

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Policy, Resources & General Purposes
Committee, held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Tuesday
6 March 2007**

PRESENT Councillors Granville Bantick, Roger Breeds, Peter Dyce, Sonia Holmes, Paul Osborne (Mayor), Frank Palmer, David Russell
(**Committee Chairman – Deputy Mayor**), Sam Souster

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs John Izod and Keith Taylor; 1 member of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.20

68 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllrs Paul Carey, Jo Kirkham and Ian Potter (Committee Vice Chairman).

69 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr David Russell *personal* **item 71** Dog owner

70 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 15 January 2007 (PR05) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

71 DRAFT ROTHER DOG CONTROL ORDER

Members noted that Rother District Council was undertaking a public consultation on a revised Draft Dog Control Order and were invited to consider whether to make further representations prior to the proposed final consultation with parishes in July-August.

The Committee Chairman observed that the revised Draft Order had reduced the number of dogs a person could take on to open land from 6 to 3. He advised that Rother had received a large number of representations from members of the public. Local resident, Steve Blattman had emailed the Town Council with his comments.

Cllr Souster reminded Members that the Order proposed arose from the Clean Neighbourhoods & Environment Act 2006 and that Rother had opted to use the new legislation to address dog control. At a recent Cabinet meeting he had queried how Rother expected to enforce a new Order, given that it struggled to enforce street trading controls. Although most of the publicity in relation to the proposed Order focused on objections from aggrieved dog owners, Cllr Souster had received also representations from those concerned about dog waste. Cllr Dyce stated that it was important that both 'sides' of the debate were heard.

Cllr Russell advised that the Kennel Club web site was a useful source of information on the subject – the Club was working closely with a number of local authorities with a view to producing 'workable solutions'.

The Mayor observed that Rye Town Council had discussed this matter initially last November but, despite, the Council's deliberations being publicised, until very

recently there had been minimal public interest. He reported that Iden Parish Council had taken the line that it had no desire to afford Rother the 'opportunity' of 'interfering' with the operation of its playing field.

Cllr Souster observed that the Order would replace the existing dog control bye-laws. He suggested that Rother might be addressing a problem that does not actually exist. It was agreed generally that the majority of dog owners behave responsibly and that the issue was probably of greater relevance in urban areas.

RESOLVED To monitor closely the progress of the Draft Order.

72 FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Members noted that it was Fairtrade Fortnight (26 February-11 March) – during which the Fairtrade Foundation was publicizing its certification label awarded to products sourced from the 'developing world' that met internationally-recognised standards of fair trade.

Cllr Dyce advised that he had been approached by a local supporter of Fairtrade who had asked if the Council would support the principle in some way.

The Clerk suggested that the Council might like to consider supporting Fairtrade by resolving to offer Fairtrade tea and coffee internally and, when required, to make them available for internal meetings/functions and Council-run events. The likely additional costs incurred were likely to be minimal.

At a future date, the Council could consider also whether it wished to go a step further and help make Rye a 'Fairtrade Town'. This process was underway in Bexhill.

RESOLVED 1 To offer Fairtrade tea and coffee internally and, when required, to make them available for internal meetings/functions and Council-run events – and to publicise the Council's decision. TC

RESOLVED 2 To consider the procedure for becoming a Fairtrade Town at a future meeting. TC

The meeting ended at 6.50

Date..... Chairman.....