

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 29 April 2019**

**PRESENT** Councillors Mike Boyd (**Mayor**), John Breeds, Cheryl Creaser, Bernardine Fiddimore, Rebekah Gilbert (**Deputy Mayor**), Charlie Harkness, Pat Hughes, Ian Potter, Ray Prewer, Andi Rivett, Shaun Rogers, Andy Stuart

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice-Chairman; 6 members of the public

*The meeting commenced at 6.30pm.*

**168 APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs Sam Barnes, Jonathan Breeds and Jo Kirkham.

**169 CODE OF CONDUCT**

There were no disclosures of interest nor dispensation requests.

**170 COUNCIL MINUTES**

**RESOLVED To approve and authorise the Chairman to sign the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2019 (C18).**

**171 COMMITTEE MINUTES**

To receive the Minutes of the Planning & Townscape Committee – including adopting any Recommendations - of the meeting held on 1 April 2019 (PT15).

**172 GRANT APPLICATION**

Members considered an application from Strandliners CIC for a contribution of £150 towards the creation – and maintenance - of a web site (total cost £850).

The applicant, Andy Dinsdale spoke to the application:

- He is a director of the not-for-profit CIC.
- The CIC's volunteers collect litter at Rye Harbour, Camber, Pett, Winchelsea Beach and from the banks of the Rother.
- He had been organising litter collections – or collecting litter - since 2004.
- So far this year 300 volunteer hours had resulted in the collection of 0.5 tonnes of litter.
- Last year, 2.5 tonnes was collected.
- The CIC undertakes also surveys of specific sites and works with partner organisations.
- A user-friendly web site is needed to publicise the dangers of plastic waste and, hopefully, alter public behaviour.

Comments from Members included:

- It is possible to create a web site cheaply by purchasing an 'off-the-shelf' software package.
- The work of the CIC is very worthwhile and commendable.
- An application for, say, equipment would be more likely to be supported.
- The stated incorporation date does not tie up with the recorded date held by Companies House.
- Some of the 'build your own' web site packages are somewhat 'clunky' and there may be additional server costs.

A proposal that the application for a contribution towards the proposed web site should be refused – but the applicant be encouraged to re-apply for funding to support the CIC's core work – was lost by 5 votes to 4.

Cllr Gilbert proposed - and Cllr Prewer seconded – a proposal that the application be approved.

Cllr Potter requested a named vote.

For the proposal: Cllrs Fiddimore, Gilbert, Harkness, Prewer, Rivett and Stuart.  
Against: Cllrs Creaser, Hughes and Potter.

The proposal was declared carried.

**Clerk**

**173 RYE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN** [www.ryeneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/](http://www.ryeneighbourhoodplan.org.uk/)

Members received a briefing from the RNPSG Vice Chairman, Colonel Kimber on the Examiner's Final Report (**APPENDIX**).

Colonel Kimber suggested that the new Planning & Townscape Committee could, perhaps, seek the evidence to support the reinstatement of the deleted policies T2 (enhanced off street parking provision for new build) and E2 (greater protection) when the adopted RNP is reviewed. If it was considered (by the relevant individual/body) that this would not be considered to be a substantial amendment no additional referendum would be required.

It was noted that RDC now accepts that Rye's two remaining allotment sites are 'statutory'.

The Clerk had established that any future referendum would be funded by RDC.

Comments from Members included:

- Colonel Kimber and those who had been a member of the Steering Group should be thanked for getting the RNP to this stage – and for doing it so cheaply.
- It might be possible to afford a degree of additional protection (ie the community right to bid) to some green spaces by seeking to add them to the Rother Assets of Community Value Register.
- Those Members who originally initiated the Plan had no appreciation of just how complex the process would turn out to be.

Cllr Gilbert advised that she had discussed her concern about the need to give greater protection to green spaces and sustainability issues with Colonel Kimber.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) To accept the Examiner's Report (including the modifications and changes to the RNP examination draft) and to ask the Clerk – in liaison with Colonel Kimber – to continue to work with RDC Planning with a view to finalising the RNP for referendum.**

Before closing the meeting, the Mayor reiterated his thanks to those Members not seeking re-election for their years of dedication to the Council and the Parish.

*The meeting ended at 7.08pm*

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

# C19 APPENDIX

## Rye Neighbourhood Plan: Mr Mayor

The External Examiner has reported positively on the Plan. The purpose of this brief is to suggest the way forward. In his 28 page report, of the 14 main points 9 are modification and 5 involve change.

Of the former, I highlight:

- Gibbet Marsh: to recognise the three zones: tarmac area; green overflow car park and river corridor green space: mix of developed and green space
- Allotments: to accepted our lines and record their statutory status
- The addition of a map of the Strategic Gap, but I have to agree with Rother which one: pre or post DaSA.

Of the latter: There are two significant recommendations for change. The Examiner wanted to see more evidence and has suggested that Rye TC can revert once that is produced. :

- *removal of the higher parking requirements for new developments and*
- *the remove the listing of green spaces (but not the statutory allotments).*

In addition there is:

- Winchelsea Rd West: to extend into the flood plain; surprising as the site is very wet from both ground and surface water and would require significant mitigation
- Lower School Site: to reflect TPO which reduces the development land and he: supports the 50 unit limit
- Freda Gardham Access: to adjust to cater for housing and petrol station

I notice that some candidates in the upcoming election mention the Plan and matters related to it. Therefore I hope that in any canvassing, candidates will underscore the importance of having a Rye plan which sets out priorities for years to come and provides financial advantages to the Town. A leaflet will be produced to support this.

As we near the culmination of work that has taken some 5 years, by 4 mayors, around 100 Councillors and citizens, and with contributions from many groups, Rye Neighbourhood Plan has now passed examination without the need for a public hearing. Yes, there are some final adjustments but none that in our view affects the main intent or key development policies. With a job not quite yet complete, we will continue to work with Rother Planners to ensure that it is ready for Referendum at earliest opportunity.

**Rye Town Council is invited to accept this positive report, noting its commendation and congratulation, and approve a move to clearing the final hurdle (processing through Rother Council) before a Referendum, to be organised for Rye constituents as soon as possible by Rother District Council.**

Anthony Kimber PhD For the Rye NP Steering Group <http://www.ryeneighbourhoodplan.org.uk>

No hearing; 14 main comments: 9 mods and 5 changes

P41: Commends submission

P43: Underscores Constraints

P44: Underscores flood risks

P58: allocation "up to" figure for dwellings units

P69: Rock Channel Map adjustment

P73: Winchelsea Road West : Enlarge allocation But flood risk

P77: Freda Gardham access: share with petro, station

P79: Lower School Site: green corridor ; tree protection; reduce site; supports allocation of 50

P86: Flood Risk: no Sequential Tests for sites allocated

P89: Enterprise : emphasise importance of Rye Harbour

P95: Petrol station access

P102: policy T2 delete ; higher parking standards; insert placeholder; more evidence

P108: adjust boundary Primary School

P114: Green Infrastructure: delete LGS BUT allotments statutory; more evidence

P119: Eco replacement policy

P120: Referendum Area = Rye Parish

P121: Congratulatory

P124: Positive recommendation to go to Referendum with mods