

**EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF EAST GRINSTEAD TOWN COUNCIL  
HELD AT EAST COURT, EAST GRINSTEAD on MONDAY 5 JULY 2010  
at 7.45 pm**

Present: Councillor S Barnett (Town Mayor)  
Councillor B Mainstone (Deputy Town Mayor)  
Councillors Mrs Bennett, Mrs Brunsdon, Mrs Collins DL, Mrs Mainstone and Mrs Waddingham  
Councillors Baldwin, Banks, Gillbard, Johnson, Joyce-Nelson, Mainstone, Musk. Reed and Starmer

Also present: A representative of East Grinstead Courier and Observer and three members of the public.

21 **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

County Councillor John O'Brien introduced himself to Members, from the public gallery, as the newly elected County Councillor for East Grinstead South & Ashurst Wood Ward. He said that he is spending his first months ensuring he is fully up to speed on a range of local issues and concerns and is on a fast track learning experience. He had already attended one County Local Community meeting, which he had found informative. He has been appointed to the Policy and Resources Committee, the Community Service Committee and the Appeals Panel at County Hall. He had generally found people to be very helpful and looked forward to working co-operatively with the Town Council in the best interests of the local community. The Town Mayor thanked him for his introduction.

Public Question Time concluded at 7.50 p.m.

22 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Dixon and Quinn.

23 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meetings held on 10th May and 24th June 2010, having been previously circulated, be confirmed and signed by the Town Mayor.

24 **DECLARATIONS OF PERSONAL & PREJUDICIAL INTEREST FROM MEMBERS**

- \* All interests declared during the previous cycle of meetings were re-disclosed by Councillors.
- \* Councillor Mrs Bennett disclosed a personal interest in the presentation on the work of the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (Min. 27) as a member of the West Sussex County Council HOSC.
- \* Councillors Baldwin, Barnett, Mrs Collins, Gillbard, Johnson, Joyce-Nelson, Mainstone, Mrs Mainstone, Marmara, Reed and Mrs Waddingham disclosed personal interests in the same item (Min. 27) either as a member of the Queen Victoria Hospital League of Friends, as a member of the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust or, as in the case of Councillor Reed, the spouse of an employee of the Hospital.

- \* Councillor Mrs Waddingham disclosed a personal interest in Amenities & Tourism Committee Min. 64 as a member of the East Grinstead Town Twinning Association.

## 25 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor drew Members attention to the list setting out attendances that he, the Deputy Town Mayor and others had undertaken as below. In presenting his diary of past engagements the Town Mayor made specific reference to the number of sports events he had been able to support, to the range of activities associated with schools and young people and to the particular pleasure he and the Mayoress had experienced at the Guinea Pig AGM and lunch and afterwards at the McIndoe Exhibition at the Town Museum on 26th May.

### May

- 11 Presentation of Certificates to Imberhorne School pupils at Effingham Park Hotel.\*
- 12 Attended Town Twinning meeting preparing for weekend visit by delegates
- 13 Launch of NuYuu in London Road, with charity cheque presentation\*
- 14 Opening of McIndoe Exhibition at the Town Museum\*  
Meeting with Twin Town delegates after their business meeting at East Court\*
- 15 Day long Town Twinning events including hosting of reception for delegates at East Court\*
- 16 25th Running of the East Grinstead Triathlon in aid of Prostate Cancer Research at Olympos Kings Centre
- 19 Lions Club "It's a Knockout" at Olympos, Kings Centre\*
- 20 Ribbon cutting for opening of Aldi store, accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor  
East Grinstead Business Association Service Sector Day at Jubilee Centre and presentation of "Local Champion" award to Hallmark Travel, accompanied by Deputy Town Mayor
- 22 Presentations for Meads Football Club at Sackville School
- 23 Abseil at East Grinstead Fire Station in aid of Dominic's Fund accompanied by Miss Elizabeth Barnett  
Mayor of Dartford's Civic Service at St Anselm's Church, Dartford
- 26 Guinea Pig AGM and Lunch at the Felbridge Hotel and visit to the McIndoe Exhibition at the Town Museum\*
- 28 Talk Lunch at Baldwins Hill School  
East Grinstead & District Mental Health Association Private View of Creative Cornucopia at Chequer Mead\*
- 29 Filipino-British Association's Fiesta Sa Nayon at Olympos Kings Centre  
Chichester Mayor making at Chichester Cathedral\*
- 31 Press photocall for Nizams Restaurant launch of tapas bar

### June

- 4 Presentation of "Local Champion" award to TREK-diagnostic, accompanied by Deputy Mayor
- 5 Bluebell Railway Viaduct Open Day\*  
McIndoe Surgical Centre "Sun Awareness" Day at Queen Victoria Hospital\*
- 6 Girl Guides Centenary Nature Trail opening at East Court\*
- 7 Photocall for hanging of flower baskets in High Street  
Omlets Creative Performance at Chequer Mead, accompanied by Deputy Mayor
- 8 Multiple Sclerosis Information Day in Meridian Hall, accompanied by Councillor Mrs Mainstone

- Lime tree and Eco-Schools Green Flag celebrations at St Peter's School, accompanied by Deputy Mayor and Miss Elizabeth Barnett  
 Queen Victoria Hospital League of Friends presentation of cheque in Meridian Hall, accompanied by Deputy Mayor
- 12 Opening of "My East Grinstead" photographic exhibition with reception at Chequer Mead
- 13 Crawley Civic Service at Broadfield Community Church\*  
 Churches Together Ecumenical Service at Our Lady & St Peter's Church\*
- 14 Fundraising Chinese Meal for Sleep Out charities at New Evergreen Restaurant
- 15 Boules Match with East Grinstead Twinners and Forest Row Twinners\*
- 17 Meridian Bridge Club Summer Party in Meridian Hall\*
- 18 Opening of Casablanca Café in High Street, accompanied by Deputy Mayor  
 Meridian Way booklet launch at Lewes Town Hall\*
- 19 Justice and Peace Group 20th Annual Sleep Out in High Street for homelessness charities
- 20 Nautical Training Corps 50th Anniversary in Meridian Hall\*
- 21 Raising the Flag for the Armed Forces at Mid Sussex District Council, Oaklands, Haywards Heath
- 26 Founders Day celebrations at Sackville College\*  
 East Grinstead Choral Society Last Night of the Proms Concert at Chequer Mead with St Peter's School\*
- 27 Sevenoaks Civic Service at St John The Baptist Church, Sevenoaks\*
- 30 St Luke's Church Women's Group talk by Councillor Paul Johnson\*
- July
- 1 West Sussex County Scouts AGM at Pulborough
- 2 Meads School production of Wind in the Willows at Chequer Mead\*  
 Sackville Community Choir Concert at Sackville School\*
- 3 Armed Forces Day at East Court\*
- 4 Chief Scout Awards and Soap Box Derby at Imberhorne Lower School
- 5 Sackville School's Exam Art & Photographic Exhibition at Chequer Mead\*

Deputy Town Mayor

May

- 19 Young Enterprise County Final at Chequer Mead

June

- 5 Kent vs Nottinghamshire county cricket match as the guest of the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells\*
- 25 Funeral of East Grinstead Lion Stan Hogman\*

July

- 2 Fonthill Lodge School's production of The Tempest\*
- 3 Churches Together Concert at Moat United Reform Church\*
- 4 Nautical Training Corps Founders Day at Littlehampton Green\*

*\*Deputy Mayoress in attendance*

Representing the Town Mayor

June

- 26 Cllr Paul Johnson and District Cllr Mrs Jean Glynn at West Sussex Music Service Concert at Crawley Baptist Church

- 26 Cllr Jim and Mrs Dot Joyce-Nelson at Armed Forces Day Concert at Sevenoaks Community Centre for Sevenoaks Town Council.

The Leader of the Council spoke as follows:-

"I first want to congratulate the Town Mayor on his speech at Armed Forces Day and stress how impressive I found the event. It is becoming a key part of the Town Calendar, and rightly so.

Nationally, a great deal has happened since we last met with the formation of the coalition and the radical approach it is taking to reshaping our country's finances and system of government. We need to be part of this process. We need to recognise both the realities of the current dire economic situation and the opportunities offered by the coalition's welcome stress on localism.

I fully intend to take at face value Eric Pickles words that "*Localism is giving people more say, choice and ownership of their local services*". I want us to seize this opportunity and work with our partners in MSDC and WSCC to make localism a reality for East Grinstead. That means real engagement on addressing such issues as parking, public toilets, and snow and ice clearance touched on in our agenda tonight.

I also fully intend to take at face value Housing Minister Grant Schapps's words that '*Councils and communities will now be able to shape the development that is appropriate for their own area - ensuring that the people who make these decisions are the people who know our communities best*'.

I am confident from my meeting with Mid Sussex District Council's Cabinet Member last month that they, too, have heard the message. I am looking forward to a positive process, based in the Three Tiers Group, to fashion a Plan for the Town's future development that wins consensus, addresses our needs and is based on the clear policies this Council has consistently put forward since 2003. We are not sure of the timescale but we are sure of the direction we want pursued."

27 PRESENTATION BY DR ADRIAN BULL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE QUEEN VICTORIA HOSPITAL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

The Town Mayor was pleased to welcome Dr Adrian Bull, Chief Executive of the Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, who had kindly agreed to give a presentation to Members and to answer questions.

Dr Bull said that the Queen Victoria Hospital has a close relationship with the Town of East Grinstead and an extraordinary history. He observed how many Members of the Town Council had links through the declarations of interest that they had declared earlier. He said that the Hospital is much prized and valued.

Dr Bull outlined the services provided out of the Queen Victoria Hospital. He said it is a Centre for reconstructive surgery, burns, cancer (head and neck, and skin), and trauma. He said that these are provided alongside local community services including the Minor Injuries Unit and in-patient beds on Jubilee Ward together with a range of out-patient services. He emphasised that Queen Victoria Hospital is not a District General Hospital, but that there are two distinct service arenas – the first sees a focus on reconstructive services and burns and the second on community services.

Dr Bull gave an overview of national finances in relation to the Health Service. Whilst much play has been made of the fact that the NHS is to be protected from the cuts that affect all other services, apart from overseas aid, this headline

statement disguises many hidden issues. NHS spending has increased by 10% per annum over the last decade. Total spending has increased from £35bn to £100bn and as a percentage of gross domestic product the NHS now consumes circa 10% of gross domestic product as opposed to 6% before the increased resources first began to be put in. He said that health inflation in the developed world runs at 6%-7%. As the NHS is now protected against general inflation then it is likely that increased sums available will be about 2% resulting in the need for savings of some 5% per annum at a time when demand is still increasing. Sir David Nicholson, CEO of the NHS, has cited the need for savings of £20bn across the NHS over the next three years.

Dr Bull advised Members that the QVH NHS Foundation Trust is free from central control and Strategic Health Authority performance management and is accountable to Monitor (the independent regulator) and Parliament. The QVH has always been judged excellent/excellent for the quality of care and management of resources since these assessments were first introduced, and he and his colleagues are proud of that. He emphasised, however, that the gap between excellent and poor can be slim and particularly for management of resources there are five financial measurements that need to be achieved. One of these is that the annual surplus must be about £700,000 but he emphasised that the operating theatres generate circa £400,000 per week, so a surplus could easily be wiped out with two weeks of non-activity. He was pleased that patient surveys and general satisfaction surveys have ranked QVH as excellent and that the Trust is consistently among the top 10% of hospitals nationally and that 90% of patients would recommend it to their friends.

Dr Bull said that the QVH is approximately 1/5th the size of an average District General Hospital and as such has many challenges to overcome. There are three levels of financial issues needing to be addressed. The first of these is operational and he said that over the last four years the Hospital has assumed a level of growth in activity and revenue, and made investment decisions based upon this but in some instances costs have exceeded the growth in revenue. Hence the Trust is now making a number of changes, including reducing administration and amending internal booking processes. There is a tight focus on cost.

Dr Bull said that the second level of challenge is structural. Nationally there needs to be £20bn worth of savings over the next three years. The tariff of prices on which QVH is paid has been frozen for the current year, and revenue assumptions for the next three years are for zero growth. For acute hospitals including the QVH it has been announced that any increase of unplanned/urgent activity over the 2008/09 level will only achieve 30% of the normal tariff rate. This will have significant impact. He also said that the Jubilee Ward represents 5% or 6% in revenue terms, noting that these community services are high profile at a local level but low activity. He said that there have been substantial changes in activity levels in Jubilee Ward from 10 years previous when the ward was consistently full (28 beds). He drew attention to changes in surgery techniques and to a much speedier turn around of patients whilst maintaining clinical standards and patient safety at all times. Currently there are only 9 beds occupied and even in the depths of the 2009/2010 winter there had never been a higher occupancy than 23 beds. The beds are no longer utilised for social respite as GPs make other arrangements, specifically care in the community. All of this presents a serious challenge to Jubilee Ward, which currently loses £1m a year. As a consequence the QVH is working with the Primary Care Trust to ensure that services are sound and as the Jubilee Ward is effectively a stand alone facility on the site the Trust is inviting other organisations to run these community services, including community therapies. There has been interest in this and both the PCT

and GPs are being fully co-operative. These services would continue to be run from the East Grinstead site by leasing part of the estate.

Dr Bull said that the third level of challenge is fundamental and relates to the nature of the estate. He was conscious of the fact that Members are already aware of development issues. In this regard much work has been undertaken over time and a number of options have been considered. The estate is old and vulnerable – for example, no-one knows where some of the underground water pipes go to or from. A recent weekend power cut took the operating theatres out for a short time. Infrastructure services are not unsafe, but they are unsuitable and will not be reliable in the medium to long term. Some of the operating theatres are not appropriate for today's environment and the QVH will have to invest in these in the coming decade. £25m is required as a minimum to rebuild the theatres. Dr Bull said that three years ago a £25m mortgage would have been feasible but in today's economic climate it is not. The question for the Board is how to create investment in the estate to guarantee the future. In this regard various options are being considered. One of these is for merger with another Trust, contingent on the requisite level of investment on the estate to enable the continued delivery of services at East Grinstead. Both a London Teaching Hospital and the Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust have expressed interest in merger. The alternative would be continuation as a stand alone Trust with a balance of risk that this would entail. He emphasised that staff and governors are aware of the discussions. At this juncture the Town Mayor asked Members for questions.

Councillor Mrs Waddingham asked a question about visiting consultants to the QVH and was advised that they come from a number of other Trusts, including Kings (Cardiology), Redhill (e.g. Rheumatology, Urology) Brighton (e.g. Vascular) and Maidstone/Tunbridge Wells (e.g. Ear, Nose & Throat). Dr Bull said that in-patient (overnight cases) for some years have been done at the consultants' home hospitals. Day case surgery has been done in a small number of lists at QVH. This day case activity can prove complicated and it is difficult to meet the 18 week treatment times with such small numbers of lists, and this is under review.

Councillors Mrs Collins said that when she served on the Trust Board some 6 or 7 years ago it would have been relatively easy to get a mortgage but she recognised that the new economic climate makes this far more difficult. She felt there could be useful synergy with a merger with a London teaching hospital but appreciated that a business case would need to be proven. She asked whether the proposals outlined by Dr Bull would mean that rehabilitation services would be retained on the site and was advised in the positive. In answer to a question about public transport to/from the QVH Dr Bull confirmed that this is indeed inadequate. Although not a direct responsibility of the Trust, he would wish to see some increase in public transport. He said there is no prospect of the QVH setting up a hospital funded bus service. He also assured that there is no proposal to reduce the current level of hospital transport.

Councillor Mainstone asked a detailed question about car parking associated with the QVH site. Dr Bull said that car parking is a particular issue for patient services. The Hospital's on-site car parking currently has unsophisticated machines with little flexibility for different time periods. The Hospital is currently making arrangements to switch the patient and staff car parking areas over to improve on-site efficiency. He said that the Hospital cannot afford to change over to a barrier system but it will improve signage and amend staff permit policies whereby staff living within one mile of the Hospital will not qualify for a permit during daytime hours. New machines are

being purchased. Finally, Dr Bull confirmed that the Hospital parking charges are self-funding.

The Town Mayor asked for clarification about the tariff payment system for patient operations. Dr Bull said the aim of the new changes being introduced is to provide a disincentive to hospitals who undertake non-scheduled operations. The idea is to ensure proper treatment in the first place so that patients do not require re-admission.

At the end of the presentation, and question and answer session, the Town Mayor thanked Dr Bull for his attendance, for the transparency of information provided and for the detailed responses to questions. The meeting duly acknowledged this in the usual way.

28 MINUTES OF MEETINGS

RESOLVED: That the minutes as numbered of the following Committee meetings, held on the dates as shown, be received, their acts and proceedings noted and their recommendations confirmed:

	<u>Minute Nos</u>	<u>Date of Mtg</u>
(a) Planning	1 - 4	10.5.10
(b) Public Services	5 - 8	10.5.10
(c) Amenities & Tourism	9 - 12	10.5.10
(d) Finance & General Purposes	13 -16	10.5.10
(e) Planning	17 - 23	11.5.10
(f) Planning	24 - 34	1.6.10
(g) Public Services	35 - 49	10.6.10
(h) Amenities & Tourism	50 - 65	17.6.10
(i) Planning	66 - 75	21.6.10
(j) Finance & General Purposes	76 - 92	24.6.10

29 TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 9. Nil

30 SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED: Grant of Exclusive Right of Burial Nos. 1861, 1862, 1863, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1867 1868, 1869, 1870, 1871 and 1872.

31 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPERANNUATION ARRANGEMENTS

RESOLVED: That East Grinstead Town Council hereby resolve under the Local Government Superannuation Regulations to specify as a pensionable employee for the purposes of these Regulations the following permanent officer of the Council with effect from 1st June 2010:- Mr Roger Gwatkin, Handyman (p/t).

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

SIGNED:

TOWN MAYOR