



EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY AND TOURISM COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting held at 7pm on Thursday 17th September 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 Barnett
Cllr S Ody
Community & Tourism Manager
Town Clerk

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None present.

8) APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/SUBSTITUTIONS

Cllrs J Belsey, Hughes and Peacock offered their apologies which were noted, as was Cllr Ody's attendance as substitute for Cllr Peacock.

9) TO RECEIVE MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Mockford advised she was a member of the Town Twinning Committee in reference to agenda item 17.

10) TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18th JUNE 2026

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 18th June 2026, having been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

11) TO RECEIVE A CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

There were no updates to share.

12) TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING OPEN ACTIONS

The actions list was reviewed and noted.

13) TO RECEIVE THE COMMUNITY & TOURISM QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT

The summer events had all been completed with East Court Live being as successful as ever. The pump track open day event had been well attended with continued use throughout the week, and the professional scooter rider offering coaching had also been very popular. The feedback had all been extremely positive.

The Classic Motor Show had also gone very well with only a few spaces at the end of the High Street. More car clubs had contacted us to express interest in joining the event, with consideration to be given to expanding the entries to incorporate London Road. The town centre shops had experienced good business on the day.

Planning for Remembrance Day was underway, as well as for the Big Reveal. Last year the volume of attendees at the Big Reveal was so great it had been necessary to consider ways to mitigate this to ensure public safety. Discussions with other security companies had been underway and it was being considered to move the stage to the roundabout at the Cook Shop end of the High Street. Now the Christmas lights would all be on remote control along the High Street and London Road this would ensure visibility of both roads for the switch on.

It may be necessary to postpone some of the proposed events for this year to next year to keep within budget.

The Christmas Market was also proving popular with 80 applications for 30 stalls; consideration was being given to expand this next year through the use of outdoor marquees, however there would be a cost involved.

Social media was continuing to receive lots of engagement, albeit very time consuming for the team it did keep residents up to date.

Heritage Plaques had not been progressed to date, but focus would switch to this in the new year.

Budget planning was due to commence imminently, and it was still desirable to try and plan a heritage day event on the High Street in the future.

Thanks was expressed to the team for all their efforts, which was clearly reflected in social media responses. The importance of safety at these events was also emphasised, and the proposal to postpone events where necessary to ensure we addressed our risks adequately was welcomed.

Sunnyside Youth Club was still going really well, a few had dropped out due to growing outside the age range so spaces were being advertised, with kids attending from all over town. The senior youth club based here was also doing well, with a trip to Blacklands Farm being planned for next summer.

The Kings Centre Youth Club was less popular with lower take up, the team was trying to work out why; attendance varied between 3 and 15 teens on a weekly basis. The aim had been to reduce ASB although reports of this were lower than before. One of the youth leaders had resigned and recruitment would follow, but the option to use Kings Centre staff to provide activities was being explored.

50% of the ticket sales for the Classic Car Show would be donated to the Mayors charity.

The update report was noted.

14) TO RECEIVE A VERBAL UPDATE REGARDING THE PROPOSED PUMP TRACK AT KING GEORGE'S FIELD, NOTING THE FEEDBACK RECEIVED FOR THE TEMPORARY PUMP TRACK INSTALLED IN JULY 2026

The temporary pump track feedback was welcomed, and it was noted how encouraging this was in relation to the plans to pursue installation of a permanent track in future.

Discussions with MSDC were ongoing, with a letter of intent to be requested from them to confirm they would agree to leasing a section of King George's Field to the town council in order to allow grant applications to be pursued. The Clerk would request this letter be available to share at Full Council on 8th October 2026.

15) TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING SPEED INDICATOR DEVICE STATISTICS AND THE DELIVERY OF THE NEW PORTABLE DEVICE, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION OF PRIORITY LOCATIONS FOR INSTALLATION

The SIDs would be moved to Woodberry Avenue and Herontye Drive next. Speeding statistics were high for this quarter, especially on Holtie Road. Residents had complained about increased speeding being experienced after the SIDs were removed.

The new portable SID was more flexible and could be placed in more locations, a list of locations had been requested so permission from Enerveo can be sought. Locations identified so far included West Street, Turners Hill Road junction with Hill Place Farm, College Lane, Dorset Avenue and Gardenwood Road. The Clerk would email all councillors to ask if there were any further suggestions.

16) TO CONSIDER PRIORITISATION OF BUSINESS PLAN ITEMS

Items were reviewed and prioritised High, Medium and Low, the updated list would be shared with all.

17) TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE REGARDING PREPARATION AND PLANNING FOR THE TOWN TWINNING 2027 EVENT

The update report was noted.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 8.15pm, having announced the date of the next meeting on Thursday 10th December 2026.

Signed

Chairman