

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: David Pankhurst (Peasmarsh)(**RALC Chairman**), Lesley Bannister (Brede), Ann Cook (Ticehurst), Lesley Elmslie (Burwash), Richard Farhall (Rye), Graham Furness (Guestling), Tony Ganly (RDC), Martin Holgate (Catsfield), Margaret Howell (Battle), Malcolm Johnston (RDC), Nick Jones (Fairlight), Les Nottage (Brede), Hilary Pankhurst (Peasmarsh), Graham Peters (Bodiam), Karen Ripley (Salehurst & Robertsbridge), Mike Rowe (Beckley), Dan Russell (Sussex Police), David Snedley (Icklesham), Alan Stainsby (Crowhurst), Peter Turner (Icklesham), Andrew Wedmore (Brightling), Nigel Wooldridge (Camber).

1 Self-introductions

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting.

2 Apologies

Richard Jessop (Battle), John Bradford (Camber), John Collins (RDC), John Dudridge (Hurst Green), Michael Edwards (Westfield), Pauline Glew (Sedlescombe), Wendy Miers (Dallington), David Perrett (Guestling), Jonathan Vine-Hall (Sedlescombe).

3 Accuracy of Minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2017

Subject to the following amendments:

- Item 3/4 **(iv) Rother Standards Committee** – *Cllrs Wendy Miers & Alan Stainsby*,
- Item 10 John Collins 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 highlighted. *Further 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."*;
- Item 12 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 minutes were approved.

4 Matters arising from meeting held on 12 July 2017

None.

5 Finance

The update as at 30 September 2017 was noted, as attached.

6 Sussex Police

Insp Dan Russell (DR) reported that there has been an increase in suspect vehicles in rural areas. He reminded members that regular updates are circulated via email. These have raised the awareness of rogue traders and other issues. DR confirmed that he will continue to attend as many annual assemblies as possible; members were asked to notify him of dates as soon as possible. He welcomed any contact

to his email Daniel.Russell@sussex.pnn.police.uk Appreciation for the useful information circulated was expressed to DR.

The Chairman thanked Insp Russell for his report.

7 East Sussex Joint Waste Partnership

Madeleine Gorman(MG), Waste Partnership Manager, was welcomed to the meeting. MG circulated information and highlighted the differences between the waste and recycling scheme prior to 2013: 2 black boxes for paper/plastic and cans with large glass recycling containers at supermarkets; and the Kier contract from 2013/14: green bin for recycling materials and black box for glass. This contract had been cost effective for the Council and Kier had anticipated funds being made from dry products. Unfortunately, mixed plastics have dropped in value and the contractor is suffering from this reduction. Whilst the glass should be kept separate, in some instances, this is not being managed and the situation is being monitored. Kier now have a reduced contract of 20 months remaining and tenders are being sought for a replacement contractor. Eastbourne will not be joining with Wealden, Rother and Hastings for the next procurement which will be agreed on 10 November. The issue of recycling food waste was raised and MG confirmed that this is not currently being considered as too complicated and costly to achieve.

The Chairman thanked MG for an excellent presentation.

8 Highways matters (ESCC)

The Secretary reported that an apology had been received from Simon Coomber that notes from the previous meeting had been mislaid and that there will be no representative to attend future meetings. Any issues could be passed to the Secretary prior to future meetings and Highways will provide a written report to each meeting.

The current report confirmed 1147 pothole repairs within the Rother area; grass cutting a minimum of 6 times in urban areas with a one metre swathe cut a minimum of twice a year in rural areas; grit bins have been filled – any additional refills require an application form and a fee of £70; planned maintenance, utility works, events and carriageway programme is as attached.

9 Rother matters

Malcolm Johnston reported that:

- whilst there had been approximately 400 complaints in relation to waste collection, there are 200,000 bins emptied monthly;
- the Bexhill Governance is ongoing;
- applications for a Community Grant are encouraged with advice on completion of forms available;
- Frank Rallings has returned to Rother and will advise Parishes on Neighbourhood Plan matters;
- Public Spaces Protection Orders will shortly be replacing current byelaws;
- expectations need to be managed in relation to dealing with complaints;
- a discretionary review of rates is being undertaken;
- a consultation process for the Civil Parking Enforcement issue will be brought to a RALC meeting;
- a Peer Review had been undertaken and will be discussed by Cabinet in December.

10 Broadband

Andrew Wedmore reminded Members of the background to the broadband coverage issues affecting much of the Rother area and the difficulties in getting fact and figures from ESCC. He stated that none of the 8 recommendations made by the ETE Scrutiny Panel in March had been implemented. It was agreed that the Secretary should take this up with ESCC. It was reported that: education at Dallington School is being affected by poor internet service; that although the cabinet at Burwash records superfast

speeds, these are not reaching properties; a survey of internet speeds at individual property level should be assembled. It was suggested that this information should be included on the Geosphere maps.

11 Geosphere Training

The Secretary reported that the training session had been well attended and considered a worthwhile exercise. She confirmed that all RALC members have a 12 month free subscription and all tutorials are online at <http://www.parish-online.co.uk/learn> Any additional support required will be provided by Geosphere via telephone.

12 Reports from RALC representatives

Ann Cook reported attendance at the ESALC AGM at which issues affecting the Neighbourhood Plans included the number of small builds required and the review of CIL were emphasised. Rupert Clubb, ESCC, reported that 7 mobile library services will be removed, and it is hoped that some may be taken on by Parish Councils. The bus pass subsidy is also under review.

It was highlighted that Icklesham had been unable to attend this meeting due to lack of spaces available.

13. Any Other Business/Future Agenda Items

It was noted that Amber Rudd MP is pushing for the HS1 for Rye and Hastings.

Members were encouraged to complete the consultation questionnaire for Library provision and the East Sussex County Council's petition to Government for a 'fair deal'.

The Secretary highlighted recent SALC training on the new Data Protection Bill that emphasised that it is essential that both Clerks and Councillors are aware of responsibilities. Icklesham PC are holding their own training and spare spaces will be offered to other councils. Malcolm Johnston reported that RDC are reviewing their Data Protection Policy and would recommend this be extended out to Parish/Town Councils. Members agreed that the RALC training budget should be used for a Data Protection session.

14. Next meeting – Wednesday 10 September 2017

The meeting ended at 4.12 pm.

Carol Harris, RALC Secretary 30 Gleneagles Drive, St Leonards on Sea, TN38 0EH
carol1010@hotmail.co.uk 07928 480292 01424 772210 (Battle TC)