

RYE TOWN COUNCIL

**TOWN CLERK'S ACTIVITY SUMMARY
OCTOBER 2010 (Month 7)**

TOWN HALL BOOKINGS

	Month	Last year	Year to date	Last year to date
General	5	5	22	38
Ceremonies	8	9	54	41
Ceremony enqs	14	15	94	98

TOWN CLERK DATES

<i>Sat 2</i>	Speaker's Day, Sandwich
<i>Wed 6</i>	RALC meeting, Battle
<i>Sun 10</i>	Wedding
<i>Mon 11</i>	P+T Committee; LDF Working Group
<i>Sat 16-Sun 17</i>	Weddings
<i>Mon 18</i>	Rye Primary School visit to TH
<i>Tues 19</i>	Rother Parish Planning Seminar, Northiam
<i>Wed 19</i>	SALC Clerks' Networking Day, Whatlington
<i>Mon 25</i>	Council and P+T meetings
<i>Tues 26</i>	LDF Working Group
<i>Wed 27</i>	RTC-RDC Liaison meeting
<i>Sat 30</i>	Wedding

**TOWN CLERK'S ACTIVITY SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 2010 (Month 8)**

TOWN HALL BOOKINGS

	Month	Last year	Year to date	Last year to date
General	2	6	24	44
Ceremonies	5	3	59	44
Ceremony enqs	8	15	102	113

TOWN CLERK DATES

<i>Fri 5</i>	MP Surgery
<i>Mon 8</i>	Policy and P+T Committee meetings
<i>Thurs 11</i>	George Brown's funeral service
<i>Fri 12-Sat 13</i>	Weddings
<i>Sat 14</i>	Remembrance Day Service
<i>Mon 22</i>	P+T Committee meeting; LDF Working Group
<i>Wed 24</i>	Rye Fund Panel meeting
<i>Thurs 25</i>	Rye Partnership Members' Meeting
<i>Sat 27-Sun 28</i>	Weddings
<i>Mon 29</i>	Councillors' Update training, TH
<i>Tues 30</i>	REACT meeting

TOWN CLERK'S ACTIVITY SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2010 (Month 9)

TOWN HALL BOOKINGS

	Month	Last year	Year to date	Last year to date
General	3	4	27	48
Ceremonies	7	7	66	51
Ceremony enqs	11	7	113	120

TOWN CLERK DATES

<i>Fri 3</i>	MP Surgery
<i>Sun 5</i>	Wedding
<i>Thurs 9</i>	Active Ambling workshop, Udimore – speaker Crime & ASB Meeting, Brede
<i>Fri 10</i>	Wedding
<i>Sun 12</i>	Mayor's Christmas Reception
<i>Mon 13</i>	Public Services Committee meeting
<i>Mon 20</i>	Council and P+T meetings
<i>Fri 24-</i>	<i>Office closed</i>

Rye Local Action Plan	Implementation of 'actions'	Depends on the 'action'	Stakeholders invited to a 'motivational' launch on 13 April. Most members of Steering Group appear to be prepared to continue to be involved but an 'Implementation Co-ordinator' needs to be identified otherwise the task will fall on the Town Clerk and progress will be limited. Clerk has had limited time to progress. Needs to be incorporated within a RTC business plan and made a priority after QC re-accreditation application submitted.	
Quality Council status	Re-accreditation due Sep 2010 – HIGH PRIORITY	14.12.10	Achieved Jan 11.	Expires Sep 2014.
Strand Car Park Pedestrianisation Proposal	Preparing a costing	2010	Pending	

ADVERSE WEATHER

The last period of snowfall produced particularly treacherous conditions in various parts of the town – notably, Lion Street and Market Road.

Compared with rural parishes, Rye has very few grit bins. I am advised that there is one on Winchelsea Road (possibly an older bin owned by the Highways Agency). There are 3 new (lockable) bins provided by AmicusHorizon on Tilling Green Estate (I have suggested to the TG Residents' Association that it contacts AmicusHorizon to agree access arrangements to the salt). I am aware that there used to be a bin in Udimore Road. It became brittle over time and was removed.

As part of its review of how it responded to the 3 periods of snowfall during the previous winter, ESCC (the Highways Authority) decided that if parishes wanted additional grit bins, for £273 ESCC would supply and install a bin (with an initial fill of salt). Re-fills are £75. In Rother, Salehurst & Robertsbridge, Ewhurst and Mountfield all ordered bins to supplement those provided (and maintained already) by ESCC. They had to use s137 of the 1972 LGA or the Power of Wellbeing.

ESCC decided also to drop (and replace if necessary) one tonne bags of salt in the County's towns. In Rother, Bexhill was allocated 2 bags and Rye and Battle one each.

Northiam PC decided to order 25kg bags of salt from a company in Chester and stored them in a friendly farmers' barn. When the last lot of snow arrived Councillors with 4WDs collected them and left them at strategic spots around the parish for parishioners to use (on the public highway).

In Battle, the Town Council diverts its groundsmen to clearing pavements in the High Street (the pavement on one side is considerably higher than the other and a pedestrian slipping and falling into the road could be seriously injured).

ESCC prioritises gritting A roads, bus routes and B roads (but does not include pavements – although these sometimes get treated 'indirectly').

The one tonne bag in Rye would have been more effective if it had been delivered to the right location, thereby allowing more time for publicity. When I last looked it was just under half full. One drawback with bags is that they are uncovered and the salt will degrade.

Some parishes have volunteers to spread salt from bins – or people do it 'informally' to help those with 2WD vehicles. In rural areas bins tend to be positioned on verges under licence from ESCC; finding suitable positions in the centre of Rye could be more problematic.

The main problem with supplying salt is people taking it for private or trade use, or resale. Salehurst had one of its bins stolen soon after installation.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

This is earlier than usual because of the Elections on 5 May.

Publicity The ATM is the first item mentioned in the Council's 'newsletter' within the February *Fixtures*. This will remind readers of the date.

I suggest the flyer/agenda goes in the March *Fixtures* so that parishioners receive it a week before the meeting.

Start time 7pm

Registration 6.15pm on

Refreshments In view of the financial climate we can either abandon these or restrict them to tea/coffee/soft drinks. If we do the latter it may be that the Landgate WI will not consider it worthwhile to attend.

Entertainment May have left it too late to arrange. Thoughts please.

Presentation Suggestions received:

RDC CEO and RDC Leader – reduced budget implications (and Q+A)

ESCC CEO and ESCC Leader – as above

Fletcher Theatre CIC

High Weald AONB Unit

Agenda (structure) Please refer to the 2010 Programme (attached).

TC 24.1.11

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

RYE COLLEGE, THE GROVE TN31 7ND

WEDNESDAY 24 March 2010

from 6.15pm

(for registration, refreshments and chatting with your Councillors)
for a 7pm start

PROGRAMME

- 1 Welcome by the Mayor, Cllr Sam Souster
- 2 Carnival performance by Rye College students
- 3 The Mayor's overview of the year
- 4 The Chairs of the Council's committees will introduce themselves and outline the remit of their committees
- 5 Rye's County and Rother District Councillors will introduce themselves and their role - and outline the responsibilities of their local authorities
- 6 Discussion on the future of the FE Centre, Lion Street
- 7 Updates on the Rye Heritage Centre, Rye Emergency Plan and Rye Local Action Plan
- 8 Any questions*
- 9 Mayor's closing remarks (**9pm**)

1 March 2010

Cllr Sam Souster, Mayor of Rye

*Questions requiring detailed research and reply should, wherever possible, be submitted to the Town Clerk, Richard Farhall, in writing five working days prior to the meeting.

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CHAMBER ACOUSTICS

At its meeting held on 26 October 2009 the Council considered installing a digital cable-less conference system at a cost of £7,771-£8,773.

This was in response to complaints from members of the public that they had difficulty hearing debate.

Reasons for poor acoustics in the Chamber include: 'squeaky' framed leather chairs; no carpeting, no curtains, large single glazed windows, no wallpaper, up to 3 Members sitting with their backs to the Gallery.

The Meeting resolved to look out for a second hand system and for Members to ensure that they spoke with more volume.

I have looked at how the 3 Members' seats (and the table) could be removed from the entrance end of the Chamber (see attached rough sketch).

It would entail moving the tables towards the Gallery and, if necessary, 2 Members sitting either side of the largest table. This arrangement would accommodate only 15 Members so, for fully-attended non-robed and robed Council meetings – to avoid a Member having their back to the Mayor - the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk would have to sit on the dais.

It is likely that all Members could be accommodated on the Chamber floor for committee meetings. However, I would have to say that the space for my paperwork is tight with a Member sitting in seat 3 and that, wherever possible, seat 3 (as well as seat 2) should not be used in order to allow the Chairman and Clerk sufficient space.

Of course the drawback of having the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Clerk on the dais more often is that they are further away from the public.

TC 19.1.11

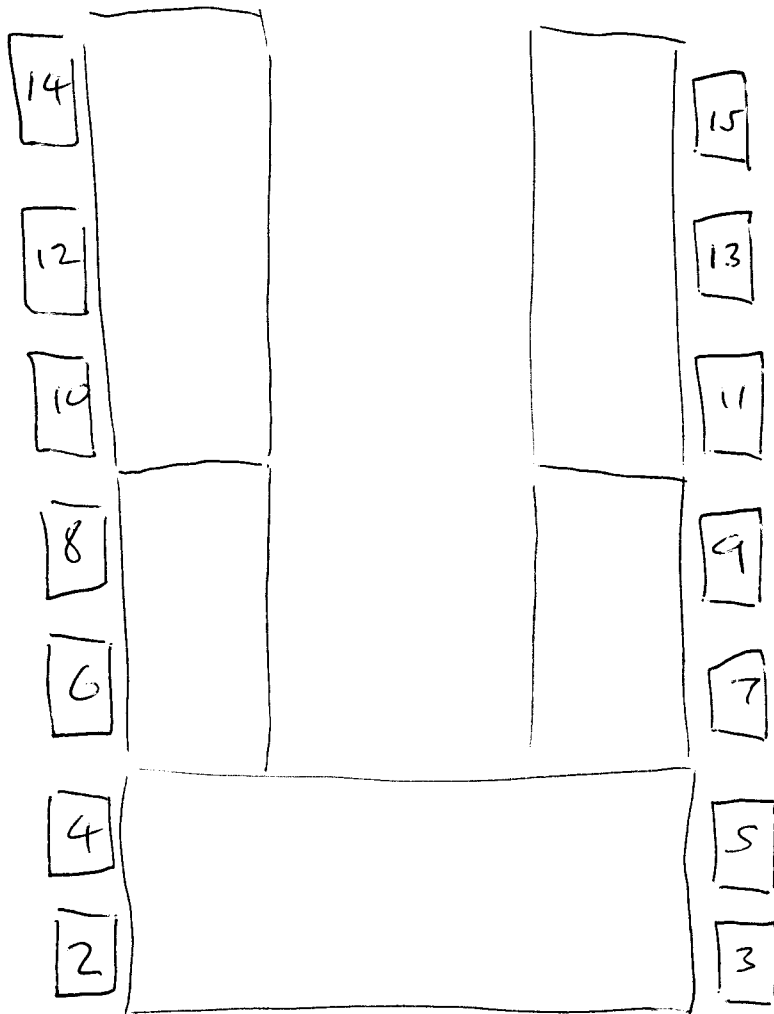
PRO4 ITEMS 4

Public

Public

Public

Public



Chairman

clerk

PARELOUR

DAIS