

Minutes of a Public Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 5 January 2009

PRESENT Councillors **Granville Bantick (Committee Chairman)**, Brian Elliott, Lorna Hall, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer, Shaun Rogers, Sam Souster (Mayor)

PS John Berry (Sussex Police), PC Paul Fielder (Sussex Police), Cllr Keith Glazier (ESCC); PCSO Neil Holden (Sussex Police), John Izod (RTC Age Concern rep), Cllr Mary Smith (bus services); Captain Paul Tyler (Church Army Schools and Churches Liaison Officer)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; PC David Morgan (Road Policing Unit); Andy Hemsley – *Rye Observer*; 5 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.50

21 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were accepted from Cllr Bernardine Fiddimore (Marsh Link Action Group), Cllr Sonia Holmes, Mandy Turner (Tilling Green Residents' Association) (**Committee Vice Chairman**) and Cllr David Wright (Landgate Association).

22 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of interest.

23 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of 13 October (PS02) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

In response to Cllr Osborne's comment about the quality of the material on that evening's agenda, the Committee Chairman observed that any member of the Committee was able to submit items.

24 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

25 CO-OPTIONS

(a) **Rye Primary**

RESOLVED To co-opt School Governor, **Rosalind Collier** (*subject to the subsequent formal approval of the school*).

(b) **REACT**

RESOLVED To (re-)co-opt John Holbrook as a representative of the Rye Emergency Action Community Team (*subject to the subsequent formal approval of REACT*).

26 **CRIME & DISORDER**

(a) **Rye & District Police-Parish Liaison Group/Meeting**

Cllr Rogers advised that there had been no meeting recently.

PS Berry advised that the new Rye Inspector Lee Lyons, might be minded to reinstate the Rother Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour Forum.

RECOMMENDATION To ask the Inspector if the Rye & District Police-Parish Liaison Group/Meeting was likely to continue.
Clerk

(b) **Rye Local Action Team**

PS Berry highlighted the Rye Local Action Team Open Event and Public Meeting to be held at the Community Centre on 31 January, 10am-4pm. Stands would be run by Sussex Police (crime prevention – including cycle marking and fitting tamper-proof screws to registration plates), the PCT and Rother Homes – and the results of the recent Fear of Crime Survey would be reported during a forum session (when it was anticipated that the public's top three crime and disorder priorities could be revealed).

PS Berry was keen to recruit more Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators.

(c) **Policing in Rye**

PS Berry advised that his team – which comprised 7 PCSOs and 2 PCs – was now known as the Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team. Neighbourhood Response Teams were responsible for attending emergency calls and operated 24/7.

Two Probationary Development Officers would shortly be examining the issue of speeding in the Rye area; another two would be investigating graffiti; two others would be looking into criminal damage to Rye's public conveniences; and a further two officers would be examining low level crime on market day.

Landgate Tower This had been hit by vehicles two days' running. A lorry was identified and traced to Priory Meadow. Details had been passed to RDC. PS Berry had concluded that the width and height restrictions signage was ambiguous and had reported this to Inspector Lyons.

PCSO Holden PS Berry advised that his main priority would be high visibility patrolling.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting to permit questions from members of the public.

Betty Ellwood highlighted the problem of people urinating in the vicinity of Eagle Place, which could create a slip hazard in freezing conditions. PCSO Holden responded that he would increase his patrols in that area.

The meeting reconvened.

PC Fielder spoke to highlights from the December Neighbourhood Policing Team Report (*distributed prior to the meeting*). Thanks to a tip off from a member of the public, on New Year's Eve an individual had been arrested for breaching his ASBO and had subsequently been remanded in custody.

On 2 January individuals were bailed after being arrested in Rye Harbour on suspicion of burglary.

Following a covert operation in the Gun Gardens 7 younger people had been interviewed concerning graffiti.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting for a presentation by PC David Morgan of the Road Policing Unit based in Polegate.

PS Morgan advised that the Road Policing Unit (RPU) was divided into 4 areas: Chichester, Hove, Haywards Heath and Polegate (which covers all of East Sussex). Polegate has three teams of constables whose remit is to investigate incidents and reduce deaths. Their main areas of concern are speeding, drink driving and younger motorists.

Speeding is a widespread problem. The RPU focuses on strategic roads (those with the worst records for deaths/injuries). Rye Hill, Udimore Road and Winchelsea Road have all been targeted with speed detection equipment. The A268 is monitored in the summer months when there is a particular problem with speeding motorcyclists). Between April and September the Unit runs Operation Ride which uses marked and unmarked vehicles to follow motorcyclists.

Responding to a question from Cllr Hall, PS Berry confirmed that it was the Police's intention to focus their energies on resolving the top three concerns identified by the Fear of Crime Survey.

It was observed that not all members of the public knew which officers were members of the Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team. PS Berry to mail photographs of the officers to the *Rye Observer*. **PS Berry**

Cllr Palmer highlighted the long-standing problem of illegal parking on pavements, causing obstructions and damage. PCSO Holden responded that he had issued 35 tickets in December and agreed that there was a particular problem in West Street.

Responding to a question put by the Mayor, PS Berry advised that simply publishing upcoming traffic surveys was effective in reducing vehicle speeds. In order to measure speeds accurately, it was necessary to have a fairly straight stretch of road for 200m. Speed limits are generally based on collision data.

Cllr Bantick had heard that there was problem with vandalism in the Landgate area. PS Berry replied that this had been the case but the incidence had reduced significantly within the last 3-4 months.

27 VOLUNTARY SECTOR ISSUES

There was no report.

28 MARSH LINK

Cllr Bantick advised that the last meeting of the Marsh Link Steering Group had taken place on 23 October. The Community Rail Partnership had now become a not for profit company. It continued to employ line officers, had a small Board and a (wider) Stakeholder Group.

The new rail franchise would be for 10 years (instead of the current five). It appeared that electrification of the Hastings-Ashford line was unlikely and line dualing was considered to be unviable because of the lack of rolling stock. Cllr Osborne suggested that dualing had the potential to be more beneficial because, currently, breakdowns bring the line to a halt.

John Izod reported that at a recent meeting of the Marsh Link Action Group it had been decided to seek the views of commuters.

29 EAST SUSSEX LINK

No-one had attended the public meeting of the East Sussex Local Involvement Network in Health & Social Care (LINK) held on Thursday 6 November at Pett Village Hall.

30 EMERGENCY PLANNING

John Holbrook reported on his attendance at the Community Emergency Planning Conference held at the East Sussex National Golf Course on 28 October. The main focus had been on flooding. He had acquired a large amount of information which he would pass to REACT. Further conferences were planned – including one on terrorism.

RESOLVED To thank John for attending and reporting back.

The meeting ended at 7.52

Date.....

Chairman.....