



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

Council Offices, East Court, College Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3LT

Phone: 01342 323636

www.eastgrinstead.gov.uk

Town Clerk: Samantha Heynes FdA (Comm Gov) FSLCC

Email: townclerk@eastgrinstead.gov.uk

AMENITIES AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 17th June 2025

Committee Members: Cllr A Godwin (Chairman)
Cllr 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)*
Cllr R Whittaker
* = absent

In attendance: Town Clerk
Community & Tourism Manager
Cemetery and Compliance Manager

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Three members of the public were present, no questions were raised.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs M Belsey and Peacock, which were accepted.

The Committee resolved to accept Cllr Whittaker as a Substitute for Cllr Peacock.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 20th March 2025.

4. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair welcomed all to the committee meeting, and thanked everyone for their support for him in this new role.

MSDC had responded to complaints received regarding the condition of the play parks around the town stating that they believed they were in good order. This would continue to be addressed by Officers.

5. **TOURISM REPORT**

The team were working with Bluebell Railway to include the history tour from the station to the statue on their new Tour App. Merchandise sales had gone well at the May Fair.

The calendar entries closed in September with winners notified in October before immediately printing of the new calendars being completed in time for sales before the end of the year.

The report was noted.

6. **ESTATES AND CIVIC PRIDE REPORT**

Committee congratulate the summer flower planting around the town and shared that the train had received a lot of positive comments. The loss of hirers as a result of the works at the old Police Station was noted, and the Clerk was requested to investigate whether there was any recourse for compensation as a result of this.

Concerns were raised regarding the forecast budget for A&T; as it had overspent last year were any concerns about this year's budget? Feedback would be provided regarding this matter at the next meeting.

The committee expressed their best wishes in hopefully achieving the green flag award at East Court.

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

7. **BURIAL SERVICES**

The planning application to install columbarium at Mount Noddy had been submitted and so far one objection to this had been recorded. New fencing at Queen's Road Cemetery was currently being installed to secure the goats before they were relocated to the site. Committee was delighted with the progress in this matter. The Belfry residents had all been made aware of the goats moving in, along with the immediate neighbours. If successful, consideration of installation of cameras to enable people to watch the goats within the site.

The rest of the report was noted with thanks.

8. **EVENTS**

VE Day, the first event of the year in May, had been a success.

The first East Court Live had taken place and gone well. Suggestions had been made to sell EGTC merchandise at the next event along with sourcing better vegetarian food offerings. Additional volunteers would be required to man the EGTC Marquee.

It was noted that Kidical Mass had been planned to take place on 6th July 2025 to coincide with East Court Live. An event risk assessment had been requested along with details of the route to ensure there would be no conflict with the use of East Court car park during the set up of the event. Future Kidical Mass dates would be shared with the bookings team for noting regarding the use of the East Court grounds.

Fairtrade had been offered a space on the terrace at the next 2 East Court Live events in order to promote their re-registration of East Grinstead as a Fairtrade Town.

The urgent decision taken to proceed with installation of a temporary pump track at King George's Field for one week from 23rd July 2025 including music and DJ workshops at a cost of £4,200 was ratified. Depending on the success of this consideration would be given to including this in next year's budget. A survey would be circulated to obtain feedback to assess the take-up. A graffiti workshop was proposed at a cost of £370, committee were pleased for this to be included in the event.

VJ Day would take place on 15th August, a special tour around Mount Noddy was being planned.

The Classic Motor Show was fully booked with cars, some space for motorbikes was still available.

Assessment of the implications of Martyn's Law regarding terrorism and how this would impact future events was ongoing, including planning for any additional requirements which may be necessary. As a result of this, professional marshals would be booked for Remembrance Day to mitigate the risk of any incidents occurring at the road closures.

On being advised that additional information had come to light regarding St Margaret's Loop that may be commercially sensitive, the Chairman proposed that the item to discuss St Margaret's Loop be moved to the final agenda item and considered by Committee for discussion as a confidential matter.

9. **WATER FOUNTAIN**

Committee reviewed the report and felt it was important to explore the suggestions made to mitigate the issues being experienced with water quality, including installation of a chlorination point, flushing system as well as improved signage. They were also keen that engagement with East Grinstead Society was maintained to keep them aware of issues being experienced and the actions being taken to address these.

RESOLVED: Investigation into the cost and feasibility of installing a chlorination point was instructed, together with immediate installation of signage advising users to run the water prior to drinking. The fountain would be turned on immediately upon installation of the new signs. It was proposed to work with East Grinstead Society to identify volunteers who could support the daily flushing of the fountain taps, especially at weekends and bank holidays when staff were unavailable; perhaps local shopkeepers would be able to assist with this?

The man hours involved in flushing the fountain would be offset against the balance of the commuted sum in order to track the full cost of managing the fountain by the Town Council.

10. **TO NOTE THE ACTIONS LIST**

The status of the action list was noted.

11. **CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS**

Committee resolved to exclude the press, broadcast media and public (pursuant to the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960) during consideration of the following confidential business to be conducted:

12. **ST MARGARET'S LOOP**

The report was reviewed and discussed in detail, including the news received after the report was issued that WSCC had agreed to take ownership of the two road bridges which cross the Loop without a commuted sum. Investigation into the legal transfer process to complete this would commence.

The Committee acknowledged that a full project costing had never been prepared and this was now required before determining how to proceed, together with a detailed business case.

RESOLVED: To include an update regarding St Margaret's Loop on the next Full Council agenda, and to instruct a high level feasibility study of this project to consider the potential for achieving planning permission for delivery of this project.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.38pm, having announced the next meeting would be Tuesday 9th September 2025.

Signed

Chairman