

Minutes of a Public Services Committee meeting held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 21 March 2011

PRESENT Councillors John Breeds (Mayor) *[part]*, Sonia Holmes, Mary Smith (**Committee Chairman**)

PCSO Neil Holden *[part]*; John Izod (Rye Community Centre); Anthony Kimber (emergency planning); Tony Moore (Ferry Road Health Centre Patients' Participation Group); Captain Paul Tyler (Church Army Schools & Churches Liaison Officer) (**Committee Vice Chairman**); Janet Sherwood (Tilling Green Residents' Association & Ferry Road PPG)

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; 5 members of the public.

The meeting commenced at 6.32pm

34 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Brian Elliott, Lorna Hall (Deputy Mayor) and Paul Osborne.

Apologies for absence were received also from PC Paul Fielder and John Holbrook (REACT).

35 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST

Cllr Mary Smith *personal* **item 41** FE Centre Action Group member

36 MINUTES

RESOLVED That the Minutes of the meeting of 13 December 2010 (PS03) be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

37 MATTERS ARISING

See main agenda items.

38 CRIME & DISORDER

(a) **Rye Priority Setting Panel**

(b) **Policing in Rye**

PCSO Holden summarised the Panel meeting that had preceded the Committee meeting. Attendance had improved (17-18). The 3 main priorities remained criminal damage; ASB and parking.

Criminal damage This was down 26% compared to last year. Two shop windows had been smashed in March and there had been some minor graffiti in Station Approach. High visibility patrols continued on Friday and Saturday nights (258 hours Jan 11-Feb 11).

ASB Reports had declined significantly.

Parking There had been incidences of holders of Blue Badges causing an obstruction (eg preventing the passage of a fire appliance) when parking on double yellows. Some tickets had been issued.

The gas mains replacements works in Cinque Ports Street were causing few problems. The next Panel meeting would be held on 23 or 24 May. PCSO Holden added:

- 2 shoplifters had recently being apprehended
- £160 cash had been stolen from a retail outlet. A member of the public reported seeing someone matching the description of the suspect getting into a taxi. He was subsequently apprehended in Icklesham
- The Police were promoting Community Resolution – a form of restorative justice – in which the perpetrator and victim attempt to reach agreement on resolution which focuses on the victim's needs. This could include an apology or compensation. It was believed generally that if offenders meet their victims they are less likely to re-offend.
- Bar Watch – all Rye PH's had joined and there is a monthly meeting. One incident had occurred recently in The Mint.
- Sussex Police was now on Twitter
- It was intended to (temporarily) install CCTV in the vicinity of The Mint. Cllr Smith had suggested at the Panel Meeting that the local residents' association was well-placed to advise on camera locations.

(c) Sussex Police Authority

Members considered an email from Dan Steadman, Deputy CEO of the SPA in response to the Council's concerns about the level of allowances paid to SPA Members.

The Committee Chairman advised that 9 SPA Members are County Councillors and the remaining 8 Members are drawn from the community. Colonel Kimber repeated his observation that allowances are now paid to members of a wide range of public bodies, nationwide.

RECOMMENDATION That RTC writes to the SPA suggesting that, in the current austerity drive, the level of allowances and expenses paid currently was inappropriate. Clerk

39 RYE WINCHELSEA & DISTRICT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Members received a briefing note prepared by the Chairman of the Hospital, Barry Nealon for Rye Foreign PC.

Tony Moore added that ARRCC was working on developing an outreach service which it could fall back on if it was unable to secure alternative accommodation. ARRCC was allowed to use its current premises rent-free but the space was required to facilitate an expansion of the social housing on the site. Responding to a question put by Col Kimber, Mr Moore advised that ESCC was helping ARRCC with its search.

RECOMMENDATION That RTC encourages ESCC to find ARRCC alternative accommodation. Clerk

40 RYE BULKY WASTE FACILITY

Cllr Smith reported that she had put Alice Henderson (ESCC Waste Operations Team Manager) in touch with Christopher Strangeways regarding possible funding sources to progress Rye's aspiration for a local 'bring to' waste disposal facility. She had observed that when AmicusHorizon provides a skip at Tilling Green it fills up

swiftly. She had been told that, once a week in France, residents are permitted to take their rubbish to a designated place and take anything of interest – with the local authority collecting the residue.

The Mayor advised that it was not known generally that unwanted white goods could be turned into cash – for example, by taking them to Ripleys.

RECOMMENDATION That Alice Henderson be invited to attend the next meeting to provide a progress report. Clerk

41 FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

The Clerk reported that Sussex Coast College Hastings' Finance Committee would be recommending acceptance of the Fletcher CIC-St Mary's offer to purchase the Lion Street site to the Board of Governors. The Committee Chairman believed the Governors would meet next on 24 March.

42 TILLING GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE

Captain Tyler summarised recent progress:

- Pending agreement on the lease with ESCC, a temporary 3-month licence to occupy the former Tilling Green School had been signed.
- There would be an open 'fun day' on 26 March, noon-4pm. It would be an opportunity to see what is planned for the Centre and there would be a 'wall' upon which visitors could post suggestions. Attractions included stalls, a band, sporting activities and a raffle.
- The oil tank had been repaired and oil delivered.
- The heating system would be tested shortly, the water system would be tested on 22 March, and a fire alarm system had been commissioned.
- Windows would need to be repaired/replaced.
- AmicusHorizon had organised a clean up day on 23 March.

Responding to a question put by Keith Taylor, Captain Tyler confirmed that the Partnership would be relocating to the Centre. The Animate building and Partnership offices would be let. He advised that hire rates at the Centre were likely to be £10 + VAT per hour for the main hall – or £15ph including the kitchen. The main hall should seat 100.

RECOMMENDATION 1 That the Animate Board be asked to outline the future of its building and how much rental income would be generated from 1 April. Clerk

RECOMMENDATION 2 To ask the Partnership what any rental obtained for the letting of 25 Cinque Ports Street would be used for. Clerk

RECOMMENDATION 3 That RTC draws up a schedule of public assets in Rye. Clerk

Note The Clerk advised that RDC had done this already (and had included private property which might be of interest to a community if it became vacant – eg a village pub) but had yet to advise whether this was in the public domain.

43 EMERGENCY PLANNING

- (a) Rye Desktop Emergency Planning Exercise, 5 March
- (b) REACT

Colonel Kimber reported that, following the public meeting on flood/sewerage

concerns at Tilling Green, REACT had developed productive working relationships with all the key agencies – including the Environment Agency, Southern Water and Internal Drainage Board.

REACT had participated in the EA's Exercise Watermark by organising a desktop emergency planning (flooding) exercise at the Town Hall. It had also held a Rye & District Flood Risk meeting with key partners which had further clarified areas of responsibility. There would be a follow up meeting on 23 March which, amongst other things, would discuss bank damage at Monkbretton Bridge, the Old Brickyard-Tillingham Avenue sluice/drain, and the Valley Park/Tilling Green-Winchelsea Road sewerage system (which had failed on a number of occasions since the summer).

REACT was keen to develop further a formal Flood Warden scheme and was working with RDC on flood plan revisions.

REACT had been asked to run another public meeting after the Parish Elections.

44 MARSH LINK

Cllr Smith reported that she had been unable to attend the MLAG meeting held on 9 March; however, she had been provided with a report – which included 3 new Committee members being appointed and a number of issues had been flagged up:

(a) The continuing poor condition of Ashford station – including automatic doors remaining defective, insufficient staff and an inadequate PA system. MLAG would be meeting Southeastern on site;

(b) MLAG had submitted a response to the Kent RUS – highlighting the need for dualling and electrification.

Keith Taylor observed that there had been a lot of weekend engineering works recently but there had been a lack of advance information about this at the Rye booking office.

RECOMMENDATION That this be reported to MLAG and Southern.

Clerk

45 BUS SERVICES REVIEW

Pat Hughes reported that she had arranged informal discussions of users to consider the proposed service changes and the overall conclusion was that ESCC had done a good job in managing the financial savings it needed – actually 'adding value'.

RDCT had asked ESCC (which would be taking over concessionary fares from 1 April) to retain the 9am start for concessionary travel because this would enable people to access medical services. She had been advised that ESCC had agreed to this.

The Clerk observed that Bexhill College services would be subject to further consultation with interested parties.

RECOMMENDATION To support RDCT's response to the survey. Clerk

The meeting ended at 8.03pm

Date.....

Chairman.....