



# EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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## FULL COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting of East Grinstead Town Council on Tuesday 7 April 2026 at 7.30pm

Present:

- Cllr J Belsey (Town Mayor)
- Cllr S Reeves (Deputy Town Mayor)
- Cllr S Barnett
- Cllr M Belsey
- Cllr H Farren
- Cllr L Gibbs
- Cllr I Gibson\*
- Cllr E Godwin\*
- Cllr T Hughes
- Cllr J Mockford
- Cllr S Ody\*
- Cllr A Peacock
- Cllr C Pond\*
- Cllr T Scott\*
- Cllr F Visser
- Cllr R Whittaker

\* = absent

In attendance: Deputy Town Clerk

#### Public Participation

**8 members of the public were in attendance.**

The Town Mayor paid tribute to former Councillor Edward Matthews, who served as Town Mayor in 2002/03 and had recently passed away. A minute's silence was then observed in his memory

#### 69. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Cllr. Ody, Gibson, Pond, Godwin and Scott.

#### 70. To confirm the minutes of the Town Council Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

#### 71. To receive any Declarations of Personal or Pecuniary Interest

No declarations of interests were made.

72. **Town Mayor's Announcements**

The Mayor noted his engagements had been circulated and that this was his last Council meeting. The Annual Town Meeting will be held on the 21 April from 6pm where everyone is welcome to attend.

73. **To receive such communications as the Leader of the Council may desire to lay before the Council**

Cllr Farren reported that she had no communications for the Council and thanked Councillors for their support during the year.

74. **To note the actions list (Appendix A)**

These were noted and parking will be discussed further under item 77.

75. **To receive and consider the minutes of Committees:**

|  | <b>Date</b> | <b>Page Nos</b> | <b>Minute No</b> |
|--|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| (a) Planning                           | 03/02/2026  | 23-25           | 79-88            |
| (b) Environmental & Sustainable Travel | 24/02/2026  | 10-12           | 33-40            |
| (c) Public Services                    | 10/03/2026  | 9-14            | 33-41            |
| (d) Amenities & Tourism                | 24/03/2026  | 9-13            | 34-47            |
| (e) Finance & General Purposes         | 31/03/2026  | 13-15           | 46-56            |

Cllr Gibbs proposed the Planning Committee minutes.

Cllr Peacock proposed the Environmental & Sustainable Travel Committee minutes.

Cllr Reeves proposed the Public Services Committee minutes.

Cllr Hughes proposed the Amenities & Tourism Committee minutes.

Cllr Farren proposed the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

**RESOLVED:** The minutes and decisions of the meetings detailed above were accepted.

76. **To consider the proposal to implement a formal delegated authority process for planning application consultations (Appendix B)**

Prior to the Council meeting, the Planning Committee reviewed the Planning Applications Policy and recommended this for approval by the Council.

**RESOLVED:** The Planning Applications Policy was approved and adopted.

77. **To receive the MSDC briefing note regarding East Grinstead parking statistics and strategy (Appendix C)**

The report was noted.

The Deputy Clerk was requested to respond and question why the Vicarage Road car park was chosen as an initial trial for the ANPR and ask how the technology would work if residents were using the car park on multiple occasions, on the same day.

78. **To note the UK Town of Culture 2028 application was submitted by the deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026**

The Town Clerk and the Head of Community and Tourism worked alongside the consultants on the submission of interest application which was submitted on the 31 March.

Thanks were given to officers and residents for the successful community engagement event that was part of the process for the application. It was noted that a substantial number of towns have entered and it was encouraging for East Grinstead to take part, and if the bid was not successful it will assist with taking ideas forwards to the business plan and learning more about what the community want so it has been a worthwhile process. An announcement will be made in the spring with the shortlisted towns, with those shortlisted receiving £60,000 to help deliver their full bids for the next stage. The winner receives £3 million to deliver their bid with two runners up receiving £250,000 to deliver elements of their bid.

79. **To confirm the reappointment of the Internal Auditor**

Council will be asked to confirm the reappointment of Mulberry & Co, the internal auditor, for a further period of three years to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2029. The internal audit report findings will continue to be reported to the F&GP Committee on a bi-annual basis.

**RESOLVED:** To confirm the appointment of Mulberry and Co as the internal auditor for a further three-year period to 31 March 2029.

80 **To consider a response to the East Grinstead Business Improvement District (BID) business survey (Appendix D)**

The initial information sheet had been circulated. Cllr. Whittaker had attended a meeting with officers and the Project Manager from Heatflood who are carrying out the feasibility study work on behalf of Mid Sussex District Council, which is currently in the first initial phase of understanding if businesses support the BID. East Grinstead Business Association are actively involved and have also met with the Project Manager and all businesses in the town are being made aware of the BID and are being asked to complete the survey.

The recent Town Improvement Plan which has been created with the involvement of the Mid Sussex District Council, Town Council and East Grinstead Business Association would be a document that could be used to provide projects that could potentially be delivered by the BID if it should come into place in the future and they could interlink together.

**RESOLVED:** The Council supported the idea of the Business Improvement District proposal and that the area extends to include the Council offices at East Court.

The date of the next meeting of the Town Council meeting is **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

Meeting closed at 8pm.