

Rother Association of Local Councils (RALC)
Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2017, 2.30pm
on the Ground Floor,
The Emmanuel Centre, Harrier Lane, Battle TN33 0FL

Present: Lesley Bannister (Brede), Ann Cook (Ticehurst), David Perrett (Guestling), Jonathan Vine-Hall (Sedlescombe), Margaret Howell (Battle), **Richard Jessop** (Battle) (**RALC Chairman**), Les Nottage (Brede), John Overall (Catsfield), David Pankhurst (Peasmarsh), Hilary Pankhurst (Peasmarsh), Dan Russell (Sussex Police), Jean Scott (Whatlington), Alan Stainsby (Crowhurst), Lesley Elmslie (Burwash), Nigel Wooldridge (Camber). Caroline Collins (Brede), Keith Robertson (Crowhurst), Bob Turgoose (Udimore), John Collins (RDC), Simon Coomber (Highways)

1 Self-introductions

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Annette Child's (Etchingam), Jon Copp (ESCC), Michael Edwards (Westfield), Tony Ganly (RDC), Michael Edwards (Westfield), Pauline Glew (Sedlescombe), Derek Greenup (Fairlight), Jacqueline Harding (Northiam), Carol Harris (secretary), Martin Holgate (Catsfield), Graham Peters (Bodiam), Karen Ripley (Saleshurst & Robertsbridge), David Stone (Playden)

3/4 Election of Executive Officers and Committee; Representatives to outside bodies

Cllr Richard Jessop was re-elected as Chairman and all other posts were confirmed as before with the addition of Cllr Jonathan Vine-Hall being elected to be the WARR Partnership representative in place of Cllr Graham Peters as he was able to be elected to represent another body. Detailed below:

(a) Chairman Cllr Richard Jessop

(b) Vice-Chairman Cllr David Pankhurst

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

(i) Battle Area Community Transport Cllr Alan Stainsby

(ii) Battle Partnership – Cllr Richard Jessop

(iii) Rother Local Strategic Partnership Board – RALC Chairman

(iv) Rother Standards Committee – Cllrs Wendy Miers & Alan Stainsby

(v) ESALC Ltd – Cllrs Ann Cook, Richard Jessop, Hilary Pankhurst

(vi) SSALC Ltd – Cllrs Ann Cook, Richard Jessop

(vii) WARR Partnership – Cllr Jonathan Vine-Hall

(viii) Rother Health Improvement Partnership – Cllr Richard Jessop

5 Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting held on 12 April 2017

The minutes were approved.

6 Matters arising from meeting held on 12 April 2017

None

7 A presentation was given on digital mapping by Carl Greenwood of Geosphere.

This presentation outlined the features and benefits to parishes of a system of amendable maps based upon Ordnance Survey data and which can easily be updated in layers to show items of interest to local parishes. It was noted that Tree Preservation Orders, park benches, developments sites, etc., can all be added. The benefits of a Group License for all RALC member parishes could be available at about half the cost of individual subscription rates with a pro rata refund for those parishes already using the system.

It was proposed that RALC funds be used to pay the first year cost of a Group License as such funds are readily available. The cost is about £950. The meeting agreed to this proposal. Our Secretary is to finalise all details with Geosphere.

8 Finance

The update as at 31 June 2017 was noted. It was agreed to maintain the subscription rates at the same level as this year for the next period and to keep to the same budgeting.

9 Sussex Police

Insp Dan Russell (DR) reported that there has been an increase in crime in Burwash and efforts will be made to resolve this. He said that, in working with RDC, it has been necessary to increase the number of officers in Camber at present. The Chairman reported that the Chief Constable had confirmed any illegally parked travellers will be dealt with quickly and monitored by Police. It had been suggested that if there are no sites available in the area travellers can be moved to another county. DR advised the sad news that PC Ryan passed away after 28½yrs service. Cllr Stainsby highlighted the lack of information being advised now that PCSOs are not allocated to individual areas. DR confirmed that a weekly online messaging is circulated and that the Neighbourhood Watch groups are informed. DR agreed to consider whether the latter information could also be passed to Councils.

The Chairman thanked Insp Russell for his report.

10 Highways matters (ESCC)

In the absence of Jon Cobb, Simon Coomber, a project manager with the contractor, took questions and said that he would report back directly to our secretary for her to forward to the parish which asked them.

10 Rother matters

John Collins was in attendance for RDC. He confirmed that Stage 1 of the Bexhill Governance review has been completed and Stage 2 is now underway. The difficulty (near impossibility) of reading instructions on the parking machines in sunlight was raised.

Post meeting note from RDC: "We have worked with the manufacturer regarding the brightness of screens to set them to the optimum level for the summer season, however we are aware that occasionally, when there is direct sunlight on the screen and the users are wearing sunglasses or tinted lenses, the screen can become harder to read. We are currently looking at alternative solutions however we have to be mindful that whatever is put in place must be able to be used in both sunny, cloudy and night-time conditions."

11 Reports from RALC representatives

The Chairman reported attendance at a meeting:

- of the South East Region Counties Association Forum (SERCAF) at Godalming to discuss membership options of the National Council of the Association of Local Counties;
- of the East Sussex Association at Uckfield
- with the Chief Constable of Sussex at Lewes where an assurance was given by him that any travellers would be moved on speedily and if no vacancies exist at the authorised sites then they would be escorted out of the county. The meeting was reminded that photographs should be taken showing padlocks on gates to parish owned fields to enable the police to know that forced entry may have been made.
- SERCAF meeting at Milton Keynes
- of the Surrey and Sussex Association of Local Councils at East Grinstead – the subscription rate will be increased in line with the CPI at 2.75%. Anna Beams has been confirmed as the new Office Manager and Mark Mulberry will be in charge of finance. Anna Beams will also be responsible for training and conferences. Isabelle Moulard will be responsible for Surrey matters and CiLCA training and Lois Crouch will be continuing to be responsible for East Sussex matters and recruitment.

12. Any Other Business/Future Agenda Items

Nigel Woolridge expressed thanks on behalf of Camber Parish Council to RDC staff and Councillors and all the other agencies and organisations that had worked so hard and invested so much money to support their residents, visitors and businesses after the tragic events of last summer which had such an impact on all.

The Chairman invited members to contact the Secretary with suggested Speakers for future meetings.

13. Next meeting – Wednesday 11 October 2017

The meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.

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