



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 29th March 2021 at 19:00 via the Zoom online meeting application

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bowman, Lisa Duff, Patricia Gander, Elizabeth Linton (Chairman), David Moore and Steve Toney

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

Cllr John Gunston (from 20:08 until 20:30)

ABSENT: Councillor Andrea Chapman

The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;
NHS – National Health Service;
NR – Network Rail;

VHF – East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation;
WSCC – West Sussex County Council.

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The meeting opened at 19:00.

The meeting was held in accordance with *The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020* and the council's own *Protocol for Remote Meetings*.

240/21 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Chapman (unwell).

241/21 PERSONAL AND/OR PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

242/21 PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

243/21 EXTRA KIND MONTH

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Extra Kind Month

Committee is asked to receive an update on Extra Kind Month.

After the last meeting, Cllr Chapman took the wording comprised of suggestions from Cllrs Linton, Gander and Duff and myself, and designed these into a lovely Extra Kind Month calendar.



The calendar was also made available via the council's website, Facebook page and e-newsletter. I also set up daily posts on Facebook for that day's suggestion; some of these needed to be edited down because of Facebook constraints, but we got there. We also handed out a couple of printed copies from the office.

Although there has not been as much feedback as we would have liked, the feedback there has been all positive.

A final Facebook post has been scheduled for 1st April directing residents to the Action for Happiness website for future monthly calendars.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

Councillors who used Facebook felt the posts had gone well. The Clerk confirmed every post had been liked by some residents, although none commented. Local estate agent Shaun Adams had messaged the Clerk separately and said, "They are fab, don't worry about likes or comments. Many people have read them and been cheered up by them without clicking like or commenting x". Discussion on whether or not to run a similar month sometime would be held later in the year.

244/21 EASTER ACTIVITIES IN 2021

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Easter 2021

Committee is asked to consider any Easter activities.

Although not an official council event, nor an Easter event, the village has welcomed the Fairy Doors trail this month. Council officer, Alison Roberts, is one of the organisers. For

anyone not aware of this, there are thirty small wooden doors located across the centre of the village, each numbered and painted and decorated in a different style. Residents are encouraged to find these doors and fill in a competition form to be returned by the end of 31st March. There will then be a prize for the person who has found the most doors. The organisers have been contacted by the publisher of *First News*, a weekly newspaper aimed at 7- to 14-year-olds.

At the last meeting, the council agreed to run an Easter Egg hunt in conjunction with local businesses. At the time of writing, Cllr Duff is out and about persuading local shopfront businesses to join in. Sixteen businesses would be good, twenty would be better. So far, thirteen shopfronts have signed up, most providing their own egg to display. A few are only willing to take part if the council provides the egg, but so be it. Currently I am not expecting the Council Office to be one of the participants as it is taking part in the St Mary the Virgin Church Holy Week Trail with a little display entitled The Garden of Eggsemene.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

Twenty businesses had said they would host an Easter Egg as part of the Easter Egg Hunt and most had a) supplied their own egg, and b) had let the Clerk know what brand of egg.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Duff for her assistance with this initiative.

245/21 BEACH CLEANS IN 2021

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Beach Cleans, 2021

Committee is asked to consider matters pertaining to the beach clean scheduled for 11th April.

Last September, the committee agreed to run the usual two Beach Cleans in 2021, 11th April and 26th September.

Does the council still want to run one on 11th April and, if so, who is available? I do not know how littered the beaches are at the moment. If they are not too bad, perhaps we could plan a mid-season pick instead of this one.

We are lending much of our litter-picking kit to East Preston Cubs on 12th April as they are doing two litter-picks in Langmeads Field between then and the middle of May.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED not to run a Beach Clean in April because of the general pandemic lockdown regulations. The committee AGREED it would run a Beach Clean on 27th June, the first Sunday after the current planned end of lockdown. The September date of Sunday 26th stood.

The Clerk and Cllr Duff reported the kiosk at the bottom of Sea Road, SALT on the Beach, was under new management which was happy to work with the council on special offers for participants in official council Beach Cleans.

246/21 PLAYSCHEMES IN 2021

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Playschemes – 2021

Committee is asked to receive an update on a possible summer playscheme. There is £750 in the proposed Playschemes budget line for the coming financial year.

At the last meeting, the committee agreed to move its planned Easter playscheme to be held during the half-term week of 31st May to 4th June. I have let Sam Cross at Forest Activities know and she has let me know Elliott Crook, a local Cub Leader, will be helping her.

We need to propose a date during that week and also whether we want the event to take place at the Infant School or the Angmering Scout place.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED any playscheme aimed at East Preston children should take place in East Preston and therefore the venue should be the Infant School rather than the Angmering Scouts venue.

The committee had no strong preference for day of the week during May half-term, 31st May to the 4th June. The Clerk would ascertain which date would best suit Mrs Cross.

247/21 SUSSEX DAY, 16TH JUNE

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Sussex Day, 16th June

Committee is asked to consider any council participation in this event.

16th June is annually Sussex Day. The council has not participated before. Would it like to this year?

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

Cllr Toney AGREED to raise the council's Sussex flag on 16th June. The flag could either stay up for a set number of days or lowered at the end of the 16th, this could be decided in due course.

The council could publicise Sussex day in its publications ahead of 16th June.

248/21 NHS, SOCIAL CARE AND FRONTLINE WORKERS' DAY, 5TH JULY

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day, 5th July

Committee is asked to consider any council participation in this event.

At the time of writing the council has not been approached officially about this event, but more information can be found at www.nhsfrontline.org.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED it would like to encourage residents to hold their own events in support of this initiative, rather than the council attempting to organise something. Cllr Gander AGREED to write an article for inclusion in the Spring 2021 Newsletter and e-newsletter.

249/21 EAST PRESTON FESTIVAL 2021

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

East Preston Festival, July 2021

Committee is asked to consider council participation in a proposed East Preston Festival in July 2021.

Cautiously, the East Preston Festival Committee is looking at holding three days of events over the weekend of 23rd to 25th July.

Would the committee like to run a Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event that weekend or maybe something else?

The World Market idea seems to have been abandoned for this year. The organisers are holding something in Worthing during the summer and I would suggest at least some of the committee try to get to that event to see how it is.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED to run a *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* event again on Friday, 23rd June, running from 10am to midday. Details would be discussed further at the next meeting.

250/21 QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE, JUNE 2022

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Queen's Platinum Jubilee, June 2022

Committee is asked to continue consideration of how the village could mark this occasion.

The council published an article in the Winter 2021 Newsletter asking residents for suggestions. These are the responses we have had so far:

JN	<p>How about renaming the Conservative Hall the Jubilee Hall?</p> <p>How about creating a Jubilee garden? I had been thinking about tree planting because I saw a programme last year about a project organised by the Palace called the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy encouraging these countries to plant trees and protect their forests to help fight deforestation and combat climate change. Checked it out and came across this:</p> <p>'People across the UK are to be invited to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee by planting a tree to help mark the monarch's 70-year reign. The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) is an initiative that will begin in May 2021 in honour of the Platinum Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in 2022. To increase and protect the native tree cover, people will be urged to create this 'special gift' for the Queen, to mark her 70 years on the throne.'</p> <p>I can see it now –trees, flower beds, fountains, sundials, roman statues ...</p>
PG	<p>I fully support, and encourage, the suggestion that a village clock would be a highly appropriate, durable and functional commemorative initiative. Let me add some detail and explain why.</p> <p>The Jubilee (any Jubilee) is about the passage of time; a public chronometer would therefore be particularly apt.</p> <p>Carefully sited, the clock would be an attractive and visually important feature which would enhance the amenity of the area and be of considerable utility to both residents of the village and visitors.</p> <p>It is almost inconceivable that the reign of any future monarch will exceed that of Queen Elizabeth II. The "Elizabethan Clock" (or "The Queen Elizabeth Clock) would therefore be</p>

	<p>a permanent and durable tribute to Her Majesty’s unsurpassed public duty, and a reminder for future generations of her exceptional service.</p> <p>If approved, the clock would be not only be a useful time-piece but also, if sensitively and imaginatively designed, would serve as a piece of civic art and reflect well on the forward thinking of the parish council.</p> <p>There may be those who say “But we already have a clock in the village” (The Clockhouse Bar). That is undeniable, though one needs a flexible neck to raise one’s eyes to see it! But I concede that it is an important landmark and a much valued feature of the southern part of the village. However, it is privately owned and maintained; its permanence and reliability are therefore not assured. Moreover, it serves only those who frequent the southern part of the village. A clock situated at the northern (shopping) area would be seen by those travelling into the village from the north (North Lane), from the west (Fairlands), from the east (Vermont Drive, Lavinia Way and large parts of the Angmering-on-Sea estate and pedestrians from Golden Avenue) and travelling north from the southern end of the village. A look at the village map will show that there are a far greater number of residents living north of the junction between Sea Lane and Fairlands than live to the south of it. A clock placed close to that junction would therefore be seen by a far greater number of residents and many more visitors than currently see on a regular basis the the parish’s Battle of Trafalgar commemoration. It could be argued that it is "now the north’s turn”!</p> <p>As you know, there used to be a public clock at the northern end of the village on the frontage to what is now Lloyd’s pharmacy (though its design had neither visual appeal nor was it particularly conspicuous). In that respect The "Elizabethan Clock" would replace in a far more imaginative way something that had been in that part of the village for many years before it was removed.</p> <p>And finally, if it were to go ahead wouldn’t it be a great fillip for the village if a senior member of the Royal Family accepted the Parish Council’s invitation to unveil/inaugurate the plaque that would presumably accompany it!</p>
MW	<p>My suggestion is: planting blossom trees around the village - 70 trees!!</p> <p>[or] Seven trees will do, one for each decade!</p>

Each correspondent has been acknowledged.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee discussed each of the suggestions recorded.

Changing the name of the Conservative Hall was out of the control of the council at this time.

The committee AGREED there was nowhere suitable to host a Jubilee Garden and its upkeep might also be too labour-intensive.

The committee considered the suggestion to plant seventy blossom trees, amended to seven blossom trees, around the village the idea would be more complicated to manage than perhaps the council wanted. However, adapting the idea, the committee AGREED to recommend to the Amenities Committee the planting of a really nice tree in the north-eastern corner of the Village Green. In keeping with the council’s Native Planting Policy, the Clerk will contact the ADC arboriculturist for advice on suitable species. Committee members favoured either an oak or something more decorative.

The committee then turned its attention back to the matter of a commemorative clock. The committee AGREED to pursue this idea further although it recognised financially it was somewhat short of the sum needed. The committee AGREED Cllrs Linton, Toney and Duff should discuss this further outside the meeting and come back to the next meeting with a proposal and a choice of possible clocks. Consideration should also be given to the provision of power to any clock.

251/21 ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES WORKING PARTY (EIWP)

Cllrs Gander and Duff and the Clerk provided some updates from the most recent EIWP meeting which had been held on 22nd March.

The committee AGREED to the EIWP issuing an online survey to residents on topics of interest to the EIWP, such as provision of electric vehicle charging points, motorised vehicle-free Sundays, water usage and such like.

Marc Brooker, from ADC, was going to be asked to carry out an energy survey on the Council Office once national lockdown was over.

The EIWP was not going to push for East Preston In Bloom this year, but would look at publishing something encouraging in the Autumn 2021 Newsletter, aiming to bring more residents on board. The EIWP had not changed in its hope members of the public would lead this initiative with council support.

Cllr Gander had booked a slot on the Amenities Committee Agenda for 17th May to make some proposals to the committee such as the provision of a cycle rack at the Warren Recreation and the inclusion of nesting boxes and bug hotels in Two Acres.

252/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25TH JANUARY 2021

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 25th January had been circulated to all members on 29th January asking for suggested amendments by 5th February. None were received.

The committee AGREED unanimously the Minutes could be signed as a true record of the meeting which had taken place on 25th January and AGREED unanimously Cllr Linton could sign them when she was next visiting the Council Office.

253/21 UPDATE ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following report by the Clerk was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Matters Arising from previous meetings

Minute 873/20 – Environmental Initiatives Working Party – Cllr Gunston has acquired a seed mix, has dug up part of the grass verge outside his house (very neatly it has to be said) and has dug in the seed mix.

Minute 072/21 – Office of National Statistics – Census 2021 – the Census appears to be going very smoothly. The office has only received contact from two concerned members of the public. The first contact was a resident who had not received his letter with his household's code in it. The second contact was ten or so days later and was a lady who had called the automated service to get a paper copy of the census form but that had not arrived in the five working days promised. I advised both to wait a day or two longer and both got in touch the following day to say their respective letters had arrived.

Minute 073/21 – Christmas (2020) Poetry – Mr Morley has thanked the council for publishing his poem in the Winter 2021 Newsletter. Further to the initial activity, two residents have submitted non-seasonal poems and these have been published in e-newsletters.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

Nothing was added.

254/21 NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2021

A report had been circulated in advance of the meeting showing some suggested articles. By the end of the meeting the table of suggested articles looked like this:

Front page	Page 2	Page 3	Page 4
Spring geocaching article	Henry Thorne	Village Life (SC)	Thanks
Environmental Survey results	In-bloom update Intergen playground (LD/SC)	Environmental – audit My week as a vegetarian (JG)	Car parking Roundstone map (requested by Jackie Bowley)

	F&DF Sussex Police article		
Page 5	Page 6		
Corres Corner – BD NHS Day (PG) Rampion 2	Recipe (PG) Funday Sunday teaser (PG)		

Cllr Toney confirmed he had a Fire Support vehicle article, but still needed to get a photograph or two to go with it. The Clerk confirmed he had written to Sussex Police asking for an article on matters such as cuckooing and County Lines, His contact had agreed but wanted to provide an up-to-date report nearer the time. Initial copy was required by the middle of April.

255/21 WAR MEMORIAL

The following report had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

East Preston war memorial

Committee is asked to consider further a proposal for an additional plaque to be added to the war memorial.

I have had some further contact with Mr Standing and he has directed me back to his initial request which was purely to have a plaque added to the foot of the war memorial, mentioning the Canadian soldiers based in East Preston who died during the Second World War. He is not asking for them all to be named on the memorial, just a simple plaque acknowledging their existence.

We have not yet had a conversation about Sjt. Davis.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The Clerk had spoken Mr Standing who advised his original idea of a single plaque had been lost in translation. The Clerk explained the original idea had been for a single plaque not for an additional sixteen names on the war memorial. The Clerk showed the committee Mr Standing's design.

The committee considered the options for adding a plaque but AGREED unanimously the original selection of names must have made decisions for a reason and it would be better to avoid disrupting that. Committee members were fairly confident all who would have been covered by the plaque would be on a war memorial somewhere in the world.

The committee then considered missing Sjt Davis, who has a Commonwealth War Grave in the churchyard at St Mary the Virgin but, for whatever reason, is not shown on the war memorial. Cllr Moore AGREED to discuss the matter with Fr Perry in case he knew anything more. The Clerk said he would see what Mrs Dorothy Lee could remember anything as she was on the council at the time the war memorial was commissioned.

256/21 INTERGENERATIONAL PLAYGROUND

The following report had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Intergenerational playground

Committee is asked to consider feedback received about the idea of an intergenerational playground.

The council published an article in the Winter 2021 asking residents for their reaction to an intergenerational playground.

LH	I read with somewhat joy the article on the back of the parish newsletter today and yes indeed, what a wonderful idea and forward thinking of the council. There has been a certain sadness since the long ago days when I left the playground and swings 'because I was an adult' and so I would wholeheartedly support this!
AS	I love swings and often wonder why there aren't more playgrounds for OAPs.
RM	Very concerned about the safeguarding of such a scheme.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED it would like to proceed cautiously, without the expense of any additional kit. The committee AGREED to see whether any of the village's leading poets could come up with a fun way of explaining there were times of the day when adults were allowed into the playground without the need to be accompanied by children.

257/21 WELLBEING IN EAST PRESTON – READING FRIENDS

The following report had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Wellbeing matters

Committee is asked to consider any updates to Reading Friends.

The latest response on the Reading Friends initiative from West Sussex County Council Library Service was sent to me on 16th March:

Thank you for your enquiry asking if West Sussex County Council would be benefitting from any of the DCMS funding of £3.5 million to The Reading Agency. This funding is from Government's Tackling Loneliness strategy and is being distributed to library authorities across the country, including West Sussex. Part of the funding is to enable library services to start Reading Friends projects, expand their existing projects or introduce new models. The remainder is being used to increase the Reading Well for mental health book collections in all library authorities.

***Reading Friends** is a national project run by The Reading Agency with the aim of reducing loneliness and social isolation. It was set up to connect people through conversations about reading, giving opportunities to meet others, share stories, make new friends and have fun. It creates social connections and takes a person-centred approach, building on the interests and hobbies of the people involved to get people talking.*

West Sussex Libraries has been part of the Reading Friends project for four years, initially supporting three other organisations in West Sussex and more recently creating library-based groups in Billingshurst and Rustington libraries. We had planned to start more groups in 2020-2021 and although this has not been possible due to Covid-19, we still aim to do this once we are able to hold regular activities in our library buildings again.

We have been awarded £10,000 from the DCMS funding which gives us a positive and exciting opportunity to expand our Reading Friends offer and deliver it in different ways. Library staff have been contacting residents over 80 years old who are on the shielded list as part of our Covid response work and we have been asking them if they would be interested in a Reading Friends phone call. The phone calls are initially being made by library staff but we plan to recruit volunteers to do this. Once we have recruited and trained the volunteers we will expand the project to include calls to other socially isolated people.

***Reading Well for Mental Health** are three collections of recommended and evidenced books on mental health for adults, young people and children. We will be receiving extra copies of these titles which will be available through all of our libraries.*

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED the best it could offer at this time was to publicise any events run at East Preston Library, something it had done for a long time anyway. Persuading more residents to participate in events at the library would be good for the longevity of the library.

(Cllr Gunston joined the meeting during the above item.)

258/21 WELLBEING IN EAST PRESTON – SPORTING MEMORIES

The Clerk said there was no update on this item at this time.

259/21 EAST PRESTON YARBOMBERS

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

East Preston Yarnbomers

Committee is asked to consider a proposal from the East Preston Yarnbomers.

There has been no progress on this as the Yarnbomers and the potential construction manager have not been able to meet and would like to meet in person.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The Clerk said there was no further update.

260/21 CORRESPONDENCE - DOGS

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Correspondence: dogs in public spaces

Committee is asked to consider feedback received in response to a suggestion about a dog-free area in the village.

The council published a letter in its Correspondence Corner section of the Winter 2021 Newsletter suggesting “a dog-free zone in the village”.

The following feedback has been received:

TE	<p>I always enjoy reading the newsletter. The recent copy featured a letter regarding open spaces for all and in particular dog nuisance. I do sympathise with this person's comments but my understanding is that dogs are not allowed on the beach from April 1st to 30th September. I thought there was a sign explaining this on East Preston's section of the beach by the Seaview PH?</p> <p>Perhaps some areas of public space could be restricted for owners of dogs to be 'on leads only areas', but I guess this may be difficult to enforce/monitor/control. Perhaps this person could try an visit parks for picnics/family fun where dogs have to be on leads ie: Swanbourne Lake, Arundel or some nature reserves where dogs are totally banned. Warnham Nature Reserve, nr Horsham is brilliant as is Pulborough Brooks and they do allow own picnics to be consumed. Its fantastic for children with super bird hides and boarded walkways (great for buggies or wheelchairs). Children are requested to be quiet though in the hides – which is understandable. Perhaps Covid is playing a bad hand here as they may be closed to the public at present and travelling to Horsham/Pulborough would not be construed as 'local'. When we are allowed, another fantastic place is Sussex Prairie Gardens, nr Henfield. They do allow dogs, but on short leads at all times. They have a field for picnicking. Borde Hill Gardens is good too, they only allow dogs on Mondays.</p> <p>I hope this may help your reader.</p>
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JP	<p>I was a bit surprised that the letter re dog free zones got such prominence in the EP newsletter. However I do understand that not everyone is keen on dogs. Having said that anyone that lives here must know this is a very dog friendly village. Struggling to think of somewhere that can be dog free. Certainly not the green or the rec. Open spaces for all should surely include people with dogs.</p>
DW (first email)	<p>Following on from JH's comments regarding 'finding a place where we can all go without fear of a small number of less well-behaved dogs disrupting our enjoyment.'</p> <p>As a dog owner I sympathize with people who worry about over-friendly dogs scaring adults and children. They may not have not been brought up with animals nor been taught what to do. . Dogs Trust (Shoreham) have a useful guide on how to teach children or adults what to do; stand still facing away from the dog, with arms down. No shouting, waving arms. Or screaming! Most dogs will be concerned and run up to try and find out what the matter is. Not what a scared person wants.</p> <p>It is equally difficult to have a dog and not be able to find a park where one is able to let the dog off lead without fear of it getting run over. Summer season means dogs are not allowed on East Preston beach. Winter and early spring can mean Langmeads Fields is a 'no go area' because of heavy mud, despite the wonderful seasonal nature on offer. Like children, dogs need /training and the only way they can do that is to go somewhere relatively safe and quiet, off lead to learn to come to their new name, return, sit, stay and so forth. This may be a rescue dog with a new name and a new owner.</p> <p>If so many dogs become confined to one area (say) Langmeads Fields in East Preston , training would, become increasingly difficult because of all the distractions which can include unexpected groups of adult cyclists racing past from behind them. They are not currently prohibited, even though roads are available for them. . Some might argue "take your dog to training classes then!". There are few training classes available and they have waiting lists. Classes are also expensive so some new ones take on the training themselves. Not everyone can drive to Highdown and Highdown has the danger to dog owners and their dogs of horses being galloped, coming from behind unexpectedly.</p> <p>In Langmeads Fields I have witnessed dogs and children co-existing, however, should a place be designated as a dog-free zone, a sensible place might be to choose East Preston Football grounds, where there is the multi-use games area, the fixed table tennis table and the children's playground. This more open area is not as safe for dogs. They might play/chase a dog into the road or run after a cat, dog, fox or squirrel, only to get run over.</p> <p>Especially during lockdown spare a thought on how much harder it has been for dog owners. Why? Not only has the weather made a walk into Langmeads Fields too slippery, a dog walk along East Preston's narrow pavements has meant walking towards an unknown dog and owner without knowing what the oncoming dog's behaviour towards one might be like. Some dogs are 'protective' of their owner's space and the only option is walk into the road into oncoming traffic. An added worry has been not everybody has been wearing a face mask, sometimes, perhaps, because of exemption for health reasons..</p> <p>Dogs are quick to pick up on potential dangers, which is why they make good police dogs and companion or guide dogs. Then there has been the ongoing real problem of dog stealing which has been happening locally. East Preston's population has vastly increased to when it was a small village. Ultimately we all have to co-exist Thankfully most people with children and/or dogs are lucky to have a small garden. Spare a thought for those who do not.</p>
FW	<p>I would like to follow-on from JH's letter in the last issue of the newsletter about a desire to have a Dog Free zone in the village. This truly is a marvellous idea as long as we also create a Child Free area too(this is a joke).Being a responsible dog owner of many years I find it rather sad to think someone would seriously request such a thing. Maybe if they wish a swim and picnic canine free, Littlehampton Beach can oblige with a blue flag beach and many facilities,so children playing screaming having fun will not damage the hearing of our beloved DOGS!</p> <p>Please let's all enjoy our beautiful surroundings in harmony not segregation. I look forward to dog walks, picnics, families relaxing ,children playing ALL together once again this summer. Come on EP let's all enjoy.</p>

<p>DW (second email)</p>	<p>Personally, I would prefer all of East Preston's areas be dog accessible (except the beaches in Summer) , yet I am aware there are people who are not a fan of them.</p> <p>I know of someone who has a trained Labrador which puts his washing in the washing machine, opens doors, puts on socks and so forth, according to his needs. The owner comes all the way from Rustington in his buggy, dog beside him to Langmeads Fields. The enjoyment they have together is wonderful to see. There the owner lets his dog have free time from being a full time carer, off lead. However, whenever it is too slippery for purchase of his disability buggy, being off lead is a distant memory.</p> <p>So much of the changing of seasons is missed by people who cannot access Langmeads Fields or anywhere without improved access and some space.</p> <p>I have also seen other buggy users look wistfully into Langmeads from the churchyard entrance - unable to go in because of soft mud. The same is true at other entrance. Cllr. Toney's ex-wife Anne Toney assisted someone to assess the entrance from Worthing Rd because of the steep gradient. Despite photographs being taken in the hot sun for over an hour, no improvements have been made for disabled-friendly access. As I understand it, the photographer, whatever his name was, never had time to have the photographs printed off and So all the photo'd information was been lost.</p> <p>During warmer weather or not, from the Worthing Rd entrance there is still no noticeboard , as there once was when I first came to live in East Preston 30 years ago, similar to the Vicarage Lane entrance so there is still the risk of people pitching tents, adults cyclists, golfers and so forth. In my opinion I do not believe it is fair to serve a notice on someone who has not seen Prohibited actions symbols on any noticeboard if coming in from Worthing Rd. I have already notified FoL committee about my concerns in 2019/20.</p>
<p>JM</p>	<p>I just wanted to respond in regards to the item in the 'Correspondence Corner' section of the printed EPPC winter newsletter.</p> <p>It is not clear to me how or where JH thinks this 'dog-free' zone should be located in East Preston during the summer months but might I suggest that if he/she and their family would like to enjoy a picnic & swim in a dog-free area, they take a stroll up to Littlehampton beach where there is plenty of space to do so! Or perhaps a longer walk to Worthing beach, where they also implement dog restrictions on their beaches.</p> <p>I am truly horrified that a resident of EP has suggested a dog-free zone in a village that many have made a conscious decision to live in, due to the fact that it is such a dog-friendly village and the beach area has no dog restrictions at any time of the year.</p> <p>Maybe we should suggest 'child-free' zones too, as crying, screaming and shouting children certainly spoil my enjoyment when trying to enjoy a picnic and swim on our local beaches!</p> <p>Thanks for passing on my comments to JH.</p>
<p>DW (letter)</p>	<p>Similar content to the two DW emails above.</p>

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED it was sympathetic to the Correspondence Corner authors' original concerns but this council did not have any large enough open spaces to create a dog-free zone. It was AGREED the Clerk should respond to the authors in this vein and also provide the suggestions of dog-free places within easy reach.

261/21 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTING**

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Christmas Lighting

Committee is asked to consider the purchase of replacement lighting for Christmas 2021.

There is money in the 2021/22 budget to buy some replacement Christmas lighting for the village, or indeed additional lighting. At a meeting before Christmas committee members agreed to keep an eye on the village's Christmas Lighting and to make a note of any motifs they felt were no longer up to standard.

As the choice of motifs will always be a very subjective one, I suggest two committee members work with Dawn on choosing some new lighting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee ACCEPTED the offers of Cllrs Gander and Linton to meet with Mrs Reid to progress the provision of new Christmas Lighting for the village.

262/21 **CORRESPONDENCE – WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER – MEAT-FREE MONDAY**

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Correspondence: Winter 2021 Newsletter: *Meat-free Monday*

Committee is asked to consider an email entitled, *article 'Meat-free Monday' in issue 57 of the EPPC newsletter.*

The following is correspondence between a local resident and myself.

BD 2 nd March	<p>Dear Simon,</p> <p>Since when was it appropriate to use the newsletter to publish what purports to be advice about the human diet and what it should or should not consist of? In what sense are those responsible for this article, the writer and those who gave permission, experts on the environment and on human metabolic health? I have a first class honours degree in Chemistry, specialising in biochemistry and genetics, and dietetics is a branch of biochemistry in which I practised for many years. Perhaps you could tell me what qualifications Councillors Gander and Gunston have that qualify them to advise East Preston residents on dietary and environmental health. If, as I suspect, they have none, then it is disgraceful that EPPC is supporting articles by unqualified authors that appear to encourage residents to adopt what biochemists regard as unhealthy diets, namely vegan and vegetarian diets.</p> <p>If we were not in the grip of a pandemic I would be asking for a meeting with Cllrs Gander and Gunston, and I am confident that I would, within a few minutes, expose how little they know about human dietetics, and how dangerous it is for unqualified individuals to spread misinformation to a largely unscientifically educated public. Instead, I have attached an article on the subject, which consists entirely of facts verified from distinguished scientific journals. It is written in everyday English, and formed the basis of public lectures on unhealthy diets that I gave for many years before retirement. Please urge Cllrs Gander and Gunston to read it and thereafter to be very wary of publicly revealing how little they understand about human dietary needs, especially when the newsletter is read by at least one highly qualified biochemist.</p> <p>Much of the nonsense written about diets comes from the internet, a forum where there is no scientific vetting, so that propagandists have free range to spread their misinformation and biased views. Where, I wonder, do Cllr Gander and Gunston's opinions come from, certainly not from scientifically accredited sources. If I was still working, I would seek to introduce them to vegan and vegetarian patients of mine so they could talk about the deficiency diseases that their diets have left them with. The attached article summarises the most frequent. Anyone who could demonstrate that through the influence of an article in the newsletter they developed a serious deficiency disease, such as the potentially fatal pernicious anaemia caused by vitamin B12 deficiency, could possibly sue the parish council.</p> <p>Finally, I would like space in the next newsletter to publicly repudiate the dangerous implications of what has been published. I care about the health of my fellow villagers, which is why I urge Cllrs Gander and Gunston not to stray outside the limits of their</p>
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	<p>scientific understanding. Among those who die each year from long-standing deficiency diseases are many vegans and vegetarians.</p> <p>With kind regards</p>
<p>SC 2nd March</p>	<p>Afternoon [REDACTED],</p> <p>The council has an editorial team for the newsletter. This team consists of five councillors including the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the council. The Community Engagement Committee discusses and agrees potential content as its bi-monthly meetings.</p> <p>I shall refer your email and article to the editorial team and ensure it is discussed at the committee's next meeting which is at the end of this month. I have noted you would like space in the Spring 2021 Newsletter.</p> <p>In defence of the two councillors named, there is no suggestion anyone should go vegetarian or vegan, just a suggestion to skip meat in one meal a week. Meat-free Monday is a concept which has been around since 2009, and according to its website, "Having at least one plant-based day a week is a fun and easy way to do something good for the planet and our future." Are you really suggesting a deficiency will result from changing one meal a week, which is all the newsletter article suggests? I have been vegetarian for twenty-five years and have not had a day off sick in the 14 years I have worked here.</p> <p>I will let you know the editorial team's response to your email and article.</p> <p>Simon</p>
<p>BD 2nd March</p>	<p>Thank you for your reply, Simon. I will await the editorial team's response, but meanwhile perhaps you would furnish me with the scientific qualifications of every member of the team. The quotation from the Meat-free Monday website shows how little they understand about environmental and dietary issues. Did anyone check that this website has accredited scientific support? I doubt it from what I have read. It is just another propaganda site run by enthusiastic ignoramuses.</p> <p>Why did the editorial team not recommend a vegetable-free day a week? After all, the growing of vegetables requires digging and ploughing, which ruins soil structure and disturbs the complex ecosystem of soil micro-organisms and invertebrates. Collectively, this vast community of organisms emits huge volumes of greenhouse gases, and disturbance causes them to rise into the atmosphere. The saturation of the soil with artificial fertilisers, herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides adds poisoning to the ecological damage done by agriculture. If vegetarians and vegans really cared about climate change they would eat fewer vegetables not more, but instead of doing proper research they leap on the contrived bandwagon of propagandists. Meat production does not do such damage to the soil, but of course there are other issues connected with it. It is a complex business, and not one for non-scientific councillors to meddle in. It is not the business of you or your colleagues to interfere in the personal dietary choices of residents because you are not qualified to so advise.</p> <p>I am delighted you think you are in good health, but of course the human body is amazingly resilient. One person's experience however does not make a statistic. I have tested bodily fluid samples from many vegetarians and vegans and they show a range of results. Some do not show serious deficiency, which can normally be put down to the diet not being as plant-based as the patient thinks. Animal products can be in sufficient quantity, albeit small, to give enough of trace elements and vitamins, whereas in other patients this is not the case. Animal sources the patient is unaware of can include derivatives that enter the food in manufacturing, and fungi, which are now known to be animals. Bacterial sources of these trace chemicals can also be a factor, for example from resident bacteria in the gut, but these contributions can collectively be small, and over many years the individual finds their resistance to infection and the onset of other medical conditions slowly declines, until they become seriously ill in later life. As I pointed out in my article: <i>Essential components of a healthy diet regularly found to be missing in vegan and vegetarian diets are Vitamins B12 (mostly from vegan diets) and D, Riboflavin, Calcium, Zinc, Iron, omega-3 fatty acids, Iodine, and certain amino acids if only plant protein is consumed.</i> I have found serious lack of all of these in the course of my work. Have you been tested for all of these dietary components? What, I wonder, do the members of the editorial team not want on their consciences.</p>

	I hope you and your colleagues will trust what is written in my article, and decide to stick strictly to local politics in the future. With kind regards
SC 3 rd March	Thank you for the additional information which I shall share with the editorial team. Your correspondence will be considered by the Community Engagement Committee at the end of the month, after which the council will respond. Simon
BD 4 th March	There is one question that I have asked that can be answered without my having to wait for the meeting of the Community Engagement Committee. Please let me know what recognised scientific qualifications, especially in the chemical and biological sciences, each of the members of the parish council has. With thanks
SC 4 th March	I do not have that information to hand and I think it would be better to provide a single, overall answer once the committee has been able to discuss it. Simon
BD 4 th March	You are prevaricating, Simon. This is purely factual information that I would like to have <u>now</u> . It needs no discussion at a committee meeting because its relevance is blatantly obvious. Those in positions of authority and influence should act within the bounds of their competence. This is made clear in the 1703 Misfeasance in Public Office tort, so you don't have the legal right to refuse my request.
SC 5 th March	Nobody is refusing your request, [REDACTED]. Neither the council nor I is prevaricating; as I have said the committee will consider all your correspondence when it meets at the end of the month at which point it will agree a single response covering all your questions. The committee feels this is reasonable. Unless you have new questions you wish to add, I will not enter into any further correspondence with you on this matter until after the committee has met and I have sent you a response. This too will be by the end of the month. Simon

Cllr Gunston has already prepared part of a response to this correspondent's points, but there is more work to be done.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The Clerk had circulated a draft response in advance of the meeting. The committee thanked Cllr Gunston and the Clerk for their work on the draft response and AGREED, with a few tweaks agreed, the letter was ready to be sent.

(Cllr Gunston left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

263/21 CORRESPONDENCE - PICKLEBALL

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Correspondence: Pickleball

Committee is asked to consider the following email received from local resident [REDACTED]

PG	No reply necessary!
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16 th March	P https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-56324048
PG 16 th March	My point was simply (through you) to raise the PC's awareness of the rising popularity of Pickleball - but of course it might already be aware. (West Worthing Racquets Club is almost certain to embrace it with the provision of courts). If the PC was ever looking at further ways to encourage levels of public fitness (as it demonstrably has done in the past eg the pétanque court, the facilities at Lashmar and the Warren) then this might be a (relatively) less expensive possibility. Am not championing it (but would certainly support it) - just drawing attention.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED to do some individual research into the game of Pickleball.

264/21 **COUNCILLOR WALKABOUTS**

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Councillor walkabouts

Committee is asked to consider the reintroduction of councillor walkabouts, in line with government pandemic guidance.

In January, the decision was taken to suspend councillor walkabouts partly because of the weather as much as because of the third national lockdown.

As lockdown regulations are easing and the weather has improved, perhaps it is time to consider restarting these.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED to undertake some Councillor Walkabouts during April. The Clerk will send out a Doodle poll for committee members to complete.

265/21 **PARKED PROJECTS**

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Parked projects

Committee is asked to note the committee's currently parked projects such as Village Bus, further blue plaques.

This new Standing Agenda Item will be where committee members can agree which other items of committee business should be kept in mind if not under active consideration.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th March 2021

The committee AGREED to move the Blue Plaque for Heywood Hardy from a parked project to a live project. The Clerk confirmed the householders had confirmed they were very happy to discuss this further. If possible, the committee thought it was a good idea to unveil the new plaque over Festival weekend.

266/21 NEXT MEETING (24TH MAY)

The following could be an item for the next meeting: another “Extra Kind Month”-style event.

The Meeting closed at 20:36.

Chairman: Cllr Elizabeth Linton Date: **26th July 2021**