

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES AND TOURISM COMMITTEE – 10TH MARCH at 7.00pm

Cllr Mrs Farren (Chairman)
Cllr Duly (Vice Chairman) in the Chair
Cllr J Dabell (Town Mayor)
Cllr A Peacock (Deputy Town Mayor)

Committee: Cllrs Amos, Mainstone, Matthews, Osborne* and Sweatman
* = absent

Others Present: Cllrs Mrs Mockford and Whittaker, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Community and Tourism Manager, Cemetery and Compliance Manager.
One member of the public

On Zoom: There were two members of the public on Zoom

222. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A comment was made to support The Victorian water fountain for transfer of ownership from the District to the Town. It was commented that the district seldom offer assets back and this should be taken.

223. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from

Cllr Peacock	Isolating
Cllr Osborne	Personal Commitment

224. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations

225. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 9TH DECEMBER 2021 and 13th JANUARY 2022

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the above meetings and authorise the Chairman to sign them

226. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to the outside team for all the work with road clearance etc following Storm Dudley and Eunice this area of work is highways, but it was great to see the team helping out, above and beyond.

Thanks to the office team on water shortage day for their communications and liaison with south east water to get water stations set up in the town rather than on the perimeter.

Love East Grinstead has been rearranged for this weekend, after the poor weather forced the event to move from February. Please support it and help out if you can.

East Court toilets are reopened following the sewerage pipe being replaced.

St Margarets' Loop: an inspection of the retaining wall will take place in April. This has been commissioned. It was not possible to do so earlier due to potential bad weather in February and March.

WSCC have advised : "At the present time WSCC are undertaking the work necessary to adopt the structures, including inspection and investigation works followed by an analytical structural assessment to determine the load capacity of the two road bridges. This will then enable the evaluation of commuted sums associated with the adoption of the bridges. This work will not take place until the end of April. "

Our agents have been instructed to raise with Railway paths the principle of the sale / transfer to EGTC, on the basis of the Council taking the retaining wall (subject to the survey), and removing their liability. Up to now RPL have insisted on a transfer fee for the land, once we have the survey we are in a position to show that there will be costs to the council and therefore either we agree to transfer at no cost, or RPL indeed make a commutable sum to us. This is the negotiation but we can't conclude this until we have the survey. We hope that the June committee will bring this to the final position of transfer and project moving forward.

Christmas Lights contract, this year is the final year of the current contract, the specification, for the next contract will be issued shortly with invitations to tender. The contract will be let at the end of the year. The Christmas Lights sub-committee will be reinstated from May and the group will work through the tender. Anyone who wishes to serve this sub-committee from May, please advise the Leader.

The Committee noted the report.

227. TOURISM REPORT

The Committee noted the report

228. ESTATES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

Clarification was provided that the vehicles being looked at were hybrid, but they were no longer called this. They do have a battery and do recharge the battery as part of the way the engine works.

The Speed indicator device was confirmed as not being lost, but following the repairs the rota had fallen out of sync. A new rota was now in place.

The report was noted.

229. BURIAL SERVICES

The report was noted

230. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

It was clarified that the race at the marathon was 10 miles as usual. In response to a question the car parking is being organised by the marathon organisers (active houses), the clerk will ask the organisers what the arrangements are.

The jubilee street fund is going well, reference was made to an applicant who was delighted to have been awarded funds and had also asked the Mayor to attend.

The Beacon Lighting is getting organised and the chair will be meeting with the sports council to talk about some displays from clubs on the day. The beacon lighting itself is at 9.45 in line with the national lighting.

The new gate is going in to church lane this year and the church are going to refurbish the archway. There is also a civic service

The EG Society are renovating the fountain

Schools are receiving trees for planting from EG in Bloom

School children will receive wildflower seeds for planting

Chequer Mead will be advising of any events that they have planned.

The tea party for septuagenarians will also include an invitation to Cllrs once numbers are known.

This report was noted by the committee

231. JUBILEE FOUNTAIN

The Chairman introduced the item by referring to the background and the project currently being undertaken by the EG Society. She thanked them for the amount of work that they were doing. She advised that the District Council have now made an offer to transfer the ownership of the fountain to the Town Council and a meeting will be held in the next couple of weeks to discuss this. She then opened the matter of the transfer of ownership, for discussion by the committee.

There was a lot of support for the fountain renovation and the idea of tying the two jubilees together was felt to be appropriate for the fountain. It was noted that various groups were supporting the project and that it was rare for Mid Sussed to offer to return to the town the stewardship of an asset, so this should be supported. There were comments that before the ownership was agreed the costs do need to be established so that it is clear what the budget implication for ongoing years will be.

It was suggested that once the supply was reinstated for drinking an honesty box could be placed at the fountain.

A proposal was made to require that the repair maintenance and water costs should be met in full by the users of the fountain by the installation of an honesty box. If the honesty box did not raise enough funds then the facility would be made temporarily unavailable until sufficient funds were raised. The Council would set the fee for the consumption, collect the monies and ensure adequate signage made the use of the water clear.

This proposal was not seconded.

There was some concern as to the costs to maintain the water supply and the liability that the Council would bear.

A proposal was made and seconded that the Council move forward with the East Grinstead Society to reinstate the fountain for the Platinum Jubilee.

An amendment was proposed and seconded to amend the proposal by inserting the words, After the Council has due consideration of costs as a prefix to the motion. This amendment was carried

There was further comment as to the green credentials of drinking water being available, and the progress that SE Water have made, the water has been reconnected below ground which can be turned off again if necessary. It is believed that the cost of the water and maintenance will be negligible and Mid Sussex are willing to give some funds to help. It was also stated that testing for legionella is not needed for cold water.

Resolved :

After the Council has due consideration of costs, the Council move forward with the East Grinstead Society to reinstate the fountain for the platinum jubilee.

The chairman advised that the next full meeting of the Committee will be held on at 7.00pm. **THURSDAY 16th JUNE 2022**, then ended the meeting at 7.56pm.

CHAIRMAN