

Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on Monday 30 September 2019

PRESENT Councillors Lord Ampthill, John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds, Rebekah Gilbert (**Deputy Mayor**), Pat Hughes, Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter, Sam Wood

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Jessica Neame – Deputy Town Clerk Designate; Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice-Chairman; John Minter – *Rye News*

The meeting commenced at 6.30pm and chaired by Cllr Gilbert.

93 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons as lodged with the Clerk – were accepted from Cllrs David Bookless, Mike Boyd (**Mayor**), Cheryl Creaser, Chris Hoggart, Pat Hughes, Andi Rivett, Sam Souster and Andy Stuart.

94 CODE OF CONDUCT

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

95 PLANNING APPLICATION: THE GRIST MILL

Members were invited to agree the Council’s response, to the Local Planning Authority, to the application following:

RR/2019/1779/P Grist Mill, Winchelsea Road, Rye TN31 7EL

Demolition of existing warehouse structure and replacement with new two-storey building containing ground floor commercial space and 2 x 3-bedroom flat above.

Colonel Kimber was invited to address the meeting from the perspective of the RNP:

The site is a ‘key marker’ and forms part of an important strategic part of the town. There is widespread support for some form of appropriate development on the site in order to improve the appearance of the area. Design should be both attractive and reflective of the sense of place. As far as is possible, a development should relate to the properties opposite the site and not be a ‘solid mass’ – ie it should be possible to see through the structure. The ground floor will be ‘sacrificial’ (because of the flood risk – Flood Risk Zone 3). The EA is concerned about the proposed footprint in relation to access to the tidal defence flood wall for the purpose of repairing leaks (evident in a few places).

Comments from Members included: the associated car parking is leased – there is not guarantee of it being available in perpetuity; the applicant appears to have taken on board previous concerns.

RESOLVED To SUPPORT APPROVAL.

Clerk

96 HONORARY FREEMANSHIP: BADGE OF OFFICE

Cllr Jonathan Breeds invited the Council to consider ordering 50 x 40mm bespoke enamel badges, at a cost of £350.40 (including £58.40 VAT) - to award to Rye’s Honorary Freeman/women (in addition to a scroll) so that they might be identified

more easily at, for example, civic functions. An example of an enamel badge was passed around the table.

Comments included: It could be argued – especially given RTC's depleted General Reserve – that the badges are not essential and that it would be appropriate to postpone the proposed expenditure; RTC has previously ordered Past Mayor's Badges at £350 each; a sash could also be commissioned

RESOLVED To commission 50 x 40mm bespoke enamel badges, at a cost of £350.40 (including £58.40 VAT). Clerk

97 W J BENNETT

Cllr Rivett invited the Council to consider recognising W J Bennett's centenary of trading.

Comments included: At a previous meeting it had been decided to ask Cllr Rivett to draft a simpler version of his policy document; a suitable certificate could be produced, cheaply, in-house; Adams had printed suitable certificates during Cllr Kirkham's Mayoralty; other local businesses had traded for longer than 100 years; Cllr Jonathan Breeds and Rivett have discussed creating a 'Business of the Year' award.

RESOLVED To produce a suitable certificate – preferably utilising the Adams' certificate – to present to W J Bennett. Clerk

98 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 on the grounds that items 99 and 100 include consideration of quotations, terms for the disposal of property and restructuring.

99 TOWN HALL FIRE ASSESSMENT

Members considered the quotations provided. Comments included: RTC could undertake the assessment itself; staff have limited time available; such assessments can be complex.

RESOLVED To ask A M Fire to undertake a fire risk assessment – and provide a fire safety document folder – for £875 + VAT. Clerk

100 GENERAL RESERVE: REPLENISHING

Land adj 7 Wish Ward It was noted that the owners of 7 Wish Ward had withdrawn their interest in purchasing the site. Comments included: Future owners/occupiers might be interested in purchasing the site; members of the public are able to see the Town Wall; further consideration about whether to sell/retain the site should be deferred to a meeting with more Members present.

RESOLVED 1 To retain ownership of the site.

Heritage Centre Comments included: RTC could acquire the Crownfields public conveniences and convert them into a visitor information centre and gender neutral conveniences; RTC should consult on its intention to relocate VI.

RESOLVED 2 (unanimous) To determine the cost of relocating VI to the TH. Clerk

The meeting ended at 7.11pm

Date Chairman