

GRAHAM HURLEY

APPLICATION FOR VACANCY – RYE TOWN COUNCIL

I am Graham Hurley, born 21st May 1951 in Hove. I have been living in Rye with my wife Ruth since February 2018 and am on the register of electors.

My connections to this town go back (at least those I can still remember) to the mid 1950's when our family used to camp at Barons Grange, with the blessing of old Mr Ramus, during the Whitsun holiday and at the end of the 6 weeks summer break my schoolmaster father and we all enjoyed.

Thenceforward I have always loved this town and its surrounding landscape from seeing a circus elephant processing through the High Street to my first sight of the great pendulum of the church clock over 65 years ago.

From our marriage in 1977, Ruth and I visited Rye, camping or cottaging, many times and eventually came to live here. This is a place and landscape we love.

My own career began with academic ambitions but was diverted to music when I discovered a voice and eventually entered the Royal College of Music to study singing and opera. (If I sang to you now, you might wonder why.) I continue to have a love of opera, ballet and all performing arts.

I made the difficult decision to leave this career path and worked then for several years in spares and service management in

engineering, later had a rather disastrous time owning a small shop, and eventually followed my love of horticulture, took qualifications and subsequently designed, installed and managed some substantial gardens in the context of large estates for the following 20 years. In my fifties I was involved for 5 years in academic research and writing for a company specialising in control of alien invasive weed species, but after this put on my boots once more and worked freelance developing and installing gardens until the end of 2017.

Most of my working life was spent in north Essex and Suffolk but returning to this corner of east Sussex was always present as a possibility for us at some time and that time came.

I believe in public service. Wherever any of us live in Rye we are in “a goodly heritage” and must respond to that with gratitude and service. Before moving to Rye, I had been a member of different Parochial Church Councils for most of the last 30 years, so understand well the need to achieve consensus and positive policy direction.

I have served as Churchwarden in a north Essex church and here in Rye since 2019, having previously deputised during part of 2018.

The role of Churchwarden covers a substantial area, from management of staff, organising building maintenance, finance etc, plus participation fully in worship and the overall missional direction of the church in collaboration with the Rector and PCC. During my term, and latterly with my extraordinary colleague, Shelley Jebb, it fell to me to manage the church during the privations of Covid and keep the show on the road between the retirement of Canon Frost and the appointment of Rev'd Paul White, including writing the monthly article for Fixtures. The post of Churchwarden is an ancient

public office, dating from the 14th century. The Role also requires kindness, diplomacy and validation of the efforts of others.

My wife is also committed to this town, including as church member, bellringer and leader of the St Mary's Flower Guild. Having produced floral displays in the course of my work, I can now assist Ruth as perhaps the only bearded "flower lady" in the country.

We are also enthusiastic allotment holders at the South Undercliff site, where behind the houses, the A259 can be hardly heard over birdsong in a space so magical.

I earnestly hope you will approve my application.

I wish Rye to be an even more joyous and vibrant experience for our invaluable visitors and a community which serves every location and family within its bounds.

I can offer volunteer experience, sound and thorough knowledge of managing the green environment and a wish to be put to work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Graham Hurley

SOPHIE JUDGE

17th May 2023

My name is Sophie Judge and I am 34 years old.

I am a mum to four children and have lived in Rye all my life, along with my parents and grandparents alike.

Since first becoming a mother in 2008 I have struggled to sit still. Having trained as a nursery nurse at college I worked in a nursery, making my way up to management before heading back to Rye to work as a local nanny. I have spent my time running baby groups, holiday clubs and managing activity days when my children were small which led to joining the Ferry Road Nursery committee, playing an active role in Messy Church and chairing the PTA at Rye Community Primary School.

When my youngest started school I began working for a local company, pursuing a passion of mine coordinating weddings, parties and events and from this I also became involved in the birth of Rye Christmas Festival Ltd and joined the committee bringing the Maritime Festival back to the town. Unfortunately lock-down saw the demise of this business and I took an admin role supporting a friend who recently launched an online toy selling business. This has grown from success to success for her, but with that came more hours required and unfortunately life had a different path planned for me.

April last year saw my home-life drastically change when my eldest daughter developed Tourettes Syndrome and since then we have been adapting and learning to manage this neurological condition as a family.

This has meant I need to be more flexible and available for my daughter and I am not someone to partially commit to anything so I stepped away from the position to allow someone to give it the time and dedication it required. During all of this I have continued sitting on various committee's in the town and in February this year I became the proud director of both of the non-for-profit festivals, Christmas and Maritime, and now sit on the committee of The Friends of Rye, Winchelsea and District Memorial Hospital; a venue close to my heart.

Managing the festivals, attending committee meetings and helping my partner to manage an Under 10's football team my son plays in are all ways in which I feel I can make a difference to our town, the local community and most importantly my family.

Rye is a lovely place to raise a family and I am proud to raise mine here, as are the generations of my family which have come before me. I reside in a housing association property and my partner works hard to afford and maintain this for us. I feel I have good local connections and understanding of our town and this is important in a community like ours.

I feel joining the council would allow me to be a part of positive changes in our ever adapting world. I would bring an element of diversity and youth in the hopes of inspiring others to do the same. I am not afraid to get stuck in and always welcome a challenge. I listen well, empathise when required and care about our town and the community it encompasses.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely

Sophie Judge

Name: Dominic Manning

Home address: [REDACTED]

Business address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Contact details: [REDACTED]

Rye Town Council application form

- Why do I want to join?

I am passionate about Rye and surrounding area. I consider myself very lucky to live and work where I do. I care deeply about communities and the environment. By becoming a Town Councillor, I will have the opportunity humbly to serve the residents of Rye and have regard for the wellbeing of future generations.

I am strongly supportive of the Council's plan to re-open the swimming pool, and wish to assist as best I can to achieve this.

I am also interested in building on the Rye Neighbourhood Plan, to assist in developing a Town Council Action Plan, based on sustainable principles.

- What experience do I have?

I have never been a councillor, although I stood for election as a county councillor in 2021 and as a district councillor for Eastern Rother on 4th May this year.

I have extensive experience as a community volunteer and activist.

This includes amongst other things:

- Core member of Rye Mutual Aid in 2020, in charge of communications and supplies.
- Founder member of Rye Food and Wildlife Community Garden in 2014.
- Chair of Rother Environmental Group (REG), which has been predominantly Rye based, from 2008-2022.
- Trustee of Strandliners since 2019.
- Assisted with development of Rye Neighbourhood Plan, by preparing maps and graphics.
- Regular volunteer at Rye Swap Shop since its inception.
- Previous member of Rye Partnership representing REG.
- Joint initiator of Rye Chamber of Commerce Cardboard recycling scheme in 2006.
- Involvement in various campaigns to resist (in my opinion!) inappropriate development in Rye, notably CROSS (Campaign of Residents Opposing Second Supermarket) in 2007, but also Rye marina, and more recently, fuel station at the top of Udimore Road.

- Advocate for Rye Greenway, which is a cycle route between Valley Park and the Schools in Rye, to include a bridge across River Tillingham. Prepared feasibility study in 2017. The scheme is supported by ESCC.
- Previous member of RX Energy in 2014, looking into community energy schemes and solar power to large roofs in Rye, including the swimming pool / sports centre.
- Previous member of Transition Town Rye, aiming to make Rye more resilient in the face of external pressures (such as pandemic, floods, climate change, rises in energy and food costs).
- Volunteer on Rye snow clearing team, for several years.
- Previous member of CDR (Campaign for Democratic Rye). I am a keen advocate for a fairer and stronger democracy.
- Member of Iden Footpath Team, repairing and replacing broken stiles and finger posts. Access to the countryside and active travel are issues I care about.
- Chair of Rother Green Party. I am politically engaged, for the greater good, as I see it.
 - What skills do I have?
- I am an architect by profession, with a good understanding of planning policy, housing issues and spatial development.
- I am passionate about our environment, with a good understanding of sustainability issues
- I have good language skills, fluent at French, German and Luxembourgish.
- I have been running my own business since 2007 and have a reasonably good understanding of finances, legislation, contracts and processes.
- As a community volunteer, I have proven ability to work collaboratively with others.

22.5.2023

RAY PALMER

Tel: [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

25th May 2023

Dear Richard,

Re : Town Councillor Vacancy

In response to the above advertised vacancy, I wish to register my application for the said vacant position. Having retired in December 2021, I can provide quality time towards council business if successful in my application.

Having resided/worked in Rye for the last 17yrs., I relocated from the North East in 2006 having accepted the role of Site Manager at Tradebe Chemicals, Rye Harbour and have in excess of over 40 years operational experience within a wide spectrum of the chemicals industry, having attained qualifications in both chemistry & chemical engineering.

Whilst in the role of Site Manager, I was actively involved participating at meetings/discussions/strategic planning & communication with the legislative authorities ie. Health & Safety Executive, Environmental Agency as well as attending various functions with the Emergency Services, Rother Council etc. as well as interfacing directly with existing & potentially new customers by providing operational & financial solutions in support of their own business/legislative agenda.

Answering direct to the Tradebe Board of Directors, I was responsible for all site operational performance, budget control, capital investment strategy, profit and loss accountability etc.....

Invariably, I was accustomed towards challenge/accountability at all levels as a result of decision making/problem solving/trouble shooting etc., thereby responding, by providing supporting information (whether documented or verbal) towards satisfying the relevant challenger(s).

Having highlighted my past experience, I believe this will be of significant benefit in support of the role of a Town Councillor as well as contributing/supporting the Rye Council.

With regards to local community involvement, I am a lifetime member of Rye museum & have in the past volunteered as a door attendant at East Street museum.

I am also a relief driver for Day Lewis chemists delivering prescription drugs to the local residents & do receive a small contribution towards the fuel costs of my vehicle.

I am a member of Rye Bonfire Society and an active member of the local drummers group, Ryebellion Drummers (which my wife instigated) whereupon, I attend numerous functions supporting a variety of Rye interests throughout the year, as well as attending various events throughout Sussex & Kent.

One of my main interests is beekeeping. I began beekeeping in 1992 in East Yorkshire and at one point had up to 30 hives. I still continue to keep bees & supply honey to local businesses & offer honey for sale supporting the Friday Country Market at the Community Centre. I continue to promote beekeeping & regularly provide practical support, advice to new/existing beekeepers as well as those who wish to start

beekeeping & in response to increasing interest around the area, I am considering to initiate a Rye Beekeeping group.

Residing on New Road, I have a key interest associated with vehicle speeding, not only on New Road itself but also around Rye. Speeding/unsociable driving is on the increase & requires to be addressed for all Rye residents. Surprisingly, a considerable number of residents around Rye have spoken to me directly over their concerns of speeding. A difficult challenge but there again I savour challenge as such I have been in contact with the National Highways, Maidstone over the last year & are awaiting further response.

Rye is unique, a blend of new & old traditions.

Rye continues to develop & grow. A splendid town to live in, a great community with a lot to offer & I believe that having attended previous council meetings last year, I have the drive, motivation & experience towards supporting the local community & Rye Town Council and this can be achieved by becoming a Town Councillor.

Another of my interests is motorcycle touring & unfortunately, I am unable to be present on the 19th June as I have organised a tour down to Slovenia. I would be available to speak via Zoom or What's App if required.

Kind Regards

Ray Palmer