

Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC)
Minutes of the meeting held on 10 January 2018 at 2.30pm
on the Ground Floor,
The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle TN33 0FL

Present: David Pankhurst (Peasmarsh)(RALC Vice Chairman), Lesley Bannister (Brede), Anna Beams (SSALC), Ann Cook (Ticehurst), Simon Elford (RDC), Richard Farhall (Rye), David Furness (Battle), Graham Furness (Guestling), Tony Ganly (RDC), Carol Harris (RALC Secretary), Malcolm Johnston (RDC), Les Nottage (Brede), John Overall (Catsfield), Hilary Pankhurst (Peasmarsh), David Perrett (Guestling), Mike Rowe (Beckley), Dan Russell (Sussex Police), Jean Scott (Whatlington), Alan Stainsby (Crowhurst), David Stone (Playden), Bob Turgoose (Udimore), Jonathan Vine-Hall (Sedlescombe).

1 Richard Jessop

David Pankhurst reported that Richard Jessop had passed away over the Christmas period after receiving treatment for a heart condition. Richard Jessop became Battle Town Council's representative on RALC in 2009.

Nominated to RALC and SALC Executive Committees in 2010 and added Battle Partnership to his list of meetings to attend in 2011.

Despite not being Vice Chairman, Richard was elected RALC Chairman in July 2012; succeeding Dave Young from Ewhurst. As Chairman he became RALC's representative on the Rother Local Strategic Partnership Board and the RDC Community Grants Panel. He was also nominated to the Rother Local Action Plan Consortium.

In 2013 Richard became RALC representative on the Rother Health Improvement Partnership.

During all his time on RALC Richard was an energetic and enthusiastic member of every meeting he attended; and was never shy to contribute with intelligence and humour. He has actively sought ways of improving communications for all members with diligence and commitment.

2 Self Introductions were made

Members were advised that Joan Downing BEM, at 95yrs old, had retired from the Council after 43 years service.

3 Apologies for absence

John Collins (RDC), Lesley Elmslie (Burwash), Martin Holgate (Catsfield), Margaret Howell (Battle), David Smedley (Icklesham), Peter Turner (Icklesham), Nigel Wooldridge (Camber).

4 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 October 2017 were approved.

5 Matters arising from previous meeting

The Secretary reported that no GDPR Training had been arranged due to the continual changes being communicated over the last few months. Information and details of a training course from RDC had been circulated and is attached to these minutes. There was discussion of possibly swapping the role between Clerks but some felt that the workload is already at peak capacity. Anna Beams (SALC) reported that an external, professional service may be obtained for £150pa for smaller Councils. It was agreed that options need to be considered and training should be arranged for March, once the GDPR changes have been confirmed.

6 Finance

The update as at 31 December 2017 was noted.

7 Sussex Police

Insp Dan Russell confirmed:

- he has many Parish Assemblies in his diary and welcomed any additions;
- Speed Watch is being supported and further information is available, if required;
- Burglaries of outbuildings in rural Rother have increased, although there is an Operation in force and one prolific offender has been arrested. He requested that all suspicious vehicles be reported.

8 Potential changes to parking enforcement

Simon Elford, Chair of Civil Parking Enforcement Task and Finish Group reminded the meeting that one year ago Sussex Police had issued a report of no on-street parking enforcement. ESCC had requested a business case and this is being considered. He reported that Battle, Bexhill and Rye are particularly affected by illegal parking. The Task and Finish Group are suggesting that existing traffic regulation orders are used to speed up the process. SE confirmed that there is one further meeting to agree a proposal to take to the Scrutiny meeting in March. If agreed, this will be presented to ESCC and Parliament taking up to 2 years. In response to questions he confirmed Police will continue to enforce parking on zigzags; the CPE could be a joint scheme with Wealden DC; problems will be reassessed regularly; charges will be low - cost neutral; car park charging review is being considered. Concern was raised at the cost of residents' permits in low cost areas.

9 Reports from County and District Councillors to Town/Parish Councils

Jonathan Vine-Hall suggested that County and District Councillors should be asked for a monthly written summary of core issues for presentation to Parish/Town Council meetings. Malcolm Johnston reported that only a quarterly report is available to Councillors. It was agreed that JVH will work with MJ to agree a reasonable reporting strategy.

10 Report from East Sussex Highways

This is attached to these Minutes.

11 Rother matters

Malcolm Johnston reported:

- that the Sedlescombe Neighbourhood Plan will be considered on 15 March. JVH recorded thanks to RDC for assistance;
- information on the Neighbourhood Plan Referendum is available; attached to these minutes;
- Council had resolved no change to the Bexhill Governance;
- More changes to staff, including the loss of John Collins, Kim Hodgson and Brenda Mason;
- there is a misnomer on "affordable housing" and that this is only less expensive, below market rate and can be joint ownership or rental property.

12 Reports from RALC representatives – none

13 Any Other Business/Future Agenda Items

Andrew Wedmore gave an update on the Broadband issue; confirming that he is working with Ashburnham/Penshurst and plans to meet with Cllrs Field and Barnes to then present the concerns to ESCC's Chief Executive.

The Now Teach event on 20 February on Hastings Pier was highlighted.

It was agreed that the Rother Voluntary Action information should be circulated to all members. The new NFU Mutual grants for Youth Projects can be found at [funding-news](#).

14 Next meeting – Wednesday 11 April 2018

The meeting ended at 3.55pm.

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