

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL
ON MONDAY 30th JANUARY 2023 AT 7PM.

Present: Councillor A Peacock (Town Mayor)
Councillor F Visser (Deputy Town Mayor)*
Councillors Amos*, J Belsey, Mrs Belsey, Mrs Bennett*, Dabell, Duly,
Mrs Farren, Favor, Mrs Mainstone, Matthews, Mrs Mockford*, Ody,
Osborne, Scott*, Sweatman*, Whittaker and Woodgate*.

* = absent

** = Present via Zoom

Others present: Town Clerk and The Deputy Town Mayor

61 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none therefore the Chairman moved on to the substantial part of the agenda

62 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

RESOLVED: To accept the following apologies and reasons for absence

Cllr Visser (Deputy Mayor)	Personal Commitment
Cllr Amos	Studying
Cllr Mrs Bennett	Work Commitment
Cllr Mrs Mockford	Personal Commitment
Cllr Scott	Personal Commitment
Cllr Sweatman	Personal Commitment
Cllr Woodgate	Personal Commitment

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Mayor reminded all that in order to set the budget and the council tax precept at item 8, the Council has a dispensation. All of the interests made at earlier meetings therefore need not be restated and Cllrs can vote on the budget book in its entirety, if however any elements of the budget were discussed where interests are raised then those with interests would need to leave the meeting for the duration of the discussion and vote on that part only.

64 TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes, of the meeting of 9th January and that the Town Mayor sign them as a correct record.

65 TOWN MAYORS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor referred to the sad news of Mr Barry Starmer having recently passed away. Having been a former Town Councillor the Councils condolences were passed

along to his widow Sue. He asked the Council to join him in a moments silence to remember him.

66 TO RECEIVE SUCH COMMUNICATIONS AS THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL MAY DESIRE TO LAY BEFORE THE COUNCIL

As the leader was not in attendance this evening, Councillors were asked to please put any questions to the Leader to him outside of the meeting.

67 TO RECEIVE AND CONSIDER THE MINUTES OF THE COMMITTEES

Cllr Ody proposed the minutes of the meetings of the Planning Committee.
Cllr Favor proposed the minutes of the Public Services Committee
Cllr Mrs Farren proposed the Amenities & Tourism Committee minutes;
Cllr Mrs Farren proposed the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting.

RESOLVED: To accept the minutes and decisions therein of the below meetings:

	Date	Page Nos	Minute No
(a) Planning	04/01/2023	128-133	211-218
(b) Public Services	12/01/2023	134	219-222
(c) Amenities and Tourism	12/01/2023	135	223-226
(d) Finance and General Purposes	12/01/2023	136-138	227-231

68 TOWN COUNCIL REVENUE ESTIMATES

The Chairman introduced the reports by saying that the Council have accepted the recommendations from the Finance & General Purposes Committee, so the Council now need to consider and formally resolve two of these recommendations for the 2023/2024 financial year: namely

- (a) Town Council Revenue Estimates, and
- (b) The Precept to be made on Mid Sussex District Council.

The recommendation from the Finance and General Purposes Committee are as set out in the minutes and the final Draft Budget Book was re-issued electronically with the agenda, but with no amendments from the draft which was discussed at committee. He then asked the Vice Chairman of Finance and General Purposes Committee to make the proposals

Cllr Mrs Farren (The VC of the Finance and General Purposes Committee) thanked the Town mayor and stated that the budget was a well thought out budget, in these challenging times being mindful of the cost of living issues whilst wanting to progress current projects and celebrate the Coronation. The proposed budget will deliver this with only a very small increase on the Council Tax. She summed up by proposing the recommendations from the Finance and General Purposes Committee which following seconding were then discussed

Comment were made as to the prudent budget still being able to support residents and help the community groups, and indeed increasing the support to Youth Sports groups. Thanks were given to Councillors and Officers for the hard work on producing the budget..

RESOLVED

- (i) That the revenue estimates 2023/2024, as set out in the published draft Budget booklet become the Town Council's budget for 2023/2024 financial year.
- (ii) That the Town Council's capital programme for 2023/2024 be laid down as in the published draft budget booklet;
- (iii) That the grants to the named community organisations contained in those papers be approved for release in the 2023/2024 year, subject to the receipt of annual accounts.
- (iv) That the Town Council's estimate payments of £1,459,903 (one million four hundred and fifty-nine thousand, nine hundred and three pounds) and estimated income of £356,009 (three hundred and fifty-six thousand, and nine pounds) in the 2023/2024 financial year be approved, resulting in a net cost to the Town Council of £1,103,894 (1 million, one hundred and three thousand, eight hundred and ninety-four pounds)
- (v) That the Council approved an actual precept for the 2023/2024 financial year be set at £1,103,894 (1 million one hundred and three thousand, eight hundred and ninety-four pounds) . Representing an annual council tax, increase of 1% at £93.26 per Band D property) based on the known tax base of 11,836.9.

69 PRECEPT LEVY

The Town Mayor then advised the Council that having set a budget and precept, it now fell to the Council to levy that precept on the District Council.

Comment was made, that the budget increase of 1% will help those who are struggling with the cost of living yet we will continue to progress our projects, would it be possible for a statement to be made to this effect. The Clerk advised that a press release would indeed be issued.

RESOLVED: That the precept be made on Mid Sussex District Council to be paid in 2 equal instalments of Five hundred and fifty-one thousand, nine hundred and forty seven pounds, (£551,947), the first to be paid by 30th April 2023 and second by 30th September 2023

The meeting concluded at 7.14pm with the Town Mayor inviting all to join him in the parlour.

Town Mayor