



# 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, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston

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

**ALSO:** Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

District Councillors Terry Chapman and Paul Kelly (both until 19:40)

**ABSENT:** Councillor Steven Wilkinson

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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.

## **759/22 INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr Toney welcomed all present and ran through some protocol.

## **760/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies and a reason for absence were received from Cllr Wilkinson.

**1673** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the apologies and reasons for absence from Cllr Wilkinson.

Apologies had also been received from County Cllr Roger Elkins, Mrs Dorothy Lee and Mrs Sue Morley.

## **761/22 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.

#### **762/22 PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

#### **763/22 COUNCIL RESPONSES**

No members of the public had been present, therefore there was nothing to which councillors could respond.

#### **764/22 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

County Cllr Elkins had sent his apologies for the meeting.

Cllr Linton regretted Cllr Elkins's absence and said she had wanted to raise with him the matter of the County Council's insistence works adjacent to the highway were carried out by someone with New Roads and Street Works Accreditation. The council had needed this for the installation of the Platinum Jubilee Clock and the planters proposed for the Sea Road island opposite the Council Office.

Cllr Linton explained she was concerned the list provided by WSCC, which it admitted was perhaps not exhaustive, was almost entirely tarmacking companies, none of which had been interested in installing a clock or the planters. This council was lucky enough to have Cllr Toney who had the appropriate accreditation, leaving the liability for the installations on the council. Cllr Linton wondered whether the requirement could be changed or WSCC could update its list of accredited companies.

#### **765/22 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

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

District Cllr Chapman opened by referring to a query passed to him from a resident via the Clerk. The query had asked whether ADC kept a list of Approved and Refused Planning Applications within the District. Cllr Chapman said it was simply not possible to keep such a list and detailed a number of reasons why to do so was unfeasibly complicated. Cllr Chapman concluded such a list, if produced, would be highly misleading.

Cllr Chapman referred to the Planning Inspectorate's decision to allow 79 homes to be built on land directly south-east of the A280/A259 roundabout. He explained the reason Worthing and Adur Borough Councils had been able to challenge the Planning Inspector's decision to allow building on Chatsmore Farm was because the Inspector had made legal errors. Cllr Chapman had sought legal advice and no mistakes had been made by the Inspector for the land south-east of the roundabout. Therefore, ADC would not be challenging the Planning Inspectorate's decision to allow the 79 homes to be built.

ADC would still be standing by its decision not to allow Planning Permission for new homes on Golfer's Lane, although five of the council's six objections had been addressed by the developer. The remaining objection was there were very few homes currently built on the north side of the A259 between Goring and Littlehampton.

Cllr Chapman referred to a Customer Charter ADC had adopted for its Planning Customers. He would share this with the Clerk for onward sharing with the council.

The Clerk reported on a recent Planning Approval, in which the most controversial bit of the proposal had been left off a substitute drawing submitted by the architect. This drawing was the one quoted in the Decision Notice. The Clerk had raised this with the Planning Officer who admitted she had not noticed the controversial bit had been left off the substitute drawing but she had given approval on the understanding the controversial bit was on the drawing. The Clerk said he accepted mistakes were made but asked whether Cllr Chapman could explain the legal process by which the Decision Notice could be rectified. Cllr Chapman said the applicant would need to apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness in order to gain the legal permission they required as currently the drawings did not match what was being built.

The Clerk then reported on another Planning matter in the village, where a concern had been raised to the Planning Officer about the apparent height of what was being built. There had been no dimensions on the drawings submitted with the Planning Application, just a scale. The Planning Officer had replied to the concern, stating "From what I can tell the approved plans indicate a roof height somewhere between 2.9-3.2m in height". The Clerk expressed his surprise there could

be such a margin of error, just because the plan did not have dimensions on it. Cllr Chapman replied there were cases where the completed building works did not fully relate to the agreed plans and he referred to a case in which footings for an ancillary building had been laid in a completely different place to that shown on the plans. The council's Planning Officers were mainly inexperienced but were learning fast. Cllr Chapman reminded the meeting Planning Compliance contractors had been brought in and were already progressing through more cases than he had seen for a while.

Changing the subject, Cllr Chapman said there was a lot of concern about the rollout of 5G. A recent Application for a 5G mast in Felpham had received over 100 objections, mostly concerns about future health problems. Cllr Chapman said evidence was 5G was far safer than 4G, 3G or even 2G. Furthermore, there had been a recent change in the General Permitted Development Order which meant telephony masts and cabinets were now Permitted Development.

Referring back to the land south-east of the A280/A259 roundabout, Cllr Toney asked whether there would be vehicular access from the site on to the roundabout. Cllr Chapman said there would only be vehicular access FROM the roundabout not ONTO the roundabout, except for farm vehicles which would continue to have access.

Cllr Mathias said he and the Planning & Licensing Committee were often frustrated WSCC Highways never seemed to have strong views on Planning Applications particularly if those strong views would frustrate property development. Cllr Chapman understood the frustration and for that reason now included a WSCC Highways Officer at all ADC Development Committee meetings, so the officer could answer questions directly posed by committee members.

Initial statistics from the 2021 Census were becoming available, and showed the population of Arun District had increased from 66,000 to more than 80,000 in the past ten years.

Cllr Chapman ended by restating how he absolutely valued the work the council does in and for the village.

Cllr Kelly said he had nothing to add.

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

#### **766/22 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2022**

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 5<sup>th</sup> July asking for suggested amendments by the 12<sup>th</sup> July. None were received.

**1674** The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Cllr Toney duly did so.

#### **767/22 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 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 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022.

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

Having started on Thursday, 9<sup>th</sup> June, work on reinstating this bus-stop on the Angmering side of Old Worthing Road, finally ended on 10<sup>th</sup> 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 consultant 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Nothing was added.

## **768/22 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Accounts for July and August 2022 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

- 1675** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2022/23, value £25,299.60 (excl. VAT).
- 1676** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier Non-BACS Invoices Paid reports for July and August 2022 (inc. unreported additional payments from previous month) totalling £1,133.30 (inc. VAT).
- 1677** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid reports for July and August 2022 totalling £41,208.50.
- 1678** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report for financial year to date totalling £166,944.62 (inc. VAT).

The council NOTED the paper Bank Reconciliations to 14<sup>th</sup> July and 12<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

The council NOTED the up-to-date Budget Summary Report for 2022/23.

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

## **769/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

### **Amenities Committee**

The committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The work includes the annual service of the Spinnee 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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**

25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **Audit & Governance Committee**

The committee met on 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **Community Engagement Committee**



The committee met on 1<sup>st</sup> August, a week later 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> September** – a small event will be held by the war memorial at 10am, during which the Red Ensign will be raised.

**Emergency Services Day, 9<sup>th</sup> 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, 26<sup>th</sup> 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 below.

**War Memorial** – following consultation with the British Legion, it was agreed not to add Sgt. 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 –  
**Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

The committee met on 15<sup>th</sup> 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 1/2 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **Major Events Committee**

The committee met on 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

Final details were confirmed for the Food and Drink Festival.

The *Funday Sunday* event for the 9<sup>th</sup> 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **Personnel Committee**

The committee met on 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

## **Planning & Licensing Committee**

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

On 11<sup>th</sup> 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 25<sup>th</sup> July, the committee considered two Applications, agreeing not object to one, whilst deferring a decision on the other until 8<sup>th</sup> August, so the Application could be discussed with the applicant.

On 8<sup>th</sup> August, the committee duly agreed not to object to the Application first considered on 25<sup>th</sup> 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 ONeill Homer, the planning consultancy which worked with the council on the original Neighbourhood Plan.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Additionally:

Community Engagement – Cllr Linton added the committee was working towards installation of the Platinum Jubilee Clock on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

Major Events – Cllr Linton thanked all councillors and officers who had been present at the Food & Drink Festival and who had helped make the day such a success.

Planning & Licensing – Cllr Mathias added the discussion about the review of the Neighbourhood Plan had been deferred.

There were no updates from the council’s other four committees.

770/22 **AMENITIES COMMITTEE – WARREN RECREATION GROUND – SEASONAL TEMPORARY SECURITY**

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

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> July. The Cricket Club had also been consulted. East Preston Village Preschool had not been consulted as 18<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Cllr Toney provided further background to this request.

Cllr Gale reported a foreign-registered camper van had been parked in the Warren Recreation Ground on the morning of the meeting, although it had left by 09:30. Who knew whether or not this might have driven on to the Recreation Ground proper if the concrete block had not been present?

**1679** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree spend of up to £1,500 from the council's reserves for seasonal temporary security at the Warren Recreation Ground.

The Clerk advised the council the Cricket Club had asked for the southernmost concrete block to be removed by 20<sup>th</sup> September as it had a contractor attending that day to carry out end-of-season maintenance such as scarifying and reseeded. Asked whether the work could wait until October, the club's secretary had replied the work could not wait as temperatures may drop sufficiently by October the new grass seed would have no chance of taking.

**1680** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to remove the concrete blocks as close to 20<sup>th</sup> September as possible.

Cllr McElroy and the Clerk both said they had begun to think about more permanent increased security measures so the council did not have the expense and hassle of concrete blocks each year. This was a matter to be discussed by the Amenities Committee and with both the Cricket Club and the Village Preschool.

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

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Cllr Linton provided further background to this request.

Cllr Gunston, admitting he was in favour of the trial, wanted to ensure council knew of the ongoing financial commitments (at least £36,000 a year) should the trial be successful and the council continued to offer the service without any financial support from any other parties.

Cllr Linton said it was impossible to predict usage. Cllr McElroy asked how many local residents had asked for an extension to the bus services in the village. The Clerk replied he had no data on that, but articles in the newsletter and e-newsletter had returned a broadly, but not wholly, favourable response from residents.

Cllr Mathias said the council could either go it alone without Angmering Parish Council or it could defer a trial for a further year.

Cllr Gander said the service would only have been running for half a year by the time budgeting decisions for a further year needed to be made.

The Clerk reported the bus service 213 had been withdrawn early in 1982. Council Minutes from the time suggested WSCC had somehow circumnavigated the consultation process, leaving no time for the then Parish Council to comment. After the decision had been made to withdraw the service, the council had had an emergency meeting with Southdown Motor Co., which had been asked to provide a costing for just three services between the southern end of the village and Littlehampton and Worthing. In 1982, that was estimated at £10,000 a year. In the years after the withdrawal of the no. 213, various minibus services had been offered.

**1681** The council **RESOLVED** to agree to start a trial of a bus service to the southern part of the village from 11<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Eleven councillors voted in favour of the trial, noting the additional £4,000 needed from reserves for the first year. Cllr McElroy abstained.

#### **772/22 MAJOR EVENTS COMMITTEE – REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY**

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

### **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 (1<sup>st</sup> 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**

26<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Cllrs Linton and Toney provided further background to this request. Cllr Linton described it as mainly a paper exercise for the council to agree to cover Remembrance Sunday events under the council’s insurance.

Cllr Toney confirmed he and Cllr Linton had met with a representative from the British Legion before this evening’s meeting, at which it was explained precisely what paperwork the Legion needed to provide and what tasks it needed to complete to ensure a successful and safe event.

**1682** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to the council insuring and organizing this year’s Remembrance Sunday Parade, in conjunction with the Royal British Legion.

#### **773/22 MAJOR EVENTS COMMITTEE – RETURNING BUSINESSES POLICY**

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

### **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**

25<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Cllr Linton provided further background to this request, explaining it as an additional tool the council's officers could use when businesses not chosen for an event at which they had participated previously complained about that decision. There was also a secondary reasoning for the policy which was to keep events interesting but having a turnover of businesses represented at events.

Cllr Mathias said he fully agreed with the proposal but had some minor concerns about the wording. The Clerk said he would be happy to discuss those with Cllr Mathias.

Cllr Bradshaw questioned whether East Preston-based businesses would be somehow excluded from the tenets of the policy. Cllr Linton and the Clerk explained East Preston-based businesses would not be treated differently.

**1683** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously, in principle, to adopt a Returning Businesses Policy for the council's events. The final wording to be agreed between Cllrs Mathias and Linton and the Clerk.

**774/22 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – WEEKEND AND BANK HOLIDAY WORKING POLICY**

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

**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**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Cllr Duff provided further background to this request, explaining the policy was simply to clarify what the council's officers could receive in recompense for working at council events at weekends and on Bank Holidays.

**1684** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously, in principle, to adopt a Weekend and Bank Holiday Working Policy.

The final wording would be agreed between Cllrs Duff and Gander (Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Personnel Committee) and the Clerk.

#### **775/22 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

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

### **Working Parties**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### **Conservative Hall Working Party**

The working party met and considered a response to a letter from the Trustees dated 12<sup>th</sup> 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.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

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

I will give a verbal update to the meeting.

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

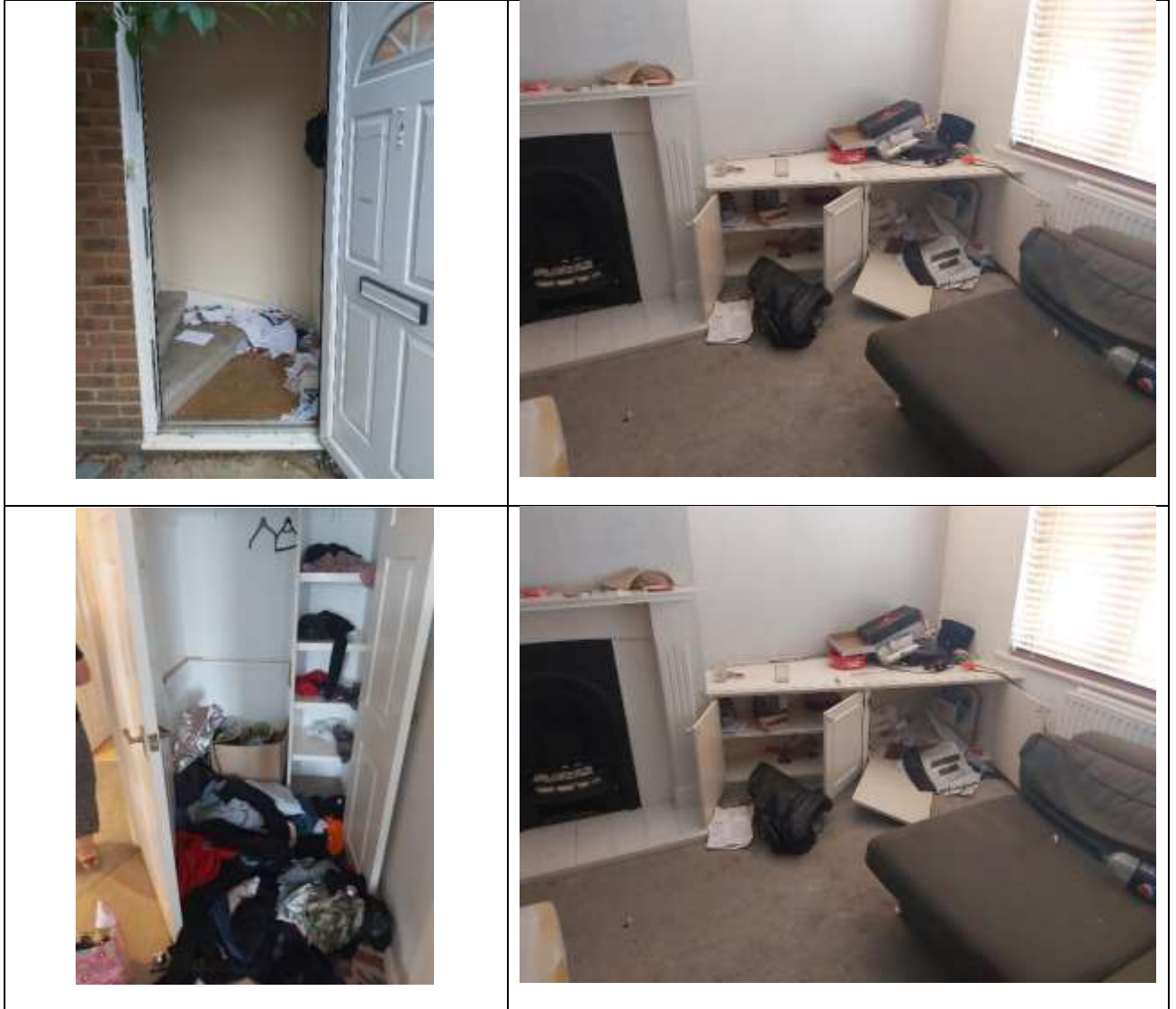
30<sup>th</sup> August 2022



## **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 14<sup>th</sup> 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**

17<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## **Leases Working Party**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Additionally:

Conservative Hall – following a request for a different course of action to be considered, the Clerk suggested the working party met after the Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting which was scheduled for 19:00 on 12<sup>th</sup> September. Cllr McElroy said the suggestion made sense and the working party members present agreed. Cllr Linton offered her apologies.

Environmental Initiatives – Cllr Gunston advised no meeting had been held in August. The working party had begun discussions with WSCC about commissioning a solar survey for the village. This would be paid for by WSCC and would identify opportunities for generating more solar power in the village.

Cllr Gunston reminded the meeting the working party was arranging a trip to the Rampion Visitor Centre in Brighton. Sole use of the centre had been arranged for up to twenty people at 16:30 on one Friday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Anyone interested in attending was asked to let Cllr Gunston know.

Flat – the Clerk confirmed renovation work in the flat had begun that morning, as per the relevant paragraph in the Finance & General Purposes Committee report above. The contractor had loosely estimated the work would take him all of this week and possibly all of the following week too. After that, the flat would be deep cleaned by the council's office cleaning contractors. The Clerk had contacted Cooper-Adams to ask it to begin consideration of what rental it would market the flat at.

Leases – the Clerk advised there was no update.

### **776/22 SUSSEX POLICE**

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

# Sussex Police

**Council is asked to note the following report:**

## INCIDENTS (AUGUST 2022)

- Report of theft of cooking oil from Premier Inn.
- Couple of reports of theft from vehicle (not ideal when people leave valuables in the car).
- I have dealt with one resident for flying drones close to residential area.
- There were few reports of catalytic converter theft in the village and surrounding areas.
- There is ongoing neighbourhood dispute, and some are mainly civil matter.

Apart from above issues, you may be aware of increased police in Nursery Close. This was mainly due to ongoing domestic dispute, and I am aware few residents are concerned about it.

As you may aware, Insp. Durkan asked me to investigate issues around [a local business]. I am not sure what trading standards have done or planning to do about it. I will do some enquiries including cctv footages and any input in relation to this matter greatly appreciated.

PCSO Rijo Raju – **Sussex Police**  
**Arun and Chichester Neighbourhood Policing Team**

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022

## 777/22 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. **Unveiling of the Heywood Hardy blue plaque, 2<sup>nd</sup> July**
6. **East Preston Men in Sheds, 5<sup>th</sup> July**
7. **Upgraded BT service, 12<sup>th</sup> July**
8. **Meeting with the Lawn Tennis Association, 12<sup>th</sup> July**
9. **Society of Local Council Clerks Sussex quarterly branch meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> July**
10. **Community Speed Watch session, 19<sup>th</sup> July**
11. **Twice-yearly meeting with East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation ,20<sup>th</sup> July**
12. **Sussex Police meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> August**
13. **Disability Action Group of East Preston monthly meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> August**
14. **East Preston Men in Sheds committee meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> August**
15. **Meeting with Sir Peter Bottomley MP and Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, Katy Bourne, 3<sup>rd</sup> August**
16. **Community volunteering meeting with South Strand Community Toilets, 11<sup>th</sup> August**
17. **Community Speed Watch team meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> August**
18. **Replacement of Cubicle 2 toilet door, Sea Road, 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

19. **East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27<sup>th</sup> August**
20. **East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27<sup>th</sup> August - feedback**
21. **Angmering Parish Council meeting to discuss the recent traveller incursions, 30<sup>th</sup> August**
22. **Social media**
23. **MailChimp stats**
24. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
25. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
26. **Leave**
27. **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, 29<sup>th</sup> June, police were spotted arresting two people in Sea Lane.

In the early hours of Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> July, we were contacted by Sussex Police, and supplied the footage to it.

On the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and we reported it to Sussex Police on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. PCSO Raju visited the Council Office on the 4<sup>th</sup> and said he had a plan to contact the owner, and by or on the 5<sup>th</sup> the van was gone. During his visit on the 4<sup>th</sup>, PCSO Raju also picked up a charge sheet which had been left behind after the travellers had left on 19<sup>th</sup> July; the charge sheet referred to driving without insurance.

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

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

On 29<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 / DAFI)

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

### 6. **East Preston Men in Sheds, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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, 12<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> August.

#### **9. Society of Local Council Clerks (SLCC) Sussex quarterly branch meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> 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, 19<sup>th</sup> 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, 20<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> September, a day I am booked to be on leave.

### **13. Disability Action Group of East Preston monthly meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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, 2<sup>nd</sup> August**

In place of its usual monthly meeting, the East Preston Men in Sheds committee met at the Council Office on the afternoon of 2<sup>nd</sup> 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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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, 11<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> August where both sides could discuss this matter further.

#### **17. Community Speed Watch team meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> 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, 23<sup>rd</sup> August**

Following the incident on the evening of 12<sup>th</sup> April, the door and frame for Cubicle 2 was finally replaced on Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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, 27<sup>th</sup> August**

I attended the sixth East Preston Food & Drink Festival on 27<sup>th</sup> August.

Generally, a successful event, and Cllrs Linton and Gunston's reports 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. This may be addressed by a short article in the Autumn 2022 Newsletter.

#### **20. East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27<sup>th</sup> August - feedback**

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."

"It was impossible to park in Vermont Drive it was so busy, but it was lovely to see the village so buzzy and so many people enjoying themselves."

"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.”

“It was the best yet. Put me down to help the young blonde councillor with litter-picking at the end of the afternoon.”

“The hay bales were a fantastic idea. They didn’t get wet in the rain. They were just the right height for sitting on and enjoying our food.”

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.

Feedback found on the Angmering Village Facebook group:

“What an amazing festival at EP today with over 30 pop up food and drink stalls from gin, cider, coffee and beer to several different styles of street food plus donuts, fudge, biscuits, chocolates and ice cream.. etc.. the list goes on. EP seems to have the template for a 1st Class Festival which was extremely well attended and despite the long queues for service, everyone was cheerful and patient.”

“It was a great event, we loved it. It would be amazing to do something like that in our village”

“Was a great event fun day, especially in the glorious sunshine 🌞”

“Indeed. They seem to get better each year.”



Alison has collated feedback from stallholders and that will be circulated to the Major Events Committee.

## **21. Angmering Parish Council meeting to discuss the recent traveller incursions, 30<sup>th</sup> August**

Cllr Toney and I attended this online meeting, chaired by Cllr Nikki Hamilton-Street, Chairman of Angmering Parish Council. Other organizations represented at the meeting were Rustington Parish Council, Littlehampton Town Council, Arun District Council, Sussex Police and West Sussex County 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.

The Arun District Council officer made the point his team, which is responsible in such matters for liaising with Sussex Police and West Sussex County Council to ensure encampments are moved on as quickly as possible, were not always included when town and parish council advised other authorities of new encampments. I am pleased to say he was included in the email I sent around on the evening of 17<sup>th</sup> July when I learned there was an encampment on Langmeads Field, both to his team's generic email address and to his direct work email address.

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.

There was some discussion about the use of social media to keep the public informed of matters related to contemporary encampments. The feeling from councils was very much not to say too much as any commentary seems to incite unwarranted criticism and, in some cases, language the police would deem racist. When travellers had arrived in Angmering, the Angmering Village website had seen a marked increase in the number of people following the page. Police representatives said this would likely be participants in the encampment, keeping an eye on what was being said, both to glean information on the actions being taken to move them on, but also looking for racist language too, which they would be happy to report to Sussex Police.

Later in the call, there was an opportunity to ask questions. Cllr Toney asked whether ADC or WSCC had a fund to assist town and parish councils with enhanced security measures. If there was one, nobody was admitting to it. I asked the ADC officer a question I assumed he had been asked numerous times before which was what thought has ADC given to the provision of toilets at illegal encampments on its land? Even if only some of the campers make use of the toilets, that is less for ADC's specialist officers to clear up at the end of the encampment. The ADC officer was unable to answer the question for himself, but there was divided opinion as at some encampments, toilets provided have just been turned over and vandalised by the occupants of the site, whereas at other locations, the toilets have been used responsibly, reducing the clean-up exercise afterwards.

The meeting ended with agreement to meet again early next year, to see if more can be done for the organisations involved to be better prepared for any encampments in 2023.

## **22. 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 Mestó 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, 26<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> August)

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

23. **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 – 29<sup>th</sup> June – sent to 906, opened by 617 (68.4%)

Parish Council news – 13<sup>th</sup> July – sent to 907, opened by 636 (70.4%)

Parish Council news – 21<sup>st</sup> July – sent to 907, opened by 663 (73.6%)

Parish Council news – 28<sup>th</sup> July – sent to 906, opened by 641 (71.2%)

Parish Council news – 10<sup>th</sup> August – sent to 905, opened by 658 (73.1%)

Parish Council news – 17<sup>th</sup> August – sent to 904, opened by 642 (71.4%)

Parish Council news – 25<sup>th</sup> August – sent to 904, opened by 642 (71.6%)

24. **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/ambulance-service).

“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!”.)

## 25. **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 interest 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 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## 26. **Leave**

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

## 27. **September Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

3<sup>rd</sup> Merchant Navy Day (09:45, East Preston Library)

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

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

Cllr Linton thanked the Clerk for a thorough and very lengthy report. The length of the report was not just because it covered two months but because of the Clerk’s attention to detail. Cllr Bradshaw seconded Cllr Linton’s sentiments, saying he had found the report “both edifying and entertaining”.

**Item 22 – Social Media** – Cllr Linton asked whether there had been anything special about the kangaroo lost at the Platinum Jubilee bench. The Clerk replied there had not been.

**Item 7 – upgraded BT service, 12<sup>th</sup> July** – in response to a question from Cllr Linton, the Clerk replied BT had now given up, for the time being, on trying to provide an upgraded service to the Council Office. He added the service was more than adequate and workable as it was.

**778/22 EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

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

**Other meetings and events – Part 1**

**Council is asked to note the following reports:**

**T20 Cricket with One Parking Solutions, 10<sup>th</sup> 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

25<sup>th</sup> July 2022

**St Mary the Virgin Dementia Friend talk, 20<sup>th</sup> 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

26<sup>th</sup> July 2022

## **East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 27<sup>th</sup> 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**

30<sup>th</sup> August 2022

### **779/22 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

Cllr Toney added his thanks to everyone involved in the Food & Drink Festival, especially the councillor described above as the “lovely lady with Pink Hair” and “the young blonde councillor” (Cllrs Linton and Duff respectively).

### **780/22 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER)**

Nothing was suggested.

**The meeting concluded at 20:20.**

Chairman: *Councillor Steve Toney* Date: **3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022**

END