

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 30 October 2017

PRESENT Councillors Sam Barnes, Mike Boyd (**Deputy Mayor**), Jonathan Breeds (**Mayor**), Cheryl Creaser, Bernardine Fiddimore, Rebekah Gilbert, Charlie Harkness, Pat Hughes, Jo Kirkham, Andi Rivett, Shaun Rogers, Andy Stuart

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Paul Goring – Town Sergeant; The Rev Canon David Frost – Mayor’s Chaplain; East Sussex County Cllr Keith Glazier; Col Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice-Chairman; Neil Cunliffe – Rye & District Chamber of Commerce Chairman; 11 members of the public

The meeting commenced at 6.31pm.

73 PRAYERS
Prayers were said by the Mayor’s Chaplain.

74 APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs John Breeds, Justin Erswell, Ian Potter and Ray Prewer.

It was noted that Rother Cllrs Lord Ampthill and Gennette Stevens were unable to attend.

75 CODE OF CONDUCT

Cllr Jonathan Breeds	item 80	<i>non-pecuniary</i>	Provides premises without charge
Cllr Creaser	item 80	<i>non-pecuniary</i>	Provides assistance to the Rye Christmas Festival
Cllr Gilbert	item 80	<i>non-pecuniary</i>	Provides assistance to the Rye Christmas Festival
Cllr Rivett	item 80	<i>non-pecuniary</i>	Provides assistance to the Rye Christmas Festival

76 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS
There was none.

*The Mayor adjourned the meeting for the reports of the County and District Councillors – and Public Question Time (See **APPENDIX.**)*

77 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT (CPE)
Members were advised that RDC had invited RTC to send two representatives to a Parking Enforcement Stakeholders’ Meeting on 29 November 2017 at 11am and were asked to:

- a) Agree RTC’s responses to the 3 questions posed within the accompanying Stakeholders’ letter.
- b) Appoint up to two representatives.

The Clerk read out the three questions:

- a) Should we ask ESCC to apply to the Department for Transport to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement?
- b) Would you rather have CPE introduced as early as possible to deal with infringements on the current parking restrictions and thereafter make changes where necessary around the District? Or would you rather identify all of the areas of concern along with the best solutions, consult on these and then present an application following the amendments? This will be a much longer process, in the order of years, as there would be far more amendments to consult on prior to the submission of a CPE application.
- c) Is there a preference for businesses and residents to subsidise free parking though local taxation or to promote 'the user pays' and introduce parking charges to cover the cost of the scheme?

The Mayor adjourned the meeting for contributions from the Rye Conservation Society, Rye & District Chamber of Commerce and members of the public (see APPENDIX).

The Mayor reconvened the meeting.

Comments from Members (and others) included:

- On street parking problems have worsened year on year.
- CPE will be introduced in the centre of Rye and on street charging will push problems towards the periphery – including Military Road and Love Lane (especially on Thursdays).
- Increased house building in Rye & District will lead to a greater number of vehicle movements.
- Ashford BC's CPE enforcement in Tenterden is very effective.
- It is a shame that Rye's District Councillors are not present to answer questions – particularly in view of the fact that one of them is a member of RDC's CPE Task & Finish Group.
- CPE could become a cash cow for ESCC.
- CPE surpluses generated within East Sussex must be used for relevant highways/transport improvements within the county.
- Residents' parking bays may be required.
- Tenterden has the advantage of having more large car parks and a straight main street running through the town.
- There is no guarantee that any (probably small) CPE surplus generated in Rye will be spent in Rye.
- A 'user pays' approach would protect Council Tax payers.
- CPE would deter traders from parking outside their shops for long periods.

Cllr Gilbert highlighted a series of questions which, had they been present, she would have put to the two Rye Ward Members. She suggested that Rye has unique parking needs and a 'one size fits all' approach to CPE would not necessarily be appropriate. Once CPE is introduced it cannot be undone.

RESOLVED 1 (unanimous) That RDC should ask ESCC to apply to the Department for Transport to adopt Civil Parking Enforcement in Rother.

RESOLVED 2 That CPE should be introduced in Rother as early as possible.

RESOLVED 3 That RTC's preference is for a 'user pays' approach to funding CPE in Rother.

RESOLVED 4 To send Cllr Gilbert's (tabled) questions to the two Rye Ward Members and to invite them to attend the Additional Council

meeting to be held on 13 November 2017 in order to address them.
Clerk

RESOLVED 5 To appoint Cllr Boyd and Fiddimore to represent RTC at RDC's CPE Stakeholders' meeting on 29 November 2017. Clerk

Note Cllr Creaser would be representing Rye & District Chamber of Commerce.

78 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the meetings held on 4 September 2017 (C6), 18 September 2017 (C7) and 18 September 2017 (C8).

79 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Planning & Townscape

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning & Townscape Committee held on 4 September 2017 (PT08), 18 September 2017 (PT09) and 16 October 2017 (PT10).

(b) Policy, Resources & GP

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy, Resources & GP Committee held on 18 September 2017 (PR03).

80 GRANT APPLICATION

Members considered an application from the Rye Christmas Festival for a grant of £5,000 towards the installation of lights to support this year's Festival.

The Clerk advised that:

- (i) RTC's 2017-18 Budget provides for £2,000 towards the Festival.
- (ii) There is no New Events funding available.
- (iii) RTC's General Grants Reserve balance was £2,625.

Comments included:

- The Rye Christmas Festival has become an outstanding event and the dedicated volunteer organisers deserve support.
- RTC has limited funds available for grants/donations,
- Only one quote for the installation of lights has been provided (three is the norm).
- The New Events Fund and RTC General Grants Fund criteria are not identical.
- The Christmas Festival Committee is to be commended for winning – and securing gifts of – lighting from Blachere Illuminations.
- The column lighting displays have to be installed by qualified electricians.
- The grant sought is 'in the right ballpark'.
- The Festival is aimed at everyone – the majority of events are free – and it represents good value for money.
- The Festival had improved immeasurably in recent years – generating much positive feedback.
- It was important for RTC to continue to support the Festival so that the momentum could be maintained.
- It may be that RTC receives other grant applications before 31 March.

Speaking from the Public Gallery, Neil Cunliffe advised that:

- Two quotes had been provided by one contractor – the full quote (£8,039.57) reflected its staff working at night and the second (£5,022.98) was discounted,
- He would be able to obtain a second quote.

- Because the Committee had managed to obtain another £17,000-£18,000 of free lighting (in addition to the lighting it had won a few years earlier), inevitably this had pushed up installation costs.
- More of the town can be lit.
- The string lighting (placed across property frontages) is cheaper to install and the intention is to be able to plug it into timers which may be accessed externally (without having to disturb the occupants).

RESOLVED To note that RTC has provided £2,000 towards this year's Festival and to consider the application further once a second quote has been provided.
Clerk

81 FERRY ROAD NURSERY

Members noted that the transfer of the freehold from RDC to RTC is yet to complete and considered the Nursery's invitation for RTC to appoint a representative to join its Management Committee.

RESOLVED To appoint Cllr Creaser.
Clerk

82 RYE AIRFIELD

Council considered a request from the Airfields of Britain Conservation Trust to locate, within Rye, a plaque remembering the airfield that lay between Rye and East Guldeford.

It was noted that the Chairman of East Guldeford Parish Meeting had suggested to the Trust that it would preferable for the proposed plaque to be located within the Rye Parish.

Comments included:

- The plaque could be located on the Millennium Wall or the land adjoining 7 Wish Ward.
- An accessible stone marker close to the actual site (south of the A259 between the Freda Gardham Playing Field and the Camber Road) would be more appropriate. (Cllr Stuart would be happy to help raise funds.)
- A plaque/stone could be placed near the Rye Town sign.
- RTC could consult with the British Legion and, perhaps, this could be taken forward as a joint project. (Indicating from the Gallery, Colonel Kimber agreed.)

RESOLVED to liaise with the British Legion with a view to installing an accessible plaque/stone as close as possible to the site of the airfield.
Clerk

The meeting ended at 7.41pm

Date Chairman

ADJOURNMENTS**Item 76****a) County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Glazier reported that:

Highways Steward Service Isla Dacey has replaced Jon Copp who has been promoted to Head Highways Steward. Isla is keen to develop working relationships with parishes.

Finance ESCC has just started budget planning for 2018-19. It is seeking support from the public for a better deal for the county from Central Government via its Stand Up for East Sussex campaign. Even though ESCC is achieving savings – for example, the Better Together initiative with health colleagues – more funding is required to safeguard services. ESCC is asking also for changes to local governance to enable it to deliver services differently.

Cllr Fiddimore reported that she had recently had cause to engage with ASC and considered the services she encountered to have been outstanding. Cllr Glazier advised that he would feed this back to the team.

b) Reports of the Rother District Councillors

Neither was present.

c) Public Question Time

There were no questions/contributions on matters other than CPE.

77 CIVIL PARKING ENFORCEMENT (CPE)

Rye Conservation Society Andrew Bamji (AB) made the comments following:

- RCS - which is represented on the Rye Highways Forum - had previously made suggestions to the Forum on ways on street parking in Rye could be improved – including reconfiguration of road layout (including the bottom of West Street – ‘cash point corner’).
- It is known that ESCC Highways also has ideas but the public would need to be consulted before they were taken forward and this alone can run into £tens of thousands.
- Renewing white and yellow lining would help the situation. Re-lining of the white lines was supposed to have been carried out in the summer; however, a small proportion only was done.
- Many of the problems are caused by residents parking unlawfully.
- Those who have ‘informally ticketed’ vehicles have been subjected to abuse – and so this should be done by Council staff.
- RCS has been invited to attend RDC’s CPE Stakeholders meeting in its own right.
- RCS takes the view that the situation will not improve without decriminalisation and effective enforcement. Without it there is an ongoing risk injury to pedestrians.
- RCS’s preference is for CPE to be introduced in Rother as soon as is practicable (with the existing TROs remaining unchanged in the short-term).

Rye & District Chamber of Commerce Its Chairman, Neil Cunliffe (NC) advised that the Chamber favoured the introduction of CPE as soon as is practicable – with a review at a later date.