

**Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Town Council held at the Town Hall, Rye,
on Monday 9 May 2016**

PRESENT Councillors Mike Boyd (**Deputy Mayor**), Jonathan Breeds (**Mayor**), Cheryl Creaser, Justin Erswell, Bernardine Fiddimore, Rebekah Gilbert, Pat Hughes, Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter, Ray Prewer, Andi Rivett, Shaun Rogers

IN ATTENDANCE Richard Farhall - Town Clerk; Councillor Keith Glazier – Rye Partnership Chairman; Rother District Councillors Lord Ampthill and Gennette Stevens; Colonel Anthony Kimber – RNPSG Vice-Chairman; 2 members of the public.

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

15 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence – and the reasons (as notified to the Clerk) - were accepted from Cllrs John Breeds, Charlie Harkness and Andy Stuart.

16 CODE OF CONDUCT

There were no disclosures of interest nor dispensation requests.

The Deputy Mayor adjourned the meeting for presentations by the Rye Partnership and MLAG (see Appendix A).

7.03 The meeting reconvened.

17 COUNCIL MINUTES

RESOLVED To adopt, as an accurate record, the Minutes of the meetings held on 11 April 2016 (C14), 18 April 2016 (C15) and 2 May 2016 (C2 – Mayor Making).

18 COMMITTEE MINUTES

(a) **Planning & Townscape**

RESOLVED To adopt the Minutes of the meeting of the Planning & Townscape Committee held on 18 April 2016 (PT18).

19 RECORD OF ATTENDANCES

RESOLVED To receive and note the Record of Attendances for 2015-16 (as at 18.4.16) (Appendix B).

20 MEETINGS START TIME

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

7.03 Cllr Potter and the Mayor arrived.

21 COMMITTEE FORMATION

a) **Number and title of Committees and number of Members appointed to each Committee**

It was agreed generally that the Public Services Committee was no longer fulfilling its original purpose – and was now simply a means by which a small(er) number of organisations could disseminate updates to other organisations and Town Councillors. Instead, organisations could submit written updates for distribution to Members – and ask for specific issues to be placed on an appropriate agenda.

RESOLVED 1 To disband the Public Services Committee and advise its members of the new arrangement. Clerk

Members considered whether to reconstitute the Economic Development WG as a committee. Cllr Gilbert and Erswell suggested that, given the difficulties relaunching the Chamber of Commerce, business owners might be more willing to engage with RTC via a relevant committee.

The general view was that the WG was not quite ready to become a formal committee – its role and remit needed to be 'firmed up'.

RESOLVED 2 To continue with the PRGP and P&T Committees – and to reconsider formalising the status of the Economic Development WG in 6 months' time.

b) Members appointed to Committees

RESOLVED Appointment of Members to Committees as specified in Appendix C.

The meeting adjourned and each Committee convened and appointed Chairmen.

(i) PRGP Committee

Chairman

Cllr Fiddimore proposed – and Cllr Rivett seconded – Cllr Gilbert.

There being no other nominations the Deputy Mayor declared Cllr Gilbert elected.

Vice Chairman

It was agreed to consider this appointment at the Committee's next meeting. **Clerk**

(ii) Planning & Townscape

Chairman

Cllr Erswell proposed – and Cllr Jonathan Breeds seconded – Cllr Creaser.

There being no other nominations the Mayor declared Cllr Creaser elected.

Vice Chair

It was agreed to consider this appointment at the Committee's next meeting. **Clerk**

22 TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2015-16

RESOLVED To approve the Draft Timetable of Meetings (Appendix D).

23 COUNCIL REPRESENTATION TO ORGANISATIONS

RESOLVED The appointment of representatives as recorded at Appendix E.

24 FIXED TERM/DETERMINED REPRESENTATION

RESOLVED To note the representatives as recorded at Appendix E.

25 WORKING GROUPS

RESOLVED The appointment of Members as recorded at Appendix F.

26 BANKING

**(a) Julian Hodge Bank
RESOLVED:**

- A** That accounts be continued with Julian Hodge Bank Limited at 29 Windsor Place, Cardiff CF10 3BZ.
- B** That the Bank be instructed to honour and debit to the accounts of Rye Town Council whether in credit or overdrawn or becoming overdrawn in consequence of any such debit all cheques drafts or other orders or receipts for money signed on behalf of Rye Town Council provided that they are signed by any two of Justin Robert Scott Erswell, Bernardine Lee Fiddimore, Rebekah Melanie Jane Gilbert, Josephine Clare Kirkham.
- C** That being no longer Members of Rye Town Council Granville Hamilton Bantick and Mary Jean Smith be removed as account signatories.
- D** That the Bank be furnished with a list of the names of the Members of Rye Town Council and the Town Clerk and that the Bank be authorised to act on any information given by the Town Clerk as to any changes therein.
- E** That these resolutions be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until an amending resolution shall be passed by Rye Town Council and a copy therefore certified by the Chairman and Town Clerk shall have been received by the Bank.

(b) Unity Trust Bank

Members noted that: (i) the UTB is ending free banking for local councils on 3 June 2016 and introducing a monthly charge of £6 plus 15p per transaction; (ii) if this had been applied over the last 12 months, RTC would have been charged £137; (iii) the UTB is held in high regard by local council clerks for its customer service and because it is able to offer triple authority to support electronic payments; (iv) most banks have ended (or are likely to end in the near future) free banking for local councils.

RESOLVED To continue to bank with the UTB from 3 June 2016.

27 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 item following on the grounds that it is likely to entail consideration of negotiation parameters in relation to a possible purchase of property.

28 LAND ADJACENT TO 7 WISH WARD

Members noted that Rother District Council had withdrawn this parcel of land from public auction and had indicated that it would consider offers from the Town Council and the owners of neighbouring properties.

Following careful consideration, Members were asked to consider a proposal giving the Clerk the authority to negotiate the acquisition of the land adjacent to 7 Wish Ward, within certain parameters *[to be published at the earliest opportunity]*.

A named vote was called.

For the proposal Boyd, Jonathan Breeds, Creaser, Fiddimore, Gilbert, Hughes, Prewer, Rivett

Against the proposal Erswell, Kirkham, Potter, Rogers

Abstentions: none

The meeting ended at 8.20pm

Date Chairman

ADJOURNED SECTION**Rye Partnership**

The Partnership Chairman, Cllr Keith Glazier gave the update following:

We undertook employability projects 2013 to 2015 where 370 people were seen (clients were on various benefits).

193 gained employment (exceeded target by 39%) into employment and 293 engaged in level 1 or 2 training – again exceeding the target of 80 by three times.

Ran 2 recruitment fairs and business breakfast.

Arranged work experience.

These projects were so successful that local unemployment dropped by 4.3% at the start of project - ending at 1.6% (where it still is today).

All of the recommendations in the National Audit report of 2009 have been addressed.

In response to the then economic climate the Rye Partnership Directors have undertaken a strategic review of the Partnership's objectives and developed the following aims and objectives:

- Create an environment where job opportunities, training and the raising of aspirations can flourish throughout the community of Rye in order to increase economic growth.*
- Seek inward investment opportunities for Rye and the surrounding area in partnership with other like-minded organisations to assist in further stimulation of the local economy.*
- Take a proactive approach to supporting and advocating initiatives that benefit the environment, protect wildlife and help to reduce the community's carbon footprint.*
- Realise the full potential of our property portfolio in order that the Partnership can be fully self-sustaining and provide a service to benefit all sectors of the community.*
- Continue working with our Partners on projects such as the new community centre in Tilling Green.*

CURRENT ACTIVITY

Rye Harbour We continue to provide the premises for the Shop in Rye Harbour. This enables a local business to provide much needed goods for the residents and visitors to Rye Harbour.

We also provide two flats for families who are nominated by Rother District Council.

Rye Peninsula We provide facilities and support to allow approx 30 boats to be moored - including maintaining the general area. Most of these are pleasure boats, with a couple used for private fishing

We have 3 fish related units providing retail and processing facilities, leased to Market Fisheries and Chapmans of Rye. These allow for the employment of approx 8 people

involved in fish related trade - with more planned.

Tilling Green We continue to support the running of the Community Centre - including bookings, cleaning, maintenance etc. This has and continues to be a difficult task because of the uncertainty around the proposed replacement build.

This has recently taken a less positive but more certain turn in that it is now clear that any closure will probably be a year away. This at least gives some certainty to centre users when trying to plan bookings.

There is continued support to RVA and local residents in taking the newly formed CIC to its next level and further meetings will take place.

We are disappointed that Amicus have not been able to overcome the flooding and other issues that needed to be resolved to see a positive response to the planning application and understand why they have taken the action they have, We now wait for Amicus to identify the way forward and what role we will play.

On behalf of the RNPSG, Colonel Kimber asked for the Partnership keep it updated regarding the Peninsula feasibility study. Cllr Glazier said that it would.

Cllr Gilbert recognised that the Partnership had delivered important projects (such as the employability scheme); however, in recent years – possibly because of having fewer staff – the Partnership's role seemed to have developed into acting largely as a landlord. What else was the Partnership planning to take forward? Cllr Glazier advised that, over the next 3 years, the Partnership would be focused on maximizing its assets at/on the Peninsula – some of the property was clearly underused. The Partnership would continue to support the redevelopment of the former TG school site.

The Tilling Green Community Centre CIC representatives present advised that if the Partnership decided to cease managing the current Centre within the next year or so, it would not be in a position to step in because it was constituted to run the replacement Centre only. It also had no desire to take on responsibility for the current Centre's high heating bill. Cllr Glazier advised that although he had estimated that it could take AmicusHorizon a year to work up an acceptable scheme and achieve planning consent, equally, it was conceivable that this stage could be reached within months. The Partnership had no intention of walking away from the current building.

Responding to a question put by Colonel Kimber, Cllr Glazier confirmed that Amicus would consult with users and the public before submitting its revised planning application (if it differed significantly from the previous proposal).

Rail

The Chairman of the Marsh Link Action Group, Stuart Harland reported that:

- The proposal to electrify the line between Hastings and Ashford in order to provide a faster Javelin service linking St Pancras and Ashford appeared to have been progressing well until March. Comments made by Network Rail representatives at Amber Rudd's March Rail Summit, a MLAG meeting at Rye Town Hall and a meeting of the East Sussex Rail User Group gave attendees the impression that, when Network Rail publishes its next electrification report it will be found that the timetabling of the scheme will have slipped because of delays elsewhere in the country.
- Encouragingly, hybrid trains are being developed that use diesel engines to generate electricity – which obviate the need for line electrification.
- Realistically, a faster service is unlikely to be introduced before 2020.
- There needs to be a passing loop west of Rye and track needs to be reconfigured at Ashford.

- Hopefully, within the next 3 months, Network Rail will indicate that it is willing to finance a faster service.
- MLAG is continuing to pursue short- and medium-term objectives – including: improved connectivity and timetabling; additional carriages; increasing line speed; reducing waiting time at the Rye level crossings; all stations on the MLAG line being part of the stopping sequence; improved car parking for Rye Railway Station.

Camber Fields

Cllr Ampthill reported that this property had just been sold at auction for £154,000. The identity of the purchaser was unknown. S/He would have been aware of all the constraints associated with the land – including its former use as a refuse site, a ROW and a secure agricultural tenancy.

Cllr Ampthill acknowledged that there had been lapses in the flow of information from RDC to interested parties after the disposal had been agreed last summer. This would be reviewed.

He hoped that the proceeds from the sale could be spent in Rye.

APPENDIX B**RYE TOWN COUNCIL****RECORD OF ATTENDANCES 2015-16***(to 18 April 2016)*

Name	Policy 5	Planning 18	Public 3	Council 15
Boyd	5	15	N/A	14
Breeds, John	1	14	N/A	11
Breeds, Jonathan	4	12	N/A	13
Creaser	5	18	3	15
Erswell	4/4	N/A	N/A	10/10
Fiddimore	5	15	3	15
Gilbert	5	N/A	3	13
Harkness	N/A	13	2	14
Hughes	N/A	18	3	15
Kirkham	4	N/A	N/A	9
Potter	N/A	N/A	N/A	8
Prewer	5	N/A	1	10
Rivett	5	N/A	2	12
Rogers	5	11	N/A	10
Stuart	5	18	N/A	15

APPENDIX C

Rye Town Council Committee Membership 2016-17

Policy (9)	Planning (10)
Gilbert (Ch)	Creaser (Ch)
<i>TBD(VC)</i>	<i>TBD(VC)</i>
Boyd	Boyd
Breeds, John	Breeds, John
Breeds, Jonathan	Breeds, Jonathan
Creaser	Erswell
Fiddimore	Fiddimore
Kirkham	Harkness
Prewer	Hughes
Rivett	Rogers
	Stuart

RYE TOWN COUNCIL
Draft Timetable of Meetings 2016-17

APPENDIX D

Meetings are held normally on Monday at 6.30pm

Month	Council	Policy	Planning & Townscape	Public Services
May	2MM(11am) 9CF 21SH	31 (Tues)	3 (Tues) 16 31 (Tues)	
June	27 AR		13 27	
July		11	11 25	18
August	No meetings	No meetings	No meetings	No meetings
September	5	19	5 19	
October	31		3 17 31	10
November		21	14 28	
December	5 NOM A		12	
January		16 BUD	2 16 30	9
February	13 PRE		13 27	
March	1 ATM (Wed)	27	13 27	
April	10 NOM B		10 24	3
May	1MM(11am) 8CF 21SH	22	8 22	

MM Mayor Making
ATM Annual Town Meeting
E Parish/Town Elections
TBD To be determined
NOM A Nominations for Mayor Elect (not in an Election year)
NOM B Nominations for Deputy Mayor Elect (not in an Election year)

CF Committee Formation
BUD Budget Meeting
PRE Agreeing precept
AR Annual Return approval
SH Speakership Handover

RYE TOWN COUNCIL

APPENDIX E

**OTHER ORGANISATIONS/COMMITTEES:
COUNCIL REPRESENTATION 2016-17**

Organisation/Committee	Representative
Chamber of Commerce	Rebekah Gilbert
Community Centre Association	Mike Boyd
East Sussex Association of Local Councils AGM (2 places – Councillors only)	<i>Appointment made as and when necessary</i>
East Sussex Community Rail Partnership	Andy Stuart
Fair Trade Steering Group	Jonathan Breeds
Highways Forum (3 seats)	Mike Boyd, Bernardine Fiddimore, Pat Hughes
Marsh Link Action Group	Ray Prewer
Police Priority Setting Panel	Mike Boyd, Cheryl Creaser, Pat Hughes
Rother Assoc of Local Councils (2 seats)	Clerk, Pat Hughes
Rother DC Liaison Group	Mike Boyd, John Breeds, Bernardine Fiddimore, Jo Kirkham, Ray Prewer; Clerk
Rother Transport Action Group	<i>vacant</i>
Rye Emergency Action Community Team	Rogers
Rye & District Day Centre	<i>[Cllr Hughes checking if required]</i>
Rye Harbour Nature Reserve Management Committee	Andi Rivett
Rye HotCats	Charlie Harkness [sub: Justin Erswell]
Rye Network	(Jo Kirkham)
Rye Partnership Members' Meetings	John Breeds, Rebekah Gilbert, Shaun Rogers
Sports Centre Advisory Committee	John Breeds
Tree Warden	John Breeds [sub: Andi Rivett]

FIXED TERM/DETERMINED REPRESENTATION

Organisation/Committee	Representative/s
Cinque Ports Confederation Standing Committee	The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Clerk
Harbour of Rye Advisory Committee (HORAC)	Andi Rivett <i>[Nov 2015- Nov 2020]</i>
Rye Art Gallery	Michael Stott*
Rye Grammar School Exhibition Foundation Governors	Jo Kirkham, Ian Potter and the Mayor

Notes () = appointed independently but Councillor/Clerk has offered to report anything of interest to the Council.

* Non-Councillor appointed by Council

APPENDIX F

RYE TOWN COUNCIL

WORKING GROUPS 2016-17

Title	Remit	Membership
Economic Development	Determine the most effective way/s in which the Council may contribute towards	Erswell, Fiddimore, Gilbert, Prewer, Rivett; Clerk
Human Resources	Consideration of personnel matters	Mike Boyd, John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds (Mayor), Bernardine Fiddimore, Rebekah Gilbert, Shaun Rogers; Clerk
Local Affordable Accommodation	To progress the provision of affordable rented accommodation specifically for the benefit of Rye families	Mike Boyd, John Breeds, Jonathan Breeds, Cheryl Creaser, Bernardine Fiddimore, Shaun Rogers
Public Conveniences & Bus Shelters	To explore taking on responsibility for the town's public conveniences and replacing the shelters in Crownfields with those that are more 'fit for purpose'	Mike Boyd, Bernardine Fiddimore, Pat Hughes, Shaun Rogers, Andy Stuart
Rye Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group	To develop a Neighbourhood Plan for Rye through to adoption (via referendum)	Cheryl Creaser, Jonathan Breeds (Mayor – WG Chairman), Bernardine Fiddimore, Pat Hughes, Ray Prewer, Shaun Rogers, Andy Stuart <i>Community members: Heidi Foster, Mike Eve, Anthony Kimber (Vice Chairman), Dan Lake, Richard Orchard, Frank Palmer, Burton Rosner</i> Clerk (advisor)