



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held at 19:00 on Monday, 5th July 2021 at East Preston Infant School

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bowman, Kit Bradshaw, Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, Barbara Gale, Patricia Gander, John Gunston, Elizabeth Linton, Glyn Mathias, Rick McElroy, David Moore, Steve Toney (Chairman) and Steven Wilkinson

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

Mr George Schlich, South Strand Community Toilets Ltd. (until 19:14)

Mrs D

* * * * *

The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;
AoSERA – Angmering-on-Sea Estate Residents' Association
BTP – British Transport Police;
CPRE – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England;
JEAAC – Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee;
NHS – National Health Service;
NR – Network Rail;
PCSO – Police Community Support Officer;
SLCC – Society of Local Council Clerks;

SSE – Scottish and Southern Electric;
SW – Southern Water;
TfSE – Transport for the South East;
TRO – Traffic Regulation Order;
VHF – East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation;
WRA – Willowhayne Residents' Association
WSCC – West Sussex County Council;
WSALC – West Sussex Association of Local Councils

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The meeting opened at 19:00.

To ensure the meeting was held within government COVID-19 guidelines, the number of members of the public able to attend was controlled by members of the public needing to register ahead of the meeting.

403/21 INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Toney welcomed all present.

Cllr Toney also wished the National Health Service a Happy 73rd Birthday. Cllr Linton congratulated the National Health Service and its employees on being awarded the George Cross.

404/21 STEVE ROLPH

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

Steve Rolph



Please be aware, in line with council policy, there will be one minute's silence to mark the passing on Wednesday, 16th July, of the council's main Village Orderly, Steve Rolph, aged just 63.

Also known within the council as Weekday Steve, Steve joined the council in October 2012, having retired early from the RAC. Until his very recent illness, Steve had never taken a day's sick leave, a fact he was always proud of. Steve was also very proud of carrying out his duties around the village very early each weekday morning, unseen by most residents, his efforts appreciated by them nonetheless.

The council sent a bouquet of flowers and a condolences card to Steve's partner, Dawn.

Following the announcement of Steve's passing in the e-newsletter published on 23rd June, some residents have sent these messages:

"I'm so sorry to hear this about Steve. Although I did not know his name we often waved to each other when I was out for my run! He did such a good job! How very sad."

"sad to hear about Steve he was as you say a quiet man doing what needed doing around the village-who will be sadly missed."

"So sad for his family, I would see him most mornings on way to work. much love to them x"

"Sorry to learn of Steve Rolph's death, I had noticed him a few doing his bit for EP. He just got on with it. We are so lucky to have such people looking after the village."

"I am so sorry to hear of the death of Mr Rolph. He was lovely and used to have a chat early in the mornings when I was walking the dog. Always a gentleman, polite and kind."

Other residents have telephoned or stopped me in the street to express their sadness.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th June 2020

Cllr Toney invited those present to join him in standing for a minute's silence in memory of Mr Rolph.

405/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All councillors were present.

County Cllr Elkins and District Cllrs Bower, Chapman and Kelly had all provided apologies for this meeting.

Mrs M had also sent an apology for the meeting.

406/21 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Toney reminded councillors they could declare an Interest at the beginning of each Agenda Item. None were declared.

407/21 PUBLIC SESSION

No Agenda Item – Mr Schlich introduced himself as the Chairman of South Strand Community Toilets Ltd., the organisation currently responsible for the South Strand toilet block. Mr Schlich said the committee had agreed to visit each of the major donors to the company, which was why he was at the meeting this evening. The company was very grateful for the donations received from organisations such as this council which, together with donations from members of the public and beach chalet owners, meant the company was financially stable. This allowed the toilets to stay open and be improved and the company to build up a small maintenance fund. Mr Schlich also thanked the staff at the Council Office for its support and for its assistance in receiving and passing on donations and comments from members of the public. Thanks to generous donations from the East Preston Yarnbombers and two members of the public, the company had been able to install a defibrillator on the outer wall of the building.

Several councillors and Mrs D thanked Mr Schlich for the company's work in improving the toilet block and making it look so much more attractive than it had in the past.

Cllr Gunston explained the Environment Initiatives Working Party's work on making the village greener and wondered whether this was something he could talk to Mr Schlich about more fully. Mr Schlich said the committee would be happy to talk to the working party.

Agenda Item 12a – Amenities Committee - Mrs D said the work in front of the Village Hall, to pave where the fig tree had been removed and the recess in the front wall looked very nice. However, Mrs D thought that the removal of the fig tree had always been planned to be followed by the planting of a replacement fig tree. Mrs D understood healthy saplings had been grown from cuttings for the old fig tree and was pleased one of these had been donated to Mrs Lee.

Agenda Item 13a – Amenities Committee – Warren Recreation Ground children's play area - Mrs D asked the age of the surfacing which was being replaced and whether it had outlasted its warranty.

408/21 COUNCIL RESPONSES

Agenda Item 12a – Amenities Committee – the Clerk advised there had never been any agreement to replant a fig tree at the entrance to the Village Hall as there would always be concerns about the slip hazards associated with fallen fruit. This had been a concern for successive VHF committees in his time. Cllr McElroy agreed. Mrs D took this comment with some scepticism.

Agenda Item 13a – Amenities Committee – Warren Recreation Ground children's play area – the Clerk said he did not know for certain but the surfacing that was proposed for replacement had been installed several years ago. Cllr McElroy agreed and added no such surfacing was warranted for more than five years. Mrs D accepted this information.

(Mr Schlich left at the conclusion of this item.)

409/21 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

County Cllr Elkins had sent his apologies for this meeting.

410/21 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL – PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

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

West Sussex County Council – Public Rights of Way

Council is asked to note the following Public Rights of Way Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance report for 2020.

On 15th June, the council received the following email,

Dear Clerk,

I am writing to you attaching a letter from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change and the annual Public Rights of Way (PROW) Parish Report for the attention of your Chairman. This details the works undertaken during 2020 along with details of the summer clearance programme for 2021 within your parish. If there is no document detailing parish works this is because your particular parish did not receive a routine maintenance visit during 2020 and the next visit will be scheduled for 2021 as part of our 15-month routine maintenance cycle.

Further to this I have also included a helpful summary sheet setting out Parish Council powers and useful information with regard to PROW in your local area.

Kind regards

Johnathan Kaye

Public Rights of Way Officer
Highways & Transport
West Sussex County Council

Deborah Urquhart

Cabinet Member for Environment & Climate
Change
Member for Angmering and Findon

e-mail: deborah.urquhart@westsussex.gov.uk
www.westsussex.gov.uk

County Hall
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RZ



8 June 2021

Dear Chairman,

I am writing with your 2020 annual update on West Sussex County Council's (WSCC) Public Rights of Way (PROW) matters within your parish.

As you are aware local paths have proved to be even more important to people during the last year and Council's Rights of Way team has had a busy year dealing with work arising from Council's inspections and addressing reports we get in from users around the County. After a short delay to the routine 15-month inspection and maintenance programme last spring due to COVID restrictions normal business resumed.

All high priority maintenance works including signage, small bridges, steps and other minors works for which the Council is responsible are completed by our routine maintenance contractor, County Tree Surgeons, once inspections have been completed. The current Inspection and Maintenance Schedule is available on our webpages, so you can see when we will next be visiting your area. We will contact you approximately a fortnight before inspections start so you can make your Local Access Ranger aware of any matters you would like them to specifically consider in the inspection.

We were also able to undertake a full programme of larger bridge replacements and surfacing schemes. These are included in the attached Parish Works report, which shows work carried out by WSCC during 2020. Unfortunately, one element of our work we were unable to deliver in 2020 has been our Volunteer Ranger task programme. This has impacted our

delivery of schemes that fall outside routine maintenance and our Capital Improvements Programme. However, we are pleased our Volunteer Rangers are now back out working delivering some much appreciated improvements.

Last year we also successfully completed our summer clearance programme, cutting surface vegetation from 363km paths across the county. Paths to be included for 2021, are shown in the attached SC report.

As you are aware last year has been unique due to the Covid pandemic and it is a credit to the Access Rangers, PRow teams and volunteers that we have continued to provide a good service to our customers.

The matter of Ash Dieback continues to be an issue across the UK. The disease, which has the potential to kill 95% of West Sussex ash trees over the coming 10-20 years, is having a significant impact on the landscape. The responsibility for managing trees along PRow sits with the respective landowner and as a Parish Council you may find yourselves dealing with this problem. Where works are required to fell trees, WSCC would expect landowners to carefully consider how the work can be done without closing any PRow. If this is not possible, advance notice and an application to WSCC for a closure will be required. If the Parish Council is the landowner it will be responsible for making sure no damage is caused to the surface of the PRow so you should make sure any contractors you use are aware of this. Further information can be found on the Council's Ash Dieback web pages.

To assist Parish Council's we have also included a helpful summary of the legal powers Town and Parish Councils have regarding access and public rights of way. This is a useful reference to explain what you can do to help manage your local network, but if you are unsure about anything included in this list then feel free to contact the Public Rights of Way team on prow@westsussex.gov.uk.

Should you need further advice on PRow matters, your Local Access Ranger will be happy to assist and I have attached a map showing their contact details, though please do not give their details out to the public.

Yours faithfully

Deborah Urquhart
Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change

**Public Rights of Way
Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance**



Parish: EAST PRESTON

All or a section(s) of the paths listed below are on the Rights of Way services Summer Surface Vegetation Clearance Programme. This runs from June to August.

Veg. surface summer - 1 cut

Path No	Status	Grid Ref	Length (m)
2114	Footpath	TQ076004	274.05

Veg. surface summer - 2 cuts

Path No	Status	Grid Ref	Length (m)
2114	Footpath	TQ060025	263.73

The legal powers of Town and Parish Councils regarding access and rights of way

These include:

1. **Definitive Map** - To hold for public inspection a copy of the definitive map for the parish, and copies of the orders made to modify it as supplied by West Sussex County Council (WSCC)
2. **Maintenance** - To undertake maintenance of any public footpath (FP), public bridleway (BW) or restricted bridleway (RB) (although it is encouraged that any parish wishing to do so contacts WSCC first to ensure that work is undertaken to an acceptable standard; if not, parishes could find themselves liable in the event of an accident)
3. **Lighting and furniture** - To erect lighting on any FP or BW or seats or shelters (again, it is advisable to consult WSCC beforehand to ensure safety and proper siting, and to discuss any possible need for a licence)
4. **Warning signs** - To erect signs warning of local dangers (WSCC can advise on the appropriate wording of such signs to avoid any suggestion that the sign appears to unlawfully deter use of a right of way. This also relates to erecting "No Cycling" signs on FPs that are experiencing unlawful use. These have previously been provided to Parish/Town Councils and can be printed and laminated. Please note that these must not be erected on any routes other than public footpaths and must not deter lawful path users)
5. **Trees** - To contact local landowners to make them aware of fallen/leaning trees on their land that may be obstructing/posing a hazard to path users (trees are a landowner responsibility, therefore if reports are received it is helpful to contact the landowner directly, if known, and request resolution. WSCC can of course do this but due to the Covid pandemic this may take longer than usual.
6. **Town/Village Greens** - To make an application to the registration authority (WSCC) for the creation of a new town or village green
7. **Obstructions including crops** - To prosecute anyone who wilfully obstructs the passage along any highway, and to prosecute an occupier who fails to ensure that growing crops do not inconvenience path users. The power also exists to prosecute a landowner who does not restore a lawfully ploughed path within the period allowed or who has ploughed unlawfully (WSCC would be pleased to discuss before any action is considered by a parish council (PC))
8. **Signing** - To insist that the highway authority (WSCC) signposts a particular footpath, bridleway, restricted bridleway or BOAT (byway open to all traffic) where it meets a metalled road. PCs also have the power to signpost FPs, BWs, RBs and BOATs on behalf of, and with the consent of, the highway authority (WSCC has a very good record for signposting and it would be helpful if PCs could report any missing road end signs. In the event PCs did wish to apply to do signposting work themselves, WSCC would be happy to discuss and, if appropriate, for consistency, supply the signs for erection)
9. **New rights of way** - To create new highways by agreement with the landowner over land in their own and adjoining communities (again WSCC would encourage PCs to discuss first, partly because highways created under agreements with PCs would not automatically be maintained at the public expense (unlike WSCC agreements) and so owners may be reluctant to enter into PC agreements if future liability could fall to them. Also WSCC is likely to have more experience in dealing with this sort of work)

These are not all of the legal powers that a town or parish council has. If a council had a particular concern, then officers at the County Council are available to give guidance.

Finally, we would like to reiterate the importance of reporting issues on the PROW network through the correct channels and below is the link to our reporting page: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/land-waste-and-housing/public-paths-and-the-countryside/public-rights-of-way/report-a-problem-with-a-right-of-way>. When making reports we would strongly encourage as much detail as possible, including the path number, a location plan, a clear description of what the issue is and also photographs to accompany the report. This will assist us greatly in identifying the issue and investigating it as efficiently as possible in line with our clear priorities (available under the "our timescales link on this page)

Nicholas Scott
26.01.21

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st July 2021

411/21 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

(Throughout this Minute, Cllr Chapman refers to District Cllr T Chapman not Parish Cllr A Chapman.)

Apologies had been received from District Cllrs Bower, Chapman and Kelly.

412/21 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH JUNE 2021

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 8th June asking for comments by the 15th June. No suggested amendments had been received. Cllr Moore had emailed in, "The Minutes look good, they must be the easiest ones you have ever had to produce."

1544 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 7th June.

This action was duly completed by the Chairman.

413/21 UPDATE ON MATTERS IN THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council NOTED the following report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Monthly Update Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 370/21 – Annual Financial Matters – Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year-ending 31st March 2021**
- 3. Minute 372/21 – New Items to be Referred to the Next Meeting, 5th July 2021**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 7th June 2021.

2. Minute 370/21 – Annual Financial Matters – Annual Governance and Accountability Return for year-ending 31st March 2021

The Annual Governance and Accountability Return was sent off on 23rd June and received by the external auditors on 24th June.

3. **Minute 372/21 – New Items to be Referred to the Next Meeting, 5th July 2021**

The East Preston Yarnbombers have announced they will be auctioning off the latest set of decorations but have not yet revealed details.

I did report back to the Yarnbombers concerns about the covering-up of the high-visibility strips so they are aware for the future.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th June 2021

Nothing was added.

414/21 **FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Accounts for March to June 2021 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

- 1545** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2021/22, value £19,320.37 (excl. VAT).
- 1546** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier Non BACS Invoices Paid reports for March to June totalling £5,316.89 (incl. VAT) (including unreported additional payments from the previous month).
- 1547** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid reports for April to June totalling £77,487.28 (incl. VAT).
- 1548** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report, showing £154,599.67 (incl. VAT) for the financial year ending 31st March 2022.

The council NOTED the paper Bank Reconciliations to 31st March, 14th April, 14th May and 14th June 2021.

The council NOTED the end-of-year final Budget Summary Report for 2020/21.

The council NOTED the year-to-date Budget Summary Report for 2021/22.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Khoo, the council's Book-keeper, for her preparation of all the above reports.

415/21 **REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

The council NOTED the following reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Committees

Committees are slowly meeting in person again in a socially-distanced environment at the Infant School. All attendees need to register their attendance several hours before the meeting and need to read COVID-19 guidelines when they arrive. They then need to sign their acceptance of the guidelines.

During June, the Major Events and Planning & Licensing Committees both met on 28th June.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th June 2021

Amenities Committee

The committee did not meet during May or June.

Village Green – Following the removal of the table football table, an accessible gap was left in the north-eastern corner of the Village Green. After a small group of travellers took up residence on Langmeads Field, Simon arranged for a concrete barrier to be placed across the gap for the time being.

Wildflower beds have been sown and are beginning to flourish.

As Cllr McElroy mentioned at the last meeting, the committee is investigating replacement of the low-level security fencing around the whole of the Village Green as approximately twenty-one of the posts are showing significant signs of wear, even rotting at the base. Committee is likely to need to ask council for additional funding if this work is to be completed in this financial year, but is still obtaining financial information to put before the council.

Warren Recreation Ground – Resurfacing of the tennis court completed in early May. The council has received some compliments on the new surface since the court has been reopened.

Drainage work in the south-eastern corner has been carried out. This is to ease the flooding problems in Mr Hodgson's yard which partly result from water flowing off the Warren Rec because of faulty pipework which has now been rectified.

Remedial work has also been carried out on the block paving by the entrance to the children's playground after Simon noticed this had become a trip hazard. The fencing around the children's playground is going to be repainted shortly.

On the western boundary, the council's tree contractor has removed some of the larger branches as negotiated with the cricket club. These trees were shedding smaller branches which were a safety issue for players. Simultaneously, a small amount of tree-work was carried out on the eastern boundary to allow essential repair work to be carried out on the safety netting. This repair work has been completed.

Lashmar Bank – the new planter has been installed and was planted up by Ferring Nurseries week beginning 21st June. The initial display is pink and red begonias and we will discuss future planting schemes with Ferring Nurseries in due course.

Village Hall – the council's noticeboard from the semi-circular flint wall recess at the front of the Village Hall site has been removed and relocated to behind the wall, still in front of the toilet block. New block paving has been installed in the recess and from where the fig tree was removed. The committee is working with a local craftsman to provide a bespoke bench in the semi-circular recess. Cllr Toney has donated to Mrs Lee a fig tree grown from one of the cuttings taken when the tree was removed last summer.

Owing to the inability to hold meetings virtually since 6th May, the committee's meeting schedule has got out of sync and the next meeting will be on 12th July.

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

29th June 2021

Audit & Governance Committee

The committee is scheduled to meet on 19th July.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th June 2021

Community Engagement Committee

The committee is scheduled to meet on 26th July. The committee's next milestone is the *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* event scheduled for 10am to midday on Friday, 23rd July, part of the East Preston Festival. All councillors are asked to let me know whether or not they are able to take part in this event. Attendees will be asked to book a slot, but the committee is hopeful a drop-in element will be possible depending upon any changes to government guidelines nearer the time.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –
Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee

28th June 2021

Finance & General Purposes Committee

In May, the committee considered the Grant Aid applications received and agreed the following grants:

Organisation – charity no	Amount requested? (£)	Grant awarded:
1 st East Preston Scout Group 305895	£248 Litter pick equipment	Agreed donation: £248
4SIGHT Vision Support 1075447	£245 To provide support to five people for a year	Agreed donation: £245
Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex 1021367	£300 “to fund vital pieces of equipment such as 2 new Oxylog 3000+ ventilators”	Agreed donation: £300
Friends of St Mary’s 1180544 (see below)	£1650 “Contribution to cost of structural survey of building and environs.”	Agreed donation: £825 (i.e. half of the costs of the report)
KEPT – Keep East Preston Tidy n/a	£250 Litter hoops and tabards “To provide identification and equipment for the group in order to present a stronger presence in the village community”	Agreed donation: £250
Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, East Preston with Kingston 1180544	£500 “To encourage the reduction of car use and promote cycling by providing bike racks on the church premises.”	Agreed donation: £250 (i.e. half of the amount requested)
St Barnabas House	£350 “We are applying for a grant to support the ongoing work of the Community Palliative Nursing Team in East Preston...”	Agreed donation: £350
Victim Support (Sussex Area) 298028	£200 “Recruit, train and supervise new volunteers to support victims and witnesses of crime”	Agreed donation: £200
West Sussex Mediation Service 1084592	£200 “To help support the provision of free mediation services to East Preston residents and promote its use within the Parish.”	Agreed donation: £200

Worthing and District Community Responders n/a	£2000 "To help equip new Community First Responders (CFRs)"	Agreed donation: £1,302 (i.e. costs of one responder)
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The committee was very aware of receiving requests from two separate arms of St Mary the Virgin church and considered the applications accordingly.

The following acknowledgements of the grants have been received:

1 st East Preston Scout Group 305895	Hi Simon That's brilliant news, thank you so much. kind regards Cheryl
4SIGHT Vision Support 1075447	Hi Simon Thank you for your email, that's great news! I will write again with a formal thank you letter once we have received the cheque. Kind regards Sonia Balshaw Finance Assistant
Air Ambulance Kent Surrey Sussex 1021367	Good afternoon Simon, Thank you for your email and for kindly advising of the Council's generous decision to award the charity a donation of £300 – that really is amazing! I'm sorry to hear that our medical teams have been required to attend residents of East Preston in the past few months. As you say, let's hope we are not required again. Should the unfortunate need arise in the future however, we will of course be available and able to respond thanks to donations such as that granted by the Council. If you require anything further, please do let me know. Thank you and the Council once again for your support. Kind regards, Nick Turrell Head of Community Fundraising
Friends of St Mary's 1180544 (see below)	On behalf of the FOSM, may I say thank you for such a generous help. Malcolm McLelland. Chairman
KEPT – Keep East Preston Tidy n/a	Thanks Simon and thanks very much to all the Parish Council for their Grant. Kind regards, John
Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, East Preston with Kingston 1180544	S Wow! Thank you very much! That is great news. The Quinquennial Inspection is in the process of being assembled: the bicycle racks are a way off yet, but we will certainly be in touch once they are a little nearer. Again huge thanks to the Finance and General Purposes Committee. Best wishes

	Fr Andrew Perry Vicar of St Mary's East Preston
St Barnabas House	<p>Dear Simon</p> <p>What a wonderful email to receive, thank you so much for your continued support. It means such a lot to everyone here at St Barnabas House.</p> <p>I look forward to receiving your grant in due course. I will ask our Finance team to look out for it and will send you confirmation of its safe arrival.</p> <p>Thank you once again.</p> <p>Kind regards</p> <p>Anna Woodward Fundraising Executive</p> <p>Followed up by:</p> <p>Dear Mr Cross</p> <p>On behalf of everyone at St Barnabas House thank you to you and the members of the Parish Council for your support and for your wonderful donation of £350 towards the work of our Community Palliative Care Nursing team. I attach an official receipt for your records.</p> <p>As you would expect, Covid-19 has put huge pressure on the hospice, especially for our clinical teams and the patients we support. The number of patients being supported has increased, and many patients are presenting at a later stage of illness with complex and distressing symptoms. It is thanks to the generosity of our local community that we have been able to adapt our services and continue to meet demand over the past year and into this year.</p> <p>Thank you once again for your support – it is truly appreciated.</p> <p>Yours sincerely</p> <p>A.Woodward</p>
Victim Support (Sussex Area) 298028	<p>Once again, thank you so much for continuing to support us and your recent generous donation of £200.00. With your continued support we are able to help many vulnerable victims of crime in the area, particularly at this difficult time. Unfortunately our work load has increased in recent months as we have had to support a high number of Domestic Violence cases, together with an increase in fraud and on line scams.</p> <p>Please assure the Councillors that funds will go to training of new volunteers, and ongoing training of existing volunteers, so that victims and witnesses of crime in your area can be offered support and facilities, on a long or short term basis, depending on their needs. The volunteers are currently having on line training to equip them with the skills to support different crimes and cope with working from home by phone and video link.</p> <p>We still rely on donations to maintain the enhanced services we like to be able to provide to victims in your area. I am sure your funding is very limited, so we are very grateful to you for your support and would appreciate you passing on our sincere thanks to the council members for their donation.</p> <p>If you would like to read more about Victim Support you can find details on our website: www.victimsupport.org.uk.</p> <p>May we wish you all a safe and healthy 2021</p> <p>Best wishes</p> <p>Sue</p>

West Sussex Mediation Service 1084592	Hi Simon, Great News. Much appreciated. Hope to be working from the office more in the coming weeks. We are ticking over nicely, at the moment. Regards, Nick Handley Service Co-ordinator
Worthing and District Community Responders n/a	Thank you so much. Sally

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th June 2021

Major Events Committee

The committee met on 28th June.

In chronological order:

East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 28th August – preparations are continuing and the event is shaping up nicely. There will be the usual mix of firm favourite suppliers alongside new ones. The committee is hopeful it will be able to furnish a marketplace area in the Village Green car-park, this more geared at products for home consumption. Marshals and children’s entertainment are all booked.

East Preston Voluntary Service Thank-You Party, 18th September – this event has been moved from 31st July to 18th September owing to uncertainty about what government guidelines would still be in place on 31st July. The committee currently intends to issue invitations from 1st August.

Funday Sunday, 3rd October – preparations for this are continuing. There has been a suggestion this event could move back a couple of weeks to allow the committee a bit more breathing space following the Thank-You Party.

East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 20th November – similarly, preparations for this event are on track. The Craft Fair in the Village Hall and Music Hall in the Conservative Hall are all sorted; the French Market is booked in and the committee is beginning to contact local shopfront businesses about how they would like to get involved.

The committee especially thanked Mrs Roberts for her work on most of the above events.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th June 2021

Personnel Committee

The committee is next scheduled to meet on 19th July. Top of the agenda will be the recruitment of a replacement Village Orderly.

Planning & Licensing Committee

Between the committee’s meetings on 19th April and 28th June, the committee submitted responses to fifteen Planning Applications. Decisions were made by the Chairman of the Committee and myself, following input from committee members.

At the meeting on 28th June, Cllr Mathias and Cllr Linton were re-elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman respectively, unopposed.

The committee considered four Applications and agreed to object to three of them. These were for properties in Sea Road, Tamarisk Way and Beechlands Close. Final consideration of an Application for Seaview Road was deferred pending the applicant providing some additional drawings.

The committee’s next meeting may be on 12th July and back to the usual schedule thereafter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th June 2021

Additionally:

Community Engagement – Cllr Linton added the council had finalised dates for free-to-participate tennis coaching on the Warren Recreation Ground of 17th and 24th September and 1st October. These sessions were aimed at adults who had either not played before or who had not played for a long time. The sessions were led by the Head Coach at Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, Andrew Cook.

The committee was also looking at publishing a bi-monthly calendar based upon the Action for Happiness calendars the council already re-posted on its Facebook page.

Major Events – the committee was currently considering whether to move *Funday Sunday* back from 3rd October to 17th October, just to give the committee more time between it and the Voluntary Service party now scheduled for 18th September. The Clerk reported he was waiting for confirmation from the Village Hall as to whether or not it could meet the revised date before progressing this any further.

There was nothing to report from the other five committees.

Cllr Wilkinson said it was nice to see the letters of appreciation from the recipients of Grant Aid. Seeing the appreciation in black and white reassured him about the decisions the council had made.

416/21 AMENITIES COMMITTEE – WARREN RECREATION GROUND CHILDREN’S PLAY AREA

Council NOTED the following report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

Amenities Committee – Warren Recreation Ground children’s playground

Council is asked to agree unforeseen expenditure on the surfacing at the Warren Recreation Ground children’s playground.

Cllr McElroy to lead on this item.

Simon and I have recently noticed the surface areas around the multiplay and both sets of swings are showing signs of wear. Some areas have large cracks and holes, in particular around the multiplay, presumably because the kit is so well used. In line with council’s Financial Regulations,

I have obtained two quotes, both from companies the council has happily used before. The committee has agreed electronically to recommend to Full Council a quotation for replacement of the rubber surfacing of **£4,219.00 excluding VAT**. This would be for coloured surfacing which the committee think will make the area more attractive. If agreed, this sum would be taken from the council's reserves.

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

28th June 2021

Cllr McElroy spoke in support of the proposal.

Cllr Mathias questioned whether this problem had been brought up in playground inspections. The Clerk replied this was more a case of he and the Assistant Clerk being cautious having noticed some cracks in the surfacing. These could be patched, but some patching has already been undertaken so the committee felt this was a good opportunity to replace all the affected surfacing whilst brightening up the play area by introducing more coloured surfacing.

1549 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree expenditure of £4,219.00 (excluding VAT) on the surfacing at the Warren Recreation Ground children's play area.

This expenditure will be taken from the council's general reserves.

417/21 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

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

Working Parties

Only the Environmental Initiatives Working Party met this month, 17th June.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2021

Environmental Initiatives Working Party

Meetings were held on 17th May 2021 and 17th June.

Meetings were attended by Councillors Chapman, Duff, Gander and Gunston and the Parish Clerk.

Hedge saplings are being looked after by several councillors until we can plant them in September. One is also in the custody of an eight-year-old resident who has written to the council about the need for more trees.

We are also planning to obtain four bird-boxes to put up in Two Acres to attract nesting birds next spring.

Our environmental checklists for home and business will be publicised and put on the Parish Council website and the food waste booklet will hopefully be put on the Fridge website.

The results of our environmental survey will be published in the next newsletter in August. We were pleased with the number of responses received.

Pat will be writing an article for the November newsletter about starting an East Preston in Bloom group and holding a meeting with interested parishioners later this year.

We are putting together a plan to make public buildings in the village greener and hopefully carbon neutral and will update full council in September.

Flat and Frontage Working Party

On 11th June, a representative from Fuller Associates visited the office in order to make detailed floorplans of the office. This took him a good ninety minutes.

On 23rd June, I had a short meeting in the Fuller Associates office so David Fuller could get a better understanding of our requirements. His colleague, Emma Weaver, has reduced her time spent at Fuller Associates to concentrate on her own Personal Training business.

On 25th June, David came to the office to visualise the layout and requirements for himself. Initial drawings may be available during the first full week of July.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2021

Playing of Cricket Working Party

The working party met on 10th May to consider three pieces of correspondence received since I delivered the working party's report to neighbouring properties. Two letters were from a household on the western boundary and the third was from a household on the eastern boundary.

The working party agreed to take no further action in response to the letter from the eastern boundary household as the author was considering next steps and would get back to the council.

A letter was sent to the western boundary household on 14th May. At the time of writing, no response has been received.

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

21st June 2021

Additionally:

Conservative Hall Working Party – the Clerk was arranging a site visit for working party members and had also asked for some financial information from the Trustees.

Environmental Initiatives Working Party – Cllr Gunston reported on the survey the working party had recently carried out amongst residents. The survey had comprised eight questions, and the working party was summarising the answers to each of those questions in the Summer 2021 Newsletter.

Cllr Gunston stated the survey had been sent out to the council's e-newsletter subscribers (c870 recipients) and was also available via the council's Facebook page. 79 residents / households completed the survey which the working party felt was a reasonable number and which compared favourably to some other surveys and questionnaires published by the council. Some other statistics from the survey:

1. Vehicle charge points - 75% in favour - further 6.5% in favour with reservations Simon has registered interest with WSCC which had gone to tender for supplying the county.
2. Fridge - Parishioners generally thought it a good idea but questioned who it was for.

3. Wind Farm - 66% in favour. Objections related to size of turbines, spoiling the view and effects on wildlife and tourism. Rampion had agreed to write an article for the next newsletter. Formal public consultations were to be held from 14/7 - 16/9 and the next liaison group meeting was on 21/7.
4. Wildflowers on verges - 89% in favour. The council would refer parishioners to WSCC Community road verges. Cllr Gander was working on an East Preston EP in Bloom scheme and would be promoting this further in the Autumn Newsletter.
5. Southern Water *Target 100* - 20% thought achievable, 18% thought not. More than 50% had not heard of it. Many good ideas on how to save water. Southern Water had also agreed to write a short article for the newsletter and had offered to do a presentation to the Parish Council.
6. Cycling in the village - 47% of respondents cycle and are generally looking for more protection rather than cycle lanes. Signage and bike racks requested.
7. One small change - Many good ideas which will be added to our calendar lists. Monthly garage sale suggested to be discussed at Community Engagement?
8. Car Free Sunday - 69% thought this was a good idea. To be discussed at Community Engagement? [Clerk's Note: my fault, but the question was not as clearly worded as it could have been. The idea was only meant to refer to a short section of Sea Road, south of any current or potential bus routes. That said, there were several respondents who welcomed the idea of no vehicular traffic in the village on Sundays!]

A comment was passed the number of respondents did not provide a very sound basis for making decisions affecting the whole community.

Leases Working Party – Cllr Mathias was hopeful the working party may be able to start holding in-person meetings again in the near future.

Playing of Cricket Working Party – Cllr Bowman reported the council had been receiving weekly reports from the Cricket Club which, so far, showed only a couple of balls had gone outside the boundary of the Warren Recreation Ground. One of those had landed in Two Acres, which justified the council's inclusion of the residents in Oakley Gardens in its recent survey of properties neighbouring the ground.

There was nothing additional from the council's other working party.

418/21 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING, 21ST JUNE 2021

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

Annual Parish Meeting, 21st June 2021

Council is asked to note the draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting held on 21st June 2021.

These have already been reviewed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cllrs Toney and Linton respectively.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th June 2021

The draft Minutes had been included as an Appendix to the Supporting Papers for this meeting. No changes were suggested. Cllr Moore complimented the Chairman on his annual report.

419/21 CLERK'S REPORT

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

Clerk's Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**
4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
5. **Littlehampton Community Fridge meeting, 15th May**
6. **Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Focus Group, 20th May**
7. **East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 2nd June**
8. **Meeting with two local business owners, 9th June**
9. **Twice-yearly meeting with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, 22nd June**
10. **Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour, May and June**
11. **Social media**
12. **MailChimp stats**
13. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
14. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
15. **Leave**
16. **July meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

Following the events of earlier in the year, thankfully the village has been quieter these past two months.

According to the Littlehampton Gazette, with reference to the drugs raid above Lloyds Pharmacy on 2nd February, a resident "was fined £300 and must pay £34 victim surcharge, £85 costs, after admitting possessing cannabis, a class B drug, in East Preston on February 2, 2021, with intent to supply family members and friends. He also admitted producing seven mature plants of cannabis in East Preston on February 2, 2021, no separate penalty."

Although not strictly a police matter, councillors may have noticed an increased presence of ADC Civil Parking Enforcement Officers in the village. Although they have been unable to issue any tickets by the southern shops because offenders always move their vehicles before a ticket can be issued, the officers have been successful in talking to the offenders as they have moved their vehicles. At weekends, some tickets have been issued to cars parked illegally in Sea Lane and Normandy Drive.

3. Anti-social behaviour matters

No new reports this month.

4. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests

No Freedom of Information or Data Protection requests received since the last report.

5. Littlehampton Community Fridge meeting, 15th May

I attended this Saturday afternoon catch-up meeting for Fridge organisers and volunteers. About twenty volunteers attended of the seventy now on the Fridge's books.

Founder Sarah Renfrey opened the meeting with some statistics of food saved since the Fridge started in the middle of 2019. 142 tonnes of food have been saved. This is, apparently, the equivalent of 337,745 meals. 596 tonnes of carbon have been saved from being released into the atmosphere. Up to 3.5 tonnes of food are now being saved each week, a much higher figure than during last year. The amount of food donated to the Fridge which is then not saved has remained fairly constant throughout and is a small percentage.

In addition to the Fridge's distribution through its presence at St James's Church in Littlehampton and On Tour, 1,695 emergency parcels were distributed during 2020. That side of the operation has been wound down, although emergency parcels could still be provided upon application.

The Fridge was now a Community Interest Company (CIC). £35,000 had been received in grants from July 2019 to date. The biggest expenditure to date has been the van and currently that is also the highest running cost. Donors include both West Sussex County and Arun District Councils. Apart from the van, the biggest outgoings have been insurance, infrastructure such as shelving and lockers, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and stationery. The Fridge pays Brighton Fare Divide £750 per year for it to deliver excess food – this sum is solely for delivery not the food itself. There has been no expenditure of the use of the hall at St James's Church yet, but as the country returns to normality, it is expected the arrangements at St James's Church will have to change.

Sarah stressed the organisation aims to be non-judgemental. The main driver is to reduce food waste so nobody in a queue should be made to feel they should not be there, regardless of whether or not they are able to donate financially. The organisation has aimed to be as non-hierarchical as possible, but as it is growing so that is changing. Sarah said volunteers needed to take a step back if they thought a member of the public was taken more than the volunteer thought they should. There will also be members of the public who will push any boundaries set up.

Kath Callaghan, training lead and Rustington Parish Councillor, thanked East Preston Parish Council for having so quickly built an effective team of volunteers, some of whom she has needed to pinch to work elsewhere.

The meeting agreed there was no clear policy on non-food items, something which has not really arisen in EP to date.

There was some discussion about why the Fridge was being given tinned foods with long expiry dates and why was that food not being given to foodbanks. The agreements the Fridge has with various suppliers is that it cannot pass food on to foodbanks. Sarah also believed foodbanks were well-stocked with long-life goods. Excess bread was being given to local pigs. Some excess food was also given to Ferring Country Centre for its animals.

Volunteers were asked to be mindful of how much they took for themselves.

The Fridge has some hi-vis tabards and I have asked for some to be kept in our box so volunteers can wear them.

Looking to the future, Paul Amoo suggested a social event be organised as soon as possible, so volunteers can all meet in a social environment. This suggestion was enthusiastically taken up by the organisers. Sarah said she would eventually like to run a rescue café, using the food saved from supermarkets to make nutritious meals. Sarah would also like to run a seed swap, maybe starting next year.

The meeting ended after two-and-a-quarter hours with Sarah saying how humbled she is by the efforts made by the great team of volunteers.

6. Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, Focus Group, 20th May

Cllr Linton and I attended this online meeting together with representatives from Rustington and Angmering Parish Councils. The meeting was led and facilitated by Mandy Jameson from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's office, and Trevor Leggo, Chief Executive Officer of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils. The meeting did much to highlight both the similarities and the differences between the three neighbouring communities. For example, Rustington PC has had to call greatly this past year on the Sussex Police Rural Crime Team whereas this council has not needed that team's service at all.

The meeting lasted seventy minutes and now I have attended one I feel I will be better prepared for the format next time around.

7. East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 2nd June

Several local businesspeople attended this meeting in person in The Seahorse, the first in person Business Breakfast since last August (I think). Much of the meeting discussed the ongoing financial implications of the pandemic and, to a lesser degree, Brexit.

Thanks to Sam and Kiera for hosting this meeting.

8. Meeting with two local business owners, 9th June

I was contacted by two local business owners who wanted to talk about what central government funding was available "for upgrading the village in terms of its very dated look." We then met to discuss this further. I explained central government funding was directed at areas of deprivation and, with the best will in the world, the cars parked around the southern end of Sea Road did not betray any evidence of deprivation. The two business owners have a vision of upgrading the village "get a sandbanks vibe etc which would benefit everyone and in particular help local business." The meeting ending with the two business owners seeming to accept central government funding might not be possible, and therefore interested businesses would look at sponsorship to introduce more planters and such like to the southern end of the village. This may tie in nicely with an idea the Amenities Committee will be considering later in July.

9. Twice-yearly meeting with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, 22nd June

This meeting was held in a socially-distanced arrangement at the club itself. As this meeting should have been hosted by the council, Cllr Toney assumed the chair. Cllr Gunston was also present for the council. The club was represented by new Chairperson, Elaine Phillips, new Secretary, Jo MacGovern and Administrator, Sarah Fisher.

Club membership was strong, to the extent the club may have to introduce a cap and a waiting list. The club was grateful for grants it had received in the past year via Arun District Council which had helped tide the club over during the pandemic months it was not allowed to open. The club has plans for the refurbishment of the inside of the clubhouse and will be seeking the membership's approval with a view to completing the work in time for a Christmas party. The club committee is concerned about the use of e-scooters. Cllr Toney and I explained our understanding of the law, and advised the club to contact the Angmering-on-Sea Estate Residents' Association for its position as the club is surrounded by roads forming part of the estate. Cllr Toney suggested the club erected signage at the entrance if it does not want anyone to ride e-scooters whilst on the premises. The club is also beginning to consider the introduction of Padel Tennis, a new variation on the sport.

Cllr Gunston talked about the work of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party and how it would like to bring together the custodians of publicly-owned buildings in the village with a view to drawing up a scheme to make those buildings more energy-efficient by the end of the decade. The club's reps were definitely keen to learn more and join in if possible.

I talked with Andrew Cook, Head Coach, about free-to-participate tennis coaching sessions this year, and these have been pencilled in for the 10th, 17th and 24th September.

The meeting agreed this one meeting would cover both this year's meetings and the next meeting was scheduled for 19th January.

10. **Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour, May and June**

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

5th May, Cllr Gunston

12th May, Cllr Toney

19th May, Cllr Duff

26th May, Cllr Linton

2nd June, Cllr Gander

9th June, Cllr Duff

16th June, Cllr Linton

23rd June, Cllr Gunston

30th June, Cllr Toney

There was some concern about one attendee on 16th June taking rather more than entitled to the extent Cllr Linton did remind her of the "five items plus bread" guidance. This lady's, shall we say, overenthusiasm for items on offer was commented upon by others in the queue behind her, and I might put something into an e-newsletter about Fridge on Tour etiquette.

After 23rd June we will not be providing a queue manager. We believe attendees are behaving well enough in the queue and keeping their social distance whilst still managing to chatter away together.

On the evening of the 26th May, Paul Amoo took me with him to collect surplus food from Aldi and on to the hall at St James's church in Littlehampton to help process that surplus food into the Fridge system. Every item of food received is sorted and weighed by type. It is then arranged around the hall, again by type. Patrons are able to attend the church hall most days and take their "five items and bread". Bread which is damaged or for which the packaging has split is put to one side and is collected daily by a man who uses it to feed birds. Vegetables which have gone beyond the point where humans might eat them are distributed to a local pig farm and some to Ferring Country Centre to feed the horses and some of the other animals there. It was very interesting to see this side of the operation.

11. **Social media**

A lot of Facebook posts have been seen by over 500 people since the last report.

- Post of information from Network Rail concerning the replacement of the damaged barriers at Roundstone Level Crossing – 5,129 people
- Update on the above post about Roundstone Level Crossing – 3,834
- Missing dog post. Dog found within an hour of the post – 3,274

- Advice Langmeads Field was owned by ADC and it was liaising with WSCC to remove the travellers that had arrived in the middle of the month – 2,693
- Post reporting the sighting of Nottingham Knockers in the village, 28th June – 2,187
- Repost about a missing cat – 1,751
- Post about a teddy bear found on East Preston beach by former councillor, Pete Dallimore – 1,446
- Poster advertising a charity plant sale in Woodbridge Park - 783
- Reminder the tennis court was being repaired – 683
- Details of the overnight New Road road closures – 608
- Post thanking the East Preston Yarnbombers on International Yarnbombing Day, 11th June – 584
- Happy Sussex Day post, 16th June – 559
- Report of the East Preston Yarnbombing video made by Arun District Council - 557
- Post of found property, a lost debit card and a lost purse - 554
- Report of a dodgy looking van in the Lashmar Road area - 544
- Reminder of the Fridge on Tour – 520
- Repost of WSCC Covid stats, 4th June – 515 (I post this every Friday but usually it only gets seen by about 350 people)
- Found plastic water bottle at the children’s playground - 503

Sadly, the cat was not found alive.

The plastic water bottle was claimed by its owner.

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 28th June)

The number of people currently liking the council on Facebook is 1,427, an increase of 19 on the last report.

12. **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 – 28th April – sent to 869, opened by 583 (67.1%)

Parish Council news – 5th May – sent to 869, opened by 573 (65.9%)

Parish Council news – 12th May – sent to 869, opened by 572 (65.8%)

Parish Council news – 19th May – sent to 871, opened by 589 (67.6%)

Parish Council news – 26th May – sent to 873, opened by 584 (66.9%)
Parish Council news – 2nd June – sent to 876, opened by 575 (65.6%)
Parish Council news – 9th June – sent to 876, opened by 590 (67.4%)
Parish Council news – 16th June – sent to 881, opened by 562 (63.9%)
Parish Council news – 23rd June – sent to 882, opened by 567 (64.4%)

13. **Things we have been asked since the last meeting**

“Do you have a dog warden?”

“Do you know anywhere I can get rid of clothes that are not really fit to wear and certainly not saleable but can be recycled in the old “rag and bone” manner? Also shoes that are no longer wearable. I want to avoid landfill if possible.”

“Do other households adjacent to the railway line ever complain about the aggressive weedkiller Network Rail uses on its track beds?”

“We are moving soon and wondered where the nearest GP surgery is.”

“Where has my blue bin gone?”

“Do you know where I can recycle blister packs from pills?” (According to the WSCC presentation we had in March 2020, you can put them out, without any tablets, in your fortnightly recycling.)

“Do you know about the turtle competition?” (It was my idea.)

“Which village do I live in?” (Asked by a resident of Coach House Close after he had received a copy of All About East Preston.)

“Can you tell me the rules that should be followed for cleaning outside tables and chairs at cafés and pubs?”

14. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

“There is always something of interest provided by the Fridge. I have twice had the mangoes from the Fridge and they have been delicious and the bread in any shape or form is always useful.”

From a resident of Vermont Way for help given with getting a hole in the road repaired, not a pothole, “It was fixed yesterday, so I remain very impressed with the response! [My son] watched it all from the top of the climbing frame with delight. Many thanks for all you help, I’m sure the other residence of Vermont Way are all equally grateful and pleased as well.”

From a new resident in Golden Avenue, “Thank you for such a warm welcome, we’re still pinching ourselves, we feel incredibly lucky to be living in such a beautiful village.”

From a resident of Upper Drive, “My daughter and I used the tennis court this morning. The work done is excellent.”

Thanks from a resident of Hazelmead Drive for putting her in touch with someone who could help her with a fox problem on her property, “You’re very nice and I hope we meet one day.”

From a resident of South Strand who raised over £4,000 by completing the Sussex Hospices Walk, “Thank you Simon for including my walk report.....your support has been greatly appreciated.”

A resident called at the office with several questions and left saying, “Thank you. That is all my questions and you have answered them positively.”

“Thanks for the suggestion of the textile bin by the fire station. I googled it and found that it can reuse low-grade recyclables, whereas everything else I looked at only wanted decent goods.”

On 17th June, we moved a planter from the “alcove” outside the Sea Road toilet block to the eastern end of Sea Road, enabling the council’s contractor to do some paving work there before a different contractor constructs a bench in that alcove. Two separate residents of The Homestead wrote in as follows:

“Thank you to the person, or persons, responsible for providing Two Acres with a large planter; strategically positioned so that the north block of the Homestead can enjoy it.”

“I’m joining my neighbour Jen in thanking you for the beautiful planter at the Sea Road end of Two Acres. I have a perfect view from my flat at The Homestead; it was a wonderful surprise when I arrived home yesterday evening. You and all the team are absolute stars ★”



Flower planter at the eastern end of Two Acres

Thanks from a family in Sea Lane for helping to publicise their sons’ golf-challenge raising funds for Cancer United.

15. **Leave**

Alison will be on leave 14th, 15th and 19th July.

I will be on leave 15th and 21st July.

16. **July Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 5th Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 6th East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club (10:30, Bowls Club) (ST, JG and SC only)
- 7th East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast (08:00, Zoom)
- 8th West Sussex Clerks’ Forum (10:30, Zoom)
- 12th Sussex Community Rail Partnership (10:00, Zoom) (SC only)
Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Amenities Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 14th West Sussex Chairs’ Forum (10:30, Zoom)
- 19th Audit & Governance Committee (14:00, Council Office tbc)

- Personnel Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 21st ADC Planning Committee (14:30, Civic Centre) (GM tbc)
- 26th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)

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**

29th June 2021

Item 11 – Social Media – Cllrs Bradshaw and Linton asked what a Nottingham Knocker was. The Clerk explained these were people who called door-to-door attempting to sell, usually, cleaning equipment, explaining this was part of their probation. Research had found this explanation was not always the truth and there were instances close to the council of where Nottingham Knockers had become verbally abusive towards residents who stated they were not interested in the goods on sale. Equally, there were instances known to the council of a Nottingham Knocker being charming and talking to residents at length about their experiences.

420/21 EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The council NOTED the following reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note the following reports:

Councillor Walkabout, 11th June

Cllr Linton and I walked Willowhayne Avenue from its western end and all the roads to the south of it.

In Westfield Avenue we talked to a couple who were very positive about the Parish Council, but commented on the lack of proactive policing by PCSOs and were very concerned about the two recent village violent crimes. We did explain that Sussex Police Sgt Amy McAlees had spoken at the May 4th council meeting, indicating that ‘enquiries are ongoing with both crimes’.

In Seaview Avenue a lady was very supportive of the PC, but asked if there was any possibility of a dog-free zone on the beach. Cllr Linton explained that our beach is only about three quarters of a mile wide and it would be impractical and furthermore the beach is not under the PC’s control.

A lady in The Circle was very positive about the PC and all the events we put on and so was another lady in Seaview Avenue.

We noticed that the derelict garage had completely collapsed in The Way. This site is currently subject of a Planning Application, EP/16/21/PL, which will see a new garage constructed with some office space above.

In The Drive, two gardeners who live in the village were very positive about the work the PC does, but complained about Cloud Nine vehicles continually being parked up on the separation zone opposite the Parish Office. We explained that the traffic wardens occasionally come from Littlehampton, but have little impact in that area.

We then proceeded down Willowhayne Avenue to my abode where the walk ended.

Cllr David Moore

18th June 2021

Councillor Walkabout, 15th June

Councillor John Gunston and I visited the beach today, taking the opportunity to meet with residents and visitors to East Preston.

We had an interesting discussion with two residents who, although living abroad, have a house in East Preston, visit it regularly and refer to it as 'home'. They have a long family association with the village and were able to tell us about some of the history and changes they have seen.

Other residents we spoke to love living in East Preston, enjoying the beach, the sea and the community feel of the village. There were one or two negative comments about the increase of traffic in the village and the subsequent impact on parking.

The visitors come to East Preston because it is quiet, and the beach is beautiful. Several had travelled some way to visit East Preston and were particularly impressed with the cafés in the area. They tend to take advantage of the quieter weekdays and avoid the busier weekends. It was noticeable during our walk that all three cafés at the southern area of the village were very busy.

One visitor said his reason for visiting East Preston was unlike Littlehampton or Worthing – there are no 'kiss me quick' hats!

It was good to receive a mix of comments from both residents and visitors and note that most comments were incredibly positive.

Cllr Patricia Gander

15th June 2021

Cllr Gander reiterated how interested she and Cllr Gunston had found their conversations with residents and visitors on the beach. All the comments about local businesses had been positive.

Cllr Linton reported she, the Chairman and the Clerk had attended an ad-hoc Eastern Parishes meeting called by Angmering Parish Council and including Rustington, Ferring and Kingston Parish Councils. The meeting was mainly to discuss a proposal from Barratt David Wilson to build c190 new homes on land at the Rustington Golf Centre and a proposal from Redrow Homes to build 76 new homes on land south of the A259, approximately opposite where Chips Away used to be. The meeting agreed the councils should work together to oppose strongly any attempts to build on either of these sites, but also to work to get the best possible outcomes for the local area if Planning Permission was granted.

421/21 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Nothing was added.

422/21 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (2ND AUGUST OR 6TH SEPTEMBER)

Nothing was suggested.

The Clerk reminded the meeting of the Resolution taken last year to have an August meeting only if something happened in July to merit such a meeting (Full Council, 6th July 2020, Minute 441/20, Resolution 1444). He and the Chairman would liaise through the month and let councillors know as soon as possible if there was to be a meeting on 2nd August.

The meeting concluded at 19:55.

Chairman: *Cllr Steve Toney* Date: **6th September 2021**

END