

Minutes of a Public Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 20 July 2009

- PRESENT** Councillors John Breeds (Deputy Mayor), Brian Elliott, Sonia Holmes, Mary Smith (**Committee Chairman**)
- PCSO Jo Attwood (Sussex Police), PS John Berry (Sussex Police), John Holbrook (REACT), Col Anthony Kimber, John Izod, Cllr Paul Osborne (Age Concern), Sonia Relf (Tillingham Valley & Neighbourhood Group)
- IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllr Frank Palmer; Richard Gladstone – *Hastings Observer*; 2 members of the public
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The meeting commenced at 7.18

- 1 APOLOGIES**
Apologies for absence – and the reason lodged with the Clerk - were accepted from Cllr Sam Souster (Mayor).
- Apologies for absence were received also from Rosalind Collier (Rye Primary School), Gina Sanderson (RVA), Captain Paul Tyler (Church Army Schools & Churches Liaison Officer – **Committee Vice Chairman**).
- 2 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**
There were no disclosures of interest from the Councillors present.
- 3 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN**
- Cllr Osborne proposed, and Cllr John Breeds seconded, Sonia Relf.
- Col Anthony Kimber proposed and John Holbrook seconded, Captain Paul Tyler.
- Four votes were cast for Mrs Relf and five for Captain Tyler. Captain Tyler was declared to have been appointed.
- 4 MINUTES**
- RESOLVED 1 Page 2, 37 Voluntary sector issues, Resolution. To delete Glazier and insert Wright.**
- RESOLVED 2 That the Minutes of the meeting of 30 March 2009 (PS04) – as amended - be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.**
- 5 MATTERS ARISING**
There were no matters arising.
- 6 CO-OPTION**
- RESOLVED To co-opt Tony Moore to represent the Ferry Road Health Centre Patient Participation Group.**

7 WIDER INVOLVEMENT

RESOLVED To invite the Rye Medical Centre PPG to nominate a representative for co-option. Clerk

It was agreed that it would be beneficial to co-opt someone to represent adult education – provision in Rye was 'patchy', with some residents traveling into Kent. It was considered important to make sure that Rye College had a link with the Committee (it was noted that Captain Tyler works within the College). Care would need to be taken to ensure that the Committee did not become unwieldy.

RECOMMENDATION 2 To ask Ann Cockerham's advice on identifying someone to represent adult education. Clerk

8 CRIME & DISORDER

(a) Crime & Anti Social Behaviour Forum

RESOLVED 1 To note that the Forum had been re-established and that the next meeting would be held on 23 July, Brede Village Hall, 7-9pm.

RESOLVED 2 To note that the Clerk and PS Berry would be attending.

(b) Rye Local Action Team

Cllr Holmes (LAT Chairman) advised that she had been unable to attend the last meeting. Her report included reference to:

- Rosalind Collier being appointed Information Officer
- The LAT considering the problem of HGVs damaging the Landgate Tower
- The Police being asked to take forward the top three priorities identified in the recent Fear of Crime Survey
- 'Clear up's taking place on Tilling Green (2 August) and Rye Harbour (4 August)
- Not in My Neighbourhood Week commencing 2 November

John Izod observed that a recent LAT press release had mentioned pursuing an Alcohol Free zone but it appeared this did not have Police backing. The Clerk advised that, at the last LAT meeting, it had been agreed that in future draft press releases would be distributed to members for comment, before being issued.

PS Berry explained that, unlike Hastings, Rye does not have a problem with street drinkers (and associated intimidating behaviour). Most street drinking is undertaken by (underage) younger people and the Police have powers to seize alcohol in this context. He confirmed that if someone is arrested two officers have to transport them to the custody suite in Hastings. He confirmed that cells remained with the Rye station but added that there were no plans in the immediate future to bring them back into use.

RECOMMENDATION That the Council asks for Rye custody facilities to be re-commissioned. Clerk

(c) Policing in Rye

Referring to the Rye Neighbourhood Policing Team newsletter for June, PS Berry's report included reference to:

- PCSO Joe Attwood (in training) replacing Ruth Brunton

- There having been substantial public place violent crime in Rye on 27 June – including broken windows, assaults and damaged vehicles. Officers from Bexhill and Hastings had been brought in. There had been 3 arrests including: Ivor Brinkley Jnr (3 assaults and breach of ASBO – remanded) and Ryan Hatcher (1 assault – breach of bail conditions – remanded)
- Operation Marble – the deployment of foot patrols in areas with a high volume of licensed premises
- Operation Quench (funded by the Safer Rother Partnership) – additional officers being put in place at specific times (eg Friday & Sat nights)
- A reduction in burglaries – down 23% on the 4pw across Rother in 2008
- Operation Collusion – working with other forces and agencies to disrupt ‘traveling criminals’
- Over the last 3 months PCSO Holden had been working hard to address parking issues – including issuing 130 tickets
- Operation Ride Safe (aimed at motorcyclists). A number of tickets had been issued and the operation appeared to be having some success

Although Udimore Road had not been assessed as being a suitable location for a PID (Permanent Indicator Device), it might be possible to deploy the SID there (fewer conditions to be met).

There had been a small increase in bicycle thefts. The Police run cycle marking days and issue free cycle locks (funded by the Safer Rother Partnership).

PS Berry confirmed that it was an offence to cycle on footways but the Police used their discretion in order to avoid forcing younger cyclists on to busy carriageways.

PCSO Holden had been addressing the issue of ‘pavement parking’. PS Berry was advised that a common location for this was outside the Halifax ATM.

Drivers could park on double lines to unload for up to 20 minutes – provided that there were ‘actively’ doing such and the load could not be carried easily from the nearest car park. Blue Badge holders were permitted to park on double yellows for as long as they liked – provided they were not causing an obstruction or a loading ban was in place.

PS Berry was aware of some concern about traffic speed in Ferry Road but there was insufficient clear vision to use a speed gun. Cllr Smith reported that Tillingham Avenue residents remained concerned about the ability of emergency service vehicles to negotiate poorly parked vehicles.

9 VOLUNTARY SECTOR ISSUES

There was no report.

10 MARSH LINK

Committee members were invited to consider a letter (*tabled*) drafted by the Marsh Link Action Group (MLAG) concerning the Kent Rail Utilisation Strategy.

John Izod added that, although not mentioned in the draft, he was aware that MLAG considered the Ashford to Brighton to be slow and congested – yet it wanted stations re-opened.

RECOMMENDATION That the Council considers adopting the final draft.

11 BUS AND COMMUNITY TRANSPORT SERVICES

a) Community Transport Review

Cllr Smith reported that ESCC had provided an update on the East Sussex Transport Review at the last Rother Association of Local Councils meeting.

At a cost of £6,500, ESCC had joined with 33 other authorities to participate in a MORI poll to ascertain people's opinions on roads and transport in their neighbourhoods.

ESCC intended to produce a strategy to look at creative ways of delivering community transport (CT). Central Government was providing £50,000 – but only for IT systems supporting the delivery of CT. ESCC had identified £250,000 for CT and would be consulting on its application. Cllr Smith was concerned that additional monies would be taken from the subsidy of commercial bus services – which were largely satisfactory in terms of facilities (for people with mobility difficulties) and timekeeping.

John Izod advised that Rye & District Community Transport (RDCT) was attempting to offer more flexible services - one example being taking groups to entertainment venues; however, the rising age profile of volunteers often meant it was difficult to find drivers to provide evening services.

b) & c) Memorial Care Centre Service 101 (Hastings-Dover)

At the Uckfield East Sussex Transport review seminar Cllr Smith had raised the matter of bus services to/from the Care Centre/Rye Medical Centre not being spaced evenly – as well as problems with the integration of bus and rail services. They had indicated they would be receptive to being asked to discuss these concerns with transport operators.

John Izod reported that, as far as he was aware, there were few complaints about access to the Medical Centre.

RECOMMENDATION To seek the view of the Rye Medical Centre PPG and keep Gina Sanderson (as Chairman of the Rother Transport Action Group) informed about progress. Clerk

12 EMERGENCY PLANNING

Sandbags Although both the Environment Agency and RDC considered these were the responsibility of householders, RDC should ensure they were available.

RECOMMENDATION To ask RDC if a supply of bags/sand was maintained locally. Clerk

During a discussion on flood risk areas within the town Col Kimber highlighted the existence of well-rehearsed flood plans.

It was noted that the next REACT meeting would take place on 29 July.

The meeting ended at 8.56

Date.....

Chairman.....