



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MAJOR EVENTS COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 30th May 2023 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston at 19:00

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bowman, Lisa Duff, Helen Hill, Elizabeth Linton (Chairman) and Steve Toney

ALSO: Simon Cross, Clerk to the Council
Councillor John Gunston

ABSENT: Councillor Andrea Chapman

The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;

WSCC – West Sussex County Council.

The meeting opened at 19:00.

Following the Annual Meeting of the Council on 15th May, the membership of this committee was Cllrs Bowman, Chapman, Duff, and Hill with one vacancy. As Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council respectively, Cllrs Toney and Linton were entitled to attend and vote at meetings of this committee.

In advance of the meeting the Clerk had written to all committee members, asking them to let him know whether or not they wished to stand for Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee. Cllr Linton had put herself forward for Chairman and Cllr Toney had put himself forward as Vice-Chairman.

The Clerk asked if there were any other candidates and there were not. The meeting AGREED Cllr Bowman could act as a second teller alongside the Clerk.

435/23 APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2023/24

Cllr Linton was appointed.

Cllr Bowman confirmed all six councillors present had voted.

436/23 APPOINTMENT OF A COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE YEAR 2023/24

Cllr Toney was appointed.

Cllr Bowman confirmed all six councillors present had voted.

437/23 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

A retrospective apology and a reason for absence were received from Cllr Chapman (work commitment) and accepted by Cllr Linton.

438/23 PERSONAL AND/OR PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

Cllr Toney declared a Personal Interest in Agenda Item 7 – *Remembrance Sunday, 12th November 2023*.

439/23 PUBLIC SESSION

As Cllr Gunston was present as a member of the public, Cllr Linton invited him to address the meeting.

Cllr Gunston said he had explained as Remembrance Sunday was an important part of village life. The parish council had facilitated the parade for the past few years, under instruction from the Royal British Legion Branch committee. Accepting there was a group within the village unhappy with the Branch committee's proposed changes, Cllr Gunston said he believed the council should abide by the Branch committee's wishes. Cllr Gunston felt everyone wanted a parade to be part of the event and the only way forward was for the council to go along with the Branch committee's proposal.

440/23 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY, 12TH NOVEMBER, 2023

Cllr Linton offered councillors the chance to respond to Cllr Gunston, but none did so.

Cllr Linton read from the following email which had been received from Ritchie Leccia:

Hello Simon,

By way of introduction I am part of the Branch Committee in role as Branch Secretary, I am just replying on behalf of Nick as he is currently away, we had a chat about the proposal for the parade and I just wanted to add a few elements by way of response (I believe you have been sent the Word Doc proposal we originally Drafted). In summary:

1. We feel strongly that observing the two minute Silence at the Memorial at 11am is the key element of the parade (which is a poignant moment for Veterans, Service People and their families to observe the silence in front of a memorial) and are not sure why changing to this is an issue.
2. We are still including the church (by way of moving the service to an earlier time) - this has been agreed with the Vicar who was on board with this plan.
3. We are still including the Scouts and Band - this format would principally consist of a parade from the Church to the Memorial (which we believe gives the band and scouts ample opportunity to be a part of the proceedings. Indeed even one way this is a lengthy parade. We were informed about concerns around parking for the band. We still believe they could park near the Legion and move by foot to the Church.

In essence we wish to move the timetable forward by an hour to allow for the two minute silence to take place at the memorial (which is what happens on other parades, usually involving a one way march to the memorial - we took part in a similar parade this weekend at the National Conference).

We recognise that the Parish Council plays a pivotal role in the organisation of the parade and would hope for your support in this plan. We would like confirmation in the coming couple of weeks if possible so arrangements can be put in place.

Many thanks

Ritchie Leccia

Cllr Linton explained the council would be supporting the event by including the event within its insurance and completing the road closure paperwork. The Clerk added marshals for the road closure would also be deemed to be working for the

parish council during the event, as they had during the 2022 event. Cllr Linton felt both organisations needed to be getting on with making the relevant arrangements.

Cllr Toney said the band would not take part if the parade was only in one direction (from the church). It was likely Sir Peter Bottomley MP would not attend as the change of time to 11:00 for laying of the wreaths meant a clash with laying a wreath at Worthing's war memorial. Cllr Toney had received an email from Sue Sadler, Membership Engagement Officer at the British Legion saying, "I have passed a copy of your e-mail to the Membership Council rep and asked her to have a look. The Parade is a Civic responsibility and not the RBL's."

Cllr Linton asked the committee to vote upon the proposal of a service at St Mary the Virgin at 10:00, followed by a parade to the war memorial, with two minutes' silence at 11:00 followed by wreath-laying. The committee AGREED to this proposal. Cllr Toney voted against this proposal.

The committee AGREED to support and liaise with the Royal British Legion Branch to ensure the event ran smoothly.

441/23 NEXT MEETING (26TH JUNE, 19:00)

Nothing new was suggested.

The Meeting closed at 19:17.

Chairman: *Cllr Elizabeth Linton* Date: **26th June 2023**

(END)