

EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL
ON MONDAY 8th APRIL 2024 AT 7PM.

Present: Councillor F Visser (Town Mayor)
Councillor S Ody (Deputy Town Mayor)
Councillors Barnett, J Belsey, M Belsey, Farren, Gibbs, Gibson,
Hughes, Mockford, Peacock*, Pond*, Reeves, Scott *and Whittaker.

* = absent

Others present: Town Clerk, Mr Shelley from the Sports Council and two members of the public

The Town Mayor welcomed all to the meeting

75 Public Question Time

There were none.

76 Apologies for absence

| | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| Cllr Pond | Personal Commitment |
| Cllr Peacock | Work Commitment |

77 To confirm the Minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 29th January 2023.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting of 29th January 2023 were approved.

78 To receive any Declarations of Personal, or Pecuniary Interest.

There was nothing new

79 Town Mayor's Announcements

The Town Mayor referred to his list of engagements, he also advised that the King's portrait was expected to be received this week.

He spoke of the volunteers event, the Lions senior local which was great fun. The Sunnyside barn has also been reopened which was great to see, as the Mayor has personal memories of being a scout at the venue in years gone by.

He spoke of the veterans breakfasts and the St Piers College Visit. He also referred to the visits of the children from Bourg De Peage on the twinning visits along with Beavers who had attended East Court for a visit.

He advised that the Mayors Ball was sold out in record time and apologised to anyone who was not able to get a ticket. This would take place later this month.

80 To receive such communications as the Leader of the Council may desire to lay before the Council

Cllr Farren advised that the Old Police Station has now sold, the paperwork and the land registry is still being sorted, but we will move forward with talking to our new neighbour as to the party wall and drive access.

She also advised that the bridges reports for St Margarets Loop have now been received which allow us to move forward.

81 To Dispose of any business outstanding from the last meeting

It was noted that there was none

82 Principal Council Update

Mr Kevin Toogood the District Council monitoring officer has sent apologies that he is unable to come on this occasion. We will rebook him for another date.

83 To receive and consider the Minutes of Committees:

The Town Mayor invited the Chairmen of the Committees to introduce their minutes:

Cllr Ody – Planning

He thanked his committee for their hard work and proposed the minutes.

Cllr Ody – Environment and Sustainable Travel Committee

He thanked the committee for their work and proposed the minutes

Cllr Whittaker - Public Services

He thanked the committee for their work over the past year, his vice chair particularly. He referred to the work of the committee which had concentrated on Highways matters, at which point he thanked Cllr Gibson for his reports. Pharmacies, dentists, GP surgeries, foodbank, Imberhorne School, parking charges, Lowdells lane improvements, have all been discussed. He was disappointed with the lack of robust responses from the P&CC office. He thanked Mr Shelley for attending the meeting where he had been able to liaise with the new green contractors at MSDC (Glendale). The Chair advised about the youth work project which was recommended to go forward to Finance and General Purposes Committee.

Cllr Belsey - Amenities and Tourism

Cllr Belsey thanked his committee for their hard work over the past year. He had a brief update on the Victorian fountain. The opening is on the 19th April and the Council has now received and signed the licence to take on the responsibility for the ongoing maintenance. He thanked his Vice Chair for all of her work and support.

Cllr Farren - F&GP

The Chair highlighted the work of the committee, thanking her committee members. She highlighted the discussion around the youth project that had been referred to by the Public Services Chair and also the shared services working group was set up.

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes and the decisions included in the following schedule of meeting minutes.

| | Date | Page Nos | Minute No |
|--|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Planning | 31/01.2024 | 156-161 | 290-296 |
| (b) Planning | 19/02/2024 | 162-169 | 297-303 |
| (c) Environmental & Sustainable Travel | 29/02/2024 | 170-173 | 304-316 |
| (d) Public Services | 07/03/2024 | 174-179 | 317-328 |
| (e) Planning | 11/03/2024 | 180-183 | 329-336 |
| (f) Amenities & Tourism | 14/03/2024 | 184-187 | 337-349 |
| (g) Finance & General Purposes | 21/03/2024 | 188-193 | 350-363 |
| (h) Planning | 03/04/2024 | 194-200 | 364-370 |

84 To authorise the sealing of the following documents:

RESOLVED:

- 1) Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial Numbers: 2314, 2315, 2316 and 2317
- 2) Amended leases for AllKids, Paddingtons and Grenestede Talking News, regarding the deed of release for the “land swap” concerning the error on the land registry deeds.

85 Update from the East Grinstead Sports Council

Mr Bob Shelley gave an update on the works of the Sports Council. He explained the History of the sports council, which was set up in 2009. He advised that so many clubs attend, along with local council representatives and interested members of the public. All are welcome.

The group have a work plan to support local sport, the quarterly forum and a sports digital platform.

New participants and new sports are always welcome. This year there has been significant work with the cyclists clubs to promote this activity.

The group have also completed some work on the landscaping contract, the playing fields and other sports provisions, working with Glendale (new MSDC contractor) as a co ordinated approach to improve these. Bringing the East Court playing fields back in to use via the contractor and EGMEL.

The Imberhorne farm development is of interest as the sports opportunities there are excellent and if these can be secured to improve sports community facilities this year the sports council will work on this if they can.

The sports council will also look to support health improvements and encourage people to be more healthy, Kidicalmass is a good example of this and will help take the pressure off the NHS.

The group will continue to support growth of clubs and new sports coming into the town. Paddle tennis, bike busses (working with the council) and any new opportunities.

He asked the council to support the playing pitches strategy which was started by MSDC in 2020. An indicative action plan identified several projects to come forward,

and none of these have as yet in the East Grinstead area. Support to resurrect this plan and bring the MSDC investment to the north of the district would be helpful.

Questions followed about ladies and girls sports, are these clubs still coming forward? Yes there are a large number of ladies and girls groups and more coming.

Cllr Belsey advised that the MSDC priority report was stymied by covid and may need re raising at MSDC.

Cllr Gibson advised as to the amount of S106 funds that are available to be used. He commended the Imberhorne developers who are going to provide the facilities rather than simply provide funds. He agreed it was East Grinstead's turn following investment at Burgess Hill and Haywards Heath. He did commend the sports council on the work that they have undertaken.

The Clerk advised that she had met with the new officers (community development and landscaping) Phil Cox and Sam Smith and advises that Mr Shelley should seek to meet with them, re aspirations for the pitches and the MSDC green spaces.

The Deputy Mayor gave a vote of thanks for his update, the work of the sports council and the passion that Bob and his whole group demonstrate to continually improve the sport and the facilities in the area is evident.

86 Casual Vacancy

The Town Mayor updated the Council as to the current process. We have not had confirmation of the details around the count, but when the Clerk gets this she will let Cllrs know for information. Cllr Gibson advised it is likely to be on the Sunday.

The Council noted this.

87 Outside Body representatives

The Town Mayor introduced this item as set out in the papers.

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllr Mockford to represent the Council on the Friends of the East Grinstead Museum

88 Procedure on the death of a senior national figure

The Chairman introduced the item, he also advised that the new portrait of the King was due to be received this week and will be hung in the council chamber.

RESOLVED: To approve the revised protocol for Operation Menai Bridge

The Town Mayor Thanked all the Councillors for their support and work over the year. He has felt it was lovely to chair a council who are articulate and working cross party in harmony. He said he has been so happy to have represented the town as Mayor. he stated that the date of the next meeting of the Town Council is the Annual Town Council on Monday 13th May 2024, he closed the meeting at 7.49.

Town Mayor