



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, 7th March 2022 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston

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

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

County Councillor Roger Elkins (until 19:30)

District Councillor Terry Chapman (until 19:30)

Mrs M

ABSENT: Councillors Kit Bradshaw, John Gunston and Rick McElroy,

* * * * *

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;
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.

196/22 INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Toney welcomed all present, ran through some protocol and led a round of introductions.

197/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies and reasons for absence were received from Cllrs Bradshaw, Gunston and McElroy.

1621 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the apologies and reasons for absence from Cllrs Bradshaw, Gunston and McElroy.

Apologies had also been received from District Cllrs Bower and Kelly, Mr Reg Clifton, Mrs Linda Denton and Mrs Dorothy Lee.

198/22 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

Cllr Toney reminded councillors they could also declare an Interest at the beginning of each Agenda Item.

199/22 PUBLIC SESSION

Agenda Item 6a – West Sussex County Council – Mrs M asked if some consideration could be given to the removal of the narrow grass verge on the western side of Sea Road, mainly opposite the Village Green. This verge was regularly parked upon and driven over by delivery and builders' vehicles, leaving it churned up and unsightly. The pavement was narrow on that side of Sea Road anyway, and verge which was impossible to walk upon only made it all the more difficult to navigate around other pedestrians.

200/22 COUNCIL RESPONSES

Agenda Item 6a – West Sussex County Council – Cllr Gander said she agreed with Mrs M and said the same suggestion had recently been made during the East Preston in Bloom walkabout.

County Cllr Elkins said the problem as reported by Mrs M and Cllr Gander was a familiar one in many places across the country, drivers no longer showing due respect for grass verges. However, there was significant expense in replacing grass verges with pavement. Cllr Elkins was happy this could be discussed but part of any discussion would need to be how would such work be funded. Cllr Elkins said he was happy to raise this with WSCC Highways, but also asked some local opinion could be sought.

201/22 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Cllr Elkins said WSCC had agreed a budget increase of 2.99% for the coming financial year – 1% on adult social care, and 1.99% across the rest of the council's budget. There were no new budget cuts for the coming year. Cllr Elkins then provided some more details of figures in the budget.

Referring to a point raised at the last meeting, Cllr Elkins confirmed anyone laying a cable across a pavement was liable for any accidents caused by the cable. WSCC was currently considering the need to issue some guidance on this, referring to s162 of the Highways Act 1980 which stated, "A person who for any purpose places any rope, wire or other apparatus across a highway in such a manner as to be likely to cause danger to persons using the highway is, unless he proves that he had taken all necessary means to give adequate warning of the danger, guilty of an offence and liable to a fine".

Cllr Elkins referred to Wellbeing sessions currently being organised in libraries, with mental health and nutrition two of the topics which would be covered.

In response to a question, Cllr Elkins said he had given some consideration to the information provided by WSCC Highways in response to the meeting held in September, and he would be happy to discuss further should another meeting be arranged.

202/22 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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

Leading on from the earlier comment about parking in Sea Road, Cllr Chapman said he had received correspondence that morning from a local resident fed up with poor parking at the southern end of Sea Road, including the recent development of one business washing some of its vehicles in the service road every Monday morning, blocking the service road from being used by anyone else. Cllr Chapman was going to raise this with the ADC officer responsible for Civil Parking Enforcement.

Following the recent Planning Inspectorate decision to allow a development of approximately 475 homes to be built on Chatsmore Farm, north-west of Goring-by-Sea station, Cllr Chapman said ADC and EPPC needed to be very alert to any attempt for development of the land on the south-east corner of the junction of the A259 and A280. He believed Sir Peter Bottomley MP had arranged a meeting with the relevant Secretary of State to have the Planning Inspectorate decision overturned.

Some work had started behind Beechlands Cottages in Beechlands Close, and Cllr Chapman was going to investigate exactly what this work was and whether or not it had Planning Permission.

ADC had not yet set its budgets as it had been waiting for WSCC to set its budget. Now that had taken place, ADC would be deciding its 2022/23 budget later in the week of the meeting.

In response to a question from Cllr Toney, Cllr Chapman explained why Covid-19 rates had recently been so high in the Arun area. He reported this was mainly down to a low take-up rate of vaccination in three wards in Littlehampton. Those same wards had previously been found to be areas of low educational attainment. As such, the NHS was campaigning differently in those areas in order to increase the take-up of the Covid vaccination. Cllr Chapman said he felt the village and other parts of the county had been “very let down” by the closure of so many of the Children & Family Centres, which he believed had done great work in helping the neediest families get the support and advice they needed. Cllr Chapman felt there was a need for a whole programme to educate people on how to access the services they needed.

Cllr Chapman referred to the work the Local Community Network had been undertaking up until two years ago, work which had been put on hold for whilst the NHS focussed on the pandemic. Although somewhat differently formatted now, Cllr Chapman felt confident the work would restart and make a difference locally. Cllr Gander said she had attended some meeting of the Local Community Network but had found it growing increasingly big, unwieldy and unable to achieve its aims. Cllr Chapman stressed he hoped that was now in the past.

(Cllrs Chapman and Elkins left at the conclusion of this item.)

203/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7TH FEBRUARY 2022

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 8th February asking for suggested amendments by the 15th February. Cllrs Gander and Moore both noticed a typographical error which was duly corrected.

1622 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 7th February. Cllr Toney duly did so.

204/22 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 827/21 – West Sussex County Council – Sea Road pavement extension**
- 3. Minute 011/22 – Community Engagement Committee – Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour**
- 4. Minute 094/22 – West Sussex County Council – local Highways concerns**
- 5. 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 7th February 2022.

2. Minute 827/21 – West Sussex County Council – Sea Road pavement extension

The Finance & General Purposes Committee considered the two quotations received for this work and agreed, as the sum involved was rather more than expected, this should be raised with WSCC as a potential community highways project towards which we could offer the £2,500 CIL money received.

3. **Minute 011/22 – Community Engagement Committee – Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour**

Wednesday, 23rd February turned out to be the day when it was necessary to hold a Fridge session inside the Conservative Hall foyer. Cllr Toney was the council's volunteer and Ken Glover, the community volunteer. It was a tight fit but did work. On such occasions, I would suggest the council volunteer stand at the front of the hall to invite people up to the foyer.

4. **Minute 094/22 – West Sussex County Council – local Highways concerns**

On 11th February, written response was received from WSCC concerning the highways matters raised back in September. Cllrs Toney and Linton received these comments directly, as did representatives of Angmering and Kingston Parish Councils. To date, I have not discussed the answers with any of those interested parties.

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

On 24th February, I submitted a Traffic Regulation Order request to WSCC. In this month's Clerk's Report you will find details of a site meeting Cllr Toney and I had with a WSCC officer.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

The Clerk said he had nothing to add but would take questions if there were any. There were none.

205/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Accounts for February 2022 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

- 1623** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2021/22, value £5,060.93 (excl. VAT).
- 1624** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier Non BACS Invoices Paid report for February totalling £565.98 (incl. VAT) (including unreported additional payments from the previous month).
- 1625** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid report for February totalling £27,449.99 (incl. VAT).
- 1626** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report, showing £326,581.75 (incl. VAT) for the financial year ending 31st March 2022.

The council NOTED the paper Bank Reconciliations to 14th February 2022.

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.

206/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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

Committees

The following committees met during February. Amenities on the 14th, Finance & General Purposes on the 21st, Major Events on the 28th and Planning & Licensing on the 14th and 28th. Draft Minutes from these meetings should have been circulated by the time of this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Amenities Committee

The committee met on 14th February. Three members of the public and the Clerk attended the beginning of the meeting.

Trees – The Urban Surgeons have completed the recommended tree work, as highlighted in the 2021 Annual Tree Inspection report. The work included removing overhanging branches and deadwood, re-pollarding, pruning and the removal of four dead trees. Two from the western boundary of Warren Recreation Ground, one the Village Green and one from Two Acres.

Two Rowan trees have been planted in February, the *Sorbus aucuparia Rossica* planted at Two Acres was kindly donated by the Lashmar Ladies WI. The *Sorbus aucuparia Sheerwater* planted at the north boundary of the Village Green, is the Philip Hunter memorial tree.

The Queen’s Jubilee Field Maple Tree has also been planted at the North eastern boundary of the Village Green, a commemorative ceremony will take place at a later date.

2022 Wildflowers - EP Film Society has kindly offered to sponsor the Village Green 2022 Wildflower beds and the Festival Committee kindly offered to sponsor the Sea Lane Wildflowers. The Committee is considering additional beds at the western side of Two Acres (Sea Lane end) and the verge by the Village Green Car Park.

Warren Recreation Ground Car Park lighting – The planning application has been granted by ADC, to install three LED lights at the Warren Recreation Ground Car Park. The Committee is still waiting for the final quote from Simon Francis, Enerveo for the installation.

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

28th February 2022

Audit & Governance Committee

The committee did not meet in February but has a meeting scheduled for 14th March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Community Engagement Committee

The committee did not meet in February.

The play scheme – *A Morning in Nature* – took place on the 23rd February with 13 of the 15 spaces available filled. Feedback has been positive.

The Planning Application for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Clock is now out for consultation, EP/14/22/PL. Cllr Toney attended a meeting at which he was directed to Part 12 of Schedule 2 of

the *The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015*, which suggests this work and the light on implementing lighting in the Warren Recreation Ground car-park could both have been done as Permitted Development, which would have saved the council both time and money. Simon has raised this with District Cllr Chapman. Still no word from Enerveo.

100 Hedgehog highways have been purchased and will have been put on sale by the time of this meeting. The EIWP would like to use any profits to buy bulbs to plant around the village.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –
Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee

28th February 2022

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The committee met on 21st February.

The committee agreed to allow the Village Hall Foundation’s committee to attach a CCTV camera to the Fives Court. This will provide improved coverage of the outside of the north wall of the Warren Room, including the fire exit into the children’s play area. The committee members considering the implementation of council CCTV on the back of the Foundation’s systems had not met since the committee’s December meeting, but would endeavour to do so before the committee’s May meeting.

The committee agreed to give its support, in principle, to a new lease between East Preston Football Club and Arun District Council. The Football Club needs a new lease early as without one, it is unable to apply for any grants.

Further work on the office layout and office frontage were put on hold whilst the council considers any options for the Conservative Hall.

Cllr Wilkinson gained support for a proposal to increase the availability of defibrillators in the village by setting up a fund to which organisations with only an internal defibrillator at the moment could apply for funding for an external defibrillator cabinet. That proposal will be on the agenda for this meeting.

On behalf of the Warren Recreation Ground, the committee agreed it could spend c.£150 each on having its annual return completed professionally and, above all, in a timely manner.

The committee’s next meeting is in May.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Major Events Committee

The committee met on 28th February.

The committee received updates on the following events:

Funday Sunday, 24th April – tickets are now on sale of this event. Live entertainment will be provided by the duo, *Funky Fusion*. We will probably aim to sell 50 tickets this time.

Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Weekend, 2nd to 5th June – the Infant School had not heard back from Prince George of Cambridge yet, so the committee is going to ask for members of the public

born on 2nd June (any year) to come forward to be part of the “unveiling” of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee clock on 2nd June.

On Sunday, 5th June, at 11:30 for 11:45, the council will unveil a commemorative plaque for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee tree. A special local guest has been identified and will be invited in due course. The tree itself has been planted on the Village Green and registered on the Queen’s Green Canopy website.

At midday on 5th June, the Village Green is effectively handed over to the Festival Committee for its Big Jubilee Lunch event. The council is supporting this event by programming the live musical entertainment, which is being sponsored by a local business.

East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27th August – this year’s event will again take place on the Village Green. Preparations are well underway. Potential stallholders have until 14th March to submit their expressions of interest.

East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 26th November – early preparations are well underway although the craft and gift fair has not yet been opened to potential stallholders.

End-of-term Thank You party, April 2023 – committee agreed it would run another end-of-term party to thank all those local residents who help the council achieve all it does around the village. The committee agreed the format should be the same as the party held in 2019.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st March 2022

Personnel Committee

The committee did not meet in February.

Local Government Pensions Scheme (LGPS) Discretions Policy – following its adoption by the council at the last meeting, I sent the policy over to the Hampshire County Council pensions team only for it to reject the policy, “Unfortunately, we are unable to accept the Discretions Policy provided as it does not outline each of the discretions for EPPC specifically. It may be that EPPC chooses the same choices as in the WSCC policy, but this needs to be your own document as an admitted body in the LGPS.” When Cllr Gander and I can, we will look at this again.

The committee’s next scheduled meeting is in April.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met on 14th and 28th February.

On 14th February, the committee considered two East Preston Planning Applications and one in Rustington. The committee agreed to object to an Application in Worthing Road, but not to one in The Street. The committee considered the Rustington Application, which was for a new drive-thru Starbucks by Halfords and Pets At Home, as initially Rustington Parish Council had submitted objections which we may have supported. By the time of the meeting though, Rustington PC had withdrawn its objections and this committee agreed not to object. Some days after the meeting on the 14th, it became clear there were several very local objections to the Application in The Street, although those were mainly on licensing grounds.

The committee considered two Applications on 28th February, and agreed to object to both, one in Selhurst Way and one in Normandy Lane.

Two Planning Inspectorate appeals on Applications to which the committee had objected were decided in the period between the two meetings. Firstly, an appeal by the applicant for redevelopment of a pocket of land on the western corner of Beechlands Close and Montpelier Road was dismissed by the Inspector. That appeal was for the previous Application on the site, the most recent one having also been refused Planning Permission by ADC. The second appeal was for land north-west of Goring-by-Sea station, and the Inspector allowed the appeal which could see 475 new dwellings built on the piece of land between Goring Street, the A259 and the railway line.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st March 2022

Additionally:

Amenities: Cllr Toney reported the planter on the corner of Lashmar Road and North Lane had received some damage in the week before the meeting. Andy Billups had kindly implemented a temporary fix and Ferring Nurseries was aware it needed to implement a permanent fix.

Community Engagement: Cllr Linton thanked Cllrs Chapman and Gander for their work at the recent playscheme which seemed to have been a big success.

The Clerk reported the *Official Guide and Map, 2022-2024* had been signed off and had gone to print. He thanked Cllrs Gander and Gunston for their hard work on collating articles and proofreading numerous drafts of the Guide and Cllr Linton for signing off the Guide. All copies would initially be delivered to the Council Office from where some would need to be delivered to the delivery company. Cllr Wilkinson said he would be willing to do this delivery as he had for the 2019-2021 Guide.

Major Events: Cllr Linton reported His Highness Prince George had not yet replied to the invitation issued by the Infant School to visit the village and to unveil either the clock or tree dedicated to his great-grandmother. Fortunately, the committee had back-up plans should they be needed.

Personnel: Cllr Gander reported the Pensions team at Hampshire County Council had rejected the Pensions Discretions Policy agreed by the council as it did not list each individual Discretion individually. Cllr Gander and the Clerk would revisit this in due course.

There were no updates from the council's three other committees.

207/22 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE – EAST PRESTON IN BLOOM

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

Community Engagement Committee – East Preston in Bloom

Cllr Gander to lead on this item.

Council is asked to ring-fence £2,000 within the council's reserves for use by the East Preston in Bloom project group.

Overseen by the Community Engagement Committee, the East Preston in Bloom initiative has got off to a good start with interest already building. Two indoors meetings have been held together with a walkaround led by Courtenay Luscombe, Ferring Nurseries, advising on what plants would work well where and what has been attempted in the past without success.

Maybe not expecting the project to take off so quickly, there is no provision in the current or coming year's budgets for expenditure on East Preston in Bloom ideas. Once there are results to be seen by the local community and businesses, sponsorship could be sought but, for the coming financial year, the East Preston in Bloom team would appreciate some money it can access. This

would be spent on visible things such as plants and less visible things such as providing brown bins at the office for garden waste cleared by the team.

To ring-fence an amount of money within the council's reserves seems a sensible way forward. Council could, if it wanted, set an end date of 31st March 2023 after which any ring-fenced money not spent could revert to the council's reserves.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Cllr Gander confirmed the background to the proposal, stating the initiative had recently been relaunched and response had been very good. The group had met three times so far, once for a walkabout looking at areas of the village which could be enhanced. Several members of the group had already gone independently to do work.

Cllr Mathias proposed an amendment to the resolution to increase the sum from £2,000 to £5,000.

1627 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to increase the sum in the resolution from £2,000 to £5,000.

1628 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to ring-fence £5,000 within the council's reserves for use by the East Preston in Bloom project group. Any remainder of this sum not spent by 31st March 2023 will return to the council's reserves.

The Clerk mentioned he and the Assistant Clerk had begun to have a discussion as to whether the East Preston in Bloom budget line should stay with the Community Engagement Committee or should move across to the Amenities Committee.

Cllr Gander confirmed the initiative would also look at sponsorship and grant opportunities.

208/22 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – DEFIBRILLATOR FUND

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

Finance & General Purposes Committee – defibrillators

Cllr Wilkinson to lead on this item.

Council is asked to agree to set up a Defibrillator Fund of up to £3,500 to provide village venues with external defibrillator cabinets.

Councillors will have seen the article in the Winter 2022 Newsletter, letting members of the public know where there are defibrillators in the village. Several defibrillators in the village are not currently available 24/7 because they are housed indoors. At its meeting on 21st February, the committee agreed to recommend to Full Council the setting up of a defibrillator fund specifically to purchase external cabinets for venues which are willing to support this initiative. As part of any application process, the council may want to review any maintenance procedures the venues have in place to ensure best practice is being followed and the defibrillators are as fully operational as they can be.

If agreed, the money would be a ring-fenced pot; the Finance & General Purposes Committee would oversee the applications process and decisions. Council could, if it wanted, set an end date of 31st March 2023 after which any ring-fenced money not spent could revert to the council's reserves.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Cllr Wilkinson provided further information in support of the above paper. He confirmed the council would work with any organisations wanting to take advantage of the fund to ensure their defibrillators were correctly registered with the ambulance service and that best practice maintenance procedures were in place.

1629 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to set up a Defibrillator Fund of up to £3,500 to provide village venues with external defibrillator cabinets.

209/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

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

Working Parties

The Environmental Initiatives Working Party met on 21st. The council's other working parties did not meet.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st March 2022

Conservative Hall Working Party

The Working Party did not meet in February.

A structural survey was undertaken on 16th February. Cllrs McElroy (Chairman of the working party) and Toney (Chairman of the council) together spoke to the surveyor at the beginning of his visit.

A full report is due imminently and a Repairs Schedule has been provided in the interim. I have suggested to the Working Party it meets as part of the Audit & Governance Committee meeting in March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP)

The Environmental Initiatives Working Party met on 21st February.

We have made contact with Southern Water and will be inviting Dr Nick Mills, Head of Storm Overflow Task Force, to our next meeting on Tuesday, 29th March, to discuss the issue of sewage dumping at sea. The following working party meeting will focus on litter.

We also discuss progress on a number of initiatives started by the group. Building custodians have been contacted about the next phase of the Greener Buildings Project. The East Preston in Bloom initiative is also progressing well – look out for volunteers in hi-viz jackets who will soon be out and about tidying areas around the village. Birdboxes for Two Acres have been made by local school children and we have asked St Mary the Virgin Church for advice on how they should be installed. Some of the dead hedgerow plants to the south of the Warren Recreation Ground have been replaced with plants kindly donated by a parishioner. The Hedgehog Highways are now on sale in the Council Office and money raised will go to an environmental project – possibly bulbs for the East Preston in Bloom team.

Future projects being considered include a car-free day to coincide with the Jubilee celebrations and investigating an app to allow driveway owners to hire their drives to reduce the number of cars parking on the roads.

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

24th February 2022

Flat and Frontage Working Party

Pending developments with the Conservative Hall, the Finance & General Purposes Committee agreed to put the office frontage and internal layout project on hold for the time being. Both companies we had been working with have been informed.

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st March 2022

Leases Working Party

Regarding the renewal of the lease to the East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club, a solicitor to act on behalf of the council has almost been agreed by the working party.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th February 2022

Playing of Cricket Working Party

Depending upon availability, I hope to be able to attend the first of this year's twice-yearly meetings with the club sometime this month.

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

1st March 2022

Additionally:

Conservative Hall – the Clerk had chased the author for the full survey but the latter was on leave until 8th March.

Environmental Initiatives – Cllr Gander confirmed Southern Water had agreed to send a representative to meet with members of the public concerned about sewage discharge into the sea. The meeting would be held on the evening of Tuesday, 29th March at Our Lady, Star of the Sea church hall. All would be welcome up to the capacity of the hall.

The Clerk confirmed Cllr Gunston would be leading a hedgerow-planting session on Tuesday, 15th March at 10am on the Warren Recreation Ground. These plants had been kindly donated by local resident, Zoë Steel, and would be used to replace any of the October-planted whips that had failed. Any councillor wishing to help with the planting would be welcome.

Flat and Frontage – the Clerk provided another confidential update on the tenancy of the flat above the Council Office.

Playing of Cricket – Cllr Bowman confirmed there was to be a meeting with representatives from the Cricket Club on the evening of Tuesday, 22nd March at 7pm.

There were no additional updates from the council's other working party.

210/22 EAST PRESTON YOUTH CLUB

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

Cllr Chapman to lead on this item.

Council is asked to agree to ring-fence the £10,000 in the current year's budget for future use by the East Preston Youth Club.

The council has received a letter from East Preston Youth Club asking for the money in the current year's budget to be ring-fenced for the club's future use. In the 2021/22 budget, the council allocated £10,000 to the Youth Club. The Youth Club though has been unable to run during the year, mainly because of the pandemic. At its recent Annual General Meeting, the club's committee agreed it is very keen to start running sessions again, and it has contacted the lessees informing them of that.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st March 2022

Cllr Chapman spoke in support of this proposal. Cllrs Chapman and Duff said the council's youth service supplier was working towards restarting the Youth Club from the end of the Easter holidays. This remained dependent upon the current lessees of the building giving access and the completion of some recruitment and training of new Youth Workers.

1630 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to ring-fence the £10,000 in the current year's budget for future use by the East Preston Youth Club.

211/22 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. Meeting with the vicar of St Mary the Virgin church, 2nd February**
- 6. Meeting with East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club, 15th February**
- 7. Arun and Chichester Clerks' meeting, 17th February**
- 8. WSCC Highways site visit, 22nd February**
- 9. *A Morning in Nature* playscheme, 23rd February**
- 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. March meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

On 24th February, we were contacted by a resident of the western end of Worthing Road, concerned about a car park close to her property which had obstructed an emergency vehicle from accessing Worthing Road service road the day before. I checked the car's details and found it was untaxed although it has an MoT until October. I alerted PCSO Raj and the abandoned vehicles officer at ADC who, in turn, contacted a different police officer to investigate. PCSO Raj responded quickly by visiting the site and contacted the registered owner of the vehicle; although he or she was not available, PCSO Raj left a message and hoped the vehicle would be removed soon.

On 25th February, a small lorry had parked facing west on the northern side of Worthing Road, directly opposite the junction with Clarence Drive. I reported this to Raj as there was no reason for the lorry to have been parked there rather than in the service road or Clarence Drive itself and its position was preventing vehicles driving safely out of Warren Crescent. Raj did visit but by that time, the lorry had moved just around the corner into Warren Crescent.

On 27th February, Raj provided the following monthly report:

Hello Simon,

Please see below for your monthly reports and I haven't added any issues which we already discussed previously.

INCIDENTS (JAN 31- FEB26)

- There were numerous case of vehicle related crimes reported again in around East Preston. This time offenders targeted Downs way again and also report of vehicle damages.
- There was couple of report of burglaries where victim lost valuable things. These incidents happened when nobody was at home address.

I understand that parking is still concerning matter but police have only limited power unless vehicle is obstructing road or driveway. I can ask drivers to move their vehicle but I haven't got any traffic enforcement powers.

Kind regards

PCSO RIJO RAJU 40743

Finally, following a conversation with Mrs New, Headteacher at East Preston Infant School, I have asked Raj to call in to see Mrs New when he can.

3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**

Concerns were raised to the council about a local business's handling of a car engine fire outside its property. The fire occurred late on a Saturday afternoon, and it is unclear whether the vehicle involved in the fire was connected to the business or not.

The information that came to the council was the business proprietor was simply throwing water on the fire. This led to a local resident using her own fire extinguisher on the fire, after which the proprietor brought out his own fire extinguisher. On behalf of the resident, I contacted both one of the East Preston fire station watch managers and an ADC anti-social behaviour officer, for them to get involved as they saw fit. I also contacted Raj, but the matter had not been raised to Sussex Police.

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

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

5. **Meeting with the vicar of St Mary the Virgin church, 2nd February**

Fr Andrew Perry asked to have a meeting with me to fill me in on some confidential church business. When I am able to say more about these, I shall.

I can say Andrew will be on study leave from 24th April until 12th August, during which time Rev Emma Ham-Riche will be in charge.

6. Meeting with East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club, 15th February

I attended this first twice-yearly meeting of the year with Cllrs Toney, Mathias and Gunston. The Bowls Club was represented by new Chairman, Peter Lloyd, Secretary, Roy Hickey and Treasurer, Ian Campbell.

Unsurprisingly, the meeting was somewhat dominated by the after effects of the damage caused to the clubhouse and kitchen annex when a tree branch from a neighbouring property fell in October. The clubhouse has officially been out of action since then, to enable repairs, meaning the club has been financing indoor bowls sessions elsewhere to keep its members involved. The club is hopeful the clubhouse will be open again in April, and work has been completed on the roof and the ceiling and was continuing in replacing the floor.

At the time of the meeting, the club's insurers had issued a caveat it would not pay out for any further damage caused by the same neighbour's trees. The incident has hit the club financially although it is going to stock take of its exact finances shortly and is still working with the insurers on a loss of income claim.

The council agreed to write to the neighbours asking them to contact the club direct or to agree to the council setting up a further tripartite meeting, similar to that held last August.

Cllr Gunston talked about the next steps in the council's Greener Building project, of which the club is fully supportive, and Cllr Toney talked about the next steps in renewing the lease between the two organisations.

In light of the amount currently taking place at the Bowls Club it was agreed to return to two meetings a year for the time being. Lease meetings are likely to be held separately.

7. Arun and Chichester Clerks' meeting, 17th February

Dawn and I attended this meeting in Bersted organised by our Bersted Parish Council counterparts.

This was the first of these meetings we had been since 2019. Six other councils were represented, including Bersted. Aldingbourne was the only other Arun council represented which made the meeting a little Chichester-centric, but still useful.

The main topic of conversation was the Community Infrastructure Levy. The feeling from the meeting was Chichester District Council administers these funds better than ADC but as, to date, we have not had a problem with how ADC is administering the funds, I am not in a position to agree with that feeling.

We asked whether anyone had a good contact at Enerveo as ours has not responded to the emails we have sent him on three projects in the village – Jubilee clock, Automatic Number Plate Recognition for the Village Green car-park, and lighting in the Warren Rec car-park. Nobody was able to help us with this.

The other two topics discussed were Operation Watershed applications and a Planning Application from Rolls-Royce to build on some empty land in Westhampnett.

8. WSCC Highways site visit, 22nd February

Further to council's decision at the last meeting to pursue some additional parking restrictions in the area of Sea Road and North Lane between Fairlands and The Street, following a suggestion from County Cllr Elkins, Cllr Toney and I met with Rob Torrance, WSCC Principal Traffic Officer for this area.

Rob had seen the document of comments received as part of the online survey we carried out in December. On the understanding we may not get all of what we would like, Rob encouraged us to ask for double yellow lines on the eastern side of the road, the full length of the adjacent service road, extended double yellow lines coming round the corner from Fairlands into Sea Road and an extension of the double yellow lines coming round the corner from Lashmar Road into North Lane. The latter was the part of the scheme he felt was least likely to succeed.

I completed the online paperwork on Thursday, 24th February.

9. **A Morning in Nature playscheme, 23rd February**

Although Cllrs Chapman and Gander were the council's primary attendees at this event, I was present at the beginning of the event to help with any preparation needed and then to meet attendees at the front gate as not all were familiar with the school, and because of the works to the school's gates, the route from the front gate to the forest school area was somewhat convoluted.

The event, led by Sam Cross of Sussex Forest Activities, was attended by 13 children from eight families, between the ages of 4 and 13. Only three children stayed without their adult. After an introductory talk, the children were able to get involved with a range of activities from outdoor cooking to making a den to making a dreamcatcher. Cllrs Chapman and Gander can provide more detail on this. Towards the end of the event, a stew to which each of the children had provided a vegetable, was served and enjoyed.

I subsequently issued a feedback survey. All questions were purposely set as freeform text answers only. The full answers will be given to the next Community Engagement Committee meeting, but some of the feedback received so far has been:

"My boys had great fun. They were busy the whole time. It was lovely to see them playing outside."

"They enjoyed the whole experience but the fire experience, lighting, marshmallows and hot chocolate was their best part. They also enjoyed the scavenger hunt and making dens."

"It was perfect and we even got sunshine!"

"It was well organised and all the information I needed was sent in advance."

"My son asked if we could do it every holiday. It was also lovely to see both of my boys accessing everything, showing independence and also teamwork. We enjoyed the event very much, thank you for the opportunity and kindness and support."

Other pieces of feedback are included in Cllr Gander's report further down the Agenda.

10. **Social media**

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

- *Funday Sunday* poster – 449 people
- *A Morning in Nature* poster –369
- East Preston Railway Club poster, 3rd February - 348

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 28th February)

The number of people currently liking the council on Facebook is 1,482, an increase of 35 (!) 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 – 2nd February – sent to 899, opened by 648 (72.2%)

Parish Council news – 10th February – sent to 899, opened by 667 (74.4%)

Parish Council news – 16th February – sent to 900, opened by 631 (70.2%)

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

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

13. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident who came to us to ask about Conservative Hall vegetation, “Thank you for your help.”

When I carried out the Sea Road toilets daily check on 7th February, I found this note had been left.

From a resident of Meadow Park, who had contacted the council about the Roundstone Level Crossing consultation the council had led in 2015, “Thank you for your detailed reply. I appreciate that you and your colleagues have a remarkably difficult task as what seems so obvious to us locals on the ground can easily elude those at a distance.”



14. **Leave**

Dawn is off week beginning 28th February and also 10th March. I may have a couple of days off around the 21st March.

15. **March Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 1st East Preston Men in Sheds (12:00, British Legion) (PG and SC only)
- 2nd Read Easy Chichester & Arun public meeting (13:30, online) (SC only)
- 7th Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 17th Celebration Mass in memory of Fr David Rea (11:00, Our Lady, Star of the Sea)
- 20th Friends of St Mary's Annual General Meeting (15:00, St Mary the Virgin)
- 28th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, 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**

1st March 2022

Item 2 – Police Matters – Cllr Linton queried how the Clerk had been able to obtain the Worthing Road car’s tax and MoT details. The Clerk replied he had simply interrogated the government’s *Check if a vehicle is taxed* website. This gives information on both the tax and MoT status of any vehicle.

Cllr Toney thanked the Clerk for his report.

212/22 EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note the following reports:

WSALC *The Role of Parish Councillors,* 18th January

webinar

The course started on time and lasted for approximately 2 hours, it was taken by Anna Beans Local Authority Officer. I have attended this course when I first became a councillor but found this time it was much more in depth and useful as I now have some experience in the role. I also found that being on zoom a better experience and well worth the time and money.

Cllr Rick McElroy

23rd February 2022

Southern Water / Water Resources South East emerging regional plan, 1st February

online

I was amongst the 100+ attendees of the webinar hosted by WRSE.

Background:

WRSE is made up of an alliance of the six water companies that cover the South East region of England. WRSE is developing a plan to face the challenges ahead in providing water to the growing population in the South East.

Challenges

The main challenge is that there is an anticipated 50% increase in population in this area by the end of the century.

There is a need to plan for the future effects of climate change.

Covid-19 has also impacted on water demand as more people have been working from home and it is likely that this will continue, albeit to a lesser degree

The other main challenge is that imposed by the need to protect the environment. Over a quarter of the South East is a designated area of outstanding beauty while National Parks make up 8% of the region. It is also home to eight key rivers. Protection of these habitats is important to the wildlife that live there and to ensure there is sufficient water to meet future demand.

Aims

To secure the water supply for future generations through a collaborative, regional approach to managing water resources.

To make the region more resilient and sustainable in terms of water supply

Plan

To consult with all users and to develop a regional plan, working collaboratively

- a) to identify the current situation and to make best use of the water already here by plugging more leaks, promoting more efficient usage and managing water catchments.
- b) To work with all customers, business, and industries to forecast future needs
- c) To complete a sustainable regional resilience plan and put into action.

New initiatives and solutions could include

- Using new technology to reduce further leaks
- Building new reservoirs
- Desalination plants
- Recycling of waste

It was noted that the main driver of any plan is cost and achieving best value. WRSE is encouraging as many people as possible and organisations to comment at <https://wrse.uk.engagementhq.com/>

Cllr Patricia Gander

6th February 2022

A Morning in Nature playscheme, 23rd February

East Preston Infant School, forest school

We had a very enjoyable half-day when 13 children aged between 5 and 12 joined the event arranged by the Parish Council. The morning was led by Sam Cross and Chloe Chow, Forest School leaders, supported by Cllr Andrea Chapman and me.

Activities included den-building, mud kitchen, water play and an ‘architectural dig’ where children dug around in the mud looking for treasures.

The children were asked to bring a vegetable, which they peeled and chopped and added to the Stone soup, cooked on the open fire. The pot bubbled away whilst the children enjoyed the open-air activities.

At a morning break the children, parents and grandparents enjoyed a hot chocolate and apple (the latter an unexpected bonus courtesy of the Infant School).

At the end of the morning all sat around the firepit ring and were offered a cup of the lovely vegetable stew whilst listening to a story about the Stone Soup. Whilst some were reluctant at first, the majority tasted the soup and several came back for more, much to the surprise of their parents who said they didn’t eat vegetables at home!

All the children were safely shown how to toast marshmallows on the open fire, ending off a fun-filled morning.

Initial feedback from the event has been very positive, including the following:

It was wonderful. Loved every minute.

They both loved the whole forest school and said the ladies running it were much nicer than the forest schoolteacher in their school.

[I most enjoyed] Spending time outside, being shown what sorts of things you can do.

All info and more provided via email beforehand and it was lovely to be met at the school gates because we attend a different school.

I felt a tad guilty that we hadn't contributed more with there being hot chocs, stone soup and marshmallows included!

It was so well run, such fun and inspiring. Will endeavour to sign up for more with Sussex Forest Activities and spread the word about what a great time we had. Thank you so much for making it affordable this half term holidays.



Sam Cross welcoming the children and their adults.



Sam preparing the stew. Each child had had to bring a vegetable. Contributions ranged from a butternut squash to a runner bean – all were used in the stew.



Children enjoying the stew. Note the empty cooking pot.

Cllr Patricia Gander

28th February 2022

Sussex Police “Big Data” presentation, 25th February

Zoom

In the main, the presentation was put together by Sussex police - DS Laurence Cartwright (Sussex Police), Jo Shiner (Chief Constable) and Tanya Jones (Assistant Chief Constable).

The presentation was mainly introduced and presented by Laurence, unfortunately for him the power point presentation did not work so it meant that it was more of a verbal presentation which made it difficult as most of the presentation was based around data and could not be backed up by slides.

The whole big data concept is focusing on the development of data science and is currently being developed whereby data across the board and be shared with other policing areas right from initial calls, e mails and where crimes have been recorded.

To enable access to all these databases a system has been set up and it uses dashboards.

Dashboard map data, example:

Looking at best practices – what gives us a better outcome, and this includes information from PCSO and PCs which can be refreshed every day and can initially identify what is happening and this is then stored linking days, week and months. These are simple visual dashboards.

To get these dashboards for PCSOs/PCs will likely take around 18 months to two years.

Other data sets will involve road, especially RTC and RTA and eventually will include being able to digitally download dashcams as they are now considered a very valuable source of data. As are speed watch reports.

This and other data can form complexed forecasting and can assist and advise where there are demand spikes and therefore enables better re-alignment of resources. It was noted that there is and will be a higher volume of calls that require the police services in towns than rural areas.

The aim is to enable the police forces to interact better and overlay different data sets.

Currently there are limitations on the sharing of data, but hopefully eventually it will be made available to Parish Councils.

Summarising – putting all the data into one place is a low-risk diagnostic approach and is a far simpler way than using outdated algorithms.

Cllr Christine Bowman

27th February 2022

Cllrs Gander and Chapman added how lovely the playscheme had been despite the cold weather. Thankfully, it had been dry and sunny and that had helped the children, and parents, to enjoy themselves. The Community Engagement Committee would discuss at its meeting at the end of the month whether to run a similar event later in the year.

Cllr Bowman said the Sussex Police presentation had suffered because the lead presenter had not been able to get his presentation to work online. This had made parts of his presentation difficult to appreciate.

213/22 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

There were no further comments about any of the above reports.

214/22 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (4TH APRIL)

Nothing was suggested.

The meeting concluded at 20:00.

Chairman: Cllr Elizabeth Linton Date: **4th April 2022**

END