

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

AMENITIES AND TOURISM COMMITTEE – 14TH MARCH 2024 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

** = attended by Zoom (this does not constitute attendance of the meeting)

Others Present: Cllrs: Barnett and M Belsey, Town Clerk, Community & Tourism Manager

337. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

There were none

338. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

There were none

339. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no new declarations

340. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the 7th December and 22nd January and authorise the Chairman to sign them

341. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Bonfire have advised that they are going to have their event on 19th October. They have asked if they can use the EGTC car parks and this is being looked at as to whether possible. The Lions are due to be in for prostate testing on that date so it may not be possible to set up food vendors early enough.

The shopping promotions committee are folding and they have decided to transfer the remaining funds in their bank account to the Town Council for use at the Christmas fare this or future years. The Chair placed on record thanks for all the work the shopping promotions committee have done over the years.

342. TOURISM REPORT

The Community and Tourism Manager advised that the Sunnyside Barn is filling up well, sadly the Sea Cadets decided it wasn't for them. The Homeworking group will be returning, once the WIFI is sorted out to be stable and there are plenty of posters and adverts about to tell people about the venue.

Committee confirmed that they would like to look at the end of May bank holiday as a launch for the Sunnyside Barn, daytime.

Questions followed: Are they new groups or have they moved from elsewhere and if they are why have they moved? Mostly they are new groups setting up in Sunnyside.

The WIFI problem is to be sorted when Openreach can sort the cables out, it is not something that we are able to make happen.

It was commented that it was good to see the signage for the fountain is following the existing wayfinding scheme and is included in the map and the website.

Alice updated on the town guide and map. Committee discussed whether the town map should be part of the town guide. It was noted that Ordnance Survey can supply the data, however they cannot supply a map, there will be a cost for supply and printing. The Chair suggested that the existing town centre map could be included in the guide book rather than producing a whole new map. It was noted that the cost of the map will be around £2,000 plus printing at £900.

RESOLVED: To produce the guide book, yet insert the town centre map in to the guide book and dispense with the street level map,

The remainder of the report was noted

343. ESTATES AND COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT

It was commented that in the flower beds on the High St, there are a number of fixtures from the "by the fountain". This is hoped to be moved as the new owners take over, but officers will raise this.

Thanks were given to Alison and the Outdoor Services Team for the flower bed display on the High St which looks amazing, the dragon and the Chinese lanterns in particular. The Clerk advised that our handyman Luc was responsible for making the dragon (*post meeting note* Jenny Watson painted it). It had originally been intended for the fairy trail, as last year the idea for Chinese New Year figures would make a nice trail, however Luc and Jenny absolutely outdid themselves and the dragon display was moved to the High St beds to ensure even more people would see it.

It was asked what the subsidence claim was for, what had slipped. The Clerk advised she did not have the detail and will come back on that.

Guinea Pig Plaque - the Clerk advised that it was a local resident who advised that the flower beds themselves had been dedicated to the Guinea Pigs and not just the bench. While the Bench has been moved to the McIndoe lawn with the other "guinea pig" focused street furniture, officers were happy to source a plaque to be placed in the flower bed if this was wished. The Benches now near the flowerbeds were for the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the Kings Coronation so are probably not appropriate for another plaque (being bespoke designs). The Chair also highlighted that the Town Council do not own the flower beds, so if the District or County cancel our licence at some point in the future we could not guarantee that the sign would remain on view.

RESOLVED: To source a plaque/ sign for the flowerbeds to indicate their link to the Guineapigs.

The Chair introduced the item for replacing the bin on Turners Hill Road Rec and sourcing a regular collection. The collection is estimated at £550-600 per annum for a weekly collection. It was stated that this would need to be monitored to ensure that this collection frequency was appropriate for this bin.

RESOLVED: Committee agreed that we should source and pay for the bin to be collected at Turners Hill Road Rec

Bike Shelter:

There was some concern that if the main issue was simply the ASB, are we moving the needed facilities and just moving along a problem? The clerk advised that it has been damaged on more than one occasion and is almost never used for push bikes. The racks in the shelter are not a good design and the shelter itself can be stored until repurposed. The Committee have already agreed that a new bike store will be added to a more central part of the car park.

RESOLVED: To remove the shelter, repurpose it and store it until this can happen

Baby change unit

The Clerk advised the problems that have emerged due to the unit being misused. She advised that this had been a good idea, but sadly is of no use to those it was intended for due to the misuse which has broken the table.

RESOLVED: To remove the baby change unit from the gents toilet at East Court.

It was asked for an update on the Defibrillators, has a volunteer come forward to check the machines in town? This was not known and the clerk advised she would need to report back. There had been someone interested but she didn't know if this had come to fruition.

344. BURIAL SERVICES

The report was noted. Thanks were given to the Outside services staff who sourced the parts for the agricultural machine repairs.

345. EVENTS

The Community and Tourism Manager went through the D Day 80 commemorations.

It was asked about the publicity for the event. Alice outlined all the ways that this was to be publicised.

Volunteers for events, Alice again asked all to please sign up to volunteer for the events, the event leaflet is out for all to have advance warning of the dates. It was asked if a web form on the website can be put in place for volunteers to sign up. This would be easy to put in place and officers will source this.

346. ST MARGARETS LOOP

The Clerk referred to the report for the update position and a more up to date item of information advised that the structural diagrams have not been found, it may be that we have to pay more on the drawings for the outline scheme.

RESOLVED: To go ahead with the commission of the outline scheme and to vary this up to £5k if we need to get the dimensions of the bridges.

347. SUNNYSIDE BARN

RESOLVED : To adopt the T&C as included in the papers.

348. VICTORIAN WATER FOUNTAIN

Committee noted the update that the fountain is ready to be opened and WSCC have confirmed that the responsibility can be passed to EGTC. The paperwork is being put in place and the Council have confirmed that we hold the necessary Public Liability Insurance. The opening will take place on 19th April as arranged by the East Grinstead Society.

349. FREE USE OF COUNCIL OFFICES

RESOLVED: To allow the groups who have elected Councillors on the Town Council to meet at the East Court Offices up to 6 times a year for discussions as to East Grinstead Town Council Matters.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 19.59, having announced the next meeting would be Thursday 13th June 2024

Signed
Chairman