

TOWN CLERK BRIEFING NOTE

23 RYE RELIEF IN NEED

Some years ago, as part of a desire to reduce the number of Committee meetings, the Council resolved to disband the Rye Relief in Need Committee and to deal with applications and any investment decisions required at full meetings of the Council.

Rye Relief in Need is a charity and its proceedings are regulated by charity – not local council – law.

At a recent training day attended by Cllr John Breeds and the Clerk, the trainer questioned the wisdom of dealing with Rye Relief in Need applications during Council meetings because doing so could give the impression that the Council was using its own funds rather than charity monies (local councils do not have a specific power to make a grant to individuals - except when exercising specifically the power of well-being).

I would like to propose that, in future, meetings of the Rye Relief in Need charity be held separately, typically immediately after a Council meeting. The advantages of doing this are: meetings would be less formal, the public would automatically be excluded from the meetings (there is no legal requirement to allow them to attend meetings of trustees) and meetings could be arranged as and when required (currently, some applicants have to wait 8 weeks for a scheduled Council meeting.)

If this is acceptable it will be necessary to amend the Council's *Terms of Reference for Council and Committees*.

29.4.10