



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held at 18:30 on Monday, 1st July 2024 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bowman, Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, John Gunston, Helen Hill, Elizabeth Linton, Glyn Mathias, David Moore, Steve Toney (Chairman) and Steven Wilkinson

ALSO: Simon Cross, Clerk to the Council

County Councillor Roger Elkins (until 19:13)

Cllr Alison Reigate, Angmering Parish Council (until 19:13)

Cllr David Joyce, Kingston Parish Council (until 19:13)

Rod Vincent, West Sussex Beekeepers' Association (until 19:13)

Mrs D (until 19:42), Mrs M (until 19:13) and Mrs M (until 19:42)

ABSENT: Councillors Kit Bradshaw, Barbara Gale and Rick McElroy

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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;
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 18.37.

481/24 **INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr Toney welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the meeting protocol and safety information. As an August meeting was not currently scheduled, Cllr Toney wished all present a good summer.

482/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence had been received from Cllrs Bradshaw and Gale.

1876 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the apologies received from Cllrs Bradshaw and Gale.

Apologies had also been received from District Cllr Paul Kelly and Mr Gale.

Retrospective apologies were received from Cllr McElroy.

483/24 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

484/24 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

County Cllr Elkins started by announcing the new Chief Executive of the council, Leigh Whitehouse, had started in his role, replacing interim Chief Executive, Becky Shaw.

Cllr Elkins promoted the Library Service's Summer Reading Challenge, *Marvellous Makers*.

Cllr Elkins said he was pleased to read Compass Travel was hopeful it would be able to continue running the No. 12 bus service after East Preston and Rustington Parish Councils withdrew funding.

The county council was installing electric vehicle charging points at depots and some office buildings to enable staff to change to electric vehicles. In response to a question, Cllr Elkins said the county council had been installing solar panels on some buildings but this was constrained by the initial financial outlay.

Cllr Elkins concluded by reminding those present they could access the pressreader website free-of-charge with their library card. This website hosted a very wide range of newspapers, magazines and comics.

485/24 PUBLIC SESSION

No Agenda Item – West Sussex County Council – Mrs M thanked the council for visiting the trees which had been planted around the village late last year, and for showing them some love and affection.

486/24 COUNCIL RESPONSES

There were no council responses.

487/24 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 3RD JUNE

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 4th June asking for suggested amendments by the 11th June. None were received.

1877 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 3rd June. Cllr Toney duly did so.

488/24 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 358/23 – 20mph Working Party – 20mph Zone for The Street, Fairlands and Sea Road**
3. **Minute 108/24 – Clerk’s Report – Item 6 – Meeting with WSCC Highways, 10th January**
4. **Minute 366/24 – West Sussex County Council**
5. **Minute 368/24 – Arun District Council - allotments**
6. **Minute 370/24 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for year-ending 31st March 2024**
7. **Minute 376/24 – West Sussex County Council – safety measures in Worthing Road**
8. **Minute 377/24 – Electrical Safety First**
9. **Minute 378/24 – Clerk’s Report – Item 8 – Social Media**

1. **Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 3rd June 2024.

2. **Minute 358/23 – 20mph Working Party – 20mph Zone for The Street, Fairlands and Sea Road**

No response from the head of WSCC Highways to our appeal letter sent on 22nd May. I will chase.

3. **Minute 108/24 – Clerk’s Report – Item 6 – Meeting with WSCC Highways, 10th January**

The pilot scheme has started. We have not had a lot of input yet.

4. **Minute 366/24 – West Sussex County Council**

Two days after the last meeting, this council received confirmation WSCC Highways would be represented at the Roundstone Level Crossing public meeting by Cllr Joy Dennis, Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport, and Charlotte Weller.

5. **Minute 368/24 – Arun District Council - allotments**

On 18th June, I had a telephone meeting with Johanne Batty, an ADC Housing Manager with some responsibility for allotments. East Preston is not the only allotment site in Arun which is still managed by ADC. However, some years ago, a decision was taken that ADC would hold no waiting lists and would enter into no new agreements with prospective tenants – basically the plots would no longer be hired out. On ADC sites, there is no regular maintenance carried out – the only maintenance on such sites is ad-hoc in response to a request from another tenant or, in our case, a District Councillor.

Johanne could not understand why, in 2021, we had been offered a lease on half of the site.

Following our conversation, Johanne will talk to her legal colleagues and will come back to us with some sort of proposal for the future that we can at least discuss. We agreed not to put a timescale on this in either direction. The legal options would be a long lease or a transfer of the site, and associated workload, to EPPC.

The meeting was useful and I feel much better for having actually spoken to someone on this topic. The call came about following a further push from District Cllr Kelly.

6. **Minute 370/24 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) for year-ending 31st March 2024**

After double-checking by Adrian and me, I sent the AGAR off to the External Auditor on 17th June. Our paperwork was scanned and returned to us on 19th June. We now wait to see what questions will be asked.

7. **Minute 376/24 – West Sussex County Council – safety measures in Worthing Road**

At its meeting on 10th June, Angmering Parish Council also agreed to support this proposal. Ms Dearing is now waiting for the General Election dust to settle before pursuing this further.

8. **Minute 377/24 – Electrical Safety First**

On 4th June, we received this email from Ron Bailey of Electrical Safety First:

Dear Simon,
Thank you for this – great news.
We don't have a standard press release but it seems a good idea. I will discuss and get back to you.
As regards other ways in which you can help, can you suggest other local organisations I should contact? Thank you
All the best
Ron

9. **Minute 378/24 – Clerk's Report – Item 8 – Social Media**

Regarding the tree works in Sea Road mentioned by Cllr Linton, on the day after the meeting, I contacted Andrew West at WSCC Highways. He replied on 6th June:

Good Morning Simon

The tree work in question was undertaken on the Mature Horse chestnut just opposite Fairlands near to the estate agents. The tree does have a decay fungi known as Ganoderma, which we are monitoring. (you can see the fruit body of the fungi at the base of the tree)
One symptom of this disorder is the crown dying back from the tips.
Prior to the work there was a large quantity of dead branches right at the top, many of which were over the carriageway. In addition the canopy was low over the footway and road and touching the adjacent building.
Part of the works was to raise the lower crown to the statutory height and shorten back from the building, but the main objective was to remove the dead material from the top.
This will firstly reduce the risk of anything falling to the road below, but also will aid our monitoring process.
Following the works, we are now able to better assess the rate of decline.
We wish to retain the tree for as long as is safely possible.

With regard to the point about nesting birds; our climbing contractor always checks whether there are nesting birds present before proceeding with works, and if there are, works will be postponed until such time as the bird have fledged and left the nest. This is in accordance with the Wildlife and Countryside Act, by which we are bound, and always adhere to.
I trust this information clarifies our position and helps formulate your response to the Councillor..

Kind regards

Andrew West
Arboriculturalist
Economy, Infrastructure and Environment
Highways and Transport
West Sussex County Council

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

Minute 363/24 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – East Preston Men in Sheds – the Clerk reported all councillors had been invited to the official opening of the East Preston Men in Sheds cabin. The Clerk further reported a previous conversation with a West Sussex County Council officer who had advised him the average length of time to get a Men in Sheds group up and running was three years; East Preston Men in Shed’s first meeting had been at the end of January 2022, meaning this shed had been set up in just over 2½ years. The meeting physically applauded this information.

489/24 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Accounts for June 2024 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

- 1878** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2024/25, value £2,214.62 (excl. VAT).
- 1879** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Regular Monthly Payments report for June 2024 totalling £1,047.73 (inc. VAT).
- 1880** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid report for June 2024 (totalling £46,810.86 (inc. VAT).
- 1881** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report for financial year to date totalling £174,291.88 (inc. VAT).

The council NOTED the Bank Reconciliations to 14th June 2024.

The council NOTED the Budget Summary for 2024/25 to date.

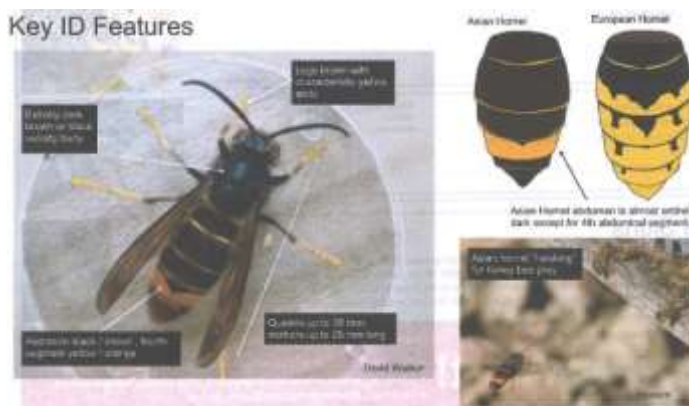
Cllr Toney thanked Mr Vyse, the council’s Book-keeper, for preparing the above reports. Cllr Gunston also thanked Mr Vyse and said the reports produced using Rialtus were easier to interpret than those produced by SAGE.

490/24 WEST SUSSEX BEEKEEPERS’ ASSOCIATION

Cllr Toney welcomed Rod Vincent who talked to the meeting about the threat of Asian hornets.

The following information is taken from a press release published by the British Beekeepers’ Association. Asian hornets pose the greatest threat to our native honeybees in a generation – one hornet can kill up to 50 honeybees a day. Experts warn they could have catastrophic consequences for the UK’s wider ecology. Asian hornets can become aggressive when defending nests, posing a risk to public health. More nests were discovered during 2023 than in the previous six years combined, Kent and the South East most predominantly affected. 2024 could be a crucial year in preventing these insects from becoming established in the UK.

The threat is not simply a threat to beekeepers. Asian hornet nests are often built in hedgerows and brambles, meaning disturbances by unsuspecting individuals could have dangerous consequences, especially for those allergic to bee and wasp stings. ‘Yellow-legged’ Asian hornets can be identified by their very distinct markings; they are a similar size to a European hornet, which is two or three times the size of a common wasp and are black with a distinct yellow lower leg.



Rod asked those present to download the Asian Hornet Watch app, and to report any sightings that way. Reports would be investigated by the National Bee Unit.

On leaving, Cllr Reigate thanked this council for having invited neighbouring councils to attend this talk. It was much appreciated.

(Mr Vincent, Mrs M and Cllrs Elkins, Joyce and Reigate all left the meeting at this point.)

491/24 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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

Committees

Since the last Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Amenities, Community Engagement, Major Events and Planning & Licensing. By the time of this meeting, the draft Minutes from all of these meeting should have been circulated to all councillors.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

Amenities Committee

The committee met on 20th May.

Cllr Wilkinson was re-elected Chairman, and Cllr Toney re-elected Vice Chairman.

Trees – the tree work highlighted in the 2023 tree inspection report is now complete. Earlier in the year tree work was carried out at the Village Green and Two Acres, but due to the weather work at Warren Recreation Ground was delayed. This work is now complete; the Sycamore tree by the Tennis Courts has been removed and the trees on the eastern boundary have all been pollarded back.

North Lane Bus Shelter – following the recent mysterious damage, the North Lane bus shelter has been removed. The shelter was donated to the Scouts, for its use at its Dapper Lane camp. Committee agreed not to replace the bus shelter immediately but to gauge public response regarding the need for a replacement shelter. WSCC Volunteers has shown its interest in building a new shelter at the same location.

Litter Bins – the Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP) requested two new litter bins after monitoring the amount of litter it collected during litter picks. Both bins have now been installed, one at the junction of Warren Crescent and Mill Pond Way and the other opposite Hares garage in North Lane. The EIWP has confirmed the bins are already being used.

The committee's next meeting will be on 12th August.

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

25th June 2024

Audit & Governance Committee

The committee did not meet in June. The committee will comprise the chairmen of the other six committees. So far, membership will be Cllrs Bowman (Planning & Licensing), Linton (Community

Engagement and Major Events), McElroy (Finance & General Purposes) and Wilkinson (Amenities). The Personnel Committee chairmanship will be decided early in July and then this committee will be able to choose its chairman too.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 15th July.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

Community Engagement Committee

The committee met on 10th June.

Cllr Linton was re-elected Chairman of the committee with Cllr Duff re-elected Vice-Chairman.

Some of what was discussed follows:

Playschemes – the committee agreed to contract Sussex Forest Activities to provide a playscheme in the Autumn half-term.

East Preston Festival – the council's contributions to this year's Festival had all been well-received. Although the council's Tuesday afternoon slot had previously only been every other year, the committee was keen to find something similar to the Alpacas visit for that same slot.

The council had raised £80.79 for the local RNLI during the Carnival Parade.

Following the success of the *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* event, the committee is considering whether to make this event a full part of the Festival Committee's Community Event next year. This would involve a degree of rotation for councillors.

Roundstone Level Crossing meeting – since the committee meeting, we have been able to confirm this meeting will be attended by West Sussex County Council Highways. Cllrs Chapman, Duff, Toney, Gunston, Wilkinson and I are happy to work out how the evening will run.

Newsletter, Summer 2024 – the committee considered content for the next paper newsletter.

An Introduction to East Preston map – just a final thank-you to Cllr Gunston and his small team of helpers for pulling together this map which has been well-received around the village.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

12th June 2024

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in June.

The committee's next meeting will be on 19th August.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24th June 2024

Major Events Committee

The committee met on 17th June.

Cllr Linton was re-elected Chairman of the committee with Cllr Toney re-elected Vice-Chairman.

Some of what was discussed follows:

The Big D-Day Lunch, 2nd June – this event had been very well-received by the public. As a collaboration between the council, the Festival Committee and the British Legion, the committee understood there were some lessons to be learned.

Preparations for the East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 24th August, and East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 23rd November, are all on-track.

The committee is also preparing an event around the public unveiling of the East Preston Yarnbombers' poppy cascade on 26th October. This is affectionately being called P-Day. Cllr Linton is to meet soon with a representative of the Yarnbombers in order to get a clearer idea of how the event will look.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th June 2024

Personnel Committee

The committee did not meet in June.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 15th July.

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

24th June 2024

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met twice during June. At its first meeting of the new council year, Cllr Bowman was elected Chairman and Cllr Bradshaw was elected Vice-Chairman.

At its meetings on both 10th and 24th June, the committee considered two Applications, and raised no objections to either.

The Neighbourhood Plan review is progressing.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 8th July.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

Additionally:

Amenities – the Clerk reported a bench in the south-east corner of the Village Green had likely been vandalised over the weekend, it's back broken beyond repair.

Community Engagement - Cllr Linton had contacted two petting zoos with a view to getting them to attend next year's Festival. Both had turned down the invitation, one saying the location was out of area even though it would be attending The Spotted Cow in Angmering next month.

Planning & Licensing – Cllr Bowman reported the meeting scheduled for 8th July was no longer needed and had been replaced by a meeting of the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan review steering group.

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

492/24 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

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

Working Parties

The Conservative Hall and Environmental Initiatives Working Parties met in June.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

20mph Working Party

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this committee.

As reported last month, the council has submitted an appeal to Michele Hulme, WSCC Highways Head of Local Highways Operations, to review the dismissal of the proposal for a 20mph zone covering Sea Road north to the junction of North Lane with Lashmar Road. Several contradictions were found within the reasons for dismissal. At the time of writing, no acknowledgment of our letter has been received.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

Conservative Hall Working Party (CHWP)

The working party met on 17th June. Cllr Wilkinson was elected chairman.

The working party agreed an architect should be contracted to provide some idea of the potential of the building. The working party suggested an initial chat should be had with the architects being used by Rustington Parish Council for the remodelling of the Woodlands Centre. I have made an initial approach.

The working party is meeting again on 8th July. At that meeting it will add more detail to the Business Plan document I have started.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24th June 2024

Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP)

The working party met on 24th June.

Our well-attended meeting was to discuss the Neighbourhood Plan and we covered a range of topics that we believed could be added to the latest version. Energy efficiency, water, clean air and heat were all potential areas for inclusion and we also had some ideas for additions to the sections covering sustainable traffic and transport, open spaces, allotments, local shops and community facilities. There was enthusiastic agreement to ask Arun if they would be willing to rent unused allotment plots to a community allotment group. We will be collating our ideas for submission to the Neighbourhood Plan Working Party. Several members of the group expressed an interest in attending a meeting between both working parties.

Elsewhere, the second session of the East Preston Repair Café took place on 15th June. 25 items brought in - 11 were repaired, 4 were taken home to be brought back next time and only 10 were not able to be fixed. We collected £55.70 to be put towards the hire of the hall and cost of consumable items and once again the feedback comments were excellent. Cllr Hill posted some pictures on East Preston, West Sussex Community facebook page and, at the time of writing, we have 140 likes.

Some comments posted below the facebook photos:

“Fantastic - what a community ♡”

“We enjoyed our visit even though the toaster was not fixable! Credit to the hard working volunteers- and the lemon drizzle cake was fab!”

“Thank you for fixing my radio! A wonderful community spirit!”

“Well done to all the volunteers, you are stars ✨”

What a great result. Well done team. The next session will be on 13th July, after which we will have a break and reconvene on 14th September. By then, we may need to have had a conversation about how we can increase throughput.



Sam and Lindy repairing a pair of matching Tiggers (photograph courtesy of Cllr Helen Hill)

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

25th June 2024

Leases Working Party

No update on the negotiations with East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club. The ball is currently in the club's court.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

Additionally:

20mph – the Clerk confirmed he had chased Michele Hulme at WSCC Highways, and she had replied on 28th June, “Hi Simon, apologies. I can acknowledge receipt. There isn’t an appeal process as such but I have asked my Ops Manager, Charlotte Weller to review this case and feedback to me. I will come back to you as soon as I can”.

Environmental Initiatives Working Party – Cllr Gunston reminded those present the next Repair Café session would be on Saturday, 13th July.

The REACH project had been awarded £40,000 for a feasibility study. He did not yet know how that would impact upon the council.

The notes from the working party’s meeting on 24th June had been reviewed by working party members and were ready to be passed over to Cllr Bowman and the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan review steering group.

Cllr Gunston concluded by expressing his disappointment at ADC’s apparent attitude towards its allotment portfolio. He advised he and the Clerk were discussing other avenues into ADC to talk about allotments. The Clerk said the working party’s request for a community allotment had been forwarded to Richard Tomkinson, ADC Group Head of Housing, Wellbeing & Communities, who was due to meet Cllr Gunston in early August to talk about REACH. Councillors said they were “shocked,” “appalled,” and “flabbergasted” at the situation. Mrs D and Mrs M said they felt the same. Cllr Bowman said the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan review steering group hoped ADC would designate the site as Open Space giving it a degree of protection in line with ADC’s own objectives about protecting and promoting allotments.

There were no updates from the council’s other working parties.

493/24 SUSSEX POLICE

There was no police information to note.

494/24 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. *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, 1st June***
- 6. *Alpacas on the Village Green, 4th June***
- 7. *D-Day lantern-lighting, 6th June***
- 8. *Community Speed Watch, 11th June***

9. **Social media**
10. **MailChimp stats**
11. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
12. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
13. **Leave**
14. **July meetings and events**

1. **Introduction**

This is the report mainly covering June 2024 and matters which may not arise elsewhere on the agenda.

2. **Police matters**

Two incidents of reportedly dangerous driving in St Mary's Drive have been reported to Sussex Police on behalf of a resident. The resident was also advised to report these and further instances on Operation Crackdown, although that may prove too time-consuming for the resident. No Sussex Police response as yet.

3. **Anti-social behaviour (ASB) matters**

On 5th June, Caspar reported, not for the first time, finding a used incontinence pad left near the cricket pavilion on the Warren Recreation Ground. We have asked the Martlets whether this could, somehow, be coming from their grounds, but they have said not and have sent a photograph of the much-larger incontinence pads they use. This mystery remains unsolved for now. Thankfully it does not happen often.

The following day, Caspar reported human faeces deposited behind the bus shelter in Worthing Road. We agreed to leave this for the rain to disperse.

The unneighbourly behaviour reported at the end of last year has been resolved by the misbehaving resident being put into a home by the family. As I suggested to the neighbour at the time, the behaviour was probably the onset of dementia.

We have received just one report about a homeless man setting up a tent on Langmeads Field. His case has been directed to the ADC Homeless Outreach team. A member of the public has reported to me a conversation she had with him in which he explained he has recently become homeless following a bereavement. He has apparently bought a bike, and once that has been built to his specification, he will be heading off to travel around the country.

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

No Freedom of Information requests received since the last report.

No Data Protection requests received since the last report.

5. **Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, 1st June**

For the first time, the council chose to run this event on a Saturday morning, coinciding with the East Preston Festival Community Market, which was taking place on the Village Green. Alongside the tables at which councillors catted to residents, members of the Environmental Initiatives

Working Party chatted to members of the public about its work and handed out copies of the *Historic East Preston* walking map.

Although it felt busier, councillors chatted to the same number of residents as they would usually. Cllr Chapman had made shortbread which was popular. The issues raised will form an article in the Summer 2024 Newsletter, as has happened in the past.

All thirteen councillors took part at some time during the event.



Cllrs Toney and Hill chatting to Mrs Helen Smith

6. **Alpacas on the Village Green, 4th June**

The weather was dodgy, overcast and threatening to rain throughout, but that did not stop a good number of members of the public attending this event. No written feedback anywhere, just lots of happy faces around and about.



Three alpacas meeting their public

7. **D-Day lantern-lighting, 6th June**

The landlady of the Tudor Tavern, Tanya Maidens, acquired two official D-Day 80th Anniversary lanterns, and organised a lighting ceremony for 21:15 on 6th June.

The inside of the pub was full to bursting and a good number of local residents assembled in front of the pub and on the other side of Sea Road.

Reverend Andrew Perry spoke some words in memory of those who lost their lives in the D-Day landings ahead of Tanya lighting the lanterns. This was followed by Lorna Osborne leading those assembled in some community singing of appropriate war-time songs.

Also attending were Cllrs Gunston, Linton and Toney.



Another moving ceremony. much appreciated by those present (photograph courtesy of Christina Iden)

8. **Community Speed Watch, 11th June**

I carried out a Community Speed Watch shift in The Street with Keith Harris and John Wintle. At this particular location, the team can only monitor southbound traffic. We were there from 17:00 for an hour and recorded 99 southbound vehicle movements. Almost all drivers were driving within the speed limit, but one was reported to Sussex Police for travelling at 37mph.

Local residents were chatty and supportive, although a couple had ideas for how patrols could be better. When Sussex Police guidance was explained, they were partially mollified. No verbal abuse but some sarcastic slowing right down by drivers as they passed.

9. **Social media**

Here are the council's Facebook posts in June which reached more than 500 people.

- Post alerting members of the public to the temporary closure of North Lane by Southern Water – 3,913 people
- Reminder for the annual Stoolball Club vs Junior School match – 1,907
- Post for found set of keys, reunited with its owner – 1,343
- Reminder *Alpacas on the Village Green* was due to start in an hour – 711
- A post of the near-completed East Preston Men in Sheds cabin – 613

(posts up to and including 24th June)

The number of Followers is currently 1,868, no change from the last report.

10. **MailChimp stats**

Since the last papers were issued, the council has sent out the following email to local residents on the council's main e-mailing list:

Parish Council news – 30th May – sent to 929 subscribers, opened by 667 (72%)

Parish Council news – 6th June – sent to 929 subscribers, opened by 655 (70.7%)

Parish Council news – 13th June – sent to 931 subscribers, opened by 641 (69.1%)

Parish Council news – 19th June – sent to 933 subscribers, opened by 652 (70.1%)

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

“We found a dead fox in the garden, apparently shot, who should we tell?” (Sussex Police, in case they have had other reports and can deduce a pattern.)

“How can I get help for my adult relative? I’m very worried about how she is living.” (Alison helped the resident to contact WSCC Adult Social Care.)

“I have tried reporting an overflowing dog bin to ADC, but they say it is not theirs. Can you help?” (A visit to the bin confirmed it was an old-style ADC dog bin. I escalated its overflowing state and asked for it to be replaced with a modern, larger-capacity plastic bin.)

12. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident of Russells Close, referring to the Community Market, “I enjoyed Saturday and the one lovely image that will stay in my mind was the group of children and adults of all ages, with some in wheelchairs-all totally engrossed watching the 'Punch and Judy' show. Wonderful! A glorious step back in time and still so obviously loved.”

The resident who called in asking about help for her adult relative called in again the following day to thank Alison for the help she had given, describing it as “above and beyond.”

Seasalt in Chichester, from which we obtained our main Festival window display items, thanked us for having sent a thank-you letter.

The council received the following email from Janine Nicholson, the Chairman of the Festival Committee, “On behalf of the Festival Committee, I would like to thank the Parish Council for the grant of £2000 which will pay our annual insurance and help to finance the children’s entertainment at the Festival Community Fete. **East Preston Festival 2024 has to be the biggest and the best yet with all the events and activities receiving incredible support from the village.** Helping us in the way you do means that every year you contribute hugely to its success and we are very grateful for your generosity and community spirit. Oh, and also for your lovely comments in this month’s *All About East Preston* magazine which are very much appreciated by us all.”

From the resident who reported the overflowing dog bin, “Well done. Thank you so much. You're a star!”

13. **Leave**

According to our Timetastic tool, Dawn is on leave on 1st July. No other leave has been booked at the time of writing.

14. **July Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 1st Full Council (18:30, East Preston Infant School)
- 4th General Election
- 8th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Conservative Hall Working Party (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 10th Society of Local Council Clerks quarterly meeting (tbc) (SC only)
Roundstone Level Crossing public meeting (18:30 for 19:00, East Preston Junior School)
- 12th Preschool Picnic (13:00, Warren Recreation Ground) (AC and LD only)
- 13th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, Vicarage Lane)
- 15th Personnel Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 16th Society of Local Council Clerks local monthly meeting (11:00, Littlehampton) (SC and DR only)
- 22nd Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 26th Sussex Police Clerks' Call (10:30, online) (SC only)

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**

25th June 2024

Item 2 – Police Matters – in response to a question from Cllr Linton, the Clerk explained the dangerous driving in St Mary's Drive was being reported as excessive speed. Sussex Police were aware of the details and had recommended the reporter reported this through Operation Crackdown. The Clerk had made an appointment during which he would help the reported raise this via the Operation Crackdown website.

Item 9 – Social Media – Cllr Linton asked the final score of the stoolball match. The Clerk replied East Preston Stoolball Club had won 177 to 108. The Clerk further reported the Stoolball Club had had articles published in council publications in the past.

495/24 EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note any reports. Where a written report is not included below, please expect a verbal report at the meeting.

ADC Climate Action Day, 6th June

ADC Civic Centre, Littlehampton

ADC hosted this event which was run by the Centre for Sustainable Energy and attended by 15 other Parish Councils.

A presentation on climate change was followed by a session on flooding.

A number of useful tools for measuring parish carbon footprints and engaging with parishioners as well as some examples of what other councils are doing to help mitigate the effects of climate change were presented. We shared ideas for actions on how to tackle issues around transport, buildings, waste and the natural environment. These ideas will be collated and made available in

the feedback pack. We should be able to discuss these at our next EIWP meeting and include some of them in the Neighbourhood Plan.

I was pleased at how many of the suggestions this council had already actioned or had in its sights.

Cllr John Gunston –

10th June 2024

Chairman, Environmental Initiatives Working Party

Arun Community Transport AGM, 19th June

Dove Lodge, Littlehampton

I attended the above meeting on behalf of EPPC. I had very little prior knowledge of this charity; I was happy they commenced with background information, this provided a clear picture which gave me a focus.

This charity is in its fifth year, the community project aims are to provide reliable and reasonably priced transport for local residents who would normally find public transport difficult to use for many reasons. Annual membership at present costs £5.00.

The service currently supports in excess of 1,200 clients to access hospital/clinic and GP appointments. They can also provide transport for social and shopping trips. Where possible clients can link in with the same volunteer driver, building a rapport that can also be a support for listening to vulnerable people. The service can promote client independence, address social isolation and have a positive effect on clients' wellbeing and mental health, signposting clients to other community projects, clubs and activities.

Volunteer drivers can offer whatever free time they have; some of these drivers live alone too and providing this service enables them to interact with their local community while offering a very valuable service. Volunteer drivers are considered "the backbone of the operation". For the charity to meet the ever-growing needs of the community, the charity is always looking for volunteer drivers as without them no-one is going anywhere. Drivers are expected to use their own cars and mileage is paid at a good rate of 45p per mile.

The charity has very recently acquired a wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV), this will enable the service to offer wheelchair-users much-needed freedom within their community. Volunteer drivers for this vehicle would receive in-house training from the charity.

Over the last year this charity has registered over 250 new clients, they have provided a driver for over 7,200 trips and recruited 5 new drivers. From a proactive perspective, the charity plans to attend multiple community events to include a volunteer fair, local fetes, social media by advertising in GP surgeries and Hospitals waiting rooms. There is a drive to collaborate with local organisations and local Parish Councils.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer driver for this charity or require more information regarding services please contact:

Arun Community Transport.

Email info@actransport.org.uk

Tel 01903 792110.

I have attended a few community meetings and I have to say the enthusiasm, commitment and professional attitude within this charity is outstanding. I wish the charity good luck for the future.

Cllr Helen Hill

28th June 2024

Cllr Gunston said the workshop had listed a number of suggestions town and parish councils council try. The few this council was not already running or had tried would be discussed at the next EIWP meeting.

Cllr Hill admitted she had initially not realised she had agreed to attend a meeting about community transport, but once there had found it very informative and inspiring. Cllr Hill stated that of the 26 towns and parishes which made use of the service, East Preston was the third busiest, only topped by Littlehampton and Rustington. During the reporting year, 75 East Preston clients had undertaken a total of 495 journeys. These were not limited to medical trips but also included social outings. Cllr Hill said she had been impressed by the group's cohesion and staff loyalty.

496/24 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Nothing was raised.

497/24 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (2ND SEPTEMBER)

Nothing new was suggested.

(Mrs D and Mrs M left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

498/24 CONSERVATIVE HALL

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

Future of the Conservative Hall

Council is asked to resolve to exclude the press and public from the rest of the meeting. In line with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public are to be asked to leave the meeting at this point, allowing the following discussion to be held confidentially.

Council is asked to consider the next steps related to the future of the Conservative Hall

As reported above, the working party agreed an architect should be contracted to provide some idea of the potential of the building. The working party suggested an initial chat should be had with the architects being used by Rustington Parish Council for the remodelling of the Woodlands Centre. I have made an initial approach.

The working party is meeting again on 8th July. At that meeting it will add more detail to the Business Plan document I have started.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2024

The Clerk said there was little to update the meeting. Ricky Bower was his current contact for the Trustees and had said he would call in to see the Clerk the day after this meeting. This meeting AGREED unanimously to cancel the Conservative Hall Working Party meeting scheduled for 8th July, as the Trustees were only having a meeting on 9th July which may give rise to matters needing urgent discussion by the working party.

After some further general discussion on this topic, the meeting concluded at 20.01.

Chairman: *Cllr Steve Toney* Date: **2nd September 2024**

END