

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee  
held at the Town Hall, Rye on Monday 27 September 2010**

**PRESENT** Councillors John Breeds (Mayor), Jonathan Breeds, Bernardine Fiddimore, Lorna Hall (Deputy Mayor), Jo Kirkham, Paul Osborne, Frank Palmer (**Committee Chairman**), Shaun Rogers

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Cllrs Granville Bantick, Brian Elliott, Sonia Holmes, Ian Potter, Mary Smith and Sam Souster; 17 members of the public

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*The meeting commenced at 6.30pm*

**55 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence – and the reason lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Councillor David Wright (**Committee Vice Chairman**).

**56 DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures of interest.

*The meeting was adjourned for questions/comments from members of the public.*

*Landgate Tower* John Bragge outlined the incident, the Friday before last, when a foreign driver of an articulated lorry, realised he could not pass through the Arch and reversed – but ended up blocking the road for most of the afternoon when the vehicle suffered a mechanical breakdown. The blockage caused considerable disruption and inconvenience. A recovery vehicle had to travel from Flimwell to remove it. (Cllr Kirkham advised later that Rye Recovery did not have the equipment to recover a vehicle of that size.) In June a coach carrying young people had become stuck in the archway and lost windows down one side as the driver attempted to extricate the vehicle. Mr Bragge had recovered a displaced section of stonework, advised RDC that it was stored safely in his shop, but no-one had collected it. The Town Council had been considering the matter for a couple of years and had received a costed draft re-signage scheme. He appreciated that it was an expensive scheme but was of the opinion that the situation could be improved significantly with the addition of one prominent sign (which he was happy to have fixed to his premises) - clearly indicating a narrow arch to the right – located in a position that could be seen more clearly by drivers of left hand drive vehicles. Jutta Lorrant also expressed concern about the time taken to find a solution.

The Clerk advised that when the Planning & Townscape Committee had considered the costed re-signage scheme Members had been unable to determine what would be the most effective course of action to reduce the risk of further damage to the Tower. Consequently it had decided to seek the

views of the Chamber of Commerce, HotCats, the Conservation Society, Sussex Police and Rye & District Community Transport. Thus far, the Clerk had had initial discussions with the first two.

Cllr Hall reported that HotCats had recently met with the Confederation of Passenger Transport to consider how the town could be made more 'coach friendly'. During the site meeting it had become apparent that the Federation had some suggestions for addressing the Landgate Tower issue. The Clerk added that the intention was to have further discussions with the Confederation and that, as far as signage was concerned, there appeared to be an emerging view that there needed to be clearer signage at the Tower and on the 'triangle' at the junction of Station Approach and Cinque Ports Street. The Highways Authority was willing to fund some of the signage it had proposed but there was some doubt that any funding would be available after 1 April 2011.

Cllr Osborne suggested that the crux of the problem was drivers failing to observe – and act on – road signs (as well as blindly following sat nav instructions).

Cllr Fiddimore considered that there was a wider issue of very large vehicles accessing the High Street and mounting pavements – not only damaging them but creating a hazard for pedestrians.

A member of the public observed that the signage in the vicinity of the Tower was not expressed in metric measurements. The Committee Chairman replied that the 6' 6" in question was actually associated with the width of the Landgate (road).

The Mayor thought that KCC had decided to lobby the providers of sat nav software with a view to persuading them to amend the software to keep drivers of larger vehicles away from the problematic roads/areas.

*The meeting reconvened.*

## **57 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting of 13 September 2010 (PT09) were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **58 MATTERS ARISING**

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*47 Matters Arising, 12 River Tillingham – adjacent planting (requesting that the area be returned to grass) Actioned - response awaited.*

*47 Matters Arising, 19 Post box, top of Udimore Road (reinstatement) Outstanding.*

59 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

**RESOLVED** That the comments following be submitted to the Planning Authority:

**RR/2010/2036/P** Jempsons/Budgens store, Station Approach, Rye  
(Del) Erection of extension to food store and alterations to car park layout.  
*Applicant: Jempsons Ltd, Main Street, Peasmarsh*

**RR/2010/2043/P** SUPPORT APPROVAL  
**RR/2010/2169/L** 32 & 32A The Mint, Rye  
(Del) Extensions to residential parts at rear, door to replace window in utility room, roof to dormer to replace rooflight on rear slope over staircase.  
*Applicant: Mr & Mrs Sharp, c/o Le Fevre Wood & Royle, 58 Cinque Ports Street, Rye*  
SUPPORT APPROVAL

60 'VALLEY PARK'

*Note Cllr John Breeds played no part in the consideration of this item.*

Members considered the revised proposed street names for the new development (*email from Andrew Gale, 8.9.10 refers*).

**RESOLVED** To submit the response following:

Proposed	Response
1 Wellesley Way	Much prefer Wellington Avenue
2 Peacocke Way	No objection
3 Benson Way	No objection
4 Springfield Drive	No objection
5 Blake Circus	Strongly object – too urban and Blake has no connection with Rye. Prefer Vilder Square
6 Thorndyke Walk	Prefer Henry James Way/Walk
7 Jeake Drive	No objection
8 Burra Way	No objection
9 Swaine Walk	No objection

Clerk

61 TOWN HALL COTTAGE

The meeting was asked to consider the occupants' request to be permitted to install satellite TV.

It was accepted generally that it can be difficult to receive digital signals in the town without a satellite dish – but noted also that there may be no suitable place to install a mini dish on the Cottage.

**RESOLVED** To ask the Clerk to seek informal advice from the Planning Authority. Clerk

**62 SPECIAL PROTECTION AREA & NEW RAMSAR SITE**

Members were invited to consider an invitation from Natural England to comment on changes to the Dungeness, Romney Marsh & Ray Bay SPA and proposed creation of a new Ramsar site (*deadline: 13 December 2010.*)

The Mayor was aware that the Harbour Master and Rye Wharf were concerned that greater protection for the SPAs in the vicinity could inhibit development at the wharf and in the in the Rye Harbour Industrial/ Employment Area. Cllr Osborne advised that RDC had a similar concern.

**RESOLVED To accept offers from Cllrs Fiddimore and Palmer to review the documentation.**

**Clerk, Cllr Fiddimore, Cllr Palmer**

Cllr John Breeds requested a copy of the documentation.

*The meeting ended at 7.10pm.*

Date.....

Chairman.....