

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held via Zoom on
Monday 16 November 2020**

PRESENT Councillors David Amphill, David Bookless, Michael Boyd, John Breeds, Cheryl Creaser, Rebekah Gilbert (**Mayor** – Speaker of the Cinque Ports), Chris Hoggart, Jo Kirkham, Andi Rivett (**Deputy Mayor**), Shaun Rogers, Andy Stuart, Sam Wood

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk (Host); Jessica Neame – Deputy Town Clerk (Co-Host); Rother District Cllrs Howard Norton and Gennette Stevens; Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNP Co-ordinator; Charlie Harkness – *Rye News*; Stuart Harland – Marsh Link Action Group; Allan Thomson.

The meeting commenced at 6.32pm.

34 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Jonathan Breeds, Pat Hughes and Ian Potter.

35 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no disclosures of interest – nor requests for dispensation.

36 MINUTES

RESOLVED 1 19 October 2020 (C3) Minutes, 18 Prayers line 2 To delete **Payers** and insert **Prayers**

RESOLVED 2 To approve, as an accurate record, the Minutes (as amended) of the Council meetings held on 19 October 2020 (C3) and 19 October 2020 (C4).

37 HELAA

Members considered Colonel Kimber’s Review of Site Assessment Work and were invited to agree the Council’s response to RDC’s ‘call for sites’ (Housing and Employment Land Availability Assessment).

It was noted that the deadline for responses is 7.12.20.

Colonel Kimber reminded Members that he had outlined the background to the HELAA at their last meeting. RDC’s Head of Planning, Tim Hickling had provided an assurance that the HELAA will not undermine local NPs. The HELAA itself will not allocate potential development sites – merely identify them. The assessment process could take up to a year and forms part of the mechanism by which RDC will set out how it intends to meet Government new housing targets. (Under pressure from its MPs in the south of England, the Government had just announced a review of the algorithm used to calculate district housing targets.)

At its last meeting, RTC had agreed the broad principles underscoring its approach to RDC’s Local Plan Review (of which, the HELAA forms a part).

The Review of Site Assessment Work includes consideration of a number of (small) potential development sites identified by RDC since the adoption of the RNP.

The Review document contains a number of minor errors – or information has been updated subsequent to publication:

P.10 – Site C **delete** 'leased in part to ESCC **insert** 'leased in part to Rye Partnership'.

P.10 – Cyprus Place **delete** 'Around 10 affordable homes' **insert** '10 new homes'.

P.15 – section 12 References to 'Glencose Farm' should read 'Glencoe Farm'.

Colonel Kimber suggested that agenda items 38 and 39 should not be considered in isolation – there being a range of relevant linked transport routes/issues.

The Mayor re-stated RTC's opposition to the enforced relocation of Rye Hire and expressed her disappointment that RDC/Alliance Housing (Rother) had decided to halve the number of units of accommodation proposed for the Cyprus Place site to 10.

Cllr Stevens reported that she had been advised that, of these 10, 4 would be 'affordable (the remaining 6 would be sold on the open market).

The Clerk suggested that RTC should attempt to secure a higher percentage of affordable/low cost accommodation on the site. **Clerk**

Responding to a question put by Cllr Lord Ampthill, Colonel Kimber advised that 263 units had been provided at Valley Park [*corrected after the meeting to 160*].

38 CYCLING & WALKING CONSULTATION

The meeting was asked to consider how RTC should respond to ESCC's Local Cycling & Walking Improvement Plan consultation (*deadline: 11.12.20*).

It was noted that the proposals for Rye are considered within *Appendix 5M - Sustrans LCWIP Report Rye (Final)*.

Comments included:

- Sustrans (report writer for Rye) has a cycling bias. The recommended traffic priority/access changes will create problems; the proposals have not been well thought out; do not address the known A259-Harbour Road safety issues – and do not take into consideration the routes of long-distance paths passing through Rye.
- Currently, cyclists following the National Cycle Network through Rye have to dismount - and find the signage through the town centre confusing.
- In the current economic climate - and with large towns (like Hastings and Bexhill) being prioritised – the funding necessary to pursue the Rye proposal might not be forthcoming.
- The RNP could be used as the basis for RTC's response to the consultation.
- Even though it was shelved by ESCC because of the high estimated cost, some monies remain earmarked for the Rye Greenway proposal (worked up by Colonel Kimber and Dominic Manning).
- RTC should focus on identifying 2-3 local cycling/walking priorities.
- Cycling in Rye could be made safer.

RESOLVED To ask Cllr Hoggart, Colonel Kimber and Allan Thomson to work together to identify – and recommend – the local priorities RTC should highlight in response to the consultation. CH, AK, AT

39 1066 WALK: START/FINISH POINT (RYE)

Members noted Rye Conservation Society's letter to RDC of 14 September 2020 - and Cllr Timpe's response – and discussed how RTC should respond.

Cllr Stuart spoke to the RCS letter – highlighting/adding:

- RCS (and other groups) had stumbled across RDC's plans for the Rye section of the route by chance.
- RTC had not been consulted.
- RDC is proposing to install an information panel and sculpture in the vicinity of the old pumping station in West Undercliff – a relatively isolated area 1km from either the Railway Station or Rye Heritage Centre.
- RDC has contracted out the work to an events company.
- There appears to be no general agreement on where the 1066 Walk officially starts/ends in Rye.
- In any case, logically it would be better to locate the proposed panel at a transport hub (eg the Railway Station/John Ryan Memorial Garden) or a main visitor attraction/information point (such as the HC – where a number of long-distance walks pass by).
- The western end of the Walk ends at Pevensey Railway Station.
- The proposed position of the start of the Walk will alienate those visitors who struggle to find it.
- Cllr Hazel Timpe (RDC Lead Member for Tourism) has advised that it is too late to make any changes.
- There could be a number of (linked) start/end points.
- It may be that those charged with installing the panel and sculpture have not actually visited the location proposed.

Cllr Norton had discussed this matter with John Spencer and confirmed that the events company had claimed that the budget for 1066 Walk improvements had been committed. However, he considered that this should be challenged and that an ideal location for the information panel would be the John Ryan Garden.

Cllr Stevens reported that she had been advised that there would probably be a second stage of Walk improvements – into the town centre.

RESOLVED To write to RDC as follows: Whilst welcoming the funding for the upgrade of the 1066 Walk, Rye Town Council is concerned that the proposed start/end point will not be in the centre of Rye but in a relatively isolated and 'distant' out of town location at West Undercliff - and urges RDC/1066 Country Marketing to reconsider and extend the walk to a point within Rye, either at the Rye Heritage Centre or the Railway Station, where appropriate signage can be displayed for the benefit of locals and visitors. Clerk

The meeting ended at 7.17pm.

Date Chairman