

Minutes of a Public Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 15 January 2007

PRESENT Councillors **Granville Bantick (Committee Vice Chairman), Paul Carey (Committee Chairman)**, John Izod, Paul Osborne (Mayor), David Russell (Deputy Mayor), Sam Souster, Keith Taylor

PCSO Dan Bevan, PC Andy Hanson, John Holbrook (Freda Gardham), Pauline Kingswood, Gina Sanderson (RVA)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Roger Breeds, Peter Dyce, Jo Kirkham and Frank Palmer; Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 6 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.00

23 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr John Breeds and Anthony Kimber.

24 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

(a) Co-opted Members – advice

As a member of the Rother Standards Committee, Cllr Carey advised the co-opted Committee members that because the Committee is an advisory one they are not required to declare interests under the Council's Code of Conduct.

(b) Declarations

There were no declarations of interest at this stage.

25 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting of 23 October 2006 (PS02) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

26 MATTERS ARISING

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17c) Policing in Rye, Resolution (contacting Insp Franklin re: police attendance at meetings) Actioned. PCSO Bevan had indicated that he would be attending this meeting.

17c) Policing in Rye, Recommendations 1 & 2 (contacting Insp Franklin re: motorcyclists on foot paths and mini motos destruction) Actioned - see end of item 32.

18 Marsh Link, Recommendation (representation to Eurostar CEO re: service downgrade) Actioned – response awaited.

Cllr Carey declared an interest in this item following by virtue of being a Director of Rye & District Community Transport:

20 Bus services Mrs Kingswood advised that a survey of buses going to/from Rye Hill revealed that the services were spaced poorly over 'the hour'. She suggested that adjusting the timetable would attract more passengers and obviate the need for special community buses serving the new GP surgery.

Cllr Carey reported that Postern Gate Surgery had advised RDCT that it would make contact in the near future to discuss getting patients to the new surgery.

RECOMMENDATION That a meeting of interested parties be facilitated to consider access to the new surgery [Cllr Carey and Mrs Kingswood to liaise. Mrs Kingswood to supply a summary of relevant bus services after the meeting].

21 Freda Gardham School: speeding, Recommendation (Highways Agency re: central solid white lines installation) Actioned – response awaited.

27 TILLING GREEN REPRESENTATION

Members were advised that the individuals following had asked to be considered for co-option: Mandy Turner (estate resident and member of a Tilling Green Community Group); Captain Paul Tyler (Estate resident and Church Army Schools & Churches Liaison Officer); Clifford Jordan (former Councillor).

RESOLVED 1 To co-opt Mandy Turner to the Committee as a representative of the Tilling Green Estate.

RESOLVED 2 To co-opt Captain Paul Tyler to the Committee in his capacity as Church Army Schools & Churches Liaison Officer.

Speaking from the Gallery, Mr Jordan stated that he had many contacts on the Estate and would be happy to assist Ms Turner, if required.

28 CRIME & DISORDER

(a) Rye & District Police-Parish Liaison Group

Cllr Izod advised that the Group had not met for a while but that he expected to be notified of another meeting shortly.

(b) Rye Local Action Team

Cllr Izod advised that the Team had not met for a while but a meeting had been arranged provisionally for 27 February.

Cllr Izod understood that a 3-year 'rescue package' to make up for the County Council's proposed youth development service cuts would be announced soon.

Cllr Souster expressed concern about partnership/umbrella bodies taking decisions without consulting local democratically-elected bodies – for example, the Safer Rother Partnership removing benches from Gibbet Marsh.

Cllr Carey advised that problems associated with the benches – primarily late night noise nuisance - were raised at a Councillors' surgery around 18 months ago. The Town Council considered at the time that relocating benches would not address the issue.

6.30 *Gina Sanderson arrived*

(c) Policing in Rye

Disappointment was expressed that (at this stage) there were again no police representatives present. The Clerk advised that he had been expecting PCSO Bevan.

Ms Turner advised that there had been complaints that the police had required younger people playing on the Estate to provide their name, address and DOB. This can lead to distrust and concern about the uses such information could be put.

RECOMMENDATION To write to Inspector Franklin for the police policy on obtaining personal information from younger people.

TC

29 MARSH LINK

Cllr Taylor advised that, at the last meeting of the Marsh Link Action Group, the points following had been raised:

- The continued problem of the 2 carriages being overcrowded (the Uckfield line takes priority when there is a rolling stock shortage)
- MPs, MEPs, interest groups and others are pressing Eurostar not to downgrade its Ashford service (scheduled currently for December)
- Ongoing problems with long delays between connecting services at Ashford

Mrs Kingswood highlighted the existence of an informal agreement between the rail operators that services leaving Ashford would be delayed if services from London were behind schedule.

30 VOLUNTARY SECTOR ISSUES

Mrs Sanderson's update included reference to:

- *Rye Skate Park* – fundraising to complete the project was entering the final stage
- *Friary Day Centre* - the formation of a consortium of local voluntary organisations to provide day care service 7-days-a-week at the Centre.

- *Children's Centre* – includes Young Parents Group, Twins and Multiple Births Groups. The Centre is destined to be installed adjacent to the new primary school.
- *Community Town Bus* Once the necessary permissions/set down point/s had been established the plan was for the route to be extended to include East Street-Market Street-Lion Street.

31 CONQUEST HOSPITAL: POSSIBLE CUTS

It was noted that Michael Foster MP had hinted in the local media that the feared cuts in services at the Conquest would not materialise. The formal consultation on health services in East Sussex, 'Fit For the Future', would not start before the end of January and that a decision is unlikely before May 2007.

Cllr Taylor highlighted the relatively high proportion of older people in the area and the importance of ensuring that they and other vulnerable individuals are not put at risk by possible changes to the availability/delivery of A&E.

Cllr Souster emphasised that all possible avenues of representation – at all levels – had been pursued and he liked to believe that the MP had good reason to be optimistic.

Cllr Dyce considered that, given the implications of the rumoured service cuts/reconfigurations, it was beholden on the Council to make further representations.

It was concluded generally that most avenues of representation/protest had been explored.

RECOMMENDATION That the Council considers and responds to the proposed (12-week) consultation.

32 SPEED MANAGEMENT

Members were asked to consider whether or not to complete a County questionnaire on setting local speed limits.

The Mayor advised that he had attended recently a Freda Gardham School assembly and a student had asked him what could be done to address the problem of speeding traffic in New Road.

7.19 PC Hanson and PCSO Bevan arrived

Mr Holbrook advised that the Highways Agency had carried out a site inspection last year. Cllr Bantick reported that he had raised the issue regularly at meetings of the Visitor & Information Management Group. Brian Banks (ESCC Highways) had undertaken to look at the problem again with the Highways Agency in relation to a proposed 'gateway scheme'.

RECOMMENDATION 1 That the issue be pursued again with the Highways Agency and Highways Authority. Clerk

RECOMMENDATION 2 To accept the Mayor's offer to complete the questionnaire. Mayor

The Committee Chairman welcomed PC Hanson and PCSO Bevan.

PCSO Bevan passed a summary of 'Incidents in Rye' (Appendix) to the Clerk.

Referring to a matter arising from the last meeting, PCSO Bevan advised that the number of mini motos seized by the police in the area ran into double figures. Generally, owners were not prepared to pay the substantial costs to secure their bike's release (£140 plus £14/day storage). PCSO Bevan had attended personally instances of larger bikes being used on the cycle paths to the east and west of the town.

PCSO Bevan advised that a new PCSO had commenced employment the previous week and would be covering Rye, Playden and Rye Harbour.

The reinvigorated Rye Shopwatch Scheme was highly successful and 70% of the town is now covered.

Ms Turner asked the police representatives present for their view on a recent incident when young people playing with light sticks in Bankside where asked to provide the police with personal details. When Rye Police Station was approached concerning the incident, no record of it could be found.

PC Hanson and PCSO Bevan had no knowledge of the incident but advised that police officers can ask for personal details only if they have 'reasonable cause'.

33 EMERGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOPS

RECOMMENDATION That Cllrs Bantick and Carey represent the Council at the Emergency Planning Seminar scheduled for 6 March at Battle Memorial Hall (6.15-9pm). TC

The Chairman closed the meeting at 7.32

Date.....

Chairman.....



RYE POLICE STATION

PCSO REPORT

RYE TOWN

Incidents In Rye from 01st December 2006 to and including 31st December 2006:

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Criminal Damage – | 11 (Vehicles, Windows) |
| Violence - | 6 (Mostly around the Nightclub, Station approach Area) |
| Vehicle Related – | 5 (1 stolen) (4 Damaged) |
| RTC - | 0 |
| Burglary - | 4 |
| Theft – | 16 (Mostly Shoplifters 6 Card/Bank Fraud) |
| Anti-Social Behaviour – | 1 |
| Fire/Arson – | 0 |
| Other – | 140 |
| Alarm - | 6 |