

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES AND TOURISM COMMITTEE – 8th JUNE 2023 at 7.00pm

Cllr J Belsey (Chairman)
Cllr Hughes (Vice Chairman)
Cllr Visser* (Town Mayor)*
Cllr Ody (Town Mayor)*

Committee: Cllrs Farren, Gibbs, Mockford, Peacock*, Pond

* = absent

Others Present: Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Head of Estates and Civic Pride, Community & Tourism Manager & Cemetery and Compliance Manager, Graham Jones & Terry Deadman from EG Community Bonfire

31. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There was a question as to what is the cost of a road closure? it was clarified that there are not many costs for the road closure unless you bring people in to man it, but there are some costs around the advertising of a road closure that need to be factored in, but these are generally small (letter drops and banners).

32. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were noted from

Cllr Visser (Town Mayor)	Mayoral Commitment
Cllr Ody	Personal Commitment
Cllr Peacock	Personal Commitment

33. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations

34. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the 9th March and 15th May and authorise the Chairman to sign them

35. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

- There is no update on the fountain at this time, we are still waiting on confirmation that the Society have permission to install the taps from SE Water.
- Please note that the hanging baskets are up in town and looking lovely. The bunting has started to come down as it will fade if left up all summer. We would like to get a second use out of this bunting (minimum) which is why it is coming down now.
- WSCC have asked if we would give some formal feedback on to the roadworks carried out (patching and potholes). We are looking to see what this would entail but may well approach ward councillors to assist with some feedback on works.
- Millenium clock: We have received the components today so they are being assembled and tested over the next week and then they will be in touch as soon as we can get an engineer to us, we are not sure when this may be but hopefully before the summer ends.

- They are asking for scaffolding rather than a cherry picker which we will need to book.
- War memorial - we are awaiting a formal survey but the indication is everything was fine. Also awaiting on the grant money to arrive. But it is all done and looks great The Chair also mentioned that he went up in the cherry picker.

It was commented that forwarding the WSCC works would be welcome but councillors might also like to know when the repair was reported. The Committee noted the report.

36. TOURISM REPORT

The Chairman introduced the report which was noted, and invited Miss Fletcher to update on any matters. Alice and her team along with the wider staff, councillors and all volunteers were thanked for helping on the day.

It was asked where people came from for tourism. The team don't keep stats on whether they are new to the area or from outside the area.

It was also asked whether the coronation mugs had sold, yes they had there are only 3 left, a small profit was made on each.

The report was noted

37. ESTATES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

The Chairman introduced the report and highlighted the various items to be decided but took general comments first. In reply to are the benches being renewed now as they were delayed due to the weather, yes they were.

It was clarified that we do return the supermarket trolleys.

It was clarified that the variety of trees going on to railway approach is to be an Alemanchier.

It was commented that it was nice to see someone coming forward for the WSCC tree warden scheme. It has been a while since East Grinstead had any new ones.

The Chair introduced the items for decision, he noted that we have the facilities in the other toilets. Mrs Merricks described the misuse of the room that has resulted in the decision to close it and bring the matter back to the committee. It was commented that it is a shame to lose the space where the strollers can be pushed while changing a child. It is hoped to repurpose the room for a better use.

RESOLVED: At the Kings St Toilets, the Parent and Baby room to remain closed permanently.

The Chair asked Mrs Merricks to outline the reasons for this proposal. The cameras will focus on the front door and the bar area.

RESOLVED: More CCTV cameras to be installed for around the meridian hall. It was noted that the cost can be met from existing budgets so there is no adverse financial implication.

Committee noted the remainder of the report, it was asked if there was any movement on a new sign at Queens Walk for the toilets. Not yet, but we continue to push. If we don't get anywhere we will see what we can do.

38. BURIAL SERVICES

The Chair introduced the report and invited questions. Miss Jones advised that we do get a number of enquiries, she also mentioned that the friends of group is now being set up for both cemeteries which could bring more visitors to the cemetery once open.

In response to query as to the Town Hall Meeting, this is a Clarion meeting and Mr Quenault has been asked to go along to explain why we are seeking a new entrance at the cemetery. It was clarified that the meeting is possibly to be at Glen Vue.

The reports were noted

39. BONFIRE

The Committee welcomed Graham Jones and Terry Deadman from the EG Community Bonfire and he outlined the history of the community group and their intentions of the group for their debut event. There has been a lot of fundraising, they have approximately £6,000 so far and are grateful for the Council's grant. They have also completed their assessment for the inaugural event 21st October this year. The plans are not yet set in stone, but they hope to start from the Vicarage Road Car Park, go down De La Warr and Christopher Road, process up London Road and High St and then to East Court. 5 or 6 other groups will be in attendance, other cadets and youth groups are being invited to attend.

They are still going through the documentation stage to get approvals and their own RAG assessments.. The event will start at 5.50pm, at the war memorial, just the Bonfire group and then back to vicarage car park for a 7.30 start. They expect to take an hour to get to East Court. Followed by the fireworks and then bonfire at east court (bottom of). Spectators at East Court will be on the slope field.

The Chairman congratulated them on the strides they have taken in getting themselves to this point. It is expected that there may be as many as 5000 people watching, but the procession is due to be smaller.

It was asked what the go/no go point for the RAG was; this is an internal document and it will happen, it just has to be done correctly.

It was commented that the committee wish every success to the EGCB, the EGBA have been helpful. Sponsors will be using the EGTC Terrace, which has been hired for the event.

The next fund raiser is Monday 26th June at The Crown and will be a bingo night.

Richard Tremontin at the Football Club may be able to give some advice on fireworks displays.

The event will be free to attend, there will be a street collection for charity on the night. At East Court there will be collection buckets for people to contribute towards next year's event.

It was clarified that the road closure for the laybys in the High Street and London Road are difficult to clear but the best advice is to talk to MSDC in advance about signage to clear the laybys.

It was commented that there was a wedding at East Court so it would be exceptionally busy and also that this is quite late for children at 10pm for the fireworks so good communication is necessary.

The Chair thanked them for coming to the meeting and giving the update.

40. FREE USE OF ROOM AT EAST COURT – QUARRY CAFÉ

The Chair introduced the report and reflected on the previous decision. The work of the Quarry Café was commended and their use of the room was supported for an additional period, however it could not be forever so would need a shorter period. It was asked what period was expected before the works would be done.

RESOLVED: To approve the extension from July for a further 7 months (end of January 2024), in the meantime to try to establish the time line for completion with Stone Quarry Café and Clarion.

41. EVENTS

RESOLVED: Committee approved the outline of the commemorative event

42. PROJECTS

The Chair outlined the report and thanked the officers for reminding all of the background. Regarding St Barnabas, the completion is still awaited, we have signed and transferred the money to the solicitors. The income of £18,000 in this year and costs of £20,000 are unlikely to now be actuals as we are already 3 months into the financial year.

Regarding St Margarets Loop, the Clerk advised it has never been so close to being realised and we will know more later this year. The Clerk also thanked Cllr Jacquie Russell from WSCC who has encouraged the WSCC officers to complete their deliberations as soon as possible and keep this moving forward. That part of the project is hopefully coming to a conclusion in the next few weeks when the figures and aspirations of Railway Paths will be known.

The reports were noted.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.34pm.

Signed
Chairman