

LTO3 ITEM 23c)(iii)

**Rye Town Council**

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**From:** "Rye Town Council" <ryetowncouncil@btconnect.com>  
**To:** "Rye & District Hotel & Caterers Association" <info@hotcats.org>  
**Cc:** "Brian Elliott" <info@ryewindmill.co.uk>; "MICHAEL HENLEY" <theriserye@aol.com>; "Paul King" <paul@wiredcontact.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 November 2009 14:22  
**Subject:** Re: HotCats Minutes  
 Thanks John

Although it is not possible to amend the L&T Minutes because the comment was actually made I can arrange for the clarification to be raised at the next L&T meeting - which will ensure it appears in the Minutes of that meeting.

Thank you for the invitation for the 14th; unfortunately there is a Mayoral function at the Town Hall at the same time!

Best wishes

Richard

----- Original Message -----

**From:** "Richard Elliott" <richard@ryetowncouncil.co.uk>  
**To:** "Brian Elliott" <info@ryewindmill.co.uk>; "MICHAEL HENLEY" <theriserye@aol.com>; "Paul King" <paul@wiredcontact.co.uk>  
**Cc:** "Rye & District Hotel & Caterers Association" <info@hotcats.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 11, 2009 2:42 PM  
**Subject:** Re: HotCats Minutes

Dear Richard,

In reply to your e-mail of 2nd November, sorry for the delay, but we have been extremely busy and I have been away.

You are not repeating yourself, we have never actually had an official request, to the best of my knowledge, from the Town Council regarding our Minutes.

The issue of who receives the Minutes of our General Meetings is on the Agenda for our members to decide at our December meeting on 14th December 2009 at the Royal Oak, Brookland.

It is a decision that obviously I cannot make myself and it is to be put before all the members who attend and effectively form a Committee on that date.

Lorna Hall is aware of this as I agreed to do this at our last General Meeting at the Mermaid in September.

Whilst on the subject, I have an extract from your Leisure and Tourism Meeting of the 28th September, and under Item C - HOTCATS, I note that it states "that R.D.C. do not appear to be happy that HOTCATS no longer wanted representation from RDC". This is totally untrue. This has never been conveyed to R.D.C. in any shape or form (see attached letter).

I do not know how you go about this, or if indeed it is possible, but I would like that part of R.T.C's Minutes to be amended accordingly, as this is gross misrepresentation.

For your information, all we have stated is that any R.D.C. Representative (and this

was carried on a unanimous vote at our last meeting) would not have a vote as they are not members of our Association and this is exactly the same position as it had been previously. In the four years that I had been on the old formal committee structure of HOTCATS, the R.D.C. representative never had a vote then either.

But, I would advise that anybody who is interested in what we get up to is more than welcome to attend any of our meetings, and in this vein we would very much like to invite you to our Christmas Meeting at The Royal Oak at Brookland 6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. on 14th December 2009. There is a social event with dinner etc (lamb and pork spit roast with a glass of wine or beer) afterwards, and if you would like to come along to this we would be more than happy to welcome you as our guest.

Kind regards  
JOHN A SMITH.

----- Original Message -----

**From:** [redacted]  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** Monday, November 02, 2009 5:13 PM  
**Subject:** HotCats Minutes

Hello John

Firstly, apologies if I am repeating myself!

At the last Rye Leisure & Tourism Committee meeting Members decided to ask if RTC could be sent (non confidential) HotCats Minutes to ensure Councillors have a full and accurate record of HotCats discussions and decisions - thereby enabling the Council to identify easily areas where it could offer support.

Best wishes

Richard

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## ***RYE & District HOTELS & CATERERS Association***

***Founded 1961***

***Founder & President: Anthony J. Mann, FHCIMA***

4<sup>th</sup> October, 2009.

Mr. D. Stevens,  
Chief Executive  
Rother District Council  
Town Hall  
Bexhill on Sea  
East Sussex  
TN39 3JX.

Dear Mr. Stevens,

As promised on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2009, I now have a full and complete answer from our members to your letter of 15<sup>th</sup> July 2009.

The first thing I would like to point out is that in your second paragraph you state "our notification advising that formal representation was no longer required" this statement is not true, what we said was "we have no formal structure etc." there is a significant difference between these two statements.

What your various Committees and indeed Cabinet have not realised is that we have no such thing as a Management Committee. Our Committees under the present set up comprise of any of our fully paid up Members attending General Meetings that we hold on a regular basis, at this time every three months. Those that attend are "the Committee" and if necessary it is they who have a vote.

The day-to-day running of the Association, i.e. this letter, etc., is carried out by the various elected Members, as per our attachment to our letter of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2009 to Alison Barnes. Just to make this totally clear, at our General Meeting of 29<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at The Mermaid, we had a vote amongst those present (they made up the Committee) as to whether Rother District Council should be allowed to have a representative on our Association with Voting power. The answer was an almost unanimous "NO". But all of our Members, bar one, were quite happy, in fact would encourage RDC either Councillors or Officers, to attend any of our meetings, where they could not only observe but also put forward any points of view they might wish to express.

It was noted that RDC has not asked for such representation on the Rye Chamber of Commerce and other such Associations in the Town, which many would argue are far more influential than HOTCATS. It was also noted that it was disgraceful that our Association should be basically bullied, or indeed as some of our Members put it "blackmailed" into acquiescing to RDC's demands with the threat of reducing funding to the Marketing Group. Especially as, and I am sure I do not have to point this out to you, the marketing Group is chaired by one of RDC's Cabinet Members, i.e. David Russell. Therefore no money can effectively be spent without RDC's approval.

I would also bring to your attention that RDC's representative on the old Committee system of HOTCATS, i.e. Councillor Ron Parren, never actually had a vote either. As there was and still is no provision in our Constitution for him so to do.

Lastly I would also bring to your Cabinet's attention that if they hold our Association in such high regard it is curious that they should instruct you to write to us in this vein and it is also curious that they have not asked for our support or input to their own Leisure and Tourism Working Party, which I understand was formed earlier this year.

I am sorry that I have had to write to you in this manner, as this could easily have been avoided with a simple phone call from the responsible person at Rother.

Yours sincerely,

JOHN A SMITH  
CHAIRMAN.