

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on  
Monday 27 January 2020**

**PRESENT** Councillors David Amphill, Michael Boyd (**Mayor**), John Breeds,  
Chris Hoggart, Pat Hughes, Jo Kirkham, Andy Stuart

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Paul Goring – Rye Town  
Sergeant; District Councillors Howard Norton and Gennette  
Stevens; County Councillor Keith Glazier; Charlie Harkness –  
*Rye News*; 12 members of the public

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*The meeting commenced at 6.30pm.*

**135 PRAYERS**

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, these were said by the Town Sergeant.

**136 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs David Bookless, Jonathan Breeds, Cheryl Creaser, Rebekah Gilbert (**Deputy Mayor**), Ian Potter, Andi Rivett, Shaun Rogers, Sam Souster and Sam Wood.

**137 CODE OF CONDUCT**

Cllr Hoggart *item 141 & 148* Trustee of the proposed HC CIO

**138 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reported that he had attended the Rye Funds Award Evening and had contributed towards the cost of one of Rye's Sea Cadet's spending time on a tall ship.

*The Mayor adjourned the meeting for the report of the County Councillor for Rye; the Reports of the Rye Rother District Councillors and Public Question Time. (See APPENDIX A.)*

*The meeting reconvened.*

**139 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** To approve, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6 January 2019 (C16).

**140 ROTHER CPE SCHEME**

To receive a report of the ESCC Planning Committee meeting held on 15.1.20 and to agree a course of action.

Cllr Hoggart – who spoke at the meeting on behalf of RTC - reported that he had outlined RTC's position and had elaborated on the concerns about the proposed loss of one hour's free parking in the Citadel (which could deter visitors, overnight stays and result in the loss of trade to Tenterden) and the size and location of the proposed ticket machines (which would despoil the historic landscape).

He considered that the public participation had not been well organised: some of those attending were asked to talk about areas of Rye that had not formed part of their consultation response.

David Nixon (on behalf of the Rye Chamber) and 3 other Rye residents had attended.

County Cllr Angharad Davies spoke to support Robertsbridge's objections about having parking meters in its Conservation Area and the proposed parking charges having an adverse impact on trade – and these were upheld by the Planning Committee. However, the (similar) objections from Rye were dismissed.

He added that the proposed review of CPE in Rye 12 months after its implementation was unlikely to result in the removal of the ticket machines – and suggested that the Rye scheme was not being introduced based entirely on the current restrictions.

Cllr Glazier's comments included:

- Regrettably, he had been unable to remain for the whole of the Planning Committee meeting; however, he did set out RTC's position, explained that a majority in Rye appeared to be in favour of CPE - and flagged up the two main objections (large ticket machines and the loss of 1 hour's free parking).
- He had no idea why the Planning Committee had taken on board the Robertsbridge objections. Its Members had all received appropriate training.
- RTC had been asked whether it preferred the swift(est) introduction of CPE (based on the existing TROs) or a more comprehensive review and scheme – it chose the former.
- It was now too late to amend the scheme because it had been submitted to the Department for Transport.
- He had formed the impression that there might be scope for the machines to be repositioned.
- (Responding to a question from a member of the public) He would find out -in the light of the Robertsbridge decision - if the Planning Committee's position in respect of Rye could be reviewed. He added that the Planning Committee's role was quasi-legal.
- Any surpluses generated by CPE schemes have to be used for highway repairs/improvements.

Comments from members of the public included:

- RTC had asked ESCC if the review/consultation could be extended.
- RTC and Battle TC had been prepared to fund jointly a PCSO to enforce traffic regulations; however, this had been blocked by the Chief Constable.
- Code 30 (to facilitate 1 hour of free parking) is operated by Ashford BC in Tenterden.
- Apps and/or a card purchase system could replace tickets machines.
- 50 Rye businesses signed a petition calling for 1 hour free parking retention – to no avail. It might have been more effective if they had made representations individually.
- A Park & Ride scheme should be considered.
- CPE will not be enforced on Sundays – but this is one of the busiest days of the week for many traders. The lack of off street parking on Thursdays could result in chaotic scenes.

Comments from Town Councillors included:

- CPE appears to work well in Hastings.
- Drivers – including local traders – are taking advantage of the lack of onstreet parking enforcement in Rye by overstaying by hours – sometimes days.
- Is the Planning Committee's decision in relation to Robertsbridge challengeable?

**RESOLVED To arrange to discuss RTC's concerns with the Rother CPE Clerk team.**

**141 RYE HERITAGE CENTRE CHARITY (UPDATE)**

On behalf of the trustees, Colonel Kimber and Simon Parsons advised that:

- The CIO governing document is close to being finalized (for submission to the Charity Commission).
- Fundraising initiatives are being worked up.
- They were confident the HC would re-open on 1 April.
- They are working on 'decoupling' the HC from RTC.

**142 PLANNING APPLICATION**

Members were asked to determine the Council's response to the application following:

**RR/2019/840/P**                      Ferry Road – land at, Rye, TN31 7DJ  
Outline: Development of 7 dwellings

Members noted Colonel Kimber's briefing note – which placed the application in the context of the RNP. Colonel Kimber highlighted:

- The applicant's planning statement was written last Spring (and contains dated information).
- The site location is prone to flooding.
- The proposed dwellings would be very close to the railway line.
- There is no TPO on the development site. One of the plans provided suggest that land on the other side of the track is included within the application – but this is not the case.
- The site is not allocated for development within the RNP.
- The developer describes it as an 'opportunity site'.

Comments from the members of the public present included:

- The proposed dwellings would be higher than those in the immediate vicinity – creating a privacy issue.
- The site is a green space (which includes willow trees) and, as such, performs an essential role absorbing rainwater run-off.
- ESFR is believed to still have concerns.
- Access to/from Ferry Road is likely to be problematic.

Comments from Town Councillors included:

- RDC should not use its Lower School site decision as a precedent.
- The sewerage system is inadequate and the development would contribute towards overloading.

**RESOLVED 1 To submit the response following to the Planning Authority:**

**SUPPORT REFUSAL. Overdevelopment (height and density); adverse impact on the amenity (privacy) of the occupants of neighbouring dwellings; loss of green space; poor vehicular access and sightlines at the junction with Ferry Road; location prone to flooding - which would be exacerbated if the application site was developed; insufficient sewerage capacity.**

**Clerk**

**RESOLVED 2 To accept Cllr Stevens' offer to 'call in' the application to the Planning Committee.**

**143 FINANCE**

**143.1 Heritage Centre**

- a) **Income and Expenditure**  
**RESOLVED To receive and adopt the Income by Customer Summaries and Expenses by Supplier Summaries for October-November 2019.**
- b) **Budget Monitor**  
**RESOLVED To receive and note the actual income and expenditure against budget to 30 November 2019.**

**143.2 Town Hall**

- a) **Expenditure**  
**RESOLVED To receive and adopt an Expenses by Supplier Summary for October-November 2019.**
- b) **Budget Monitor**  
**RESOLVED To receive and note the actual income and expenditure against budget to 30 November 2019.**

**144 GRANT GIVING**

**RESOLVED To retain the suspension on grant giving until the new financial year.**

**145 PROVISIONAL TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2020-21**

**RESOLVED To adopt the Provisional Timetable (see APPENDIX B).**

**146 DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2020-21**

Members were asked to consider the Draft Budget 2020-21 and to agree the precept for 2020-21.

The Clerk advised that:

- Following the fire at The George, wedding income had declined – and this was likely to continue.
- The Statement of Forecast Earmarked Reserves (tabled) had been omitted from the mailing sent to Members.
- The proposed 4p a week precept increase represented a rise of 2.5%.

**RESOLVED (because a Member had raised a query in relation to a tenant) To continue the discussion on this item after the proposed exclusion of the public and press.**

**147 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 remainder of) item 146 & 148 on the grounds that they are likely to include consideration of commercially sensitive information, staff terms of employment or personal information about a tenant.**

*The Mayor adjourned the meeting for disrobing.*

*The meeting reconvened.*

**146 DRAFT BUDGET AND PRECEPT 2020-21**

The Clerk explained the situation concerning an outstanding rental payment.

**RESOLVED To adopt the Draft Budget 2020-21 and to agree that the precept for 2020-21 shall be £177,347. Clerk**

**148 TRANSFER OF RYE HERITAGE CENTRE  
CREATION OF THE RYE INFORMATION POINT**

The Clerk updated Members on preparations for the transfer of the HC and creation of the RIP – as well negotiations concerning a redundancy payment.

*The meeting ended at 8.25pm*

Date ..... Chairman .....

**ADJOURNMENT**

**a) District Councillors' Reports**

Cllr Stevens reported that not much had happened at RDC recently. She had been involved with two planning applications – including the housing development on the Lower School site (which was granted planning consent).

Advising that he had laryngitis, Cllr Norton asked that he be excused from making a report – adding that he would do a proper one next time.

**b) County Councillor's Report**

Cllr Glazier reported/advised that:

*Funding* The Cabinet is set to recommend a £404m balanced budget to Council on 11 February. Following successful lobbying, ESCC got an additional £10m from the Government towards ASC. After making improvements to Children's Services, ESCC will end up with £6.5m to allocate. Proposed further cuts to the Library Service and trading standards have been withdrawn. A new children's service, No Wrong Door, is being introduced. All young people engaged with will be allocated a single worker. One of ESCC's Children's Homes will be remodeled to create 3 additional spaces. An additional £1m has been found for highways and there will be a greater emphasis on patching (rather than potholing). If approved, ESCC's share of the 2020-21 Council Tax will be 3.99% - an increase of £57 for a Band D tax payer.

*Kerbing works* These needed to be done but complaints had been received (eg late night noise). These had been passed to the Assistant Director.

*Pot holes* Please continue to report these.

**c) Public Question Time**

Colonel Kimber reported that:

**i)** The EA had allocated some funding towards the completion of the Eastern Rother Tidal Defence Wall. It was hoped that more would follow.

**ii)** CIL and affordable housing will be discussed at the next Rother Neighbourhood Planning Group meeting – which is attended by the Chairman of RDC's Planning Committee.

**RYE TOWN COUNCIL****Provisional Timetable of Meetings 2020-21***Meetings are held normally on Monday at 6.30pm*

<b>Month</b>	<b>Council</b>	<b>Planning &amp; Townscape</b>	<b>Personnel Meets as and when required</b>
<b>May</b>	<b>8 MM</b> (11am) Fri <b>11 CF</b>  <b>21SH</b> (in Rye)	4  18	
<b>June</b>	  <b>29 AR</b>	1 15 29	
<b>July</b>		13 27	
<b>August</b>	<i>Normally no meetings</i>	<i>Normally no meetings</i>	<i>Normally no meetings</i>
<b>September</b>	<b>7</b>	7 21	
<b>October</b>	<b>3 SD</b> (in Rye)  19	5 19	
<b>November</b>		2 16 30	
<b>December</b>	<b>14 NOM A</b>	14	
<b>January</b>	<b>25 BUD/PRE</b>	11 25	
<b>February</b>		8 22	
<b>March</b>	<b>3 ATM</b> (Wed)  <b>22 NOM B</b>	8 22	
<b>April</b>		6 (Tues) 19	
<b>May</b>	<b>3 MM</b> (11am) <b>10 CF</b>	10 24	

**MM** Mayor Making**ATM** Annual Town Meeting**E** Parish/Town Elections**TBD** To be determined**NOM A** Nominations for Mayor Elect (not in an Election year)**NOM B** Nominations for Deputy Mayor Elect (not in an Election**CF** Committee Formation**BUD** Budget Meeting**PRE** Agreeing precept**AR** Annual Return approval**SH** Speakership Handover