

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

5TH SEPTEMBER 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, 4th July

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 5th July, asking for suggested amendments by 12th July. None were suggested.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th July 2022

Agenda Item 9

Monthly Update Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 289/22 – West Sussex County Council – reinstatement of the bus-stop in Old Worthing Road**
- 3. Minute 515/22 – Arun District Council – Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 4th July 2022.

2. Minute 289/22 – West Sussex County Council – reinstatement of the bus-stop in Old Worthing Road

Having started on Thursday, 9th June, work on reinstating this bus-stop on the Angmering side of Old Worthing Road, finally ended on 10th August, when Stagecoach came out to install the flag at the bus-stop to let drivers know there is a stop, and a timetable to let passengers know when they can expect their next bus.

Concerns have been raised about WSCC not providing a painted bus cage at the bus stop, which seems to have allowed the occupant of a property adjacent to the bus stop to park at it a lot of the time, possibly obstructing the bus from pulling up alongside the specially raised pavement. The reason given by the WSCC officer was the occupant, who did not

respond during the public consultation late last year, raised objections when the contractors arrived to start the work. The objections included, apparently, contacting the local MP who is not our MP. It has been left, somewhat unhappily, that WSCC will consider implementing the bus cage if, after six months, it has received sufficient intelligence from Stagecoach.

3. Minute 515/22 – Arun District Council – Investment Plan for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund

On 9th June, as agreed, I submitted details of the following four ideas to Karl Roberts at ADC: East Preston Men in Sheds, Reach the Beach – Disability Action Group of East Preston, East Preston village bus and East Preston Greener Buildings Project.

The council received a further update from ADC on 1st August:

Dear Applicant,

Karl Roberts, Director of Growth, wrote to you in May to consult with you about the UK Share Prosperity Fund (UKSPF). This fund is the government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF) which the UK continues to participate in until 2023. The ESIF programme was essential for local regeneration, employment and skills.

Arun District Council has been allocated £1,083,399 to be spent over three years from April 2022 to March 2025 and the council, as a lead authority, has been given the responsibility of developing a local investment plan setting out how the fund will be spent.

The first phase of consultation resulted in over 60 suggestions and ideas for projects which we have assessed in relation to our vision, economic development strategy and other key documents. We have also updated our evidence base on the challenges facing Arun's economy and labour market. This has resulted in a number of themes which we believe will deliver the best results for the UKSPF and are as follows:

Communities and Place

- Improvements to support the ongoing regeneration in Bognor Regis and Littlehampton, e.g. public realm, green spaces, signage, street art, street furniture, accessibility
- Taking forward the green infrastructure master plan including walking and cycling
- Campaigns to encourage visits and exploring of the local area

Supporting Business

- Support for the visitor economy through developing the brand and offer
- Tailored business support for start-ups and growth companies and key sectors such as creative and digital businesses, manufacturing businesses and support for innovation

People and Skills

- Employment support for economically inactive people
- Provision to meet employer's' skills needs
- Green skills courses

Our Investment Plan, reflecting these interventions, was submitted to government on 29th July and we expect to know if it is accepted by October.

As the fund was significantly over subscribed the council will be inviting partners to submit their more detailed proposals in the early autumn. These will assist us to assess the projects for feasibility, deliverability, output & outcomes and monitoring mechanism. A proforma will be provided to help partners understand the criteria that must be met to be allocated any funding and the most appropriate scale of intervention.

I appreciate some partners have already provided quite detailed project proposals at the stage one consultation phase and I hope the new proformas will be easy to transfer the information onto and to complete any gaps.

A number of projects that came forward in the consultation were very local community and place specific and consequently did not provide any outcomes that would satisfy the UKSPF funding requirements. The council is considering how such projects could be funded via a different more local approach. Consideration is being given to this and partners will be advised if such a fund can be provided.

I will contact you again as soon as we hear any news regarding our UKSPF Investment Plan.

Many thanks

Matt Gover
ADC Economic Regeneration Projects Officer

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th August 2022

Agenda Item 11a

Amenities Committee

The committee met on 8th August.

Warren Recreation Ground Trees – Concerns were raised by the Council’s Tree Surgeon on the condition of the trees along the western boundary.

Further advice was sought from the Council’s Tree Inspector and both have recommended heavily reducing the height of the trees and then closely monitoring.

The cost for this work is £3,475 plus VAT. Currently there is only £3,000.00 in the WRG - Open Spaces Tree Safety budget, therefore this would be an overspend.

Committee will advise and seek approval from Council, once we know if there is any further tree work coming up from the Winter Annual Tree Inspection report.

Warren Recreation Ground - Site security – Two concrete barriers have been located at the entrance of Warren Recreation Ground to prevent any unwanted access.

To date the expenditure for the concrete barriers is **£705.60** including VAT. This expenditure has come from the Amenities - WRG Safety Budget.

The two concrete barriers were removed and replaced on the day of the Flower Show event, at a discount rate of £780.00 including VAT. As there is no further funding in the Amenities - WRG Safety Budget to cover this cost, Committee is requesting the £780.00 plus any additional hire costs come from the Council’s contingency budget. Simon has asked Tracy to set up a new budget line so the committee will be able to consider whether or not to put some money aside for this next year.

Warren Recreation Ground – Children’s Playground – The Remedial work highlighted in the Annual RoSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) Inspection report, will take place week commencing 12th September 2022. The work includes the annual service of the Spinmee Inclusive Roundabout, repairs to the Junior swings and the Multi Play equipment.

Sea Road Island Planters – we are still awaiting delivery of these planters. They will be delivered to Ferring Nurseries initially.

Sea Road toilet block – The order for a replacement door and frame was placed on 23rd May. Lead time was quoted as five weeks. As you will see in the Clerk’s Report, the door and frame were successfully repaired on 23rd August. In case this has not been reported

previously, the insurance claim covered the costs of the replacement door and frame and the hire of a portable toilet for the second half of Festival week, minus the £250 excess.

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

25th August 2022

Agenda Item 11b

Audit & Governance Committee

The committee met on 18th July. Cllrs Mathias and McElroy were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman for the current municipal year.

With the Chairmen to all committees now elected, the committee's membership additionally comprises Cllrs Duff, Linton, Toney and Wilkinson. That leaves a vacancy – if any councillor would like to stand or would like to know more, please get in touch.

The committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and agreed to one minor change suggested by Cllr Toney.

The committee reviewed the council's Standing Orders and agreed no changes were necessary. New model Standing Orders may be imminent.

On behalf of the council, the committee reviewed the end-of-year Internal Audit report and agreed no further action was required at this time. Cllrs Mathias and Wilkinson will meet with the Internal Auditor when he visits the council in early September.

The committee's next meeting will be in November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th August 2022

Agenda Item 11c

Community Engagement Committee

The committee met on 1st August, a week late than scheduled owing to pressure of work in the office.

Some of the matters discussed:

Platinum Jubilee Clock – disappointment it had not been possible to have this installed in time for the Platinum Jubilee was tempered by the hope it will be installed during September. Any dedication ceremony will be sorted once the clock has been installed.

East Preston Festival – the committee agreed the council's events had all met their objectives.

Free tennis-coaching sessions – this year the sessions had not been as successful as in previous years, although none had had to be cancelled. I am going to talk to the tennis club about it managing the bookings in the future.

Merchant Navy Day, 3rd September – a small event will be held by the war memorial at 10am, during which the Red Ensign.

Emergency Services Day, 9th September – a small event will be held by the war memorial at 10am, during which the Emergency Services flag will be raised.

Half-term playscheme – another half-term playscheme will run on Wednesday, 26th October.

Village bus service – the committee agreed to recommend to Full Council the start of a trial of a bus service to the southern end of the village. See Agenda Item ~~xx~~ below.

War Memorial – following consultation with the British Legion, it was agreed not to add Sjt. Frederick Davis to the war memorial, as he did not fit the “did not return” criterion.

Traffic management – the committee agreed to purchase a couple of mobile speed indication devices to be attached to twelve lamp-posts identified around the village. Enerveo has agreed we can submit all twelve lamp-posts on a single application as long as we identify a period during which the devices will be used.

2023 Calendar – Cllrs Chapman, Duff and I are working on a 2023 East Preston Calendar.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –

26th August 2022

Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee

Agenda Item 11d

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The committee met on 15th August.

The meeting was attended by three representatives of the Disability Action Group, East Preston, Alan Hultquist (Chairman), Richard Akhurst (Vice-Chairman) and Roy Allen. This was in response to a request from the committee, the group attended this meeting to discuss the Grant Aid application submitted this year. The application was for up to £1,000 but gave too little detail as to what it would be spent upon. Mr Allen has recently become involved in the Reach the Beach project and presented his ideas on that subject to the committee, including a 1/5 scale model of part of his idea. The committee agreed to pay for the Planning Application should the group decide to proceed with this idea.

Also present was Tim Teasel, Chairman of East Preston Football Club. He too had been invited by the committee to give some more background to the club’s application for Grant Aid (in the name of East Preston Sports & Social Club). The committee agreed to donate £750 to the club towards repairs to the cellar roof. Mr Teasel said the club currently hoped to raise its profile within the village again.

The committee considered an initial Grant Aid request from the newly-formed East Preston Men in Sheds group, and agreed to donate £750 towards an initial Planning Application and associated drawings and costs.

The committee considered a quotation received from a handyman, via the Letting Agents, for repairs to and redecorating of the flat above the Council Office. Subsequently, the Letting Agents withdrew that quotation as it was not happy with some of the work that handyman had done. A second quotation was sought, and the committee has electronically accepted that one. Work is due to begin on 5th September.

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Too early in the year to start considering the precept for 2022/23, ten days after the meeting I took a call from a resident who asked the council to consider freezing the precept for another year in light of the energy and cost of living crises.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th August 2022

Agenda Item 11e

Major Events Committee

The committee met on 22nd August.

Final details were confirmed for the Food and Drink Festival.

The *Funday Sunday* event for the 9th October has already sold some tickets and the budgeting looks to be well within the amount agreed by Full Council in July. There is an online booking system in place as well as the usual box office in the Parish Council office.

Remembrance Sunday on the 13th November will need a meeting with The British Legion to finalize the arrangements but it is requested that the council provide the insurance required which is included in our insurance provided notice is given.

The Christmas Celebrations on the 26th November are progressing well and catering in both the Village Hall and the Conservative Hall have yet to be confirmed.

The End of Term Party on the 14th April is in early planning but the venue will be the Infant School as before. If any Councillors would like to suggest guests please let Simon know. We already have 118 on our list which includes all Councillors and partners, community volunteers and the chairs of many of the village's organizations.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –

Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee

26th August 2022

Agenda Item 11f

Personnel Committee

The committee met on 18th July. Cllr Duff was elected Chairman and Cllr Gander as Vice-Chairman for the remainder of the council year. This will allow outgoing Chairman, Cllr Gander, to support and advise Cllr Duff.

The committee completed its Annual Review of its Terms of Reference and agreed no changes were needed.

The committee considered an offer from an external company for the provision of Human Resources support and agreed to seek some other prices before deciding whether or not to proceed.

The committee agreed to recommend to Full Council a Weekend and Bank Holiday Working Policy. This can be found at Agenda Item 15a below.

The committee agreed the council should try not to start any new projects until after the start of the new term in May 2023.

A new item for discussion at the next meeting will be the Civility & Respect Pledge councils are being asked, by the National Association of Local Council and the Society of Local Clerks, to sign up to. The pledge will ask councils and councillors “to treat other councillors, clerks, all employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisation and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles.”

Cllr Lisa Duff – **Chairman of the Personnel Committee**

25th August 2022

Agenda Item 11g

Planning & Licensing Committee

Since the last Full Council meeting, the committee has met on 11th and 25th July and 8th August. The meeting scheduled for 22nd August was not needed.

On 11th July, the committee considered two Applications within East Preston, agreeing to object to one of the them. The committee also agreed to support Kingston Parish Council’s objections to an Application in Kingston Lane.

On 25th July, the committee considered two Applications, agreeing not object to one, whilst deferring a decision on the other until 8th August, so the Application could be discussed with the applicant.

On 8th August, the committee duly agreed not to object to the Application first considered on 25th July. The committee considered three other Applications, agreeing to object to one in Homelands Avenue on the grounds some of the proposal would be very close to the boundary and neighbouring properties.

Regarding a review of the Neighbourhood Plan, the committee has agreed to have a one-hour online meeting with O'Neill Homer, the planning consultancy which worked with the council on the original Neighbourhood Plan.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th August 2022

Agenda Item 12a

Amenities Committee – Warren Recreation Ground security

Council is asked to set aside up to £1,500 from this year’s contingency budget to cover the cost of temporary additional security currently in place at the Warren Recreation Ground. This sum to be taken from the council’s reserves.

Cllr Wilkinson to lead on this item.

On Sunday 17th July, travellers set up an illegal encampment on Langmeads Field. In response to this, I suggested the council may wish to install concrete barriers at the two access points between the Warren Recreation Ground car-park and the main playing field. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Amenities Committee agreed to this proposal and temporary barriers arrived at the Warren Recreation Ground mid-afternoon on Monday 18th July. The Cricket Club had also been consulted. East Preston Village Preschool had not been consulted as 18th July was the first day of its summer holidays.

Hire of each barrier is £9.50 per week, and delivery and collection is £275 each. Minimum hire period is two weeks. Our initial hire charge then was for £588 excl. VAT.

What we did not factor in during the decision-making process was the need for the East Preston & Kingston Horticultural Society to have vehicular access to the main playing field for its Summer Show on 6th August. We did talk to the Horticultural Society about this but, whilst understanding our reasons for implementing the additional security, there was no alternative for the society but to have vehicular access. We arranged for the barrier to be moved at 08:00 on the 6th August and replaced at 18:00. As it was a Saturday, this was a further cost of £650 excl. VAT. To date then, we have been charged £1,238 with only £19 per week to add on for the duration of the hire. The Amenities Committee has started discussions on when to have the barriers removed. Therefore, £1,500 should comfortably cover this expenditure.

The council had not included anything in the current year’s budget for such additional security measures. I have asked Tracy to include a line in the budget sheets so the Amenities Committee can consider whether or not to set aside money for such measures in future years’ budgets.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th August 2022

Agenda Item 13a

Community Engagement Committee – village bus service

Council is asked to agree to start a trial of a bus service to the southern part of the village from 11th April 2023.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The council has been working towards the provision of a bus service to the southern part of the village for the past few years, and has £20,000 in a ringfenced reserve for this reason. The council had been looking towards running a pilot from April 2020, but the pandemic got in the way of that. The committee agreed some time in 2021 it was not wise to start a trial of the service until the pandemic was more firmly behind us than it was at that time.

More recently, the Community Engagement Committee has resumed liaison with Compass Travel with a view to trailing the service from 11th April 2023. The committee has also met with a representative of Angmering Parish Council as we would like it to buy in to extending the service into Angmering, sharing the running costs. Angmering Parish Council has subsequently informed us it has issued a Transport Survey to its residents and the extended bus service forms part of that survey. The survey will be followed by some pop-up sessions later in the year.

In the meantime, to run a trial service (excluding Angmering) has risen to £24,000 for a year. This is a discounted rate just for the trial year. After that, the annual sum would currently be £36,000. The committee has agreed it does not want to start a trial if the council is not going to be prepared to commit to the £36,000 per year, or whatever that figure will be by April 2024.

Agreement to start a trial of a bus service will imply additional expenditure from the council's reserves of £4,000 (at current prices).

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th August 2022

Agenda Item 14a

Major Events Committee – Remembrance Sunday

Council is asked to agree to the council insuring and organizing this year's Remembrance Sunday Parade (in conjunction with the Royal British Legion).

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The council has been approached for help with organizing and insuring the village's Remembrance Sunday event this year. In 2021, national Royal British Legion told its branches they were no longer to organize the Remembrance Sunday events in their areas and that this responsibility should be transferred to the local council. Nearby, Ferring Parish Council is one which organizes the Remembrance Sunday event in its village.

As long as we let our insurance company know we are organizing the event, we are covered at no additional cost to the council. Last year, the council agreed to insure the event (1st November, Minute 834/21, Resolution 1583).

Immediately prior to this meeting, Cllrs Linton and Toney and Mrs Roberts should be meeting with Mr Holness from the British Legion to work out what else is involved and which organization will be doing which bit.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th August 2022

Agenda Item 14b

Major Events Committee – Returning Businesses Policy

Council is asked to adopt a Returning Businesses Policy for the council's events.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The council's biggest events, East Preston Food & Drink Festival and, to a lesser degree, East Preston Christmas Celebrations have become very popular events with businesses desperate to be included. The Food & Drink Festival could very quickly have become stale if we had not had in mind to mix up the stalls each year in order to give customers some favourites each year but also some new businesses to sample. Selection of returning businesses is not just based upon how successful it may have been the year / event before. By which I mean we might want to replace a business which has been here for three or four with a new slightly similar, slightly different business.

Some businesses have not understood this though and have been somewhat confrontational when the council has exercised its right to choose which businesses to include in its events.

To this end, the council has drafted a Returning Businesses Policy which the Major Events Committee is recommending Full Council adopts. The policy is quite simple, but will give the council's officers a bit more of a formal tool with which to respond to such businesses as may be a bit miffed at not being included.

The proposed policy is:

Returning Businesses and Entertainments Policy for council events

East Preston Parish Council reserves the right not to include businesses or entertainments which have taken part in previous events, regardless of how successful that business or entertainment may feel its attendance at an event has been. This should, in no way, be taken as a comment upon that business or entertainment.

This is in order to ensure council events remain fresh and attractive for East Preston residents.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th August 2022

Agenda Item 15a

Personnel Committee – Weekend and Bank Holiday Working Policy

Council is asked to adopt a Weekend and Bank Holiday Working Policy.

Cllrs Duff and Gander to lead on this item.

During discussions earlier in the year, the committee realised recompense for officers working at council events at weekends and on Bank Holidays needed clarification. Rather than a specific policy, the red bits below would be an addendum to officers' contracts.

Additional Hours

For additional hours worked over and above the normal working week, you will be entitled to Time-Off-in-Lieu at a time agreed between you and the Council, **but within a month of the additional time worked**

For additional time worked at weekend events you will be entitled to Time-Off-in Lieu at a time agreed between you and the Council, but within a month of the additional time worked OR payment at the standard hourly rate

For additional time worked on bank holidays, you will be entitled to Time-Off-in Lieu at a time agreed between you and the Council, but within a month of the additional time worked OR payment at the double the standard hourly rate

Council agreement would be in principle whilst the Personnel Committee researches an industry standard for such matters.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th August 2022

Agenda Item 16

Working Parties

The council's Conservative Hall working party met on 22nd August. The other working parties did not meet during July or August.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th August 2022

Agenda Item 16a

Conservative Hall Working Party

The working party met and considered a response to a letter from the Trustees dated 12th July 2022. The working party agreed to collate some questions to ask the Trustees in person, although subsequently, one working party member has questioned whether it would be better to send the questions in writing. To be discussed.

Agenda Item 16b

Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP)

I will give a verbal update to the meeting.

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

30th August 2022

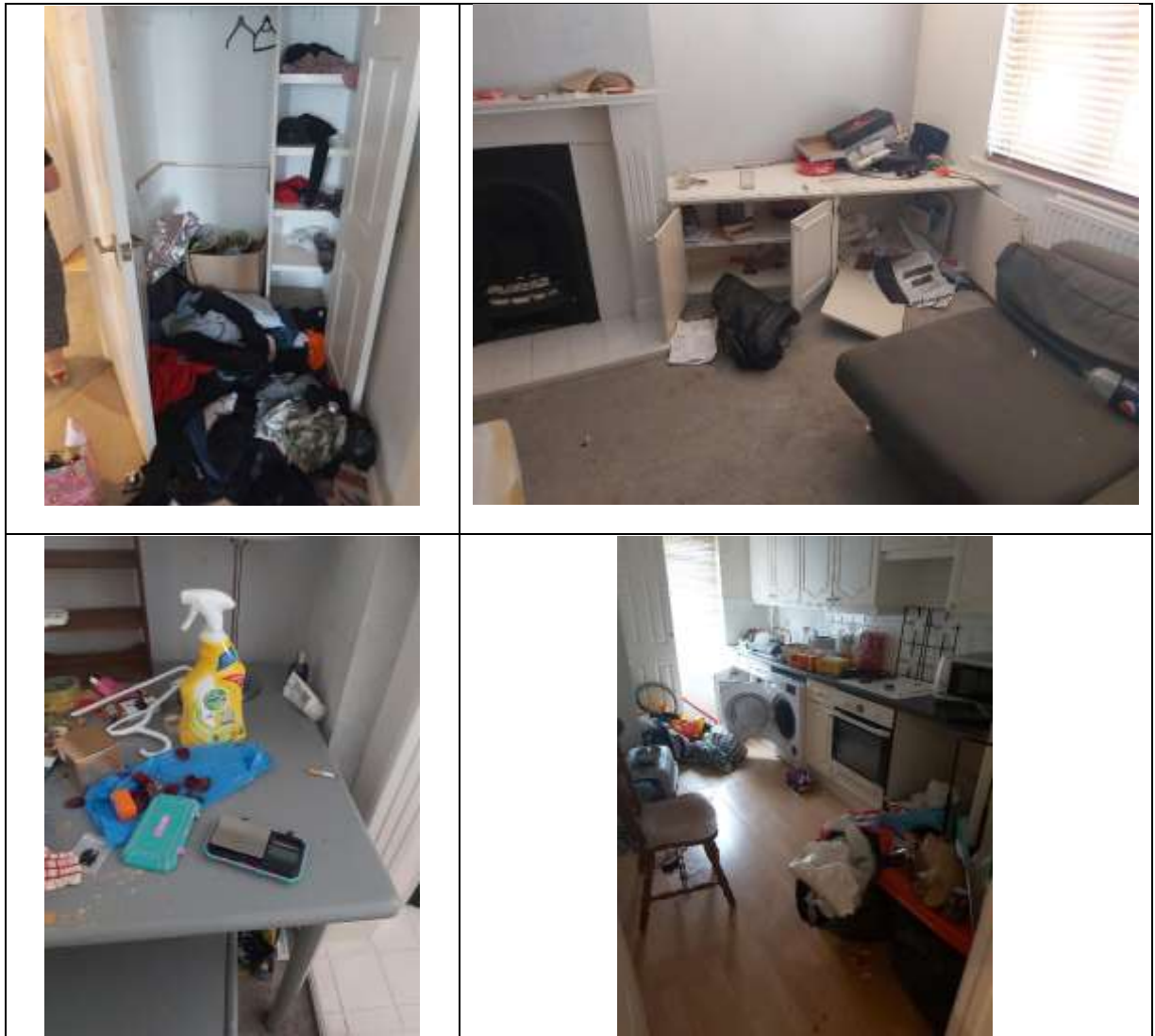
Agenda Item 16c

Flat Working Party

In light of the suggestion the Flat and Frontage Working Party should be split into two working parties, Cllr Wilkinson and I have agreed the short-term solution is simply to rename the working party the Flat Working Party. By the time, any further work is likely on the office frontage, it is likely the flat will have been re-let and the working party name could change again. If anyone has a concern about this, please let me know.

Meanwhile, here are some photographs showing the condition in which the flat was left at the very end of June after the tenant had been back to collect some of her stuff.





Flat clearance was carried out on 14th July by the rather fabulous Lou and her husband Paul. Any clothing and any unopened, in-date food were donated to a homeless shelter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

17th July 2022

Agenda Item 16d

Leases Working Party

No updates to report. The ball is in my court.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th August 2022

Agenda Item 17a

Sussex Police

Council is asked to note a monthly report should one be received in time.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th August 2022

Agenda Item 18

Clerk's Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Police matters**
- 3. Anti-social behaviour matters**
- 4. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
- 5. Unveiling of the Heywood Hardy blue plaque, 2nd July**
- 6. East Preston Men in Sheds, 5th July**
- 7. Upgraded BT service, 12th July**
- 8. Meeting with the Lawn Tennis Association, 12th July**
- 9. Society of Local Council Clerks Sussex quarterly branch meeting, 13th July**
- 10. Community Speed Watch session, 19th July**
- 11. Twice-yearly meeting with East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation ,20th July**
- 12. Sussex Police meeting, 1st August**
- 13. Disability Action Group of East Preston monthly meeting, 2nd August**
- 14. East Preston Men in Sheds committee meeting, 2nd August**
- 15. Meeting with Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, 3rd August**
- 16. Community volunteering meeting with South Strand Community Toilets, 11th August**
- 17. Community Speed Watch team meeting, 11th August**
- 18. Replacement of Cubicle 2 toilet door, Sea Road, 23rd August**
- 19. East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27th August**
- 20. Angmering Parish Council meeting to discuss the recent traveller incursions, 30th August**
- 21. Social media**

- 22. MailChimp stats**
- 23. A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
- 24. Recent bouquets and complaints**
- 25. Leave**
- 26. September meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

The day after Insp Durkan's visit, 29th June, police were spotted arresting two people in Sea Lane.

In the early hours of Sunday, 3rd July, a Fiat was driven down Sea Road and, in turning into Seaview Road, it rammed into the back of a car on the northern side of the road. The occupants fled but, apparently, left a mobile phone in the car.

On 4th July, we were contacted by someone whose car had been damaged whilst in the Village Green car-park. The cctv on the front of the office gave a particularly clear view of the incident. We let the requester know we had the footage but that we could not release it to him. On 12th July, we were contacted by Sussex Police, and supplied the footage to it.

On the evening of 17th July, I witnessed traffic chaos around the mini-roundabout at the junction of Station Road and Worthing Road. On closer inspection, this was being caused by travellers moving on to Langmeads Field. That same evening, I alerted Sussex Police, Sir Peter Bottomley MP, our West Sussex County and Arun District councillors, Arun District Council Parks and Travellers officers, Father Andrew Perry as some were set up right up against the churchyard and members of the Friends of Langmeads group. On this occasion, this council's involvement was limited as the land in question was not ours. I did trigger a conversation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Amenities Committee about boosting protection of the council's land at the Warren Recreation Ground and the Village Green, resulting in two concrete blocks being hired in to provide additional protection of the Warren Recreation Ground. One of these did have to be moved out of the way for the Horticultural Society Summer Show on 6th August, but it was back in position by 18:15 on that evening. The decision from the councillors mentioned above was little extra protection could be given to the Village Green. Local residents have been parking around it and in front of the gate to provide a bit of extra protection. Sussex Police was good at giving us information throughout the encampment at Langmeads Field and, where possible, I passed this on to councillors and residents in close proximity to the area.

On 2nd, 3rd and 4th August we received several reports of a van inconsiderately parked in Worthing Road, almost opposite the junction with Clarence Drive. The placing of the van greatly reduced visibility for anyone exiting the western end of Warren Crescent, made it awkward also to exit both Clarence Drive and The Street. Kingston Parish Council reported it to Sussex Police on the 2nd and we reported it to Sussex Police on the 3rd. PCSO Raju visited the Council Office on the 4th and said he had a plan to contact the owner, and by or on the 5th the van was gone. During his visit on the 4th, PCSO Raju also picked up a charge sheet which had been left behind after the travellers had left on 19th July; the charge sheet referred to driving without insurance.

There was talk on social media on 8th August of an attack on innocent bystanders at Angmering Station at about 23:30 on 7th August. I contacted Sussex Police for more information but PCSO Raj could not find anything reported.

3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**

On 29th June, I raised a Safer Arun Partnership Community Concern Reporting Form and submitted that to the Anti-Social Behaviour team at ADC. This related to behaviour at the northern end of Sea Road.

On 6th July, I raised a Safer Arun Partnership Community Concern Reporting Form and submitted that to the Anti-Social Behaviour team at ADC. This related to behaviour at the western end of Manor Road.

On 12th July, I raised a Safer Arun Partnership Community Concern Reporting Form and submitted that to the Anti-Social Behaviour team at ADC. This also related to behaviour at the western end of Manor Road.

Reports later in the month and into August suggested the anti-social behaviour in Manor Road had reduced following a visit from the Anti-Social Behaviour team and the owning Housing Association.

A resident visited on 22nd August to report concerns about The Seaview Hotel. I suggested the resident kept a diary and reported this to ADC Environmental Health when there were some entries in that diary.

On the 23rd August, a resident called to express concerns about an increasing amount of drug dealing on and around the Village Green, sometimes in broad daylight. Although the resident wished to remain anonymous, we completed a Safer Arun Partnership Community Concern Reporting Form together and submitted that to the Anti-Social Behaviour team at ADC.

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

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

5. **Unveiling of the Heywood Hardy blue plaque, 2nd July**

Together with Cllrs Linton and Toney, I attended the official unveiling of the Heywood Hardy blue plaque at Forge House, The Street. This is the fourth blue plaque the council has installed.



The plaque, as installed
(photograph courtesy of Sean Drew / DART)

Guests were then invited to partake of an appreciated buffet in the Legion itself.

6. East Preston Men in Sheds, 5th July

Cllr Gander and I attended a better-attended meeting than the previous two.

A committee was formed of the following six men: Neil Ellis (Chairman), Ken Glover (Treasurer), Kelvan Gale (Secretary), Tony Page, Adrian Miller and David Hawkes.

A constitution has been drafted and is being circulated to all interested parties with a view to the group adopting it at its September meeting. Only the committee is meeting in August.

The three officers are liaising with a company in Chichester which deals in refurbished Portakabins. The officers have seen the one they think would be most appropriate and are working on some costings with which to approach the council for a grant.

Apart from providing some background support, Pat's and my involvement is pretty much over despite threats they are going to buy me a toolbelt, whatever one of those may be.

In an email sent later on the day of the meeting, Neil wrote, "First of all, a big thank you for your help and assistance." The day after the meeting, Tony emailed, "My sincere thanks to you and Pat for firstly taking an interest in getting this up and running. It would not have happened without your inputs. Secondly, it is so refreshing to see how Neil, Ken and Kelvan have picked up the project and done so much already to get momentum into the process."

7. Upgraded BT service, 12th July

Today it was Openreach engineer Adam's turn to try and get the Council Office Broadband service upgraded to *Gfast*. An automated message had been received over the previous weekend, informing us an engineer would be around between 11:00 and 12:00 on this date. Adam arrived at 08:15. He tried valiantly for an hour but could get speeds no better than 25mbps, the Openreach website said *Gfast* would be, "turbocharging your download speed to up to 330 Mbps." At the end of the hour, Adam reluctantly and resignedly put everything back to how it was.

8. Meeting with the Lawn Tennis Association, 12th July

I had a twenty-minute call with Matt Glazier, Parks Investment Delivery Partner for the Lawn Tennis Association. Matt works with local authorities across the south-east in encouraging more public to play tennis on public courts, regardless of whether that local authority has just one court or 100 courts. Matt talked about a package of free support available for meeting that objective.

After a discussion of how the court is used and the annual coaching sessions we run, in conjunction with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, Matt talked a bit about a free booking system the LTA offers to local authorities, saying this will give us a better understanding of how much the court is used and information about who is using it. Matt also said there is assistance available in getting more coaching sessions on to the court.

Matt agreed to send me more details on the free booking system and its benefits, as perceived by other parish councils, and I said this could be discussed at the Amenities Committee meeting to be held on 8th August.

9. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) Sussex quarterly branch meeting, 13th July

I attended this Zoom meeting, and thank Cllr Gander for gamely and competently covering the council's phone and reception desk for the duration of the meeting.

The meat of the meeting was the current President of the SLCC, Philip Peacock, presenting on Operation London Bridge, the codename for how the country will respond to the death of a senior national figure. This council already had a protocol in place for this, but the Community Engagement Committee may do well to review it.

A lot of Operation London Bridge is optional and comes down to the mood of your locality. It was highly recommended the council has a sympathetic message ready to be posted on the council's website at the relevant time. Something I thought a bit odd was an expectation the Chairman, as the village's "first citizen", should visit schools, care homes and community groups as these may have a wish to have a civic presence during the period of mourning – unless I was mistaken, it was also suggested this be a bit of a photo opportunity, the first citizen ministering to the community at its time of mourning.

Other things I learned, the church will toll its bell for the number of years of the senior figure's life. For the Queen, the bell must be rung muffled, and we were advised to check with our church that its bell mufflers were in place as it has been seventy years since they were last used.

Apparently, I am the village's "second citizen" legally, not the Vice-Chairman of the Council.

Flags flown at half-mast should only be a third of the way down the flagpole as the lowest third of the flagpole does not count. I imagine there are a few of you who already knew that.

There is an official photograph which can be downloaded to be displayed with the condolence book. The photograph must be destroyed at the end of the mourning period. We can arrange to take the condolence book, of which we already have two, into care homes during the mourning period. Once we feel all people wanting to sign have signed, we write to Buckingham Palace to advise we have completed a condolence book and how many people have signed it. Once we have received a letter acknowledging this we can archive the condolence book at West Sussex Record Office.

Any public buildings usually floodlit, should be floodlit in deep purple for the ten days of mourning, except war memorials which should continue to be floodlit in white.

Philip suggested councils start to budget for either a 75th Jubilee or a Coronation – one or the other will take place in the next five years.

As part of the council's preparations, we have bought a Union Flag we can keep purely for the death of a senior national figure, and we will buy some black ribbons for councillors and staff to wear at any official events during the period of mourning.

Away from Operation London Bridge, the meeting also talked about councils taking The Pledge to respect their staff, raising complaints about a councillor on behalf of a council, and some talk about Planning matters.

10. Community Speed Watch session, 19th July

I was scheduled to be part of this shift starting at 08:30 opposite the Village Green. During the first forty or so minutes, 86 vehicles passed by, not one going more than 28mph. The shift came to an early end when I passed out! My thanks to Keith Harris, John Redgrave, Sue Morley, Denese from the dentist, Dawn, Rebecca Hazzard, Angie Launder and a lady from Manor Road who looked after me until I was able to walk back to the office.

Anyway, before that drama, the commentary between those on shift was a feeling traffic speeds have reduced in the village over the past six months or so.

11. Twice-yearly meeting with East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation ,20th July

Cllr Gunston and I attended this meeting at the Village Hall. Cllrs Toney and Bowman both sent their apologies. The meeting was chaired by the Chairman of the Village Hall Foundation, Toni McElroy, and also attended by Liz Taggart, Secretary, and Roy Allen, Premises Manager.

The meeting started by agreeing the notes from the last meeting, held on 10th August, 2021. Arising from the notes of that meeting, the VHF confirmed it now had an evacuation procedure in place. There were no COVID measures still in place at the hall, but hirers were encouraged to undertake their own COVID measures, and supplies were still available for anyone wanting to do additional cleaning before and after their sessions.

Roy asked whether the council had decided on the VHF's offer to include additional cameras into its CCTV system to cover adjacent council land. Cllr Gunston explained the councillors tasked with investigating this had found it difficult to get together to discuss, but he would push this at the council's next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

The committee questioned the council's decision to provide additional lighting in the Warren Recreation Ground car-park as it believed additional lighting would encourage additional low-level anti-social behaviour.

The committee has replaced the handrails on both sets of steps outside the Miller Barn. These were now far more stable than those they replaced. Repairs to the steps themselves were imminent.

An additional cycle-rack had been installed on the northern side of the steps from the Miller Barn. This had replaced the originally-proposed cycle shed as it had not been possible to find out whether or not a cycle shed would need Planning Permission without going to some expense. The cycle-shed on the southern side of the car-park remained.

The wooden East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation sign on the eastern elevation of the Warren Room was beginning to look tatty, possibly beyond the point of a simple restoration. The committee would look at a recycled plastic replacement and once a design had been agreed, would run that past both the council and the East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society.

The committee reported a concern about water coming out from the manhole cover on the western side of the toilet block. The council has subsequently had a blockage unblocked by its plumber. The Amenities Committee is aware of this situation.

The council had received an email from the Preservation Society referring to the partial removal of blinds from the Miller Barn, which had meant it was no longer suitable for daytime slideshows. The committee explained the reasons why it had removed the uppermost blinds, and also said it would, in future, only recommend the Warren Room for use with daytime slideshows. Cllr Gunston and I felt this was a reasonable compromise, and by the time you read this, I will have replied to the Preservation Society.

There was some discussion about the deal the committee gave to the Festival Committee which, increased for the first time since 2014, still only covered the loss of income from the regular hires which are cancelled for Festival Week. This matter had been raised by a member of the public at the recent Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event and, as per the response in the Summer 2022 Newsletter article, Cllr Gunston said the council did not believe this was a matter the council needed to get involved in.

I thanked the Village Hall Foundation committee for its continuing flexibility around the council's Funday Sunday events. Although the council only paid to use the Miller Barn, the committee's agreement not to rent out the Warren Room prevented clashing events taking place and disturbing the ambiance of the Funday Sunday events.

The meeting ended after an hour and fifty minutes, although Cllr Gunston and Mr Allen discussed the council's Greener Buildings Project after the meeting had closed.

12. Sussex Police meeting, 1st August

As he had promised previously, Inspector Neil Durkan of the Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team, held an online meeting with representatives of all parish and town councils in the Arun District. About half of the councils were represented. Other Eastern Arun councils represented were Kingston, Littlehampton and Rustington. Attendees were mainly officers with a few councillors present. Also present were Trevor Leggo, Chief Exec of WSALC, and Mandy Jameson, Senior Communications Officer for the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner.

Neil opened the meeting by saying he hoped these would become a monthly event. Neil said he wanted to identify common themes across the District, so Sussex Police could be more proactive in tackling these. He added he was passionate about opening up access to Sussex Police.

Mandy said she was delighted to see Neil taking this initiative, the first in West Sussex. Mandy added the next round of local focus groups would be online in early November.

Neil said the summer always brought staffing challenges with it, not least the need for resources to be deployed to large events such as at Goodwood and Pride events across the county. Whilst officer visibility at large events was good, this had a knock-on negative impact of reduced officer visibility within our communities. Neil said there were currently a couple of short-term Police Constable vacancies within his team whilst two of his constables awaited the outcome of their applications to be promoted to sergeant. A sergeant previously deployed in Bognor was returning to Neil's team imminently and he would cover the villages to the east of Littlehampton.

The Arun and Chichester Neighbourhood Policing Team had four priorities at the moment. These all had Operation names although that was not an indication of any severity. These were: Operation Bastion – enforcement work on arresting and prosecuting known individuals at the upper end of local criminal activity; Operation Reduction – identification of and working with children and young people to prevent them progressing into more serious criminal behaviour; Operation Clayton – reduction of drugs harm; Operation Manor – working with local street communities to ensure they are safe from the crimes inflicted upon them, such as serious assault / sexual assault. Alongside these priorities, Neil's React Deploy Respond initiative continued: this was where a Social Media Officer kept an eye on what was publicly concerning local residents so Sussex Police could be seen to be tackling that issue.

Responding to praise from Rustington, Littlehampton and East Preston councils, Neil said Sussex Police had used newly-introduced legislation to help disperse the illegal, traveller encampments which had affected those communities amongst others. Sussex Police had specific senior officers who were well-acquainted with the new legislation.

Most councils represented reported little of concern, but one in particular reported serious anti-social behaviour of a property being attacked by people bearing fire extinguishers and also a machete had been found, recently discarded in some undergrowth.

The meeting overran and I had to leave after an hour. The next meeting will be on the afternoon of 8th September, a day I am booked to be on leave.

13. Disability Action Group of East Preston monthly meeting, 2nd August

To enable more people to attend, the group has moved its monthly meetings from the first Monday to the first Tuesday of the month.

I attended with six members of the group. The meeting covered such matters as Reach the Beach, the Sea Road toilet block, the East Preston & Kingston Horticultural Society Summer Show and the St Mary the Virgin Christmas Tree Festival.

Roy Allen, best known as Premises Manager of the Village Hall, attended his first meeting, interested in the Reach the Beach project. Roy has a scheme in mind and will draw up some plans for the group's next meeting. He has already spoken to some of the companies involved with the scheme at Shoreham Beach, which he has also visited and assessed for himself. Roy agreed to attend the council's Finance & General Purposes Committee today with the DAG Chairman, Alan Hultquist, to discuss the group's Grant Aid application deferred from the committee's May meeting.

Alan advised the meeting he had also been invited to attend the Amenities Committee meeting on 8th August to discuss some proposals relating to access to the Hoist-Assisted Toilet in the Sea Road toilet block. These proposals may make the toilet more accessible to unaccompanied disabled people.

The group discussed its presence at the Summer Show and in the Christmas Tree Festival. I was able to help with a suggestion as to how the group could simplify its presence at the Summer Show.

The meeting ended after an hour and a quarter.

14. East Preston Men in Sheds committee meeting, 2nd August

In place of its usual monthly meeting, the East Preston Men in Sheds committee met at the Council Office on the afternoon of 2nd August. All six members of the committee attended, and called upon me when they needed.

The group is making progress and will be submitting a Grant Aid request for some help with set-up costs in due course. In the immediate future, the group has submitted an application for funding to cover the cost of a Planning Application to locate a Portakabin somewhere in the village.

15. Meeting with Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, 3rd August

This meeting was held at Ferring Village Hall. East Preston Parish Council was also represented by Cllrs Toney, Linton and McElroy. There were probably sixty people there, of whom about twenty-five were from East Preston, including District Cllr Ricky Bower. A further twenty or so attendees were from the Kingston estates and the other attendees were from other communities to the west of Worthing. I understand that because of the short notice given for the meeting, officers and other representatives from West Sussex County Council and Arun District Council were unable to attend.

Sir Peter opened the meeting promptly at 17:30, apologising for the short notice, thanking Mrs Bourne for attending, and getting all present to introduce themselves. Sir Peter explained the law relating to travelling communities is not easy to apply, and the incursions

experienced in recent weeks have been the worst for several years. Mrs Bourne said there were two large communities travelling in different directions across Sussex simultaneously, much larger than the communities usually travelling around Sussex during the summer. Hampshire, Surrey and Kent had suffered as badly this year.

Sir Peter had witnessed first-hand the threatening and intimidating behaviour of some of the young male adult travellers at Goring Gap, giving innocent bystanders an “enormous amount of lip.” Sir Peter said his personal view was any sign of criminal damage should result in an order to vacate a site immediately. He also felt the Gypsy and Traveller Council could do more to advise its members how best to integrate with local communities during their stay.

There was a detailed description of an assault upon a resident of West Kingston estate.

Much was said about the rights of travelling communities appearing to outweigh the rights of people to feel safe in their homes, not to fear burglary and intimidation, not to have public spaces made no-go areas. Sir Peter and Katy said that should not be the case, but the travelling communities did have special protections.

Sir Peter thanked parish councils and their Clerks for keeping him informed about encampments within his constituency.

The meeting ended after an hour as the hall needed to put back to how it had been found. Both Katy and Sir Peter thanked everyone for having attended and for having given them a lot of very useful information which they would be able to use in their conversations with other relevant people. Both said they would provide feedback where possible and, after the meeting, I reminded them of this council’s e-newsletter service through which we could circulate (non-political) updates.

16. Community volunteering meeting with South Strand Community Toilets, 11th August

I was approached by a local resident looking for community volunteering options for her 17-year-old son, Tom. Tom is going to university in Autumn 2023 and would like to have some volunteering on his c.v. before he applies. An earlier conversation with George Schlich, Chairman of the South Strand Community Toilets, had revealed the group’s willingness to work with one high school-age teenager at a time, if something mutually beneficial could be found.

I attended a 15-minute online meeting between Tom and his mum, and George and Amanda, the South Strand Community Toilets administrator. George and Amanda had given the matter some thought and were looking for someone who would be willing to come up with some fundraising ideas and also look after the plants around the toilet block, as Amanda is usually only able to get to the block once a week, and in this heat the plants need more than that.

The meeting ended with a face-to-face meeting being set for 23rd August where both sides could discuss this matter further.

17. Community Speed Watch team meeting, 11th August

I attended this meeting led by village Community Speed Watch coordinator, Keith Harris, and attended by four other members of the team.

In addition to planning patrols for the next few months, the meeting agreed to pursue a 20mph zone for The Street, Fairlands and Sea Road. Keith will attend the next Community Engagement Committee meeting to discuss this further with the council.

18. Replacement of Cubicle 2 toilet door, Sea Road, 23rd August

Following the incident on the evening of 12th April, the door and frame for Cubicle 2 was finally replaced on Tuesday, 23rd August. Whilst here, the engineer also made a minor adjustment to the HAT door closing and a minor repair to the door of Cubicle 1.

19. East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27th August

I attended the sixth East Preston Food & Drink Festival on 27th August.

Generally, a successful event, and Cllr Linton's report on the event can be found below. It's disappointing there are still a few local residents who insist any road closures do not apply to them.

In addition to plenty of positive verbal feedback on the day, some pieces of written feedback received from members of the public:

"I just wanted to say well done to you and your team and a great big thank you; the best ever EP Food and Drink Festival."

"The East Preston Food Festival on August 27th was an unqualified success. The diverse selection of Food Stalls was excellent and all had constant queues. The children were well catered for, having entertainment [throughout] the afternoon. East Preston Councillors with you and your staff were evident throughout the day being clearly identifiable and overseeing events. East Preston is extremely fortunate to have such a dedicated and hardworking group."

"Excellent selection of food stalls this year Simon - and my paella was back."

"We would both like to thank the 'team' who put on the Food & Drink Festival last Saturday, what a wonderful sight it was to see so many stalls & so many people supporting the event. Well done to all."

"The festival was lovely, really busy and buzzing. I managed to slip down a pint of beer and gorge on the culinary delights of the paella stall. It was very good."

Feedback found on Facebook:

"Well done to all of those involved in the Food and drink festival, what an amazing choice of food! It was wonderful to see so many people enjoying themselves, even the short rain shower didn't put us off. We are so lucky to be part of this village community."

"East Preston Parish Council you did a fantastic job."

"Totally agree. Fabulous day."

"Fabulous day at the food festival. Thank you to everyone involved."

"Lovely Day for All, Well done Simon and Alison & Lovely lady with Pink Hair(sorry I dont know your Name) for all your hard work you are very very Appreciated for everything you do for our Community XX"

"Couldn't have put it better myself! Well done and thank you to all involved. Incredible range of different foods and drinks on offer, great family day out- and as always, amazing atmosphere! Looking forward to next year's show already!"

“Agreed. Some friends of mine came along and said how lovely our village is. Made me very proud to live here.”

“Had a lovely time there, food was great👍 Would have been good to maybe have some sort of live music though👎 Every thing else was great👍👍”

“Yes well done to all for organising this fantastic community event, thanks to east preston parish council and all that help to make this event a success.”

“It was excellent and there were certainly lots of people enjoying it while I was there. Can I just make one small plea? Maybe I should be addressing this to the Parish Council but can some thought be given to accessibility for people with reduced mobility at events like this on the village green? I entirely understand the need to close the roads around the green for the event but having to park so far away, and the nearest bus stop also being too great a distance for people who can't walk far, makes it very hard for those members of our community to join in the fun (even with a blue badge as the only allocated space in the village was closed along with the rest of the car park). Unless there is some arrangement for disabled attendees at these events that I am not aware of?”

No negative feedback at the time of writing, but something tells me that may not last.

20. Angmering Parish Council meeting to discuss the recent traveller incursions, 30th August

Cllr Toney and I attended this online meeting, chaired by Cllr Nikki Hamilton-Street, Chairman of Angmering Parish Council.

Sussex Police was represented by Insp. Neil Durkan who updated the meeting on police powers. The following sections of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 are the most relevant. Section 60c basically unauthorised encampment who will cause or are likely to cause significant damage, disruption or distress. It is a police decision as to whether behaviour is significant. Section 61 refers to the people that have caused the damage, disruption or distress. Section 62A is about the availability of a transit site. Section 77 remains in place for local authorities to move on unauthorised campers. Police can use evidence from previous sites as part of the case.

Encampments tend to be seasonal and usually end by October.

Sussex Police offered to give some advice on “target hardening”. After the call, I sent the details of Warren Recreation Ground and Village Green to Insp Durkan.

21. Social media

Since the last report, these are the council’s Facebook posts seen by more than 500 people:

- Post of a lost toy kangaroo on the Platinum Jubilee thrones – 6,058 people
- Reminder post the day before the Food & Drink Festival, showing the large poster at the end of St Mary’s Drive – 4,569
- † Reminder post the day before the Food & Drink Festival – 2,917
- † Post ten days before the Food & Drink Festival – 2,464
- † Post promoting The Outside Dining Room – 1,480
- † Post promoting Rust and Stardust Productions, Cackle Street Cats – 1,286
- † Post promoting Nic and Ben’s Entertainments – 1,129
- † Post promoting Sausage Roll Kitchen – 1,005

- † Post promoting Bubble Pop – 963
- † Post promoting Ristorante Al Mare - 963
- † Post promoting No Bull Spanish Street Food – 951
- † Post promoting Chopperwhoppers - 870
- † Post promoting Mr Delicious - 841
- † Post promoting The Poffertjes Kitchen – 831
- † Post promoting Ditch Brisket - 782

- Repost of a Rustington Parish Council post advising the illegal encampment at Woodland Park sports field had moved on – 757

- † Post promoting La Creperie – 749
- † Post promoting Kung Fu Pan - 734
- † Post promoting The Barista Bros. – 723

- Post about a found pair of spectacles - 721

- † Post promoting Cat Burglar Dough Co. - 707

- Repost of a Rustington Parish Council post praising Arun District Council for the clear-up of Woodland Park sports field following the illegal encampment - 689

- Post of a lost Liverpool F.C. cap at the Village Green - 676

- † Post promoting PotatoBox - 675
- † Post promoting Taco Look At Me Now – 669
- † Post promoting La Poutine - 650
- † Post promoting Sussex Bee Farm – 645
- † Post promoting Phat Kat’s Kitchen – 635 (company withdrew a couple of days before the event)
- † Post promoting Bake ‘Em Girl - 632
- † Post promoting Riverside Brewery – 573
- † Post promoting Kitgum Kitchen - 571
- † Post promoting Mestô Artisan Olive Oil – 561

- Post advising Arun District Council was sending in a team to clean Langmeads Field after the illegal encampment had moved on – 559

- Post of a found toy snake at the Warren Recreation Ground - 557

- † Post promoting Pinch Seasonings – 550
- † Post promoting Olives and Things – 546
- † Post promoting Dirty Mac - 538
- † Post promoting Nibbs Gin – 525

- Post of WSCC Temporary Traffic Regulation notice for Station Road, 26th August - 525

- † Post promoting Jacob’s Bagels - 513

- † Food & Drink Festival page

- ▲ East Preston Business Community page

- * East Preston Christmas Celebrations page
(posts up to and including 29th August)

The number of people currently liking the council on Facebook is 1,538, an increase of 15 on the last report.

22. **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 – 29th June – sent to 906, opened by 617 (68.4%)

Parish Council news – 13th July – sent to 907, opened by 635 (70.2%)

Parish Council news – 21st July – sent to 907, opened by 661 (73.4%)

Parish Council news – 28th July – sent to 906, opened by 638 (70.9%)

Parish Council news – 10th August – sent to 905, opened by 657 (73%)

Parish Council news – 17th August – sent to 904, opened by 637 (70.9%)

Parish Council news – 25th August – sent to 904, opened by 631 (70.3%)

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

“Is there an overarching organisation responsible for the beach huts at the end of South Strand?” (Basically no.)

“Is there an official date by which I should have taken down my Platinum Jubilee decorations?” (No, it's personal preference.)

A resident called the office asking how she could thank the volunteers who had attended her and helped her husband when she had had a heart attack. We worked out these were Community First Responders (CFR). I contacted a CFR the council has dealt with in the past, about defibrillators, and she advised this link could be followed - [Thanking our Staff - NHS South East Coast Ambulance Service \(secamb.nhs.uk\)](https://www.secamb.nhs.uk).

“How can I get rid of a bicycle which has been abandoned near my property?” (My advice was to contact the Durrington Community Cycle Project, although it does not collect. The project refurbishes bikes given to it, and then sells them at reasonable prices to people who could not afford to buy a new bike.)

“What happened to the food waste that was collected during the ADC 1,2,3 food waste collection pilot?” (Answer from Oliver Handson, Environmental Services & Strategy Manager, “It went to a company called Biogen, who then process it via an anaerobic digestion process. As WSCC are the disposal authority they procured the short-term contract for the trial.”)

From a resident of North Lane, “Please could the Village Green be mowed just before the Food and Drink Festival? It is very difficult to push a wheelchair around when the grass gets too long.” (Each year, the council asks its contractors to mow the grass in the week before the Food & Drink Festival. This year, that cut took place on the Wednesday before the event.)

From a resident of Roundstone Drive, “Why is there no parking concession for East Preston residents?” (We discussed the reasons behind the council charging for the car-park. I asked how she felt such a concession scheme might work and once we were having that sort of conversation, the resident was a little more willing to accept the situation. “I know nothing will be changed.”)

“When is the Carnival Procession?” (You have missed it, it's usually in the first week of June. “Oh, I'm sure it's usually been in July in the past.”)

“Do you know of any banks willing to take on charity accounts?” (I was able to advise Men in Sheds committee was looking at Santander and Metro bank. The questioner returned the following with the news Lloyds was very willing to take on charity and community accounts.)

“Why are there about thirty caravans and Irish registered towing vehicles in Langmeads Field?????” (I explained and was thanked.)

“Have you ever received complaints about a cockerel that lives in Normandy Lane or Drive?” (No. I contacted a few local residents none of whom had a problem with the cockerel crowing at 04:00.)

“You might think I’m mad, but there is some rope on the beach and it is ticking. I’m worried about dogs and especially children.”

(telephone call) “How do you spell sifting?”

“Is the car show on this year?” (The council has not been approached about having a car show on its land.)

From a Kingston resident, “Thanks for, the always informative, Parish News, but why is there no mention of the most dramatic thing that’s happened in this area since the kidnapping of Sarah Payne. I am of course referring to the activities of the large group of people identifying as Travellers who descended upon our area and proceeded to behave abominably. Just asking.” (I replied the council had included articles on the travellers in the two previous e-newsletters.)

“Simon, you’re the first person I’m asking this question. Do you know of any community projects that might want to take on my mother-in-law’s mainly nearly-new Christmas decorations?” (Care homes, maybe.)

“What would the council think of a balloon release from the Village Green?” (The author of the question was not planning a balloon release himself, but had been invited to one scheduled to take place that afternoon, the birthday of a resident who had recently died. I said the council would probably not give permission on environmental grounds. The author accepted that and said he would feed that back to the family. The morning after the question, there was no evidence a balloon release had taken place, but there was a bunch of flowers, signed by all the family members, left on the picnic table. As this was just a few days before the Food & Drink Festival, we tied the bouquet to a nearby tree.)

“Is the water safe to go paddle boarding in?” (I directed the questioner to the Check Your Water Quality button the Surfers Against Sewage website, and suggested she attend the Food & Drink Festival instead. She replied, “Thank you Simon, I appreciate your time and reply! A perfect suggestion!”.)

24. Recent bouquets and complaints

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident of Midholme who had been to Brighton for the day, “We parked at the underground car park on the sea front and had a job to find our way out, then going back there were no signs as to how to get back in. We had to go up a staircase which quite frankly stunk, to find our parking fee for just over 2 hours to be £14 ! Then coming back through the roads in Hove the weeds in the pavements was quite appalling. So all in all I was very glad to get back to EP and to a renewed appreciation to how our Parish Council run our little village. Thanks to everyone.”

A thank-you card received from a resident of North Lane after I represented the council at her husband’s funeral.

Personal thanks for the lady who sought details for the Community First Responders.

From a resident of The Roystons, after I gave her some information on becoming a councillor, “As always efficient and helpful. I will study with interested and get back to you.”

Thanks from two Clerks for advice given after the SLCC Sussex quarterly branch meeting mentioned above.

From a resident of Sea Lane, on whose behalf we reported some holes in the pavement which WSCC then said it would repair within a month, "That is great news, thank you very much."

From a resident of Somerset Road who was concerned about the Newsletter asking residents to keep the front of their properties tidy, "Thank you so much for your reply to my email and your very sensitive and in-depth comments."

A resident of Homelands Avenue asked me to explain the council's objections to his Planning Application. "This is really useful feedback. Thanks for your time in preparing it for me."

From a resident of Vicarage Lane, for Dawn, "I keep forgetting to say the bus stop at Fairlands has been repaired and looks really good. Thank you for getting it organised."

From a now-former resident of Lavinia Way, the day before he left the village, "I just called to say how impressed I have been with your communications and the paperwork you produce – much better than the council where I came from."

A lady from Beckenham was very grateful for information on how the village implemented its petanque piste.

Not a complaint as such, but a comment from an East Preston business owner who lives outside the village. On the evening the travellers arrived on Langmeads Field, he sent me a personal Facebook message, "So whats happening or is the parish council sitting on there hands once again ? ." As I have had similar negative messages and comments from him before, I started my reply with, "Oh [name]. Why do you have to be like that?" before explaining the actions this council had taken, which were limited as the land was not our land. In his reply he said, "Thankyou for contacting the right departments."

From a Rustington resident in response to the e-newsletter published on 17th August, "Blooming well done. Really informative, diverse, interesting newsletter. Thank you all."

From a resident of South Strand, who wanted to be advised when the Yarnbombers latest works were put up for auction, "Thank you for passing that on. Very thoughtful of you. I am not on Facebook so I wouldn't have picked it up."

From a resident of Hillview Crescent, who wanted to know about the Planning Inspectorate decision on Planning Application A/168/21/PL for the 76 homes on the Littlehampton Road, "Thanks Simon, you are a star."

From the South Strand Community Toilets, upon receiving our grant to them for this financial year, "Thank you very much for the contribution, safely received, towards the running costs and upkeep of South Strand Community Toilets. I have said this many times before, however, we really do appreciate your kind support and without people like you, we would not be in a position to keep the toilets up and running."

A resident of Russells Close asked if someone could collect some yarn from her to pass on to the Yarnbombers. Cllr Duff duly contacted the resident and went and collected the yarn. "It was lovely meeting Lisa and I am so glad that the wool will be put too good use by the Yarn Bombers (YBs). As I mentioned to Lisa, I would like to know more about the planning and knitting that goes into the lovely and lively creations we see in and around the village, and would be pleased to volunteer if I can be of any help." I have passed her number on to the lead Yarnbomber.

25. **Leave**

I am on leave on 7th, 8th, 9th, 15th and 29th September. Dawn and Caspar are on leave on 1st and 2nd September, but not together. Alison is off for the week beginning 12th September. Dawn is off again for the week beginning 19th September.

26. September Meetings and Events

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 3rd Merchant Navy Day (09:45, East Preston Library)
- 5th Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 9th Emergency Services Day (09:45, East Preston Library)
- 12th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 15th East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation Annual General Meeting (10:00, Village Hall)
ADC Safer Arun Joint Action Group (13:30, Civic Centre, Littlehampton)
- 23rd Environmental Initiatives Working Party trip to Rampion Visitor Centre (16:30, Brighton)
- 25th Beach Clean (11:00, Sea Road)
- 26th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 29th West Sussex Mediation Service Annual General Meeting (18:00, Horsham)

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**

30th August 2022

Agenda Items 19a-c

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note the following reports:

T20 Cricket with One Parking Solutions, 10th June

Sussex County Cricket Ground, Hove

I took up the invitation from Gavin Price, Director One Parking Solutions, to attend the ‘T20 cricket match between Sussex Sharks v Gloucester Gladiators’, this included having a three course dinner in the grounds hospitality restaurant. It was a very enjoyable evening, except the Gladiators comfortable beat the Sharks.

Cllr David Moore

25th July 2022

St Mary the Virgin Dementia Friend talk, 20th July

Spire Room, St Mary the Virgin Church

I attended a very stimulating talk about becoming a 'Dementia Friend', given by Sarah Easton, a retired nurse.

The main thrust of the talk was:

Dementia is not a natural part of ageing.

Dementia is caused by diseases of the brain.

Dementia is not just about losing your memory - it can affect thinking, communicating and doing everyday tasks.

It is possible to live well with Dementia.

There's more to a person than the dementia.

The talk lasted about an hour and we all asked lots of questions and Sarah gave lots of examples, such as - a person with dementia put an electric kettle on a gas stove how could you prevent a disaster. Answer buy a old fashioned whistle kettle to use on the gas stove.

Sarah also indicated that she would be willing to give a talk to the EPPC.

Cllr David Moore

26th July 2022

East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27th August

Village Green, East Preston

I think the Parish Council can give itself a pat on the back for another successful event. Both those attending and the stallholders seemed to be extremely happy with many of the first time stallholders selling out very (too?) quickly.

The entertainment of the Cackle Street Cats (Rust and Dust Productions) certainly appealed to the younger generation who crowded around the performers after the show leaving very little time before the next one began. I hope there is some feedback from the company's fliers we gave out so we can get an idea of the success of their performance.

Once again, Bubblepop Malcolm had everyone joining in and I'm sure had there not been a timescale he would have continued well into the evening.

There were many positive comments from the public "Great to see some of my favourite stallholders", "thanks for a wonderful event", "Can't wait for the next one", "Are you always so lucky with the weather".

The following letter was received in the Council Office after the event, "Thank you so much for organizing a wonderful Food and Drink Festival. Even better than ever (that is saying something as it was fab in the past!) We had a lovely day and saw lot of friends which was

great – wonderful selection of food and drink. It all looked faultless from this side so well done all of you.”

Clearing up was completed by about 7pm with some members of the public still on the green enjoying the evening sunshine.

Grateful thanks to the Major Events team and office staff for their hard work.

There will be an initial, informal debrief on Thursday 1st September at 10:00.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –
Chairman of the Major Events Committee

29th August 2022

East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27th August

Village Green, East Preston

I'd like to echo the sentiments from one of the many compliments we have already received about the Food and Drink Festival – “Well done and thank you to all involved. Incredible range of different foods and drinks on offer, great family day out – and as always, amazing atmosphere! Looking forward to next year’s show already!”

Thank you to the office staff, Alison and Simon in particular, for all their hard work in organizing and supporting the event.

Cllr John Gunston –
Major Events Committee lead on the day

30th August 2022