

**Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC)**  
**Minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2018, 2.30pm**  
**on the Ground Floor,**  
**The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle TN33 0FL**

**Present:** David Pankhurst (Peasmarsh)(**RALC Chairman**), Lesley Bannister (Brede), Ann Cook (Ticehurst), Jon Copp (ES Highways), Judith Dean (Pett), Michael Edwards (Westfield), Lesley Elmslie (Burwash), Tony Ganly (RDC), Pauline Glew (Sedlescombe), Jacqueline Harding (Northiam), Carol Harris (RALC Secretary), Margaret Howell (Battle), Nick Jones (Fairlight), Malcolm Johnston (RDC), Nicholas Jones (Fairlight), Isabelle Moulard (SSALC), Les Nottage (Brede), John Overall (Catsfield), Hilary Pankhurst (Peasmarsh), Mike Rowe (Beckley), David Smedley (Icklesham), Alan Stainsby (Crowhurst), Dave Townsend (Sussex Police), Peter Turner (Icklesham), Andrew Wedmore (Brightling).

**1 Self-introductions**

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

**2 Apologies**

John Bradford (Camber), Annette Child's (Etchingam), Richard Farhall (Rye), Martin Holgate (Catsfield), Pat Hughes (Rye), David Perrett (Guestling), Nigel Wooldridge (Camber).

**3 Election of Executive Officers and Committee**

Members agreed the following appointments:

**(a) Chairman** Cllr David Pankhurst

**(b) Vice-Chairman** Cllr Peter Turner

**(c) Executive Committee** Cllrs David Pankhurst, Peter Turner and Ann Cook – note that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman are automatically Committee members

**4 Representatives to outside bodies**

**(a) Battle Area Community Transport**

Cllr Alan Stainsby reported that there had been no communication in the year and suggested that no appointment be made. This was agreed.

**(b) Rother Local Strategic Partnership Board** – RALC Chairman – Cllr David Pankhurst. Agreed.

**(c) Rother Standards Committee**

Cllr Alan Stainsby suggested that this is not a valuable Committee but that he would be willing to continue to represent RALC. Agreed.

**(d) ESALC Ltd** – Cllrs Ann Cook, David Pankhurst, Hilary Pankhurst. Agreed

**(e) SSALC Ltd** – Isabelle Moulard reported that this position is appointed at ESALC.

**(f) WARR Partnership** – The Secretary was asked confirm if Cllr Jonathan Vine-Hall was willing to continue as representative.

**(g) Rother Health Improvement Partnership** – The Secretary was asked to research this group and report to the next meeting for appointment.

#### **5 Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting held on 11 April 2018**

Subject to the amendment at item 8, penultimate sentence from PCSOs to PSPOs, the minutes were approved.

**6 Matters arising from meeting held on 12 April 2018** – None not included on the agenda.

#### **7 Finance**

- The final position at 31 March 2018 was noted.
- Members agreed to repeat same budget detail for 2018-19.

#### **8 Sussex Police**

Sgt Dave Townsend(DT) welcomed comments and questions. He confirmed that officers are carrying out parking enforcement until CPE is introduced. The loss of area allocated PCSOs was discussed and it was confirmed that most parishes have good communication with a police representative. DT emphasised the Threat Harm Risk policy that prioritises Officer time.

The Chairman thanked DT for his attendance.

#### **9 Highways matters (ESCC)**

Jon Copp(JC) was welcomed to the meeting. JC confirmed that he is the Highway supervisor responsible for 12 area Stewards. He reported that it is now the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the ESCC contract with Costain Jacobs (previously CH2M) which covers grass cutting, road gritting and repairs of potholes. JC highlighted the updated website which is easier to use and enables information to reach Stewards more efficiently. He advised that Stewards carry out regular inspections, respond to enquiries and attend Strengthening Local Relationship(SLR) meetings. Any parishes not involved in these meetings are welcome to request one to be arranged. JC confirmed that the grass cutting teams have information on wildflower verges to ensure cutting is carried out appropriately but there is no legal protection against residents mowing the areas. He emphasised that work is not signed off unless satisfactory: contractors rectify at their own expense. JC agreed to look into issues raised.

#### **10 Rother matters**

Malcolm Johnston confirmed that:

- the Standards Committee is being reviewed;
- the Housing Task and Finish group is almost complete, although homelessness is a difficult issue to resolve;
- scams continue to be a problem;
- Council Tax Reduction Scheme is being reviewed;
- Salehurst & Robertsbridge Neighbourhood Plan has been agreed;
- An event to highlight what a District Councillor does will be held in November. He suggested that it may be possible to arrange for one to be arranged for Parish/Town Councillors, possibly through SSALC. This will be discussed further at the next meeting.

#### **11 On-line Mapping**

The Secretary reported that emails had been received quoting renewal figures for 2018-19 for individual Councils and as a group. The former ranged between £30 and £300; the latter £1140, representing a large saving. The Secretary was asked to circulate the individual charges to Clerks and request indication of use. She was also asked to confirm that a training session would be available for the renewal period.

## **12 Broadband**

Andrew Wedmore(AW) reported that the East Sussex broadband team failed to attend the recent ESALC Board meeting.

ESCC are expected to achieve 99% coverage of a 24Mbps service by the end of 2019. However, it should be noted that the budget was originally allocated, in 2011, on the basis that it would "enable the County Council to deliver its vision for the competitive provision of superfast broadband offering typical speeds of 100Mbps to everyone (100% of homes and small businesses) in East Sussex by 2017"

In Andrew's opinion the 24Mbps target is now well out-of-date. It is adequate for many residential customers for the time being, but not for high-tech businesses and is not "future-proof" for anyone. Other counties are forging ahead with full-fibre broadband providing up to 1000Mbps. It is planned that the ESALC panel will meet in September.

Isabelle Mouland(SALC) confirmed that a RALC member is required for the ESALC panel to take forward the broadband issue. Andrew Wedmore was appointed to this role.

## **13 Sussex Community Development Association – Benefits and Debt Advice Project**

Postponed until the next meeting.

## **14 Reports from RALC representatives – to note the content of any reports distributed prior to the meeting or to consider any matters requiring a decision**

None.

## **15 Any Other Business**

Members agreed that Gina Sanderson from Rother Voluntary Action should be invited to the next meeting to present on the Rother Community Grants Scheme.

## **16 Future meetings were agreed as: Wednesday 10 October 2018; Wednesday 9 January 2019; Wednesday 10 April 2019; Wednesday 10 July 2019**

*The meeting ended at 4.10 pm*

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