

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye, on
Monday 29 June 2015**

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

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Kevin Barry – Town Sergeant; Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice-Chairman; 5 members of the public

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, prior to the meeting prayers were said by the Deputy Mayor.

The meeting commenced at 6.32pm and was chaired by the Deputy Mayor.

36 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reason (as notified to the Clerk) - were accepted from Cllr Bernardine Fiddimore (**Mayor**).

It was noted that the Reverend Canon David Frost, Cllr Lord Ampthill, Cllr Gennette Stevens and Cllr Keith Glazier were unable to attend.

37 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no disclosures of interest.

38 MAYORAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

*The Deputy Mayor adjourned the meeting (see **Appendix**)*

The meeting reconvened.

39 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 June 2015 (C3 – Priority Setting).

40 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) Planning & Townscape

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meetings of the Planning & Townscape Committee held on 8 June 2015 (PT02) and 22 June 2015 (PT03).

(b) Policy, Resources & GP

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Policy, Resources & GP Committee held on 22 June 2015 (PR01).

41 ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2014-15 AND AUDIT

(a) Internal Audit 2014-15

RESOLVED To receive the report of the Internal Auditor, Angela Alexander dated 19.6.15.

(b) Statement of Internal Control

RESOLVED To receive an updated Statement of Internal Control, dated 22.6.15, adopting the revisions and actions identified.

(c) Day-to-Day Financial Controls

RESOLVED To receive and note the updated Summary of Main Day-to-Day Financial Controls (as at 2.6.15).

(d) Risk Assessments

RESOLVED To receive the annual Risk Assessments (2015) and to agree that the actions/recommendations identified be pursued.

(e) Terms of Reference

RESOLVED To re-approve the Internal Auditor's Terms of Reference.

(f) Audit Plan 2015-16

RESOLVED To receive the draft Audit Plan 2015-16.

(g) INTERNAL AUDITOR 2015-16

RESOLVED To re-appoint the Internal Auditor, Angela Alexander and to confirm that her remuneration shall be £300 (in accordance with the budget provision).

(h) STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2014-15

RESOLVED To approve the Consolidated Town Council Accounts for 2014-15.

(i) ANNUAL RETURN 2014-15

RESOLVED To note section 4 of the Annual Return 2014-15 and to approve sections 1 and 2.

42 LOCAL POLICING MODEL

Members were invited to consider the Council's response to the Chief Inspector's briefing (17.6.15) – including whether to explore sharing a Traffic Warden or PCSO with Battle Town Council from April 2016.

Cllr Gilbert was very concerned about the likely impact of the new working methods on rural areas - particularly the involvement of Sussex Police's Communications Department in operational decision making and the diminished engagement via community events.

RESOLVED 1 (unanimous) To ask the PCC to attend a meeting to address RTC's concerns and to explain what she is doing to protect the interests of rural communities.
Clerk

Cllr Rogers would not be in favour of RTC contributing towards the cost of a PCSO because they can often be re-deployed by Sussex Police to meet operational need. This is less likely to happen in respect of Traffic Wardens.

The Clerk advised that Battle Town Council was looking to budget £15,000 towards (preferably) a Traffic Warden and that Cllr Fiddimore had expressed a wish to be one of those meeting with BTC representatives.

RESOLVED 2 (unanimous) To discuss, informally, meeting local policing needs with Battle Town Council. Clerk

43 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The meeting was asked to consider draft terms of membership for a working group to explore whether a new committee would be the most effective vehicle through which to pursue the Council's interest – and, if agreed, to appoint Members.

Cllr Potter observed that the individual co-opted to the Council on 6 July might have welcomed an opportunity to be considered for the proposed working group.

RESOLVED (unanimous) To hold a Council meeting immediately after the Co-option meeting specifically to consider this agenda item. Clerk

44 RYE PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

The meeting noted that the PRGP Committee had recommended that the Council should explore funding 2 additional hours of cleaning a day between the start of the school summer holiday and 30 September 2015 – and that Brenda Mason had responded stating that the cleaning specification was such that it *should not require further monies to achieve the standards* – adding that RDC had *contacted the MD for SHS with your concerns and requested that they ensure all work is to standard*.

Cllr Potter suggested that there was no need to agree a budget at this stage because it appeared that funding was not currently required.

RESOLVED (unanimous) To note the content of the email from Brenda Mason and to monitor the situation.

45 ROTHER TIDAL WALLS

Members considered an invitation from the EA to appoint a representative to its Rother Tidal Walls East Local Engagement Group (*next meeting: September 2015*).

The Clerk advised that he had asked Cllr Rivett to represent RTC until an appointment had been formalised.

Cllr Boyd proposed, and Cllr Stuart seconded, Cllr Rivett. There being no other nominations, Cllr Rivett was declared appointed.

46 A268 RESURFACING

Members considered the response of Rupert Clubb (Director of Communities, Economy and Transport) to the Council's concerns.

The Clerk reported that Cllr Glazier did not have an update on the £700,000 scheme but was grateful to Cllr Hughes and others for providing local knowledge to help minimise the impact on the travelling public, businesses and community facilities.

Cllr Hughes advised that, in her capacity as Co-ordinator of RDCT she intended to evaluate the scheme once it had concluded (probably be the weekend). She considered it had been a textbook example of how not to manage a major highways scheme.

RESOLVED (unanimous) To ask ESCC to engage with RTC in respect of major highways schemes affecting Rye at a much earlier state in future.
Clerk

47 GRANTS

The meeting considered an application from the Rye Maritime Festival for a grant of £500 towards 'public liability insurance, first aid cover, other expenses and entertainment'. The Clerk advised that the total grant funding available was £7,600.

Cllr Rivett stated that, over the last 8-9 years, the Rye Maritime Festival had established itself as a key community/visitor event for one weekend every year. Its running costs increased year-on-year and he suggested that it was deserving of Town Council support.

RESOLVED To award the full grant requested. Clerk

48 RYE TOWN STEWARD

The Council was asked to ratify the PRGP Committee's Recommendation that the post holder's weekly hours be increased from 20 to 30 for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 September 2015.

Cllr Rogers observed that the post had generated considerable positive feedback – probably because it was associated with tangible improvements to the appearance of the Parish.

RESOLVED (unanimous) To accept the PRGP Committee's Recommendation. Clerk

The Clerk advised that the item following had been included on the agenda in error – there is no provision for urgent items under RTC's new Standing Orders.

49 URGENT ITEMS

Proposed development at the former TG School Cllr Harkness suggested that the drop-in 'consultation' taking place at the TG Community Centre on 6 July, 3-6pm was inadequate – it was the first such event since AmicusHorizon had addressed the Public Services Committee on 27 April and would not be convenient for those at work or otherwise occupied.

The Clerk advised that Cllr Glazier would be present on 6 July and Cllr Glazier considered the session to part of the 'pre-consultation' process.

RESOLVED To ask AmicusHorizon/Rye Partnership to arrange additional sessions – for a longer duration. Clerk

50 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED (unanimous) Not to exclude the public and press from item 51 but to refrain from discussing the current post holder's terms and conditions of employment.

51 RYE TOWN CRIER

The Clerk advised that the post holder attends the majority of weddings/ceremonies held at the Town Hall and it can create difficulties if he is not available. Furthermore, there was a likelihood that, in the not-too-distant future, the post holder would decide that it was time to step down from the role.

He suggested that it would be desirable to attempt to recruit a Relief Town Crier who could be trained by the current post holder with a view to ensuring a smooth succession. The terms and conditions associated with the new post would be considered by the HR WG. He estimated the set-up costs to be c£2,500.

**RESOLVED (unanimous) To establish the post of Relief Rye Town Crier
and to allocate £2,500 towards the set-up cost. Clerk**

The meeting ended at 6.59.

Date Chairman

38 Adjournment**a) Report of the County Councillor**

Cllr Glazier (Rye Partnership Chairman) had advised the Clerk that the Partnership Board had recently participated in an 'away day' and the main outcome had been a decision to commission a strategic review – which would result in a business plan. The thinking is that the Partnership should refocus on delivering its 'core offer' (ie regeneration). Cllr Glazier hoped that RTC would engage with the Partnership's consultants and had indicated that, if considered desirable, the Partnership could consider forms of ongoing engagement with RTC other than it sending reps to Partnership Board meetings.

b) Report of the Rye District Councillors

There was none.

c) Public Question Time

Colonel Kimber made the contributions following:

Rother Tidal Walls East Local Engagement Group It would be helpful (but not essential) if RTC's representative was involved also with REACT.

Proposed Tilling Green School development AmicusHorizon and Rye Partnership had arranged a drop-in session to present the (pre-planning application) plans for the site on 6 July, 3-6pm at TG Community Centre.