

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 14 May 2018

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice-Chairman

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm.

15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Erswell and Stuart.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Hughes would be late.

16 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no disclosures of interest nor dispensation requests.

17 RYE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN www.ryeneighbourhoodplan.org.uk

Members were invited to consider the actions requested within Request for Decisions by Council (*APPENDIX E*) – particularly the recommendation that the:

RNP retains development boundary change proposal for Gibbet Marsh to cover future use (such as an overflow car park for fast rail) but removes the alternative allocation [‘second supermarket’] from the Plan.

RESOLVED 1 To adopt the Recommendation.

RESOLVED 2 To receive and note the remainder of the document.

18 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2018 (Mayor Making).

19 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Planning & Townscape

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held on 9 April 2018 (PT21).

20 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES

RESOLVED To receive and note the Record of Attendances for 2017-18 (as at 9.4.18) (Appendix A).

21 MEETINGS START TIME

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

22 COMMITTEE FORMATION

a) **Number and title of Committees, number of Members appointed to each Committee and membership of the Committees.**

Cllr Potter observed that the PRGP Committee meets 4-5 times a year and has little delegated authority - and mainly receives financial reports. He suggested that the wellbeing of the Heritage Centre should be of interest to all Members. With the support of Cllr Rogers, he suggested that its business could be dealt with directly by Council.

It was noted that, if agreed, Council meetings are likely to be longer and RTC's Terms of Reference for Committees would need to be updated.

RESOLVED 1 To disband the PRGP Committee.

Cllr Potter suggested appointing all Members to the Planning & Townscape Committee. This would reduce the risk of inquorate meetings.

The Clerk advised that, if this was agreed, those Members with little experience of planning would benefit from training. Cllr Potter observed that the major/contentious planning applications are considered by Council (rather than the P+T Committee).

Cllr Gilbert observed that not all Members necessarily have interest/experience in planning matters. Cllr Creaser stated that RTC had the benefit of having Members with expertise on a range of subjects.

Those Members who had expressed interest in joining the PRGP Committee – but not P+T – were asked if they would now like to be considered for membership of the P+T Committee. Cllr Prewer stated that he would be happy to join the P+T Committee. Cllr Creaser advised that she was also prepared to join the Committee. It was noted that these offers would bring the membership up to 10 Members.

RESOLVED 2 To continue to appoint Members to the P+T Committee in the usual manner (ie not appointing all Members to it).

It was noted that, if the P+T Committee experiences problems with inquoracy during the year, there is the option of reconsidering Cllr Potter's suggestion.

RESOLVED 3 To appoint the Members following to the P+T Committee: Boyd, John Breeds, Creaser, Erswell, Fiddimore, Harkness, Hughes, Prewer, Rogers, Stuart.

RESOLVED 4 To leave the P+T Committee to appoint its Chairman and Vice-Chairman at its meeting following this Council meeting.

23 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2018-19

RESOLVED To approve the Draft Timetable of Meetings, as amended (removal of PRGP Committee dates) (Appendix B).

24 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION TO ORGANISATIONS
25 FIXED TERM/DETERMINED REPRESENTATION

7.09 Cllr Hughes arrived.

RESOLVED 1 The appointment of representatives as recorded at Appendix C.

RESOLVED 2 To ask Cllr Glazier what plans, if any, ESCC has for youth development work in Rye. Clerk

RESOLVED 3 To ask the Rye Partnership how much money remains from the sale of the old cinema building (when it accommodated Animate) and what it will/could be used for. Clerk

26 WORKING GROUPS

Discounted Accommodation Group The Clerk advised that some work was required to determine whether the Council could afford to purchase additional properties.

HR Working Group Cllrs Erwsell and Potter both expressed interest in joining. The Clerk advised that the maximum membership (including the Mayor) permitted under the group's terms of reference was 6 (plus the Clerk). Cllr Potter withdrew his interest on the understanding that the group could - as it had done previously - invite him to attend meetings in an advisory capacity.

RESOLVED 1 The appointment of members as recorded at Appendix D.

27 GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATIONS (GDPR)

RESOLVED 1 To:

(a) Note that the Government is seeking to amend the GDPR to exempt parish/town councils from the requirement to appoint a Data Protection Officer (DPO);

(b) Confirm the Council's previous decision to appoint Jessica Neame as its DPO – and Maureen Chaffe as its data protection consultant - on the grounds that the Council is not a small council and the appointment of a DPO is recommended as 'good practice' by the Council's professional advisors;

(c) Adopt the documents following:

- (i) Update
- (ii) Information & Data Protection Policy
- (iii) Document Retention & Disposal Policy
- (iv) Privacy Notices (General, Councillors, Staff/Volunteers)
- (v) Model Publication Scheme (updated) and Information Available (updated)

(d) Note that further documentation and guidance will follow.

RESOLVED 2 To thank Jessica Neame for the work she has undertaken to date. Clerk

28 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 items following on the grounds that item 29 could potentially lead to legal action – and item 30 potentially includes discussion on terms/conditions of employment.

29 97 SOUTH UNDERCLIFF (PREVIOUS TENANCY)

RESOLVED To accept the decision of the independent adjudicator appointed by the Deposit Protection Service.

30 RYE TOWN CRIER

It was noted that the post holder, Rex Swain, had announced his impending retirement.

RESOLVED 1 That RTC commissions a suitable commemorative ceramic plaque for display in the Town Hall Garden.

RESOLVED 2 That, upon, Rex's retirement date, Paul Goring be promoted to Rye Town Crier.

RESOLVED 3 To proceed immediately to recruit a Rye Deputy Town Crier Designate.

RESOLVED 4 To thank Rex for his professionalism and diligence whilst carrying out the role of Rye Town Crier since his appointment in July 1999.

The meeting ended at 7.47pm

Date Chairman