

# **MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**4<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2022**

## **SUPPORTING PAPERS**

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

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### **Agenda Item 8**

#### **Minutes of Monthly Full Council meeting, 7<sup>th</sup> March**

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 8<sup>th</sup> March, asking for suggested amendments by 15<sup>th</sup> March. Cllr Moore replied, "I have carefully appraised the draft Minutes and found them to be in good order." Cllr Gander replied, "All an accurate record of proceedings."

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### **Agenda Item 9**

#### **Monthly Update Report**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 101/22 – Community Engagement Committee – parking restrictions in Sea Road and North Lane**

##### **1. Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

##### **2. Minute 101/22 – Community Engagement Committee – parking restrictions in Sea Road and North Lane**

Having submitted a Traffic Regulation Order request to WSCC only on 24<sup>th</sup> February, I was very pleased to receive the following email on 9<sup>th</sup> March:

Dear Mr Cross

I refer to your application of 24<sup>th</sup> February for a Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to prohibit waiting over sections North Lane and Sea Road, East Preston

I have now completed a technical assessment of your proposal and will include it in the forward programme for future work. It will, however, have to compete with other priorities for inclusion in the 2022/23 works programme,

Yours sincerely,

**Neil Smith**  
PMO Officer

Neil has given the proposal a score of 45 which I think, from past experience, is quite a useful score, but it is all relevant to whatever other schemes are on the table.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

10<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 10g**

### **Financial matters - overspends**

**Council is asked to note small overspends on three budget lines.**

Tracy has noted overspends on the following budget lines.

#### **Admin**

1. Parish Office Running Costs – Overspent on £2.5K budget – current actual £3035.00

#### **Amenities**

1. Highways Flower Planting – Overspent on £21K budget – current actual £21292K

#### **Major Events**

1. F&D Event – Overspent on £1K budget – current actual £2420K

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11**

### **Committees**

The following committees met during March. Audit & Governance on the 14<sup>th</sup>, Community Engagement on the 28<sup>th</sup> and Planning & Licensing on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Draft Minutes from these meetings should have been circulated by the time of this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11a**

### **Amenities Committee**

The committee did not meet during March.

**Village Green Car Park – Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR)** – Enerveo, (formally SSE) have begun work to extend the Village Green power supply. The new cable has been laid from the feeder pillar at the north-western corner of the Village Green, along to the Car Park. Enerveo still have to install a feeder pillar at the car park and connect the power supply. When the work is complete, One Parking Solutions (OPS) will install the ANPR cameras. The ANPR system will eliminate the need for OPS agents to monitor the car park.

**Warren Recreation Ground Tree Planting** – Councillor Gunston planted a further ten hedging trees along the Warren Recreation Ground southern boundary. The new trees were donated by Zoë Steel and have replaced some of previously planted trees which had not survived. In total almost seventy hedging trees have been planted, which in time will form a solid hedging row.

**Spring Floral Displays** – Ferring Nurseries have planted stunning Spring floral displays around the village. The planter at Lashmar Bank looks particularly vibrant, filled with Primroses and Hyacinths. Committee has ordered a second planter which is to be installed to the left of the existing planter.

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

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11b**

### **Audit & Governance Committee**

The committee met on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The meeting encompassed brief meetings of the Conservative Hall Working Party and Leases Working Party, both detailed below.

The committee considered no matters of its own.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11c**

### **Community Engagement Committee**

The committee met on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

As always, the meeting covered a lot of ground, some of which is reported here.

The committee agreed to run a half-term playscheme in October, following the success of the one in February.

Slow progress is being made towards the installation of the jubilee clock. Four members of the public have come forward with 2<sup>nd</sup> June birthdays, one of whom was actually born in 1952. Talking of the jubilee, the committee would like to donate a commemorative beaker to the children at the two East Preston schools. A request for funding is further down this agenda.

The committee agreed the council should take part in this year's Christmas Tree Festival, which is running between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> December.

We discussed some potential pieces of play equipment which would be wholly inclusive and intergenerational. We hope to have a proposal to put to Full Council next month.

Now the weather is better, the committee members will be restarted councillor walkabouts in April.

David has done further research into the last years of the life of Sjt. Davis and the committee is now in a position to write to the British Legion branch about Sjt. Davis's absence from the war memorial. Our thanks to David for his dogged pursuance of this matter.

East Preston in Bloom and Men in Sheds initiatives are both working well, although there is no sign of a venue for the Men in Sheds.

The new Official Guide for the village should be arriving this week. Cllr Wilkinson has kindly agreed to deliver them to our delivery company.

Those were the main topics of conversation. More can be read in the Minutes once they are available.

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

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11d**

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

The committee did not meet in March.

The window for Grant Aid applications for the coming financial year has opened. Forms are expected to be back by 31<sup>st</sup> March, but if anyone knows of a locally-operational group that might wish to apply, that date could be stretched a little.

The committee's next meeting is in May.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11e**

### **Major Events Committee**

The committee did not meet in March.

Updates on some of the council's Major Events are as follows:

**Funday Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> April** – at the time of writing we have sold 43 of the available 50 tickets.

**Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> June** – the Infant School has not heard back from Prince George of Cambridge yet, so the committee has asked for members of the public born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June (any year) to come forward to be part of the “unveiling” of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee clock on 2<sup>nd</sup> June. Four have come forward so far, two ladies and two gentlemen, One of the ladies was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1952.

On Sunday, 5<sup>th</sup> June, at 11:30 for 11:45, the council will dedicate a commemorative plaque for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee tree. Dorothy Lee has been asked unofficially to officiate at the dedication and has agreed.

**East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27<sup>th</sup> August** – this year's event will again take place on the Village Green. Potential stallholders had until 14<sup>th</sup> March to submit their expressions of interest. Later that week, Cllr Gunston and Bowman met with Alison and thirty-three applicants have been offered a pitch. These are thirteen hot food vendors and 20 others covering retail, alcohol and ice-cream. Twelve vendors have not attended a Food & Drink Festival previously.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11f**

### **Personnel Committee**

The committee did not meet in March.

Other councils have been caught out by the Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) Discretions Policy situation and this has been added as an Agenda Item for the next WSALC Clerks' meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> April.

A pay increase for all staff was agreed nationally at the beginning of March. This is roughly 1.75% and has been backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 11g**

### **Planning & Licensing Committee**

The committee met on 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, the committee considered three Planning Applications. The committee agreed to object to Applications for properties in The Ridings and Chiltern Close.

On 28<sup>th</sup> March, the committee considered three Applications and agreed to object to one in Normandy Drive. The committee felt a proposed dormer was too large for the host property, too obtrusive to neighbours, too visible from the street because of the layout of the road, and too close to neighbouring properties.

The council has been approached by both Angmering and Ferring Parish Councils to provide support in their attempts to persuade ADC not to give Planning Permission for large developments in their areas. The committee agreed to provide support where possible.

Cllr Mathias is joining a conference called by Ferring Conservation Group on Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> March. This will include other local parish councils and look at how best the councils and conservation/preservation groups can work together to resist the mass development of the area's remaining greenspace.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 12a**

### **Community Engagement Committee – jubilee reusable mugs**

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

**Council is asked to spend up to £1,500 to provide all primary school children at East Preston Infant and Junior Schools with a commemorative reusable plastic beaker in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.**

At its meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> March, the committee considered the purchase of overprinted reusable plastic beakers for each pupil currently at East Preston, a total of 580 children. To purchase 650 of these beakers would allow the council to sell a few too to other members of our community, though past experience has led us not to expect too great a rush on sales.

Cllr Linton and I have identified a supplier who could provide 650 beakers, with lids, at a cost of £2.04 each (today), a total of £1,326 excluding VAT. This figure includes delivery. Lead time is currently 7-10 working days, so plenty of time.

The committee is asking for £1,500 just in case of any additional expense related to the purchase. This money would be taken from the council's Contingency Budget line for 2022/23.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 13**

### **Working Parties**

The Environmental Initiatives Working Party is due to meet on the 29<sup>th</sup> March.

The Conservative Hall and Leases Working Parties met as part of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

The council's other working parties did not meet.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 13a**

### **Conservative Hall Working Party**

The Working Party met as part of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> March.

An initial structural survey on the building had been received, but was incomplete as the surveyor had not been able to access all areas he wanted to access. The working party agreed to accept his offer to return and to liaise with the trustees of the hall to ensure access is available. I agreed to ask the surveyor for a list of the access and documentation he wanted to see on a second visit, so I could pass that on to the trustees. A return visit is currently scheduled for 1<sup>st</sup> April, having had to be cancelled by the surveyor on 25<sup>th</sup> March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 13b**

### **Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP)**



No report yet, as the working party's meeting is taking place on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> March, by which time these supporting papers will have been closed. This meeting will be attended by Dr Nick Mills, Southern Water's Head of Storm Overflow Task Force. Including members of the working party, about thirty people have said they will attend the meeting including members of the local watersports community.

I will either provide a written report ahead of the Full Council meeting or a verbal one at the meeting.

Other than that, the Greener Buildings Project is continuing with the Brighton & Hove Energy Services Cooperative (BHESCo) in the process of visiting the buildings on our list. A report is expected sometime in May.

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

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 13c**

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

A verbal update on the flat above the Council Office will be provided at the meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 13d**

### **Leases Working Party**

The working party met as part of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> March. The committee agreed a solicitor to act on behalf of the council in the matter of the renewal of the lease to the East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club. I met with the solicitor on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and we discussed a few things. The next step will be for the Leases Working Party to go through the existing lease working out the council's requirements from a new lease. That will then make the working party a united front going into an initial meeting with the Bowls Club.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 13e**

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

On the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, I attended a meeting with Cllrs Toney and Gunston, cricket club rep's and Simon. The latter's report can be found in his Clerk's Report.

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

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022

## **Agenda Item 14**

### **Clerk's Report**

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**
4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
5. **East Preston Men in Sheds, 1<sup>st</sup> March**
6. **Read Easy Chichester & Arun public meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**
7. **Memorial service for Father David Rea, 17<sup>th</sup> March**
8. **Friends of St Mary's church (FoSM) Annual General Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> March**
9. **Twice yearly meeting with East Preston Cricket Club, 22<sup>nd</sup> March**
10. **Social media**
11. **MailChimp stats**
12. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
13. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
14. **Leave**
15. **April meetings and events**

#### 1. **Introduction**

This is the report mainly covering March 2022 and matters which may not arise elsewhere on the agenda.

#### 2. **Police matters**

Following a request from a resident of Sea Lane, PCSO Raj has put up an additional pair of 30mph signs in Sea Lane, the same as those already up in the top part of The Street.

A resident of Woodbridge Park emailed in to complain about people parking too close to the entrance to The Martlets care home. He felt their parking was contrary to The Highway Code. Although he could not prove it, he stated that the drivers in question were all staff of or visitors to The Martlets. I did advise him they could just as easily be employees of or visitors to other local businesses. That said, I did ask the manager of The Martlets to remind staff to park considerately in Fairlands. I also asked PCSO Raj to keep an eye when passing which he has agreed to do.

One anonymous letter was received on 17<sup>th</sup> March, complaining about a local businessman repeatedly parking on a grass verge in North Lane. The author telephoned in the following day, even though I have already explained to her this is a WSCC matter and WSCC does not feel there is a problem at the moment. The author took this to be me saying she could park anywhere in Brighton if she could not find a legal space. I advised that was not what I had said at all. At the time of the anonymous letter and telephone call, the author's household was the only one complaining about the situation. However, two more households wrote in during the following week complaining about the same matter. WSCC Highways is still holding back from intervening.

A resident emailed in on 18<sup>th</sup> March, asking about a car which had been parked for a couple of weeks in Clarence Drive without moving. I reported this to the Abandoned Vehicles officer at ADC as the car was taxed but did not have an MoT. At the time of writing, I have not had a response, unusually, from the office, but the car has been moved. It is still showing as having no MoT.

Following on from the last line of my report last month, PCSO Raj has been in touch with Mrs New. Although they have not been able to meet they have discussed certain issues over the phone.

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

Nothing to report.

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

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

### 5. **East Preston Men in Sheds, 1<sup>st</sup> March**

I attended this second meeting of the group. Cllr Gander led the meeting. The number of attendees was about the same as the first meeting, but the faces were only about half the same.

An expected talk from two members of the Broadwater branch on how they set up their group was cancelled due to illness. This is now expected to take place at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> April.

Instead, the group each took a turn in telling us about their first car, which led to some interesting and humorous anecdotes and from that point on conversation flowed. All attendees seemed happy to be there and willing to continue in this vein until a workshopy venue becomes available.

### 6. **Read Easy Chichester & Arun public meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

I attended this as Cllr Gander was unable to.

For some time now the Community Engagement Committee has been looking at possible reading-based activities to help improve the general wellbeing of the community.

Read Easy UK is a registered charity which aims to increase adult literacy through one-to-one sessions. The charity's vision is "for all adults in the UK to have the literacy skills they need to realise their potential and live life to the full." The charity's mission is "to provide

adults, who want to improve their reading, with confidential, free, one-to-one coaching to help them gain the skills they need to live life to the full.”

The 2011 Skills for Life survey of English working age population found that 5% can either not read at all or can barely read. That equates to 2.4m adults in England who struggle even to do their food shopping. In Arun District, that percentage rose to 6.8%.

An inability to read can lead to concerns such as isolation, marginalisation, problems finding work, being unable to support children’s reading, low self-esteem and confidence and more. The cost to the public purse has been estimated to be up to £64,000 per individual over a lifetime in employment-related costs alone.

Read Easy is just setting up in Arun and Chichester and this call was to talk to representatives of local councils to give them a basic understanding of how the charity works.

Anyone over the age of 18 can be referred to Read Easy either by an agency such as Citizens Advice or a Job Centre or can self-refer. As the service is free to anyone wanting to learn to read, it is accessible to anyone wanting to learn. New readers are provided with a trained volunteer coach they agree to meet twice a week for just half an hour in a convenient but discreet location. Readers progress at their own speed, whatever that may be. The local cost for this service is estimated to be just £148 per reader per year.

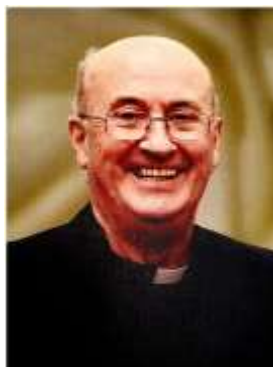
Two videos you may want to spend fewer than five minutes watching are:

Phoebe Fortescue on being a volunteer – <https://youtu.be/KFWCd3GNa0M>

Sarah on being taught by Phoebe – <https://youtu.be/8NtP7t6DNSo>

Read Easy is looking for local councils to support it in this area. I have said we may be able to help with publicity and also with a venue for one-to-one reading sessions.

## **7. Memorial service for Father David Rea, 17<sup>th</sup> March**



I attended Fr David’s memorial service as Cllr Toney was unable to and also because Fr David knew my parents.

Fr David had died on St Patrick’s Day 2020, resulting in a funeral during first lockdown attended only by the bishop. There had still been plenty of restrictions in place at the time of his first anniversary but now, with restrictions lifted, the church felt the time was right to celebrate his life.

The Mass was led by Fr Stephen Ortiger. Several visiting clergy concelebrating with him and, after he had introduced each of them, he welcomed two of Fr David’s nieces, Michelle and Esther, who had both flown from Dublin at the crack of dawn to attend and who were flying

back after visiting their uncle's grave. Fr Stephen then said he wanted to welcome just two of the guests present, me followed by the local undertaker, Dean Jones! Former parish councillors present included Celeste Amoo, Dorothy Lee, Paul Kelly and Michael Taggart. St Mary the Virgin was represented by both Fr Andrew and Reverend Emma.

The homilist told stories of Fr David's life, the last of which was about him being given the Last Rites by his lifelong friend and rival in Irish sporting matters, Monsignor Benny O'Shea. Having been given the Last Rites, he looked at Fr Benny and said, "You bastard, Benny!" and pretty much died there and then. I'm just reporting.

Mass was followed by a St Patrick's Day lunchtime party, both in the church hall and outside in a marquee borrowed from 1<sup>st</sup> East Preston Scouts. Several residents took the opportunity to talk to me in this relaxed atmosphere.

#### **8. Friends of St Mary's church (FoSM) Annual General Meeting, 20<sup>th</sup> March**

I attended this meeting. Current and former councillors present included David Moore, Dorothy Lee, Margaret Gilbert and Philip Sherwin. I would estimate about thirty people were present.

Fr Andrew opened the meeting then handed over to Malcolm McLelland, Chairman of the Friends. Malcolm's report covered 2020 and 2021 and reported the Friends coffers were up to £33,200 at the end of 2019, thanks mainly to the third Christmas Tree Festival and the East Preston Iconic Church (EPIC) appeal. The pandemic severely curtailed activity during 2020, but £900 was made from the sale of nearly 300 packs of Christmas cards.

For previous Christmas Tree Festivals, the Friends had borrowed the necessary equipment from the church at Goring which offered and agreed to sell the equipment to the Friends for the sum of £5.

In April 2021, the Quinquennial Report was produced by an architect, and this suggested expenditure of about £100,000 over the next five years. The Friends paid the professional fees of nearly £1,700, in part thanks to a grant of 50% of that amount from the parish council.

The Friends have canvassed villages at events such as the East Preston Christmas Celebrations and have secured enough support they are now planning a fourth Christmas Tree Festival. This will take place over the weekend of 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> December.

By the end of 2021, the Friends had £45,500 in the bank. They are now calculating which essential works can be carried out when.

In turn, Malcolm handed over to the Treasurer, John Harbidge, who went into greater detail on the financial status of the Friends and circulated financial reports in support of his statements.

All existing Friends committee members were re-elected unopposed.

After the meeting, teas and coffees were served and, in place of the advertised talk – cancelled due to illness, members of the Friends committee took small groups around the church, highlighting points of interest as per the laminated sheets always available at the church for that purpose.

A few residents took the opportunity to talk to me about various village matters. The last of these was Margaret Gilbert who spoke to me about a yew tree which had been planted on the Warren Recreation Ground for the millennium. This is on the eastern boundary and Margaret was concerned about the way in which it was growing. The fact it is a Millennium yew tree had almost been lost in time, but Dawn has made a note of this now.

#### **9. Twice yearly meeting with East Preston Cricket Club, 22<sup>nd</sup> March**

This meeting was also attended by Cllrs Toney, Gunston and Bowman and Andy Reeves and Colin Smith representing the cricket club. Simon Locke, Chairman of the cricket club was, at short notice, unable to attend.

The meeting started with the club giving us some details of the refurbishment of the inside of the clubhouse it is part-way through. The works will mainly improve the bar area but will have some knock on impact on the changing rooms. Once the refurbishment is complete, the club is keen to make the venue available for public hire.

The club still planned to install new practice nets, a double bay which would likely require the removal of the London plane tree to the north-west of the clubhouse. The club planned to have one bay locked exclusively for the club's use whilst leaving the second open for public use. I expressed concern about this following concerns raised by members of the public last year they were almost hit by balls coming from the practice nets when no matches were on and there was no indication the practice nets were in use. I asked the club to write formally to the council on the subject of the practice nets and the plane tree. The reps agreed this would be done in time for the Amenities Committee's May meeting.

Following recent high winds, small twigs littered the recreation ground and these were proving difficult to pick up manually. Dawn has contacted the council's grounds maintenance contractor about this, and Cllr Gunston led a working party from East Preston in Bloom in this matter.

The council reps gave the club permission to excavate as necessary where a water leak needed to be repaired. The leak was believed to be in the north-east corner of the main body of the ground and it should be possible to fix this non-invasively.

The club was working closely with Sussex County Cricket Club on promoting girls' cricket in the area. The club's darts team was doing well and relationships with the stoolball club were good again.

From our side, Cllr Gunston provided an update on the Greener Buildings Project, which the club was still happy to take part in. I provided an update on the Food & Drink Festival and the thought of moving it to the Warren Recreation Ground.

\* \* \*

The club has inspected from ground-level the nets ahead of the first match of the new season, scheduled for 28<sup>th</sup> April. The contractors who have done work for the club in the past have ceased trading and the club has not yet found an alternative contractor. At the club's invitation, Cllrs Toney and Gunston met with Andy Reeves at the ground on the afternoon of 24<sup>th</sup> March. Together they inspected the areas of concern in the netting, and agreed which needed to be resolved before play could resume and which were slightly lower priority.

#### **10. Social media**

Again, no Facebook posts seen by over 500 people since the last report. So, our three most-seen posts were:

- MailChimp post for e-newsletter, 16<sup>th</sup> March – 344 people
- Link to WSCC Refugee Resettlement webpage – 338

- Repost of Action for Happiness’s Mindful March calendar - 328

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

\* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 28<sup>th</sup> March)

The number of people currently liking the council on Facebook is 1,494, an increase of 12 on the last report.

### 11. **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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> March – sent to 905, opened by 634 (70.1%)

Parish Council environmental special \* – 9<sup>th</sup> March – sent to 55, opened by 51 (92.7%)

Parish Council news – 16<sup>th</sup> March – sent to 904, opened by 625 (69.4%)

Parish Council news – 24<sup>th</sup> March – sent to 905, opened by 611 (67.7%)

\* only to respondents to last year’s survey who gave their email address

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

“Are you collecting for Ukraine?” (No, we suggested the caller contact the Red Cross.)

“Does the council work with any drug abuse organisations?” (No, but Arun Exact and DAWN (Drug and Alcohol Wellbeing Network) both work in the area.)

### 13. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident of Vermont Drive who has not automatically received a quarterly Newsletter for the past year or so. “YES! I received my copy a few days ago. I had friends staying with me at the time and even though they live near Bedford, they both found the Newsletter an interesting read as well!”

From a resident of Sea Lane Close who asked if we could include something about fundraising for Ukraine in an e-newsletter, “Thank you, so pleased to see you’ve added the Red Cross link.”

From a local resident who had been in touch about parking problems at the southern end of Sea Road, “Thanks for your help Simon, but no doubt the various official bodies that have managed to pass on & bat the issue around the various departments will feel comfortable in that yet again they have managed to get away with doing nothing.”

Thanks to the council for not increasing the precept this coming financial year, both from a resident of Vermont Way and a resident of Hillview Crescent.

From a resident of Sea Road, advised of a Planning Application directly opposite her home, "Thank you for keeping me in the loop. And, as always, many thanks to all of you on the Parish Council."

From a couple who lived in Myrtle Grove upon unsubscribing from the e-newsletter, "We have moved away, but thank you for all your efforts, which made our stay in EP a very happy one."

From a resident who called for some advice as he is hosting a Ukrainian family, "Brilliant, Thank you."

Thanks from members of the Disability Action Group for directing them to a news article about a new scheme being trialled in Saltdean this summer.

Thanks from a resident of Russells Close looking for information on planting a tree in memory of a relative.

#### 14. **Leave**

Dawn is off for the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> April. I am off from the 14<sup>th</sup>, returning on 22<sup>nd</sup> or 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### 15. **April Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 4<sup>th</sup> Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 5<sup>th</sup> East Preston Men in Sheds (12:00, British Legion) (PG and SC only)
- 8<sup>th</sup> South Strand Community Toilets AGM (14:00, Littlehampton) (SC only)
- 11<sup>th</sup> WSALC Clerks' Forum (10:00, online) (SC only)  
Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)  
Personnel Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 12<sup>th</sup> WSALC Chairman Forum (19:00, online) (EL only)
- 24<sup>th</sup> *FunDay Sunday* (14:00, East Preston & Kingston Village Hall)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)  
Major Events 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**

28<sup>th</sup> March 2022