

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 4 December 2017

PRESENT Councillors Mike Boyd (**Deputy Mayor**), John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds (**Mayor**), Cheryl Creaser, Justin Erswell, Bernardine Fiddimore, Charles Harkness, Pat Hughes, Ray Prewer, Shaun Rogers, Andy Stuart

IN ATTENDANCE Judy Pettitt – Assistant Town Clerk; East Sussex County Cllr Keith Glazier; Rother District Cllr Lord Amphill; Col Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice-Chairman

The meeting commenced at 6.34 pm.

91 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Assistant Town Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Sam Barnes, Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter and Andi Rivett.

It was noted that Rother Cllr Gennette Stevens was unable to attend.

92 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no disclosures of interest.

93 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

*The Mayor adjourned the meeting for the reports of the County and District Councillors – Public Question Time and Appointment of the Mayor Elect for 2018-19 (See **APPENDIX**)*

6.45pm Councillor Gilbert arrived.

The meeting reconvened

94 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To approve, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the meetings held on 30 October 2017 (C9) and 13 November 2017 (C10)

95 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) **Planning & Townscape**

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning & Townscape Committee held on 30 October 2017 (PT11) and 13 November 2017 (PT12).

96 RYE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Council took the opportunity to express its official thanks to Colonel Anthony Kimber for the time and effort he has put in to producing the Neighbourhood Plan.

RESOLVED To adopt version 10 of the Rye Neighbourhood Plan, subject to Colonel Kimber seeking clarification from RDC on whether the core town centre area map should be updated.

97 DRAFT TOWN HALL BUDGET 2018-19

RESOLVED To adopt the draft Town Hall Budget 2018-19 and the Proposed Earmarked Reserve Virements and to agree that the precept for 2018-19 shall be £152,91 taking into account that, depending on CPI and RPI as at 30.11.17, it may be necessary for the Clerk to make minor adjustments to the salaries budget, subject to the agreed precept remaining unchanged.

98 STATIONERY

Members considered ways to reduce the amount of paper used/generated by the Council for meetings.

RESOLVED To ask the Clerk to explore ways of reducing the volume of paper generated for meetings (especially minutes and lengthy supporting papers), whilst adhering to NALC guidance.

The meeting ended at 7.20 pm

Date Chairman

ADJOURNMENT

Item 93

a) **County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Glazier reported that:

Various resurfacing work is being carried out around the area including sections of the A259 from the Brenzett Roundabout, Rye to Guestling Thorn. Parishes are being consulted on the proposal to reduce verge cuts and there is a libraries restructuring public consultation.

b) **Report of the Rother District Councillor**

Cllr Lord Ampthill reported that:

Members will have noticed two recent **planning approvals** of significance to Rye: the mixed-use scheme at Skinners Garage which will provide a more attractive gateway feature on the eastern approach; and the Rye Harbour Nature Reserve reception building which is being celebrated at the Kino at this moment.

Last week's Stakeholder Event in Bexhill, relating to Civil Parking Enforcement was attended by Cllrs Fiddimore and Hughes and Dr Bamji for the Conservation Society who all gave spot-on assessments of where we are and what we need. County Council officers gave an excellent presentation and appeared to be on top of the emerging strategy to introduce enforcement of the current regulations as soon as possible. There is a chance that faded lines and inadequate signs will be tackled in Rye as a priority. During the course of the project, there will be consultation periods – which will be important to the Secretary of State to whom the final application will go but will mean that the work will take its time. When there is evidence that it is all going to happen, it is probable that the Police will help us with some level of short-term intervention. When the current regulations are finally being enforced by wardens reporting to ESCC, attention will turn to improving that scheme. Plenty of submissions have already been received: and there will be the usual consultations as new plans are worked up.

Various parties met last Monday to discuss the **Landgate**. There was full and helpful participation by representatives of the Town Council, Conservation Society, Museum and Friends of the Landgate as well as the three most senior Rother officers who will continue to be involved in this mission. Suggested terms of reference for a small working party will soon be with us as well as notes of the meeting. Dr Leonard advised that heritage funding is ever more difficult to obtain and maintenance works become necessary, Rother will handle these: but the more money spent on running repairs or temporary restoration could leave less in the pot for a significant contribution by way of match funding when we find the necessary support. There is a helpful report in the latest Rye News which expands on these themes. I am sorry that there is no speedy solution to this on-going problem – made much more difficult by the difficulties of access when required. It was acknowledged that the clock and the floodlighting needed serious attention in addition to the main structure – although that was not about to fall down.

In exactly two weeks time, Rother District Council will decide on one of the four options put forward for the future **governance of Bexhill**. This has been another enormously time-consuming and difficult process, sometimes had-tempered and political (accompanied by protestations that it is nothing of the sort). Rother officers put an enormous effort into explaining the process, the options, the opportunities and the possible costs. We are expecting a lively evening.

c) Public Question Time
There were no questions.

Colonel Anthony Kimber took the opportunity to advise that he had attended an informative Action in Rural Sussex (Airs) Seminar dealing with the matters of self-build, co-operative building, Community Land Trusts and cohousing. He also reported that the Environment Agency was continuing with the Eastern Rother Tidal Walls Flood Defense Scheme, with possible alignment of the enhanced wall by March 2018, and following planning permissions, completion by 2020.

d) Appointment of the Mayor Elect for 2018-19
Councillor Michael Boyd was proposed by Councillor John Breeds and seconded by Councillor Bernardine Fiddimore.

There being no other nominations, Councillor Boyd was declared appointed.