

RESOLVED That the Statement of Earmarked Reserves as at 28 February 2010 be received and noted.

62 TOWN CLERK ACTIVITY SUMMARY

RESOLVED To receive and note the Clerk's Activity Summaries for January and February 2010.

63 GRANT FUNDING

(a) Rye Maritime Festival 2010

RECOMMENDATION That the Council contributes £500 towards the running costs. Clerk

statutory power: s145, LGA 1972

8.07 Cllr Wright left the meeting.

(b) Rye College

Members considered a request from Rye College for a contribution of £300 towards the purchase of materials to make costumes for the dancers in the Carnival BLOCO band.

RESOLVED To grant £150 and to suggest that the College explores obtaining the remainder from the Foundation Governors and the contractors responsible for the loss/damage to the original costumes.

statutory power: s145, LGA 1972

Clerk

Cllrs Russell and Souster re-stated their personal interest in the application following.

(c) Strand Quay

The Committee considered a request from the Harbour Master that the Town Council considers contributing towards the construction of further brick flower beds on the Strand Quay (c£2,869 each).

It was considered generally that it was preferable for improvements/additions to the Strand Quay to relate to the area's maritime/Cinque Ports heritage – for example, relevant interpretation panels, boats, anchors and so on. It was acknowledged that the Harbour Master's Office undertakes valuable educational work.

64 WORK PROGRAMME

Tillingham Sluice to Monkbretton Bridge cycle path Responding to a question from Cllr Bantick, Cllr Russell offered to ascertain – at the next Partnership Board meeting - whether there was a realistic chance of funding for the path as part of the InterReg IV bid being worked up by the Partnership. **Cllr Russell**

It was noted that 'local' cycle paths were in a poor condition. Cllr Rogers advised that KCC had recently upgraded the section of the NCN between Lydd and Camber. It was noted further that the Clerk had earlier distributed an email summarising his priorities for the foreseeable future: Mayor Making, end of year reports, audit and accounts; preparation for Quality Council re-accreditation.

65 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 2010

It was considered generally that, although attendance was less than the previous year, the event had been a success. It was suggested that including the promotional flyer within *Fixtures* – rather than hand delivering it separately – may have accounted for this lower attendance.

It was noted that, at the last Council meeting, Members had agreed to hold the next ATM at Rye College in March 2011.

66 DEVOLVED SERVICES

It was noted that more detailed costings of RDC services provided in Rye had been supplied at the RDC-RTC Liaison meeting held on 19 March – and that the Devolved Services Working Group would need to meet to consider the data in more detail. **Devolved Services Working Group**

67 LOCAL ACTION PLAN

It was noted that the stakeholders associated with the 'actions' set out in the Plan had been invited to a presentation on 13 April – the objective being to encourage them to implement their 'actions'.

Although the members of the Rye LAP Steering Group had indicated that they were prepared to continue to contribute, the Clerk was concerned that the 'post Plan' co-ordination could fall to him and that, for the next 6 months or so, he would not have the capacity to take this on.

RESOLVED To await the outcome of the Stakeholders Event before considering the concern further.

68 QUALITY COUNCIL STATUS

(expires 14 September 2010)

RESOLVED To establish a working group to prepare for QC re-accreditation – comprising Cllrs Russell and Souster, and the Clerk. Clerk

The meeting ended at 8.45

Date Chairman

HERITAGE CENTRE – OBSERVATIONS

- The Heritage Centre is stable, into growth, & will make a modest profit
- With the exception of accommodation bookings all revenue streams are showing a significant increase
- 25% fall in accommodation bookings mainly due to loss of email & telephony bookings
- Expenditure excludes £8255 for payments in previous trading year
- Holding stock current retail in excess of £50k (all saleable) the centre is ready for the season & selling
- 12 months trading generated in excess of 65k worth of business for accommodation providers & additional business for many others
- Unable to measure visitor numbers - Rother may be providing inaccurate reporting data
- **Development plans for 2010/11**
 - Continued investment & promotion of the Town Model
 - Provision of additional & enhanced audio guides
 - Continued development of staff
 - Guided Ghost Tours during October & February
 - Launch of Petanque Pitch