

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 8 May 2017

PRESENT Councillors Sam Barnes, Mike Boyd (**Deputy Mayor**), John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds (**Mayor**), Cheryl Creaser, Justin Erswell, Bernardine Fiddimore, Rebekah Gilbert, Charlie Harkness, Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter, Ray Prewer, Andi Rivett, Shaun Rogers, Andy Stuart

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Jessica Neame – General Assistant; Caoimhe O’Gorman – Rye Creative Centre

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm.

The Mayor encouraged Members to attend The Little Gate Farm (Beckley) Open Day on 11 June 2017, 10.30am-4pm. In the 2 years or so that it had been open it had helped 40-50 young people with learning difficulties – and had provided 17 of them with a FT job. The Farm is looking to recruit more Friends.

1 APOLOGIES

The Clerk advised that Cllr Hughes would be late.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no disclosures of interest nor dispensation requests.

3 COUNCIL MINUTES

Meeting held on 10 April 2017

RESOLVED 1 *Page 1, 138 Prayers* To **delete** ‘Mayor’s Chaplain . . . Frost’ and **insert** ‘Mayor’.

RESOLVED 2 To **adopt, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 April 2017, as amended.**

Meeting held on 1 May 2017 (C1 – Mayor Making)

RESOLVED To **adopt, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2017.**

17 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) **Planning & Townscape**

RESOLVED To **adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held on 10 April 2017 (PT19).**

18 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES

RESOLVED To **receive and note the Record of Attendances for 2016-17 (as at 30.4.17) (Appendix A).**

19 MEETINGS START TIME

RESOLVED That Rye Town Council’s usual meeting start time shall remain at **6.30pm.**

20 **COMMITTEE FORMATION**

a) **Number and title of Committees and number of Members appointed to each Committee**

Cllr Potter observed that the PRGP Committee meets 4-5 times a year and has little delegated authority. With the support of Cllr Rogers, he suggested that its business could be dealt with directly by Council.

RESOLVED That the number and titles of the current committees – as well as their size – be retained.

b) **Members appointed to Committees**

RESOLVED Appointment of Members to Committees as specified in Appendix B.

The meeting adjourned and each Committee convened and appointed Chairmen.

(i) **PRGP Committee**

Chairman

Cllr Creaser proposed – and Cllr Gilbert seconded – Cllr Rivett.

Cllr Fiddimore proposed – and Cllr Barnes seconded – Cllr Boyd.

Votes cast were as follows:

Cllr Boyd Barnes, Boyd, Fiddimore, Kirkham

Cllr Rivett Creaser, Gilbert, Prewer, Rivett

The Mayor adjourned the meeting so that he might retire to the Parlour to consider how to cast his vote.

Cllr Rogers left the meeting.

The Mayor reconvened the meeting.

The Mayor stated that his position was a difficult one because he considered both candidates to be good friends; however, after careful consideration he had decided to cast his vote in favour of Cllr Boyd and declared Cllr Boyd to be elected.

Vice Chairman

Cllr Creaser proposed – and Cllr Fiddimore seconded – Cllr Rivett.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Rivett was declared elected.

(ii) **Planning & Townscape**

Chairman

Cllr Fiddimore proposed – and Cllr Boyd seconded – Cllr Erswell.

Cllr Creaser proposed – and Cllr Harkness seconded – Cllr Creaser.

Votes cast were as follows:

Cllr Creaser Harkness, Stuart, Creaser

Cllr Erswell Boyd, John Breeds, Erswell, Fiddimore

Vice Chair

Cllr Fiddimore proposed – and Cllr Erswell seconded – Cllr Creaser.

There being no other nominations, Cllr Creaser was declared elected.

The meeting reconvened.

21 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2017-18

RESOLVED To approve the Draft Timetable of Meetings (Appendix C).

22 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION TO ORGANISATIONS

RESOLVED The appointment of representatives as recorded at Appendix D.

23 FIXED TERM/DETERMINED REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED To note the representatives as recorded at Appendix D.

RESOLVED To bring forward consideration of item 25.

25 GRANT APPLICATION

It was noted that the available Grant Revenue Fund balance for 2017-18 is £2,500.

Members were invited to consider an application from the Rye Creative Centre for a contribution of £1,500 to build on the annual Feast of Delights (designer and makers festive craft fair).

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for comments from the representative (Caoimhe O’Gorman) (CO) of the applicant. These included: The Rye Creative Centre (RCC) was not aware of the limited grant funding pot – and would be happy with any contribution from RTC; 650 people visited the 2015 event; the fair focuses on engaging with the local community and attracting visitors to the town; RCC is entirely separate from ARCC – RCC hires space from ARCC; although RCC has its own bank account, its financial transactions go through ARCC’s accounts; RCC has 30 artists under its wings and runs events & workshops; the community workshops held at the event are cost neutral – any funding available is put towards running costs (such as materials); the craftspeople attending the event retain any profits they generate.

The meeting reconvened.

The Clerk recalled that a previous application for New Events funding for this annual event had been declined by RTC on the basis that it did not meet the criteria (additional activity).

RESOLVED To award £500.

Clerk

24 WORKING GROUPS

Discounted Accommodation WG It was noted that its work is coming to an end.

Heritage Centre Options WG Given that the new HCM had inherited a budget and targets drafted by her predecessor, Cllr Potter suggested that it would be unfair to assess her performance against criteria not under her control. He was aware also that she had been left with a quantity of inappropriate stock. In order to provide the HCM with a reasonable period of time (at least a year) in which to develop and introduce new initiatives, he suggested the WG should cease its work until April 2018 - meaning any significant approved structural or operational changes would be introduced in April 2019 (rather than April 2018). This was **GENERALLY AGREED**.

Public Conveniences & Bus Shelters WG Given that this had not formally met since its creation some years ago, it was **AGREED** to disband this WG.

RESOLVED The appointment of Members as recorded at Appendix E.

26 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED In accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960 (1)(2), to exclude the public and press from the item following on the grounds that it involves consideration of the Council's possible legal interest in a property.

27 STRAND HOUSE, RYE

Members received a briefing on the Council's possible legal interest in this property – and agreed a course of action. **Clerk**

The meeting ended at 7.35pm

Date Chairman