



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 18th June 2026

Committee Members: Cllr E Godwin (Chairman)
Cllr T Hughes (Vice Chairman)
Cllr J Belsey*
Cllr M Belsey*
Cllr H Farren
Cllr J Mockford*
Cllr A Peacock*
Cllr C Pond (Deputy Town Mayor)*
Cllr S Reeves (Town Mayor)*
* = absent

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present.

1) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllrs Mockford and Peacock offered their apologies, Cllr Ody was in attendance as substitute for Cllr Peacock which was noted. Cllrs J Belsey and M Belsey were absent.

2) TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

3) TO RECEIVE A CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Cllr Godwin welcomed all to the new committee, and opened with thanks for the successful organisation of the first East Court Live as well as for the efforts to create the Town of Culture bid.

The feasibility of a pump track installation at East Court was being explored, the Clerk would check whether planning permission for this would be required. The benefit of this vs the provision of additional parking would need to be considered.

Officers had received some pump track quotes which were being reviewed in further detail as the costs and specifications varied, prior to compiling a report for Full Council on 30th July.

4) TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING OPEN ACTIONS (MERGED FROM E&ST, PUBLIC SERVICES AND A&T COMMITTEES)

The actions list was reviewed and noted. Regarding the request to obtain maintenance costs for King Georges Field, the Clerk was instructed to try and contact Glendale directly to request these as MSDC had been unable to supply them to date.

5) TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY & TOURISM QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT

The first East Court Live of 2026 had gone well, with lots of positive feedback received online. The Dementia Talk at the Library had also been successful, providing support for families with newly diagnosed dementia.

The resignation of one of the Kings Club Youth Club leaders was not a critical issue as the club didn't meet over the summer. Recruitment was planned for September, the remaining 2 youth club workers would manage in the interim with EGTC staff filling the gaps when required.

The library has had a lot of maintenance work over the past year with short notice of this offered at times. The windows and doors were being replaced so the team could still work there, however parking was not available for 5-6 weeks due to the car park being used by contractors. Solar panels were also being installed later this year which would cause further disruption.

Congratulations were offered for the Munich Legends sponsorship of the Classic Car Show. They would bring a gazebo to use as a base to talk to visitors as well as some classic cars to show. A low fee for all exhibitors had been implemented this year to try and reduce the no-shows. Over 70 cars and 20 motorbikes had signed up so far.

The Community and Tourism resource capacity issues were discussed, and how this could be addressed; even though resources and events cost money, the benefits to the town of attracting more visitors was huge. Congratulations were offered to the team for the ever improving and increased social media presence.

The update report was noted.

6) TO NOTE THE DATES OF THE TOWN TWINNING EVENT IN EAST GRINSTEAD ON 24TH – 27TH JUNE 2027, AND THAT THESE DATES CLASH WITH THE NATIONALLY SET DATE OF ARMED FORCES DAY AND THEIR USE OF EAST COURT

Committee noted the clash of dates and agreed it would be impossible to offer the Meridian Hall to Town Twinning due to the pre-planned Armed Forces Day on 26th June 2027. It was hard to consider any alternatives when a full schedule had not yet been provided. The welcome reception could take place in Meridian Hall if we gave sufficient notice to the current regular hirer, this would be explored. The Clerk was instructed to request a detailed plan for the Town Twinning event.

7) TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST TO INDICATE TOWN COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE 'LOADING BAY' SIGNAGE OUTSIDE ST LUKES COMMUNITY ROOM IN HOLLAND AVENUE

Committee resolved to support the request to have the 'loading bay' signage removed.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7.38pm, having announced the date of the next meeting on Thursday 17th September 2026.

Signed

Chairman