



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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AMENITIES AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 9th September 2025

Committee Members: Cllr E Godwin (Chairman)
Cllr T Hughes (Vice Chairman)*
Cllr S Barnett
Cllr J Belsey (Town Mayor)*
Cllr M Belsey*
Cllr H Farren
Cllr J Mockford
Cllr A Peacock
Cllr S Reeves (Deputy Town Mayor)*
* = absent

In attendance: Town Clerk
Cllr S Ody
Community & Tourism Manager
Cemetery and Compliance Manager
Estates Manager

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

One member of the public were present, no questions were raised.

13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr M Belsey was absent, and Cllr T Hughes offered her apologies which were noted.

14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

15. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17th June 2025.

16. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair was delighted to announce that 2 new trainee team members would be joining the Outdoor Services Team at the end of September.

17. **DELEGATED DECISION**

The delegated decision to allow the Breast Screening Unit to park at East Court was noted.

18. **TOURISM REPORT**

The library desk had been busy, and merchandise sales were higher than average due to the additional sales at the East Court Live events over the summer. The updated town guidebook was currently at the printers and would be available shortly.

Entries for the East Grinstead themed calendar had closed and the featured photos had been selected. This was being sent to the printers and planned for sale from October.

The July and August East Court Live events had both gone well – weather aside in July – and the feedback surveys had produced some really useful and positive comments. The pump track in July had also been very successful, and feedback was very supportive of a future track and the desire for a permanent one to be installed in future.

VJ Day saw the 2 minute silence held at the War Memorial, and tours of Mount Noddy were well attended. The Classic Car Show saw a huge public turnout, sadly a high number of the cars booked didn't turn up. Luckily this was not obvious to those who came out for the day. Feedback surveys had been issued to exhibitors and the public for feedback, which would help with understanding why so many cars didn't attend.

Remembrance Sunday planning was underway, and the road closure had been submitted for this and also for the Big Reveal. Advertising for stallholders for the Christmas Market would commence shortly.

Thanks were expressed to all staff for their support over the summer. The Committee requested that consideration of the feasibility of a pump track within the town be added to the next agenda, with a request for options and costings to be being prepared.

The report was noted.

19. **ESTATES AND CIVIC PRIDE REPORT**

Public feedback regarding the hanging baskets has been amazing this year, an intensive watering scheme had been required to keep them all alive and thriving. The application for approval of the Christmas lights was about to commence. Issues with Kings Street toilets were ongoing for many reasons, with the most recent issues being the repeated breaking and theft of toilet roll and holders.

This year, fewer plants will be installed for the winter with the focus being on planting bulbs ready for spring. The War Memorial display for Remembrance Day was underway, with a poppy being created to commemorate each person from East Grinstead who died during the war.

Renovation of the disabled toilet at the Meridian Hall was underway, and a broken bouncer at the playground had been cordoned off pending repair.

East Court had successfully been awarded the green flag again this year.

Sunnyside Barn hire income was lower than forecast albeit higher than 2024-25, due in part to parking constraints although the storage facilities demanded were not being utilised. Advertising would continue for this venue, although it was well used by local residents.

RESOLVED: Maintain the Stone Quarry rent at the same rate as last year, which was 75% of the standard hire rate.

The comprehensive report was welcomed with thanks with all items noted.

20. **BURIAL SERVICES**

New watering cans had been installed at Mount Noddy cemetery on a pay to release scheme to prevent them from going missing. The £1 required was refunded when the watering can was returned.

Deed holders who were not maintaining their plots as per the T&Cs had been written to over the summer to request adherence, most deed holders had been very accepting of this.

The proposed location of columbarium at Mount Noddy had been moved to the area of the cemetery which was particularly difficult to dig due to the hard earth.

RESOLVED: Committee resolved to accept the recommendation to relocate the columbarium to the area at the top of 5C.

All of the memorial safety testing had been completed for all sections and all graves, this would be due again in 3 years.

The goats at Queen's Road Cemetery (QRC) had returned to their farm as all the green foodstuff had been eaten. The site was now more visible and maintenance would be easier. If the goats return in the spring exploration of electrification of the fencing would be undertaken to try and ensure escape would not be possible. The structural engineer's report was still awaited regarding the condition of the wall.

The Clerk was requested to arrange a follow up meeting for the committee to revisit the QRC, and to share on social media the good work that had been completed by the goats.

The Committee was supportive of efforts to secure ownership of the small area of land at the entrance to Mount Noddy Cemetery, and looked forward to further updates.

The rest of the report was noted with thanks.

21. **WATER FOUNTAIN**

The water fountain in town had been discussed regularly since taking ownership in April 2024, with the regular water testing demonstrating that the quality of the water was not considered good enough to drink. All expert recommendations had been followed including taking a second opinion.

After running the water daily for 10 minutes and taking meter readings to monitor usage, the results were still deemed too poor for drinking. After taking advice from our insurers, we turned the water off to ensure there was no risk to public health.

RESOLUTION: Committee resolved leave the water supply switched off, unless or until a third party presented a viable solution within budget.

22. **TO NOTE THE ACTIONS LIST**

The status of the action list was noted.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.07pm, having announced the next meeting would be Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Signed

Chairman

DRAFT