



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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PUBLIC SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Tuesday 26th August 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 E Godwin

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Two members of public were in attendance. No questions were raised.

12. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None. Cllr J Belsey was absent, which was noted.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED: To approve the minutes of the meetings held on 3rd June 2025.

14. CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Reflections were made on the triumphant season of the three East Court Live events this year, whilst looking forward to the Classic Car Day on 7th September 2025.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16. 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 (1.5.25 – 31.7.25)

- 1981 incidents reported – 338 Cat A, 153 Cat B, 163 Cat C – increases compared to the last data run but as expected with summer demand
- 152 with Domestic Abuse tag (an increase from the previous 3-month period)
- 742 incidents attended by Police
- Of the 742 incidents attended – these include 95 violent crimes, 120 medical incident/concern, 83 suspicious activities, 35 road related incidents, 29 RTCs, 42 ASB, 8 burglaries

Recorded crime in East Grinstead

- -0.3% Rolling Year (RY) reduction in Total Crime
- -18.9% RY reduction in Burglary
- No RY change for Robbery
- +3.2 RY increase in Possession of Weapons offences
- -8.1% RY reduction in recorded DA crime

Insp Derrick was supporting the relaunch of East Grinstead Police Station on 7th September to coincide with the Classic Car Show in town. Police cars would be parked and available for people to take a look inside. The duty team had been ringfenced to be for the whole day – crime reports permitting. At a minimum, there would be 2 officers present.

The PCC had committed to the continued use of the building until the end of the lease. It was staffed by the Force Contact Centre not Insp Derrick's team. An email address would be provided for use during the unmanned times of the station.

Crime statistics were on the downward trend, and the force was committed to keeping the town a peaceful place to live. The importance of reporting all incidents on 101 or via Sussex Police Online was emphasised.

Shoplifting was raised as an issue within the town; most shops had CCTV and should be encouraged to report incidents with their evidence so the police could review and take action. They should not try and intervene for their own safety.

Sussex had a dedicated ASB team based in Haywards Heath which kept on top of problem tenants based in Housing Associations. Online Fraud was managed by City of London Police, and was not counted in fraud statistics.

Speeding and road crime was dealt with by a separate department called Road Policing. Whenever a serious accident occurred this department would complete a report to investigate the likely causes, and actions to address these would be taken where appropriate. Concerns regarding the Imberhorne junction had been raised.

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 1931.

17. **QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL**

Jane Dickson, Interim Deputy Chief Executive, attended the meeting to present an update relating to the Community Diagnostic Centre (CDC) at the hospital and plans to continue offering diagnoses to people close to their homes.

Large amounts of work have been undertaken to drive the CDC strategy to remain a centre of excellence, providing integrated services and a local service.

A vision for the new CDC was presented; work on this was due to commence before the end of September 2025. It had been designed to be sympathetic to the existing buildings, blending into the natural environment. An overview of the internal design was provided, showing the majority would be allocated to clinical spaces.

The next steps would be to commence surveys and ground works, with the opening scheduled for Spring 2026.

Since launching the QVH Strategy 2025-2030, the NHS landscape had shifted and the financial regime was now much tighter with a need to make savings and realise economies. This has caused the strategy to be revisited to establish whether it was sustainable, and potential NHS partnerships were being explored in order to maintain the specialist services on offer at QVH.

Concerns around the parking capacity were raised, within consideration of the parking charges for staff and visitors in relation to this as well as reviewing management of the onsite parking. Park and ride had been explored and discounted, and little control over the local bus service meant public transport was not viable. Other areas of land were being explored for utilisation.

Concerns were raised that raising prices would push the parking issues into neighbouring residential areas. Initial proposals being considered were to align parking charges with neighbouring NHS providers, or staggering parking fees in alignment with staff salaries.

Jane Dickson left the meeting at 1946.

18. **TO CONSIDER NOMINATIONS FOR THE UNSUNG HERO AWARD WHICH NEED TO BE SUBMITTED TO EAST GRINSTEAD MEMORIAL ESTATE BY THE END OF AUGUST 2025**

A reminder was made for committee members to consider and submit any Unsung Hero Award nominations by 31st August 2025 to EGMEL for consideration. The award would be made at the Mayor's Reception on 9th October 2025.

19. **TO CONSIDER THE COMMUNITY TEAM REPORT**

The Community & Tourism Manager provided a community team update.

Sunnyside Barn hiring was fuller than it had been although there was still capacity available. Community groups were using the hall as well as the Youth Club. Bookings for this venue would be transferred to the East Court bookings administrator from September 2025.

An issue with downloading data from the SIDs was ongoing, a meeting with our IT support company was taking place on site to try and resolve these within the next week.

Pubwatch Chair had been taken over by the landlord of the Dorset Arms, there was a small but regular attendance of local organisations.

The Library Desk was well attended, and Youth Club had continued to be well supported throughout the summer holidays, including outdoor activities at Sunnyside Rec as the weather had been so good.

Recruitment for the young teen youth club was in progress, with one potential candidate received; if anyone knew of another please let officers know.

The increased social media presence over the summer was commended, and the continued pursuit of additional stallholders for the farmers market was noted.

20. **TO CONSIDER A RESPONSE TO MSDC's STREET NAMING AND NUMBERING POLICY CONSULTATION**

The wording of item '13.7 Where a simple majority of two thirds in number of the total electorate are in favour of making the proposed change, then the Council may consider changing the name of the street' was felt to be inaccurate as the likelihood of the total electorate responding to a request to vote on such a matter was unlikely.

RESOLVED: The Clerk was instructed to feedback this back to MSDC and recommend this statement be written to reflect a majority of 2/3 of the total votes received be required, rather than the total electorate.

21. **TO NOTE THE ACTIONS LIST**

The committee's actions list was reviewed; monitoring of Evergreen Farm was ongoing. The conditions of the planning permission being discharged were raised, this would be followed up with the developers to receive a progress update.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.06pm, having advised that the next meeting would be held on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at 7:00pm.

SIGNED:

CHAIRMAN: