East Grinstead Memorial Estate Ltd

Registered Charity No 305211
Company No 468425
Registered office: Suite 3, Independent House, Imberhorne Lane, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 1TU
www.egmel.co.uk

77th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The **77th Annual General Meeting** of East Grinstead Memorial Estate Ltd was held at **7pm on Tuesday 30th June 2026** in the Council Chamber, East Court, College Rd, East Grinstead, West Sussex, RH19 3LT, with Lloyd Richards in the Chair.

16 Members were present
3 Members had presented their apologies for absence
2 Member had lodged proxy votes and had approved all resolutions.

The Minutes of the 76th AGM, held on 8th July 2025, had been approved online by the Directors on 24th July 2025. A signed (and redacted) copy had been posted to the company's website for public view.

1. The annual report and financial statements for the year ended 31st December 2025 had previously been circulated to the Members and were unanimously approved by a show of hands. Lloyd Richards highlighted:
    - 1.1. Our investment portfolio value has risen by 10% to £1.16m in the year to 31 December 2025 and has made further progress since to £1.2m up to June 2026
    - 1.2. Grants made to local beneficiaries were increased during the year by ca.60% to over £26,000
    - 1.3. We repeated our Unsung Hero Award initiative with the 2025 recipient being Lester Medcalf of the EG Athletics Club.
      Nominations for this year's award for work in the sporting or recreation areas would be welcomed from members by 31st August to membership@egmel.co.uk
    - 1.4. Your board is now operating under a revised framework which is generating more initiatives and focussed activity:
        - Invest in and enhance the estate
        - Deepen community engagement and participation
        - Ensure maintenance and development of the estate by MDSC
        - Raise EGMEL profile and influence
        - Develop the Board
    - 1.5. Examples are a greater social media presence for the Estate; visibility increased at volunteer events and further recruitment to the Board as evidenced by item 3 on the agenda formalising Samantha Lear's appointment
    - 1.6. Membership closed the year at 44 which is consistent with recent numbers – as with the Board itself and our membership generally, we are very open to new faces – so if you know of anyone……….
    - 1.7. Tenants – Both the Town Football club and the Target shooting club continue to be supported by us as necessary. We provide both with very much less than

commercial rental costs and have a very amicable collaboration with them, as necessary to support their development opportunities and the maintenance needs of the Estate.

Our other tenant, Mid Sussex District Council is a far more tortuous relationship where they continue to under deliver against publicly announced initiatives – we had to take them to task on this again at our half yearly steering committee meeting - demonstrating to them serial failings over the last 25 years which continue to persist. At the basic hygiene level of grass cutting and emptying waste bins, they operate satisfactorily, but beyond that there lies a conspicuous absence of initiative, planning and delivery which is not going to be helped by their staff turnover and local government reorganisation. We remain fearful for the immediate future. To date the Glendale volunteering initiative has had very limited impact

1.8. Users of the Estate now consistently include the Town Bonfire Society who we supported in obtaining approval for siting another storage container alongside the existing Conservation Group container. Neither are things of beauty but work is underway to paint both to soften their impact. We're very grateful to both groups and their volunteers for the work they put into the Estate for the benefit of the Town's residents and I'm particularly grateful to the members of the Board, Directors and non-Directors, for their continued work in keeping me, and us, on the straight and narrow

1.9. In summary, your Board and the Charity's finances, are both in very good fettle and I commend the annual report and accounts to you.

2. In accordance with clause 27 (b) of the Articles, Philip Martin, not having been appointed or reappointed at one of the preceding two annual general meetings, was standing to be reappointed as a Director of the Company. This was approved unanimously.
3. Following appointment by the Directors in the interval between the last AGM and this AGM (in accordance with clause 27 (a) of the Articles), Samantha Lear was standing to be reappointed as a Director of the Company. This was approved unanimously.
4. The meeting agreed unanimously that Brooks and Co should be reappointed as the Company's accountant and the Board of Directors be authorised to set their fees.
5. Any Other Business

5.1. Penny Fisher highlighted that nothing had been done by MSDC to address the dangerous (dead) trees adjacent to their property. LR undertook to elevate this issue with MSDC

5.2. Chris Russell asked why, if our investments are doing so well, does the Company not allocate more to grants for local causes. LR responded that we had uncertain times ahead and may need to husband cash to support our efforts to cajole MSDC into more activity (e.g. by employing a 'warden'). AEH added that we were in the process, through our strategy work, of considering where charity funds could best be used in future years for the development of the estate for the community.

5.3. David Hooker suggested our MP, Mimms Davis, might be able to assist in improving MSDC's performance. LR is keeping this path of action "in reserve" at the moment. In the meantime we are monitoring a Freedom of Information request that another body has tabled with MSDC.

5.4. Denise Brownbridge suggested that maybe we could coordinate our frustration with MSDC with other like-minded groups? LR advised of our current effort to make contact with the Hill Place Farm SANG residents.

5.5. LR reminded the members about MSDC's very poor performance as measured vs the SANG 10-year plan and Ann Hacke also reminded the members how a replacement plan is now well overdue. On the optimistic front MSDC has promised to assign a limited-time contractor to address our concerns in the near future. LR also recounted that MSDC had told him that all expenditure was currently on hold, including the ring-fenced SANG fund!

5.6. Chris Nunn added that unlike a normal supplier/customer situation, there are no realistic alternatives to the current arrangement where MSDC have contracted to "look after" the Estate for 100+ years at no cost to us, and, despite all our frustrations, the Estate wasn't in bad shape. Brian Auker said that neighbours in Bluebell Gate thought Ashplats a wonderful resource to have on their doorstep.

5.7. Brian Auker asked if we could recover the cost of a 'Warden' from MSDC. LR thought this would be unlikely, but if this potential new recruit worked out as well as the progress we'd seen on the Gravetye Estate, then the cost would be worthwhile.

David Hooker was keen to record, despite the decidedly lacklustre performance of MSDC, the Members heartfelt gratitude for the continuing efforts of the Chairman and Trustees. This was unanimously approved by the Members present.

There being no other business, with a unanimous vote of thanks to the Chair and the other Trustees proposed by David Hooker, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.05pm.

Lloyd Richards
Chairman

[redacted]

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Jul 19, 2026