



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 3rd June 2025

Committee Members: Cllr Reeves (Chairman)
Cllr Whittaker (Vice Chairman)
Cllr J Belsey (Town Mayor)*
Cllr Barnett
Cllr M Belsey*
Cllr Gibson
Cllr C Pond
Cllr Visser*
* = absent

In attendance: Town Clerk
Community & Tourism Manager
Cllr Godwin
Cllr Ody

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Sixteen members of public were in attendance.

One member spoke regarding the agenda item to request support from East Grinstead Town Council for the application to WSCC to implement a 20mph on West Hill/West Street.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None. Cllrs M Belsey and Visser were absent, which was noted.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 13th March 2022.

3. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Reflections made on the triumphant VE Day and the first East Court Live, both of which were blessed with great weather, we look forward to the next one.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

5. **LOCAL POLICE MATTERS**

Inspector Derrick was in attendance and shared recent highlights and themes experienced within the town from a policing perspective.

The following crime statistics were shared:

East Grinstead - Last 3 months (1.3.25 – 27.5.25)

- 1,896 calls to Police – 291 Cat A (meaning a car will arrive within 10 minutes), 112 Cat B, 168 Cat C
- 100 with a Domestic Abuse (DA) tag (27 less DA calls than in the previous 3 month period)
- 707 incidents were attended by Police (50 more incidents attended than for the previous 3 month period)
- Of the 707 incidents attended – these include 95 violent crimes, 113 medical incident/concern, 71 suspicious acts, 38 road related incidents, 33 RTCs, 32 ASB and 19 burglaries

Recorded crime in East Grinstead

- -25.7% reduction in Burglary
- +20.8% increase for Theft
- +21.2% increase for Robbery
- -3.4% reduction in Possession of Weapons offences
- -11.7% reduction in recorded DA crime

Overall East Grinstead remained a very safe place to live, with Mid Sussex being at the lower end of crime for Sussex, which was approx. mid table across the country.

The police station was used 707 times on different occasions over the past 3 months by officers, even though the front desk was only manned 2 days a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm.

Category A calls were responded to within 10 minutes; if this time was missed it would only be by 1-2 minutes, no longer. Category A was classified as a crime in progress and typically a response vehicle would be sent from Crawley as it was a faster drive.

The ASB rates provided were lower than the impression of issues shared by the public with Councillors. The importance of reporting incidents was emphasised, as police officers were intelligence led; if the reports were not made the police would remain unaware of issues occurring.

Speeding was the responsibility of the Road Safety Unit, Insp Derrick would follow up with them to share details of this.

Police Officers did not have the powers to enforce vehicle noise unless it was caused by a deliberate modification.

Insp Derrick emphasised the importance of reporting all incidents on 101 or via Sussex Police Online.

The Chair expressed grateful thanks for all the efforts and work undertaken by the police within the town to support residents.

Inspector Derrick was thanked for his time and he left the meeting at 1923.

6. **UPDATE REGARDING CHEQUER MEAD POLICE STATION**

The visit to the Chequer Mead Police Station prior to this meeting had been very useful, with overall feedback that it was a great, modern facility. The addition of more signage within the town to direct people to the station and improved signage to the front of the building had been proposed to improve public visibility.

A review into front desk staffing levels should be available later in the summer. A relaunch of the station had been proposed to coincide with Classic Car day, alongside sharing details of the opening times and days of the station, including staffing levels.

7. **PRESENTATION FROM HILS MEALS ON WHEELS**

Rachel Pawley attended the meeting and provided an overview of the service provided

Approximately 2.5 years ago HILS moved to Sussex to provide the meals on wheels service. This was delivered via electric hot boxes to residents living at home to help support their ongoing independence. Offering 2 course meals which could be delivered daily or just a couple of times a month, the service was mainly for the elderly or vulnerable but not restricted to these people with the cost depending on qualifying benefits. This service has an additional benefit of providing useful eyes in order to report any problems which may be observed by the delivery drivers.

Cold meals can also be provided, together with the option to accommodate all diets. This was a useful service for people who had just come out of hospital, or to provide carer respite support.

Currently approx. 25-30 people within East Grinstead were being supported. Anyone could refer a client, including self-referral via www.hils-uk.org by completing the online form, however the request could also be made over the phone. Referrals were fast with generally next day delivery possible. Meals could only be delivered in person to the client. There was no contract so the requests can be arranged on a daily basis if required.

8. **TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR THE APPLICATION TO WSCC FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATION OF A 20MPH ZONE ON WEST STREET/WEST HILL**

Observations were made regarding some of the difficulties with visibility along this stretch, with it being advised there was generally only a 50% success rate with 20mph applications. It was important to consider how to support this to improve chances of success. Our SIDS were too heavy to install on WSCC street furniture so could not be moved to this location.

Some doubts were expressed as to whether a 20mph limit would resolve the issues experienced here or whether further traffic calming measures would be required.?

RESOLVED: Support for the application would be provided, alongside consideration of other measures such as installation of a SID pole within this area.

9. **TO NOTE THE LETTER RECEIVED IN RELATION TO THE APPLICATION TO THE LOCAL MAGISTRATES COURT TO STOP UP HIGHWAY ADJACENT TO BEECHING WAY, LAUREL DENE, EAST GRINSTEAD**

Council noted this application, and instructed the Clerk to request confirmation that all residents had been advised of this proposal.

10. **COMMUNITY TEAM UPDATE**

The Community & Tourism Manager provided a community team update.

Sunnyside Barn hiring was down this quarter, promotion of this facility would continue.

An issue with downloading data from the SIDS was currently being experienced, as soon as resolved these would be moved to the next location.

Pubwatch was up and running again and DISC had been useful to show all staff who was taking part.

The Library Desk was being well attended, and the existing Youth Club continued to be popular.

The proposal to commence a young teen youth club was reviewed. The importance of ensuring this would be cost effective to provide was emphasised; the cost per child was forecast at between £5-7 per head once the club was up and running, based on 25 children attending per week with 2 youth workers.

RESOLVED: The cost of £7,969.80 was recommended for approval at the next F&GP Committee from this year's budget to establish the youth club at the Kings Centre.

11. **TO NOTE THE ACTIONS LIST**

The committee's actions list was reviewed, it was noted that all were closed aside from the matter to investigate Messages of Hope.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.03pm, having advised that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 26th August 2025 at 7:00pm.

SIGNED:

CHAIRMAN: