

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy, Resources & General Purposes
Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on
Monday 3 October 2011**

PRESENT Councillors Lord Amphill, John Breeds (Mayor), Jonathan Breeds, Mike Eve (**Committee Vice-Chairman**), Bernardine Fiddimore, Sonia Holmes, Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter (**Committee Chairman**), Shaun Rogers (Deputy Mayor)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; 2 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 7.10pm.

31 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons (lodged with the Clerk) - were accepted from Cllrs Granville Bantick, Nigel Jennings, Mary Smith and Sam Souster.

32 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Mike Eve *personal* **item 37** Fletcher in Rye CIC Director

33 MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 August 2011 (PR02) as an accurate record of the proceedings.

34 MATTERS ARISING

Page 2

24 Allotments: Management (Recommendation to consider an invitation from RDC) Council consideration pending the RAA presenting its recent findings regarding the status of the Rye sites to RDC – and RDC responding.

Page 4

21.5 Amended Bank Mandates Outstanding.

Page 6

27 Adverse Weather Response – see main agenda item 38.

With the meeting's permission, the Committee Chairman brought forward item **44** for the benefit of Cllr Fiddimore (who needed to leave the meeting early).

44 DOG CONTROL

The Clerk asked Members to consider a request from Mr & Mrs Partridge that a 'dogs on lead' bye-law be introduced in Tillingham Avenue – as well as appropriate signage.

It was noted that the *Highway Code* requires that dogs be kept on a short lead on the public highway.

Cllr Fiddimore had discussed the matter of dog attacks with the Police. Most of the incidents within Hastings & Rother occur in Hastings and other town centre areas – with very few in Rye. It is likely that most involve ‘status dogs’ and those used for personal protection. The Police had suggested that many people do not know how to react when confronted with a problematic dog. The vast majority of those who take their dogs for walks are responsible owners. There may be problems in areas where pedestrians and cyclists share paths – dogs tend to get excited if they see people cycling or running. RTC participated in the drafting of RDC’s Dog Control Orders and dog training takes place at the Tilling Green Community Centre (which has received grant funding from RTC). Although she had sympathy with people who found dogs intimidating it was difficult to see what more RTC could do. It was a shame that the remit of Animal Wardens did not include providing advice on dangerous dogs.

Cllr Jonathan Breeds suggested that there was little point extending areas covered by bye-laws if there was little likelihood of the bye-laws being enforced.

RESOLVED To take no action.

Clerk

35

FINANCE

35.1 Town Hall

a) Schedules of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income

RESOLVED That the Schedule of Authorised Payments and Statements of Income for July-August 2011 be received and adopted.

b) Budget Monitor

RESOLVED That the Statement of actual income and expenditure to 31 August 2011, against that budgeted, be received and noted.

35.2 Heritage Centre

a) Progress report

The report of the Heritage Centre Manager, Peter Cosstick (PC) included reference to:

Growth During the year was up 10.5% - 5.5% more than budget.

VisitRye Improving the HC’s presence on the relaunched VisitRye web site was proving to be time consuming; however, progress was being made. Together with Yozef Maxted (web designer) PC had attended a meeting with Town Councillors and Neil Cunliffe at the Town Hall to run through concerns with the site. Neil had undertaken to take these up with Emma Oldham (RDC) and Domain Support (VisitRye). The HC now had a presence on the VisitRye home page. One continuing complaint was that a banner advertisement for Domain Support’s audio tour appears throughout the site – even on the page publicising the HC’s audio tours. Some form of ‘governance group’ was to be established to consider complaints/issues and liaise with Neil/Emma.

Oliver Campion (Domain Support) had advised the Mayor that he had yet to recover VisitRye set-up costs.

By virtue of being a consultant to Domain Support, Cllr Potter declared a prejudicial interest and left the Chamber. Cllr Eve (Committee Vice – Chairman) took the chair.

PC observed that Domain Support's range of visitor sites looked similar and suggested that it had a conflict of interest – ie it was under contract with RDC to provide/maintain a visitor web site for the town but was also selling/promoting services similar to those provided by others in the town. As a result, hires of the HC's audio tours were suffering.

Cllr Amphill requested a list of the concerns raised with Neil Cunliffe – adding that VisitRye had been awarded following a proper tendering process.

RESOLVED To accept PC's offer to provide a current list of VisitRye concerns. PC

Cllr Kirkham observed that, unlike Domain Support, any surpluses generated by the HC benefited the town.

By virtue of providing services to Domain Support, Cllr John Breeds declared a prejudicial interest and left the Chamber.

Cllr Fiddimore agreed that it did not seem to be appropriate that Domain Support could use VisitRye to promote its own services.

Cllrs John Breeds and Potter returned to the meeting – the latter taking over the chair.

PC reported that he had recommenced guided ghost walks and these were proving to be exceptionally popular.

The HC had been featured in *Haunted Trails* (to be broadcast in October) and *Great British Postcards* – with John Sargeant – to be broadcast February-March 2012.

b) Payments and Income

RESOLVED That the Income by Customer Summary, Expenses by Supplier Summary and Cash Account Summary for July-August 2011 be received and noted.

c) Budget Monitor

The Clerk advised that the second installment of the precept was due in September.

RESOLVED That the Statement of actual income and expenditure to 31 August 2011, against that budgeted, be received and noted.

35.3 Account Balances

RESOLVED That the Statement of Account Balances as at 31 August 2011 be received and noted.

35.4 Earmarked Reserves

RESOLVED 1 To delete Rye Partnership from the title of the Rye Partnership (Marketing) Earmarked Reserve. Clerk

RESOLVED 2 That the Statement of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 August 2011, as amended, be received and noted.

36 WORK PROGRAMME

RESOLVED To receive and note the Work Programme as at 26 September 2011.

37 FORMER FE CENTRE/LIBRARY SITE

Cllr Eve advised that the Fletcher in Rye CIC and St Marys were still in the process of agreeing the purchase of the site.

The CIC's business plan was being reviewed with the aim of reducing the capital Sum required – and it was receiving advice from industry experts.

Responding to a question put by Cllr Kirkham, Cllr Eve advised that the freehold of the CIC site would remain with the community – it being locked into the Rye Fund. The Church would hold a separate freehold.

RESOLVED To note that the Fletcher in Rye CIC's business plan would be re-presented.

38 ADVERSE WEATHER RESPONSE

The Clerk spoke to his Update and Further Update (*tabled*). He had refined the original strategy as more information had come to light – the principal changes being:

- The hi-viz vests having 'Rye Town Council' printed on the back
- Ordering 8 snow/salt shovels – as well as 8 snow scoops
- Installing a Victoriana grit bin in the Churchyard

RESOLVED 1 That RTC should purchase 4 lockable yellow grit bins (for placement at the locations agreed with ESCC) and be responsible for filling them itself. Clerk

The Clerk advised that he intended to produce a version of the notes for those asked to clear snow on RTC's behalf which would be suitable for the public. Clerk

RESOLVED 2 To note the snow/ice clearance risk assessment.

RESOLVED 3 To publicise the Council's winter maintenance preparations. Clerk

The Clerk guided Members through some adjustments to the costings on page 2 of the Adverse Weather Update – the net result of which was a forecast total spend reduction from £2,056 (excl VAT) to £2,014 (excl VAT).

RESOLVED 4 To increase the adverse weather startup budget from £2,000 to £2,250.

Cllr Rogers offered to assist with the installation of the four remaining grit bins.

39 ICT POLICY

RESOLVED To adopt the Draft ICT Policy, as presented. Clerk

40 2013 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES

RESOLVED To note that the Boundary Commission for England is proposing that the Hastings & Rye constituency boundary should remain unchanged.

41 REVIEW OF POLLING STATIONS/PLACES

RESOLVED 1 To support the cessation of the use of the Ferry Road Medical Centre as a polling station in favour of using Tilling Green Community Centre. Clerk

Cllr Jonathan Breeds advised that when he was first elected to RTC in 1996, there was a polling booth in Budgens – which may have explained the high turn out.

RESOLVED 2 To ask RDC if it had reconsidered placing booths in supermarkets. Clerk

42 RYE & DISTRICT SEA CADETS

Members were invited to consider a request from Rye & District Sea Cadets for the permanent/'near permanent' loan of items relating to HMS Rye held by the Council:

- (a) Wooden plaque marking Warship Week 7-14 March 1942. Presented by Rye BC to HMS Rye.
- (b) Framed (sealed) scroll. Presented to HMS Rye by the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses, December 1941.
- (c) Wooden shield presented to Rye BC by the Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty during Warship Week (14 March 1942).

Cllr Kirkham advised that it was not uncommon for the Se Cadets' premises to be broken into and she found it helpful to have the HMS Rye artifacts in the Town Hall when giving guided tours of the building.

RESOLVED To decline the request on the grounds that the items sought would be less secure. Clerk

43 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered an application from Fresh Visions People Ltd (Motiv8 Youth Project) for £430.00 towards furniture for the Motiv8 Youth Room at Tilling Green Community Centre. The parent body of Fresh Visions People Ltd is AmicusHorizion.

It was noted that the company's net assets rose from £129,937 to £157,218 between 2010 and 2011 – and that it was associated with a Neighbourhood Furniture Store.

Cllr Kirkham advised that Animate had now relocated to the Tilling Green Community Centre, where one room was designated for use by young people and a youth club was being formed. Cllr Eve observed that, in 2010-11, £157,860 was recharged to the parent company to cover the provision of just four members of staff.

Cllr Jonathan Breeds advised that, when it first opened, Animate had been extremely busy – both RTC and the Mayor had supported it.

RECOMMENDATION That the application be declined. Clerk

45 STAFF RECRUITMENT

Members were advised that there was no staff recruitment budget.

RECOMMENDATION That £750 be allocated from the General Reserve (which may be drawn upon to fill the impending Town Hall Keeper vacancy).

The meeting ended at 8.09pm.

Date Chairman