

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES AND TOURISM COMMITTEE – 16TH JUNE 2022 at 7.00pm

Cllr Mrs Farren (Chairman)
Cllr Duly (Vice Chairman) *
Cllr Peacock (Town Mayor) *
Cllr Visser (Deputy Town Mayor)*

Committee: Mrs Mainstone, Matthews , Osborne, Scott* and Sweatman

* = absent

Others Present: Cllr Amos, Town Clerk, Estates Manager, Community and Tourism Manager

On Zoom:

27. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

A question was asked about the Town Clocks: the cramp clock is not being kept on however, the fountain is now to be taken over and will take funds, what are the Council going to do to ensure that the money is there and also what is the Councils intention about preserving the other town historical artefacts.

The Chairman replied that the Millennium Clock being fixed and she has an update later in the agenda, the Cramp clock is not to be fixed and will be taken down as has been the agreement of this committee. The Fountain is being taken on with a dowry to pay for the initial costs, it has been refurbished by the East Grinstead Society and their donors, but going forward a budget allowance will be made.

28. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

RESOLVED: To accept the apologies from

Cllr Peacock (Town Mayor)	Mayoral Duties
Cllr Visser (Deputy Town Mayor)	Recent bereavement
Cllr Scott	Unwell

29. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Matthews reminded the committee he was a member of the Badger Trust regarding item 8.

Following his declaration, Cllr Osborne was advised that as a tenant of the Old Court House unless the conversation at item 10 turned to the use of the room at the Court House, he would be able to remain in the room.

30. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF 10th MARCH AND 9TH MAY

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

31. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised:

St Margaret's Loop's retaining wall has been surveyed, but we have not received the report as yet, once we get that the Chair, Vice Chair and Clerk will meet and then a special briefing will convene to update everyone on next steps.

The Millennium clock (High St): we have finally heard from the clock mender and they will attend during the first couple of weeks of July to fix the timepiece.

The Officers received a complaint as to a tree near the active badger sett in Queens Road Cemetery, adjacent to the flats on Orchard Way. The tree is leaning into the cemetery rather than towards the flats. Holly Trees came out to assess the tree again and found it not to be of any risk. The tree is a Japanese Cedar (Conifer Type) and is approximately 18 meters tall. However, due to the process we have in place, any tree complained about is reviewed as part of our tree inspectors report. He is due to complete this report week commencing the 20th of June. He will be visually inspecting the tree and will advise if any work needs to be carried out.

The EG Society have completed the cleaning of the Victorian Jubilee Fountain in time for our Queens Jubilee in June. They have also carried out the minor works on the stonework as advised by their survey. We are awaiting further confirmation as to progress to get the water running (the issue is the taps that are not acceptable to SE Water) and then the Town Council will complete the formalities with MSDC who have confirmed that along with the licence to maintain the fountain the District Council will make a one off payment to the Town Council of £5,000. The fountain will not become owned by the Town Council, we will be licenced to maintain it, it turns out to belong to WSCC, and MSDC previously held the licence to maintain.

Chairman thanked everyone who had taken part in the community events over the Jubilee weekend. It was a busy weekend and thanks to all for making these incredibly successful. She advised that a letter of thanks had been received which she read out, regarding the afternoon tea. There had been a number of other thanks received via social media and in person and the events had gone down very well with residents. The Chairman was also thanked for her own hard in pulling the working group together to plan and deliver the events.

The Committee noted the report.

32. TOURISM REPORT

The Committee noted the report The Tourism and Community Manager was thanked for her work in the jubilee weekend.

33. ESTATES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

It was commented that it was terrible that the disabled toilet lock had jammed. As it is totally replaced it should not happen again. The staff acted very quickly and the gentleman released. The report was noted.

34. BURIAL SERVICES

The Chairman updated the committee regarding the cost to trim QRC the final invoice was discounted to £1,900 therefore much cheaper than originally quoted. It was commented that the recent walk round Queens Road Cemetery had been very interesting (and Mr Quenault was thanked for this), but showed how difficult that terrain was currently to walk around. It was asked as to what is the involvement of Mid Sussex DC in the removal of the badgers. Mr Quenault advised that Mid Sussex have been helpful, as the outlier or ancillary sett is in Brooklands Park, the District need to determine how we can provide a man-made sett away from the main part of Brooklands, but on their land, which is being explored. It is going to be a large and expensive project to landscape this and get the cemetery back in the public use.

The report was noted

35. Events

The chairman introduced the Marathon report: noting that there was a request for the committee to offer any comments on the future race routes should they wish to, it was clarified that the board are not looking to move the race, it was just asking for views. The Committee felt that the Rugby Club was the ideal venue.

The Chairman thanked all for their contributions and she also advised that the jubilee costs were understated in the report as the cost of the tablecloths for the town mayors tea have been coded here along with flags and bunting which were used at East Court Live but were specifically for the jubilee, also one of the street parties did not go ahead and so the fund was £1,900 not £2,000 spent. The total cost was £7468.27 not £6919.14 as stated in the report. We do however now have 10 white round table cloths which can be used for Mayoral or other grander functions, although washing them can cause a challenge as our washing machine can only be used in the evening and then hang the tablecloths to dry in an appropriate place over night. The Clerk and Clerks' PA took them home to wash this time.

RESOLVED: Committee noted the report and commented on the success of the street parties.

36. Stone Quarry Café

The Chairman introduced the report she advised that since writing the report we have had an interest in the vacant room at East Court, but this has not as yet resulted in a hire, and not every nibble will be lucrative. It is still available and the proposal valid, however it shows that it is likely to be hired, so committee need to be aware of the potential of lost income if we waive the rent.

The chairman made the proposal which was seconded and then discussed, it was commented as to how successful the stone quarry café and community fridge has been which supports the community. There was support for the stone quarry area which needed the community focus which should be supported. It was asked how big the fridges were and it was clarified that there is storage space also. There was support for the community fridge to be put in East Court and not to displace any groups in the old court house. It was commented that if the community fridge cannot pay rent then they will effectively make the community worse off as a whole as all are paying for this and it is not an effective approach to reduce income and therefore threaten the budget increase.

Following a proposed amendment to the proposal it was

RESOLVED:

- 1) To remove proposal number 2 in its entirety namely:
- 2) To cease marketing the vacant room at this time, however if a commercial hirer does materialize during this period, the fridges will have to be relocated to the old court house and the existing groups who need accommodating will be moved to other Council rooms at the same charge.

Following a vote on the substantive It was then RESOLVED :

- 1) To offer the vacant room at East Court to the Stone Quarry Crew while their extension is built, for a maximum of a year, on the basis that they pay for their own utility charges (electric)
- 2) To note that this decision will affect the income potential for the East Court buildings for 2022/23 and 23/24 which should be reflected in the budget for 23/24 accordingly.

The Chairman thanked all for their deliberations, advised that the next meeting would be on 8th September at 7pm and closed the meeting at 8.11pm.

CHAIRMAN