

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held via Zoom on Monday 25 January 2021**

**PRESENT** Councillors David Bookless, Mike Boyd, Cheryl Creaser (**Committee Chairman**), Rebekah Gilbert (Mayor – Speaker of the Cinque Ports), Chris Hoggart, Pat Hughes, Andi Rivett (Deputy Mayor), Shaun Rogers (**Committee Vice-Chairman**), Andy Stuart

**IN ATTENDANCE** Richard Farhall – Town Clerk (Host): Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNP Co-ordinator

*The meeting commenced at 8.16pm.*

**35 APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies for absence.

**36 CODE OF CONDUCT: DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST**

Cllr Rogers RR/2020/2522/P Line manager of applicant

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting for public questions/contributions.*

*There was none and the meeting reconvened.*

**37 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED To approve the Minutes of the Planning and Townscape meeting held on 14 December 2020 (PT06).**

**38 MATTERS ARISING**

| <b>Item</b>   | <b>Status</b>  |
|---|--|
| Gilfrin Jewellers (side) - exploring the implications of RTC applying for advertising consent (community banners)                   | Outstanding – Confirm support of Gilfrin Jewellers and apply for advertising consent.  |
| Obtain costings to improve signage to the town centre within Gibbet Marsh Car Park  | Ongoing – forms part of the work of the Parking Strategy Review Group  |
| Asking RDC to consider removing the Gibbet Marsh Car Parking charges – or introducing a discounted scheme for traders and residents | Ongoing – forms part of the work of the Parking Strategy Review Group  |
| Asking RDC to add a note to its planning web site explaining how two plans might be viewed simultaneously.                          | Outstanding  |
| Planning applications – inadequate validation (making representations)  | Outstanding  |
| Tilling Green Community Land Trust – exploring  | Discussions with the Rye Partnership on the provision of affordable/social housing on the former school playing field are ongoing. |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 18 Landgate – out-of-keeping replacement roof tiles (drawing to the attention of the Conservation & Design Officer) | Actioned – response awaited  |
| Rock Channel Stopping Up Order (original) – submitting objections   | Actioned. Rejected by DoT – objections cannot include concerns about the circumstances whilst the work is in progress. |

**39 HOUSING SUPPLY**

The Committee was asked to consider the briefing paper prepared by Colonel Kimber and, if necessary, to agree a course of action.

The RNP Co-ordinator, Colonel Kimber (AK) added:

The recent RDC paper advising that, because RDC was still failing to achieve its new housing targets, the ‘presumption in favour of sustainable development’ would no longer be ‘constrained by policies in adopted NPs’, is very concerning.

AK had raised this with RDC’s Chairman of Planning, Cllr Jonathan Vine-Hall and within the informal Rother Neighbourhood Planning Group. Cllr Vine-Hall does not take the view that NPs are now redundant and considers that they remain of strategic importance.

In Rye’s favour is that, with RDC’s agreement, its NP ‘overplanned’ for the provision of new housing.

AK hoped that RTC would robustly defend the RNP. RTC needs to be alert to the possibility of developers trying to use RDC’s underperformance to exploit the RNP.

AK had briefed Sally Ann-Hart – highlighting the work that had been put into the RNP and that the current Planning White paper makes it clear that NPs will continue to be supported.

Comments included: hopefully there would be an opportunity to comment on this matter within any consultation undertaken as part of RDC’s review of its planning function; RTC needs to resist any attempts to weaken the RNP.

**40 PROPOSED STOPPING UP/DIVERSION ORDER: ROCK CHANNEL (REVISED)**

Members were invited to consider whether to comment on the revised proposed stopping/up diversions of the highway and footpaths 32C and 33. (*Deadline: 19.2.21.*)

Comments included: the diverted section of road will lie in front of the arts centre; the footpath diversions were the result of discussions between Rights of Way and the developer/architects; how will adequate access for business and residents be maintained during the works?; can the surface of St Margaret’s Terrace be improved?; that section of the highway is not owned by the developer; the proposed diverted road will be 5-6m wide; the ‘Riverside Walk’ appears not to go anywhere.

It was agreed generally that the proposed highway and footpath diversions were largely acceptable.

**RESOLVED 1 To support the Order in principle.**

**Clerk**

**RESOLVED 2 To explore concerns around the surface and width of the section of diverted road; access for residents and businesses for the duration of the works; condition of the road at St Margaret's Terrace.  
Clerk**

**41 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**RESOLVED To submit the comments below to the Local Planning Authority:**

Cllr Rogers re-stated his interest in the application following:

RR/2020/2522/P      The Chippings, Winchelsea Road, Rye TN31 2EL.  
Proposed storage building.  
SUPPORT APPROVAL

*The meeting ended at 8.55pm.*

Date .....

Chairman .....