

# **MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2021**

## **SUPPORTING PAPERS**

**Please note not every Agenda Item will have a supporting paper.**

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**Agenda Item 8**

**Minutes of Monthly Full Council meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, asking for suggested amendments by 9<sup>th</sup> February. None were received. Cllr Moore emailed in, "I have carefully read through the Minutes and found them to be fine."

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Agenda Item 9**

**Monthly Update Report**

1. **Introduction**
2. **No Minute Number – Roundstone Level Crossing cameras**
3. **Minutes 775/20 - Protect Coastal England – Extension Of The Rampion Windfarm and 896/20 – RWE – Extension of the Rampion Windfarm**
4. **Minute 093/21 – Public Session – West Sussex County Council**

**1. Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021.

**2. No Minute Number – Roundstone Level Crossing cameras**

Not too long ago Network Rail installed tall yellow posts and placed cameras atop them to monitor driver behaviour over the crossing. Councillors and members of the public may have noticed these cameras have since disappeared. I contacted my new Network Rail best friend about this, and this was his reply:

Hi Simon,

The cameras at Roundstone Level Crossing have been redeployed to an alarm half barrier (AHBs) crossing at another location due to the way these crossings operate.

AHBs remain our greatest risk from a safety perspective.

We've requested recently for the British Transport Police mobile camera van to increase attendance at Roundstone level crossing which should hopefully act as a deterrent to those intending to misuse the crossing.

I hope that's helpful. If you have any more queries don't hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards  
Greg

I asked Greg whether the cameras were likely to return this year and he replied he did not think that was likely. Furthermore, Greg took it upon himself to ask why Network Rail had spent such money on infrastructure and cameras for such a short span of time. He has said he will get back to me. For more on this topic please see the Sussex Police section of the Clerk's Report below.

### **3. Minutes 775/20 - Protect Coastal England - Extension Of The Rampion Windfarm and 896/20 - RWE - Extension of the Rampion Windfarm**

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, the council received the following email from Kingston Parish Council:

Dear Clerk

Please could you share this with your Chairman and Members of Council.

Kingston Parish Council has had virtual meetings with representatives from Rampion and the campaign group, Protect Coastal England, who are objecting to the Rampion2 proposal, to hear both sides of the argument:

**Rampion 2** <https://rampion2.com/>

**Protect Coastal England** <https://www.protectcoastalengland.org/>

In response to the current informal consultation being held by Rampion 2, Council has raised these initial concerns:

#### ***1. The Visual Impact:***

*There will be an extremely detrimental visual effect on the seascape given:*

- Rampion 2 is to be sited only 8.1 miles from the shoreline - this is far too close.*
- the much larger sized turbines (325m – taller than the Eiffel Tower!) will have a greater visual impact than Rampion 1, during the day and when lit at night.*
- the combined and extended span of Rampion 1 and 2 will affect the seascape of an extensive part of the Sussex coastline – potentially from Newhaven to Selsey. This will affect the views for residents and tourists as well as views from iconic sites such as Arundel Castle and the South Downs National Park.*

#### ***2. The Environmental Impact:***

- the effect of turbines on birds as their safe flight corridors will be lost*

- the disturbance of the seabed that will impact on the plants and sea creatures
- the effect on the countryside and its wildlife by laying offshore cables from Climping to Bolney.

### **3. The Economic Impact:**

- how will the scheme affect the local economy including tourism and fishing?

### **4. The Location:**

- Whilst Council fully supports the need to bring on stream more renewable energy, Wind Farms need to be located with sensitivity to the amenity and landscape of the local area. Are there other sites around the coast where the turbines can be set much further out to sea to reduce the impact such as at Dogger Bank in the North Sea?

Council will be responding to the formal consultation planned later in the year when more details of the scheme will emerge and we may have answers to the concerns we have raised.

Council would be very interested to learn the views of your Council so please do get in touch with us.

Regards

Mrs Val Knight  
Clerk of Kingston Parish Council

## **4. Minute 093/21 – Public Session – West Sussex County Council**

Little white marks have appeared in Sea Road and other locations around the village ahead of the yellow line guys coming along shortly.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 11**

### **Committees**

This month, the following committee meetings have taken place: Amenities on the 8<sup>th</sup>, Finance & General Purposes on the 15<sup>th</sup>, Major Events on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and Planning and Licensing on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Draft Minutes from these meetings will have been circulated to all councillors ahead of this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# **Agenda Item 11a**

## **Amenities Committee**

The committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> February.

### **Warren Recreation Ground - Flooding at Steve Hodgson's workshop.**

The yard and workshop sit adjacent to the Warren Recreation Ground and have rarely flooded in the past but over the past several years, rain has increasingly pooled outside of the drain. The drain runs from just inside Steve's Yard under the WRG boundary and down to Two Acres open ditch. As the drain is on council territory the committee agreed to a CCTV survey to assess the condition of the drain. The committee was advised part of the drain had collapsed due to tree root damage and is no longer serviceable. To date the committee has received one quote to replace the stretch of drain and is currently awaiting a further quote.

The committee considered a report received from former councillor, Mrs Judith Akhurst, in relation to this matter.

I had already contacted West Sussex County Council about this and am awaiting a meeting on site with the WSCC Highways Steward for this area.

### **Warren Recreation Ground – Derek Russell memorial bench.**

A replacement bench has been installed. This is a recycled plastic bench and should outlast all of us.

### **Warren Recreation Ground Car Park – Solar-Powered Lights.**

Following the recent damage to the car-park height-restriction barrier the committee has agreed to install four solar-powered lights, along the north boundary of the car park. The lights would be attached to five metre galvanised steel columns and placed at regular intervals along the north boundary, facing into the car park. A Planning Application was submitted and initially accepted by ADC but the Planning Officer then came back asking for additional drawings which we were unable to supply in the necessary timescales. Simon and I agreed to withdraw the Planning Application which we will resubmit, at no extra cost, once we have the required drawings. I have received a technical spec for the preferred lights and hopefully this will be useful in the production of drawings.

### **Two Acres - Wildflower Beds.**

Following a request from one household and consultation with all Oakley Gardens residents, the general view was that the wildflowers look wonderful for a short while during the flowering period, but they soon become overgrown and the area looks very untidy for a longer period. The committee agreed to return the wildflower beds back to grass and are looking at the eastern end of Two Acres if suitable to relocate them.

Dawn Reid – **Assistant Clerk to the Council**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 11b**

### **Audit & Governance Committee**

The committee did not meet in February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 11c**

### **Community Engagement Committee**

The committee did not meet during February.

The yellow plaque on the second Happy To Chat bench has been replaced. As you will see later on, the council has received thanks from Sompting Parish Council for information provided on this topic which has led that council to agreeing to set up two Happy To Chat benches too.

1<sup>st</sup> March marks the beginning of East Preston's Extra Kind Month. We have come up with a calendar which will include an activity for every day of the month designed to improve one's own mental wellbeing and, on some days, the mental wellbeing of your friends and neighbours too. My thanks to Lisa, Patricia, Alison and Simon for their help with the wording on the calendar and to Andrea for her design work, taking our words and turning them into something attractive. The calendar will be distributed via an e-newsletter this week, will be in the council's noticeboards, the Council Office window, and there will be an 8am daily Facebook post.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –  
**Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 11d**

### **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

The committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> February.

The committee considered a request for funding from the COVID-19 Discretionary Fund set up in December. The request was for just under £2,500 for nine iPads from the Friends of East Preston Infant School (FEPIS) to bolster the technology available for pupils currently having to learn at home. After some discussion, the committee agreed unanimously to fund all nine iPads.

Mrs Alexa Gardner, Chair of FEPIS, wrote on 17<sup>th</sup> February, "Thank you so much for the brilliant news regarding our grant application. It is very exciting to hear and I'm sure it will

be a great boost to the children and teachers. I will speak to Mrs New next week and we can work out a plan for the photo.”

The committee ratified an earlier decision to purchase a laptop computer for use by Mrs Roberts as she has no access to her own home PC because of having both children at home. The committee agreed the Clerk could start investigating computer support contracts and also a complete overhaul of the office computer network following problems experienced at the end of January and into February.

The committee agreed the sum of £1,195 awarded to the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation for works to remove the sycamore tree from the car-park should be ring-fenced at the end of the financial year as the Foundation has not been able to carry out the works yet and therefore has not called for the money.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 11e**

### **Major Events Committee**

The committee met on 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

In light of the government’s road-map published that evening, the committee was in buoyant mood, confident it could cautiously start to plan events which should not be so prone to cancellation later this year.

The *Funday Sunday* event originally scheduled for May 2020 should now take place on 3<sup>rd</sup> October, tying in with the annual Age UK *Silver Sunday* initiative.

The committee will continue to work towards a Food and Drink Festival on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> August, and an East Preston Christmas Celebrations event on Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> November. Most of the stallholders we had selected for last year’s Food & Drink Festival have confirmed they are still happy to come to this year’s event.

The first event the committee hopes to organise will be a Thank You party for all volunteers and service users of the East Preston Voluntary Service. This will require input and assistance on the day from all councillors and officers. The provisional date is the afternoon of Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> July. Please put the date in your diary now.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –  
**Chairman of the Major Events Committee**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 11f**

### **Personnel Committee**

The committee did not meet during February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 11g**

### **Planning & Licensing Committee**

The committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> February.

On 8<sup>th</sup> February, the committee considered four Applications and five members of the public attended.

The committee raised no objections to any of the Applications. The committee considered a quotation for mapping work, and agreed to recommend this work to the council, see Agenda Item 12a below.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the committee considered a further seven Planning Applications and eleven members of the public attended, ten of whom spoke. The committee agreed to object to Applications for Sea Lane, The Roystons, The Way and Beechlands Close/Montpelier Road. More details on all these Applications can be found in the Minutes of the meeting.

The committee considered a letter from Mr Sawers, Chairman of the East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society, expressing concerns about the administrative handling of one of the above Planning Applications. The committee agreed to defer further discussion on this pending the outcome of the Application.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 12a**

### **Amenities Committee – Warren Recreation Ground children’s play area**

**Council is asked to agree to expenditure for the provision of wetpour surfacing around the northern/western bench in the Warren Recreation Ground children’s play area**

Cllr McElroy to introduce this item.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, the council was advised of an incident in the children’s play area on 20<sup>th</sup> February in which a child had slipped on the mud in front of the northern/western bench in the play area. The reporter rightly suggested it was unusual for the bench not to have a greater amount of hardstanding around it, and if you look at the southern/eastern bench in the same play area it is on a larger area of paving which abuts the wetpour under the swings.



Dawn has sought a price for surrounding the bench with an 4m x 2m area of wetpour surfacing at a cost of £800 (this is an approximate figure provided ahead of a formal quote). The playground supplier contacted has said it will be able to do this work sooner rather than later.

At the time of writing there is still £7,000 left in the Contingency Budget 2020/21 budget line, from which this expenditure could be funded.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 13a**

### **Finance & General Purposes Committee – overspend on off-site computing**

**Council is asked to agree an overspend on the Office Equipment – Off-site Computing budget line for 2020/21.**

The budget line for 2020/21 for Office Equipment - Off-site Computing was set at £2,300, based upon a monthly fee to Microshade VSM of £183.80. Sometime after the budget was set, Microshade VSM informed the council of an increase to £229.75. This was the first increase for several years, but has led to an overspend on this budget line of £457 for the year.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 14a**

### **Planning & Licensing Committee – mapping software and the council website**

**Council is asked to approve two days' work from Process Matters for building maps to be publicly-accessible from the council's website.** As the committee does not have funding of its own, this work would be paid for from the council's Contingency Budget line.

Cllr Mathias to introduce this item.

The council has been approached by our website provider, Maureen Chaffe of Process Matters, informing the council of some changes in its mapping software which means better, more detailed maps can be produced, and Process Matters can make these available to the public via the council's website. The maps, once available on the website, would be dynamic, so any changes on the mapping software would be automatically visible on the website any time someone next views that map. Mrs Chaffe presented to the Planning & Licensing

Committee meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> January, showing the committee how mapping could be used to keep track of Planning Applications or Tree Preservation Orders or for building the council's Asset Register.

Mrs Chaffe has provided a quote for £1,100 which the Planning & Licensing Committee has considered and agreed to recommend to the council. Mrs Chaffe has said she could do part of the work in this financial year, but not all of it. Work covered by the quotation includes the creation of "interactive maps for public use" and the creation of "more detailed web pages for use by the various committees." "The second stage of the work would be to plot the information that does not currently exist in the mapping system. This would include the 35 Buildings of Special Character and the 2 Areas of Special Character but could go on to include TPOs, the asset register etc". Work to build the asset register is not automatically included in this price as Mrs Chaffe would need scope that part of the project.

At the time of writing there is still £7,000 left in the Contingency Budget 2020/21 budget line, from which this expenditure could be funded. Next year's Contingency Budget line still contains £10,000.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 15**

### **Working Parties**

The Environmental Initiatives Working Party met on 15<sup>th</sup> February, the only working party to have met this month.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## **Agenda Item 15a**

### **Conservative Hall Working Party**

As reported to the last council meeting, three councillors held an initial meeting with Terry Chapman, Trustee of the East Preston Conservative Hall. Terry stressed the Trustees wish for the Conservative Hall to remain an asset for the village and, perhaps most importantly, the Trustees do not want to sell the asset.

Cllr McElroy or Cllr Toney may have more to add.

Cllr Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 15b**

### **Environmental Initiatives Working Party**

The meeting was attended by four councillors, 1 member of the public and the Clerk. We had an update on progress on the Eco Church project which will focus on bird feeders and boxes for the churchyard as well as creating space for wildflower areas.

We have produced a booklet to help reduce food waste that will be sold at the Littlehampton Fridge on Wednesdays for 50p.

We are also looking at ways to save water and questions for an environmental questionnaire prior to our next meeting on Monday 22nd March.

Cllr John Gunston –  
**Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 15c**

### **Flat and Frontage Working Party**

#### **Flat:**

Our agents, Cooper-Adams, has carried out the first three-monthly inspection and found nothing untoward at the property. The tenant is apparently happy living at the property.

#### **Frontage:**

A second quotation has been received for the design and planning work for a revised frontage and minor internal alterations. The working party has considered these electronically and agreed a recommendation to make to Full Council. This will come to the April Full Council meeting to give me time to write the Supporting Paper properly.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 15e**

### **Playing of Cricket Working Party**

Simon and I met on 11<sup>th</sup> February and added in the Cricket Club's responses to the bulletpoints the Working Party wished to bring to the club's attention. We decided not to include actual figures in the report as the sample size was small enough it might make it possible to identify individual respondents. Version 4 of the report is on tonight's Agenda for your consideration and, hopefully, adoption.

Cllr Christine Bowman –  
**Chairman of the Playing of Cricket Working Party**

18<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 16**

### **East Preston Conservative Hall**

**The council is asked to note the Terms of Reference adopted by the working party.**

The working party had its first meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> January, just after the papers for the February Full Council meeting had been closed. At that meeting the working party elected Cllr McElroy Chairman and agreed its Terms of Reference as follows:

#### **Conservative Hall Working Party (CHWP) Terms of Reference**

(version 1 – adopted 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021)

1. Overview
  - a. This working party acts as an advisor to East Preston Parish Council on matters relating to the possible transfer of the Conservative Hall.
2. Responsibilities
  - a. To advise East Preston Parish Council on matters relating to the possible transfer of the Conservative Hall
  - b. To consider all known, relevant options for the relating to the possible transfer of the Conservative Hall
  - c. To provide recommendations to East Preston Parish Council as to the possible transfer of the Conservative Hall
  - d. To provide recommendations to East Preston Parish Council as to any professional knowledge needing to be bought in
3. Timescales
  - a. The working party is initially set up for three months from the date of its first meeting.
  - b. As that meeting took place on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2021, the initial three months' period will end on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.
4. Membership
  - a. Any volunteer invited at the discretion of either the CHWP Chairman or Chairman or Vice-Chairman of East Preston Parish Council. The volunteer need not be a Parish Councillor.
  - b. There is no limit on the number of volunteers joining the working party but membership may be fluid depending on working party needs and volunteer expertise.

5. Reporting Structure
  - a. If the working party cannot appoint a Chairman from within its membership, the Chairman of the Council shall nominate the CHWP Chairman, in consultation with other councillors
  - b. CHWP will report to Full Council in the first place
  - c. No proposal or guidance from the CHWP will be council policy until agreed by Full Council
6. Officer support
  - a. There will only ever be limited administrative support available from the council's officers.

If you have any concerns about any of these Terms of Reference, please raise them at this meeting so I can record them and ensure the working party discusses them at its next meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 17**

### **Playing of Cricket Working Party**

**Council is asked to adopt the latest version of the working party's report as the final version.**

As mentioned above, at Appendix A, you will find what I hope is the final version of the working party's report. If the council adopts this version of the report, it will then be made available to all households and non-domestic properties around the Warren Recreation Ground which asked for a copy. Once that has been completed, the working party will then seek council's agreement to the working party's disbandment.

Cllr Christine Bowman –  
**Chairman of the Playing of Cricket Working Party**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 18**

### **West Sussex Association of Local Councils**

**Council is asked to receive a report on the meeting for councillors only held on 18<sup>th</sup> February.**

This meeting was attended by Cllr Linton as the West Sussex Association of Local Councils (WSALC) had made it clear the meeting should not be attended by Clerks on behalf of their councils. Cllr Linton attended the meeting from my office, and I listened in off-camera. Several other Clerks attended more openly, which is by the by really. From the Eastern Arun Parishes Area, I know Angmering, Kingston and Rustington Parish Councils were represented.

The meeting lasted two hours and forty-nine minutes and I am sure Cllr Linton will have her own thoughts on the meeting. Assuming most councils only sent one representative, there were about 100 West Sussex town and parish councils represented. Whilst the main meeting had its points of interest, the real interest was in the Chat Box conversations which were taking place throughout the meeting. The management of the meeting was not good, in my opinion, with the Chairman of the WSALC board leaving it to the administrator to manage the representatives and the questions they were told to ask via the Chat Box. It appeared that a lot of questions asked went unnoticed. My particular highlight of the questions that were asked was when a councillor from Wisborough Green asked the WSALC board when they realised they had “lost the room”, i.e. when were they aware the (seeming) majority of town and parish councils have not bought into the “value for money” exercise the board has undertaken over the past six or so months. Initial response from the Chairman was silence followed by him saying he did not understand the question. This might be seen as a masterclass in self-delusion.

The meeting received two presentations. The first was from Professor Colin Copus about the report he produced following the survey undertaken in December and interviews with representatives from about 30 of the 159 town and parish councils in the county. He did not take kindly to the almost universal criticism of his report and he did over to respond to some of the points raised in the Chat Box part of the meeting.

The second presentation was the Chief Executive and his deputy of the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC). The West Sussex Association of Local Councils, for possibly spurious reasons, have negotiated with the Hampshire Association of Local Councils. I heard nothing from HALC that made me feel they would be providing anything different or, more importantly, better than SSALC has done for many years. Cllr Linton described this presentation as a sales pitch. Interestingly, at one point, the deputy, in saying HALC had not come poaching for this work, said that if they had come poaching they would have not taken it on. That comment was not explained.

From what the Chairman said during the meeting, the board appeared to have two problems with SSALC. Firstly, the annual costs of SSALC and the fact it is unique in England in being a limited company – no explanation was given as to why this was a concern but, more importantly, there appeared to have been no discussion with SSALC as to how this council be addressed. Secondly, Professor Copus said he had the feeling from *some* councils councillors did not feel they were being given all the information given to Clerks. He admitted this was not unique to West Sussex. This is not a SSALC problem and Clerks very much have to decide what information to pass on to you, and I don't always get it right, otherwise you would be drowning in information which you would be unable to process. There is a further angle to this which is none of us, with the best will in the world, can remember every single piece of correspondence or news we have read. It's just not feasible and I sometimes wonder whether councillors who feel they are not being kept fully informed can wholly blame their Clerks.

With an Annual General Meeting date of 25<sup>th</sup> February, and by the 18<sup>th</sup> February four differing Agendas had been issued for the meeting although at this meeting we were told to go back to the very first Agenda issued, this meeting announced there was to be a board meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at which the board would continue its discussions on whether to purchase support for councils from the Hampshire Association of Local Councils. The board could or would not accept its actions in undertaking a unilateral “value for money” exercise has led to the break-up of SSALC, which potentially leaves councils without that tier of support as many councils did not have any problems with SSALC, the board admitted it had not tried to resolve any of the problems it felt it had with SSALC, and many councils do not want to be supported by people in Hampshire without any knowledge of their councils, their history, their community. Special and Ordinary Resolutions have been added and removed from the various versions of the Agenda and there is real confusion as to whether or not they will be on the Agenda on the day.

Depending upon the outcome of the Annual General Meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February, there will be items on tonight's Agenda on this topic. I leave Cllr Linton to comment further should she wish.

As a slight aside to this, the Chairman of the Arun District Association of Local Councils (ADALC) wrote to all Arun Chairmen on Wednesday announcing the Vice-Chairman of the Arun District Association of Local Councils has resigned his post, no explanation given. Her letter then continued to say she was standing down as Chairman of her own council and would therefore no longer be the Chairman of ADALC. This leaves the future of ADALC in the balance again, although there seem to be some strong personalities willing to move this forward.

**Council is also asked to receive a report on the Annual General Meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> February.**

This meeting will be attended by Cllrs Toney and Linton, who will provide at least a verbal report to the Full Council meeting. I have council's agreement to attend if either councillor cannot.

**Council is also asked to consider this council's future member of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils.**

Cllr Toney to lead on this. This item will very much depend upon what happens at the AGM on 25<sup>th</sup> February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 19**

### **Clerk's Report**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Police matters**
- 3. Anti-social behaviour matters**
- 4. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
- 5. East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**
- 6. Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour, February**
- 7. Social media**
- 8. MailChimp stats**
- 9. A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
- 10. Recent bouquets and complaints**
- 11. Leave**
- 12. Handforth**
- 13. March meetings and events**

## 1. **Introduction**

This is the report mainly covering February 2021 and matters which may not arise elsewhere on the agenda.

## 2. **Police matters**

In the early hours of Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February a property in Sea Road was raided. The occupants were apparently taken away. From 07:00, police were present and inside and also all over a car that was parked adjacent to the property.

Although initial attempts to get some basic information from Sussex Police to assuage residents' concerns were not fruitful, I was delighted to come into work on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February to find CI Jonathan Carter had written to the council, the Chief Executive of Arun District Council and our MP to provide us all with some more background to the incident. "I am sharing this as I am keen to improve the sharing of information between police and councils, and elected representatives." This pleased me so much as it has long been a frustration we get little response to requests for information which then appears in the Littlehampton Gazette two days later. I circulated what information I could to councillors and thanked CI Carter for his help.

I reported a car apparently abandoned in the northern shops service road. Usually these reports just come back with the fact the owner lives nearby, no further action. But on this occasion, both Weekday Steve and I were suspicious of the fact the car's sunroof had been left open despite the rain, and the sunroof was open full-length. For once, this turned out to be a stolen car. Police had been aware of it being used in Rustington but did not know it had arrived in East Preston. The owner was informed but interestingly did not come and claim it immediately.

Following a recent realisation Network Rail had removed its cameras from the Roundstone Level Crossing – yes, the ones it only implemented less than two years ago – I asked my current Network Rail contact whether or not they would soon be returning. His reply, "I would suggest it's unlikely that the cameras will return I'm afraid. Sorry to be the bearer of negative news. The cameras at Roundstone Level Crossing have been redeployed to an alarm half barrier (AHBs) crossing at another location due to the way these crossings operate. AHBs remain our greatest risk from a safety perspective. We've requested recently for the British Transport Police mobile camera van to increase attendance at Roundstone level crossing which should hopefully act as a deterrent to those intending to misuse the crossing."

Knowing this, following a SSALC Chairman's Meeting, Cllr Toney contacted Chief Inspector Habib Rahman of Sussex Police's Sussex Safer Roads Partnership asking whether it was possible to have the SSRP van or a Sussex Police traffic car at the level crossing to monitor drivers jumping the flashing red lights there now there are no longer any cameras to catch them. Chief Inspector Rahman replied with a report from his colleague PC Stuart Hendey who had, at that time, spent five hours across two days at the level crossing. PC Hendey observed four cars that went through a red light and four on amber, those amber ones happened to be on or at the crossing when lights started to flash. PC Hendey is following this up further by contacting his colleagues in BTP to fully understand the reasons for the camera being taken away and what enforcement activity BTP officers have planned for the site. Chief Inspector Rahman commented "Everyone has a role to play in road safety, education of road users for greater awareness of the risks, as well as enforcement activities where necessary jointly by Sussex Police and British Transport Police." Furthermore PC Hendey will complete a similar survey using a marked vehicle, which should prove to be a more visible deterrent.

CI Rahman has asked PC Hendey to work with his colleagues from British Transport Police as well as Network Rail in looking at solutions to make this crossing safer for everyone. He seeks support from local residents in looking at suitable/appropriate educational solutions



on how to effectively deter people away from putting themselves and others of risk of harm at this location.

### 3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**

No new reports this month.

### 4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**

The council received no Freedom of Information or Data Protection requests during the month of February.

### 5. **East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

The first Business Breakfast of the year was attended by Cllr Linton, several local businesspeople and me.

Sam explained The Seahorse was currently opening four mornings away for take-away only. Staffing was just her and her daughter, Kiera. This was going well and it was a handy way of keeping in touch with some of their more mature customers. (Subsequently, Sam and Kiera have been on BBC Newsbeat talking about the effects of lockdown on their business. This has been good publicity for the village of East Preston.)

Fr Andrew and Rev Emma said this lockdown was the busiest lockdown so far for the church. Although places of worship were allowed by government to stay open this time, a local decision was taken to keep people safe by not encouraging them out to services. On average, between 35 and 40 people were attending online services at 09:00 and 21:00 each day, and up to 140 joining the Sunday service online, this including people you would never imagine to be receptive to such an idea. The church was currently looking at how to run a second Lent, Holy Week and Easter online. Fr Andrew offered thanks to Bob Billingham for superb photographs of the church's Stations of the Cross which will form part of the online Holy Week offering.

David Macdonald and Peter Vos provided their view of the latest financial situation and support offered by the government. As the next Business Breakfast was scheduled to take place on Budget Day, the meeting agreed to move it to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March to give David and Peter some time to digest the budget and report back to us. David was of the opinion lockdown restrictions are likely to continue for quite some time and he hoped the government would provide financial support for businesses, including those three million Limited Companies that have so far not received anything from government.

Peter is also a Trustee of the Sussex Archaeological Society which has six properties usually open to the public. At the moment, the Society is struggling as it has no income. It has received some government funding but not enough to cover its costs.

Tim Bigger noted how many small businesses have been started up over the past year by people who have been made redundant and have seized the opportunity to run the business they have always wanted to run. This has led to an increase in the number of East Preston businesses promoting themselves through the East Preston Business Community website.

There was also some discussion about whether or not the council should do something about the number of trains running through the village empty. I replied the train service had been continuing to run to support those key workers who have no other means of getting to work.

### 6. **Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour, February**

The Fridge on Tour made the following visits to the village, with the name of that session's council rep:

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb, Cllr Gunston

10<sup>th</sup> Feb, Cllr Linton

17<sup>th</sup> Feb, Cllr Gander

24<sup>th</sup> Feb, Cllr Gunston

These sessions continue to be successful with most of the items we are given finding takers before the end of the session. There is a core of followers who are in the queue about fifteen minutes before expected opening time. In the first fifteen minutes of the 17<sup>th</sup> Feb session, I counted eighteen different households were helped and the queue carried on beyond those fifteen minutes.

Whilst respecting social distancing the queue is pleasantly sociable, for some of the attendees this may well be the only time they are getting out each week at the moment. Thanks to Mrs Sue Loy who has bought her considerable events management experience to the sessions, in particular the management of the queue within government guidelines. The sessions have recently received further publicity in the February *All About East Preston & Kingston* and the Winter 2021 Newsletter.

## 7. **Social media**

Just two Facebook posts have been seen by over 500 people this month, but both have been seen by an above average number of people for our posts.

- Report of palm oil found on Worthing beaches – 10,560 people
- Photograph of school crossing patroller, Victoria Laverick, with a plea for drivers to take extra care whilst there were temporary traffic lights close to her station – 3,444

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

\* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 22<sup>nd</sup> February)

The number of people currently liking the council on Facebook is 1,379, an increase of 8 on the last report, and an increase of 89 on this time last year.

## 8. **MailChimp stats**

Since the last papers were issued, the council has sent out the following emails to local residents on the council's main e-mailing list:

Parish Council news – 28<sup>th</sup> January - sent to 857, opened by 577 (67.3%)

Parish Council news – 10<sup>th</sup> February – sent to 860, opened by 591 (68.7%)

## 9. **Things we have been asked since the last meeting**

“Do you know why there are dozens of dead crabs on the beach, they are not bits of them, whole ones? I think they are spider crabs. If it’s a natural cause like from a storm or something, that’s fair enough. But I was concerned it was from fishermen throwing back small crabs in a catch from their nets. Anyway, either way I suppose there’s not a lot we can do, but just such a sad sight.”

#### 10. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

Thanks from Sompting Parish Council for information provided on this council’s Happy To Chat benches. Sompting PC agreed at a meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> January it too would have two Happy To Chat benches and thanked us for our help in this matter.

Thanks from Rustington Parish Council for providing information on closed churchyards, “Thank you - you are as ever a marvel 😊”

Thanks from the resident who asked for us to include some pedestrian protocols in an e-newsletter, “Wow! that was quick, thank you Simon it's perfect. May I also take this opportunity to thank you and your team for doing such a brilliant job for East Preston.”

Thanks from a resident of Tamarisk Way who asked for information on local foodbanks, “Thank you for all the information. Great that there are several options for food donations. I shall probably do a mix of those you suggest.”

Thanks received from both headteachers at East Preston schools for help given with sourcing redundant kit from members of the public.

A resident of The Way in response to be informing him of a Planning Application adjacent to his property, “many thanks for your update. Hope you are well - you and the Parish Council are doing a great job of maintaining village connectivity during these dark days, thank you!”

Thanks from Pevensey Parish Council for information supplied on the topic of crowdfunding.

Thanks from the relative of a resident we knew was no longer living at home for helping her to get in touch without giving away any personal details. “I have finally spoken to my Auntie today. Thank you so much for all your help.”

Mrs Toni McElroy, Chairman of the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation sent us a note which had been posted in to the Village Hall, “Thank you for having the WC’s open.”

Thanks from a resident of Brou Close for advice given about a possibly abandoned car in Lavinia Way.

#### 11. **Leave**

Dawn will be off from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> March inclusively.

Weekday Steve is currently working a three-day week, using up his Annual Leave.

#### 12. **Handforth**

I have no intention to go into the whys, wherefores, rights and wrongs of the Handforth Parish Council footage that we have, probably, all seen online in recent weeks.

However, I just want to record my thanks to the current thirteen councillors our meetings never descend to anything like the difficulties witnessed at the Handforth meetings. I

appreciate how, even when councillors here disagree with each other or with me, we retain our good humour and never seem to fall out. In nearly fourteen years in post, no councillor has ever needed to be ejected from a meeting, although occasionally a councillor has walked out before they may have been ejected, but even that has probably not happened for more than six years.

### **13. March Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 1<sup>st</sup> Full Council (19:00, Zoom)
- 8<sup>th</sup> WSCC Community Safety Team seminar: *Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse, Covid-19 and Beyond* (12:00, Zoom) (CB only)
- 11<sup>th</sup> ADC Community Infrastructure Levy briefing (11:00, Zoom) (SC only)
- 15<sup>th</sup> Audit & Governance Committee (14:00, Zoom)  
Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Zoom)
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Environmental Initiatives Working Party
- 29<sup>th</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Zoom)  
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, Zoom)

N.B. where committee meetings fall on the same day, the timings of these meetings may be subject to change.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

## **Agenda Item 20a**

### **Other meetings and events – Part 1**

**Council is asked to note the following reports:**

#### **Rampion 2 Coastal Liaison Group, 4<sup>th</sup> February**

I attended a meeting of the Rampion II coastal liaison group on 4th February for an update on the proposed wind farm expansion.

Surveys covering areas such as the seabed, marine life, fishing, archaeology are ongoing and RWE now have an indicative route for the onshore cable between Climping beach and Bolney.

No decision has yet been made on the location of the turbines. They have convened a number of expert groups to consider the potential impact on the environment, business and tourism and public rights of way.

5,500 people visited the virtual Rampion II town hall during the informal public consultation and almost 200 people left some kind of feedback. Results will be published at the end of February before the statutory public consultation begins in June/July.



## **Agenda Item 17**

### **Playing of Cricket Working Party**

**Council is asked to adopt the latest version of the working party's report as the final version.**

#### **EPPC CRICKET CLUB WORKING PARTY**

At the Full Council meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> August, 2020, the council agreed to set up a Playing of Cricket Working Party. Interested councillors were asked to advise the Clerk of their interest by the end of 4<sup>th</sup> August. The following councillors did so: Bowman, Linton, McElroy, Moore and Wilkinson, and a first meeting was held on 25<sup>th</sup> August, at which Cllr Bowman was elected Chairman.

The Terms of Reference for the Working Party were agreed at that meeting and then approved by Full Council on 7<sup>th</sup> September. As part of the responsibility "To engage residents on all boundaries of the Warren Recreation Ground", the working party drafted a short set of questions and agreed, where possible, to ask these questions face-to-face. Twenty-six domestic properties were identified as falling into the category of bordering the Warren Recreation Ground plus four non-domestic properties – East Preston & Kingston Village Hall, East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club, Mr Hodgson's works and The Martlets care home. (N.B. despite several attempts to contact Mr Hodgson in person, it was not possible to do so in the timescales set.)

Letters to domestic properties were hand-delivered by working party members over the first weekend of October, advising residents that we will be conducting, where possible, face-to-face interviews at the end of the following week. The visits were conducted by members of the Working Party in pairs and most residents were available and responded well to the reasons for the visits. Some residents made appointments and a couple submitted their responses via email.

The Parish Council advised the Cricket Club that this would be taking place.

The following questions were asked to all residents and non-domestic properties and below is a short precise of the responses given.

**1. How aware were you that league cricket was being played on the Warren Recreation Ground when you moved into your property?**

A minority of residents residing in Sea Road, Sea Lane and Oakley Gardens were unaware that league cricket was played on the Recreation Ground before they moved into their properties.

**2. On a scale of 1 to 10 with 1 being very negative and 10 being very positive, what impact does the playing and practising of cricket on the Warren Recreation Ground have upon your life and why?**

There were neither completely negative or positive results, however, the majority of comments were leaning towards the positive for cricket to continue to be played e.g. "like it being part of village life", "enjoy hearing the sound of the bat and the cheers from the spectators"!!

**3. What would you like to see the future of cricket on the Warren Recreation Ground being?**

Most people commented that cricket should continue to be played, although some households wanted to see safety measures increased and to perhaps restrict adult games being played.

**4. If you have any concerns about the playing of cricket, now or in the future, what are they?**

The consensus was that residents would like to continue to have cricket played on the Warren Recreation Ground, although some had reservations as above.

In summary, overall the responses to the questionnaire were positive in respect of wanting cricket to continue to be played as it is now, on the recreation ground, however, consideration has to be given to those properties where the impact of sixes is greater. No 20/20 cricket matches are played at this ground. The Cricket Club utilises other cricket grounds for playing this style of cricket., which is recognised as being a faster, more aggressive and instant approach to the game of cricket.

There were clear indications that communication in general between the Cricket Club, Residents and the Village Hall could be improved.

Our conclusions address the following:

The Cricket Club needs to address the following:

1. Ensure that there is a policy and procedure in place to immediately respond to any resident who has experienced the intrusion of a cricket ball into their property and this to be followed up by a clearly defined representative of the Club (e.g. Chairman/Club Secretary). These events need to be logged and regularly addressed by the Club and the evidence shared.
2. Address the culture of the club from juniors upwards regarding the unnecessary competition in relation to the hitting of sixes, and consideration from players should be given to local residents.
3. No cricket should be played during the evening.
4. Better communication with the village in general. Proper fixture lists (not letters) should be sent out in advance of the season reflecting all games to be played – dates and times. These fixtures should also be shared with the non-domestic properties i.e. Village Hall and Bowls Club. The Parish Notice Boards could also be used to display the fixtures and other villagers may welcome the opportunity of being aware of when the games are played and have the opportunity of watching the games.
5. The Club should ensure that sufficient signage is displayed when a game is to take place especially in relation to the children's playground area and parking arrangements in particular "NO PARKING" in the Village Hall Car Park. Reminders that the Village Hall hires out the hall and priority parking must be given to those hirers.
6. From a Health and Safety point of view, extra netting by height needs to be a consideration especially along areas of the boundary which are vulnerable and to address the need for netting to be erected in front of the village hall and the adjacent playground.
7. A discussion needs to take place between the Cricket Club and their Insurers, including a site visit by the Club's Insurers to ascertain their understanding of the size of the ground and to ensure that appropriate safety measures are put in place.

Cllr Christine Bowman

11<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Representatives of the council met with representatives of the Cricket Club during January 2021, and the following are the Cricket Club responses to the seven points above.

1. The Cricket Club said all the factors in this point were already in place. The Club also reminded the meeting there was no evidence of any personal injuries caused outside the ground in the club's 170-year history. However, due to the reduction in senior games being played each year, the club also believed the average number of balls landing outside the ground was fewer than twenty per year. Such instances are logged by the Club and reported to the council at the end of any week during which a match has taken place. The Club agreed to trial calling round with a postcard to properties in which they believed balls had landed, the postcard being recorded as evidence of the club's attempt to engage with the householder if the householder was not home or, as may have happened, refused to answer the door to Club representatives.
2. For the club to remain participants of the Sussex County League, there can be no alteration regarding the hitting of sixes during matches. This was confirmed by the League during 2019. The Club did not feel there was undue competition between players with regard to hitting sixes; sixes are part of the game. The Club runs an annual one-day competition, and for that competition fours and sixes had been swapped around to discourage the hitting of sixes.
3. Matches are rarely played in the evening, however some afternoon matches will inevitably run into the early evening. Training sessions are generally in the evenings because players have work or educational commitments during the day. As there are no floodlights in situ, there is only a certain amount of time in which matches can be played.
4. The Club confirmed a card fixture list is delivered to neighbouring properties at the beginning of the season but acknowledged that delivery could encompass a few more properties to bring it into line with the households and non-domestic properties consulted during this exercise. The council agreed to place a fixture card in some of its noticeboards around the village, space permitting.
5. The Club suggested some additional permanent signage could be installed at the entrance to the Warren Recreation Ground car-park and at the entrance from Two Acres, and the council's Amenities Committee will consider this in due course. The Club, in turn, would look at improving the wording on its A-board which is placed at the entrance to the Warren Recreation Ground car-park on match days. For its A-board, the Club proposed the wording, "Be Aware. Cricket Match In Progress. Hard balls are used."
6. The Club had carried out a cost benefit analysis on adding both height and width to the existing netting and it would be prohibitively expensive for the number of balls which such additional netting would stop. The work would also be technically very complicated. The nets are inspected fully once a year, and there is an agreement between the Club and the council any repairs are made before the season starts. Should any damage be noticed during the season, this is also inspected and repaired as soon as practical.
7. The Club agreed to invite its insurers to visit the ground in person, guidelines permitting, with the intention of familiarising themselves with the size, layout and features of the ground, when the insurance is next renewed, which is before the beginning of each season.

#### SUMMARY:

*Once council has considered this report, the Working Party will produce a Final copy and that will be given to anyone of the twenty-six households and three non-domestic properties who asked for a copy.*