

**MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL**

**2ND SEPTEMBER 2024 at
18:30**

SUPPORTING PAPERS

Please note not every Agenda Item will have a supporting paper.

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Agenda Item 6

Minutes of Monthly Full Council meeting, 1st July

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 2nd July, asking for suggested amendments by 9th July. None were received. Cllr Moore replied, "I have carefully read the draft Minutes and found them a true reflection of the meeting."

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

23rd August 2024

Agenda Item 7

Monthly Update Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 366/24 – West Sussex County Council**
- 3. Minute 368/24 – Arun District Council - allotments**
- 4. Minute 490/24 – West Sussex Beekeepers' Association**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 1st July 2024.

2. Minute 366/24 – West Sussex County Council

As councillors will be aware, on the night, Cllr Joy Dennis, WSCC Cabinet Member for Highways & Transport was unable to attend the Roundstone Level Crossing meeting owing to ill health.

3. Minute 368/24 – Arun District Council - allotments

On 25th June, following an Environmental Initiatives Working Party meeting, I submitted a request to Johanne Batty for ADC to consider a community allotment at the Roundstone site. Apart from an immediate acknowledgement, I have heard nothing further on this matter. As

you will see from Cllr Gunston's report at Agenda Item 11c below, there has been a further, higher-level conversation about allotments.

4. Minute 490/24 – West Sussex Beekeepers' Association

Members of the public present for Mr Vincent's talk were complimentary and we received a request from Rustington WI for Mr Vincent's contact details so he could give them a similar talk.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th August 2024

Agenda Item 9

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 meetings should have been circulated to all councillors.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

27th August 2024

Agenda Item 9a

Amenities Committee

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 12th August.

Public Seating – A new composite memorial bench has been installed on the western boundary of the Village Green. The Norman and Ann Brown memorial bench has replaced one of the council's old wooden benches.

Two new composite benches have been installed at the Northern shops. The two benches are identical to the two 'Happy to Chat' benches already located at the shops. The council's logo and name are on the side of the benches.

Children's Playground – The annual ROSPA inspection took place in June 2024. This year's inspection report was received in August and the report indicates that very little remedial work is required.

Outdoor gym equipment – the current outdoor gym equipment is coming to the end of its life. Committee is looking at a rig type replacement with individual stations as has recently been installed at Mewsbrook Park. Cllr McElroy and I met with a supplier today to see what is possible.

The committee's next meeting will be on 11th November.

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

27th August 2024

Agenda Item 9b

Audit & Governance Committee

The committee met on 15th July.

Cllr Mathias was co-opted to fill the one vacancy on the committee and was then re-elected Chairman. Cllr McElroy was re-elected Vice Chairman.

The committee carried out the annual review of its Terms of Reference and agreed no changes were required. The committee also carried out the annual review of the council's Terms of Reference and agreed no changes were required.

Cllrs Mathias and McElroy volunteered to meet with the Internal Auditor, Andy Beams, Mulberry Local Authority Services, when he next visits.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 18th November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th August 2024

Agenda Item 9c

Community Engagement Committee

Cllr Linton is chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 22nd July.

Some of what was discussed follows:

Roundstone Level Crossing meeting, 10th July – the committee felt the meeting had been successful and was aware interested parties were working on various matters in the background, all designed to improve life in the village. Representatives of the council will attend a follow-up, online meeting with stakeholders in early October.

Playschemes – the committee agreed to suggest Tuesday, 29th October to Sussex Forest Activities for a half-day playscheme.

St Mary the Virgin Christmas Tree Festival 2024 – the committee agreed the council should again sponsor a tree. Cllrs Chapman and Duff will again lead on the tree decorations and will be happy to hear any suggestions you have.

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

Warm Welcome Space – understanding some locations start their winter Warm Welcome Spaces in October, the committee agreed that would not be the case in East Preston this year.

The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for 23rd September.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th August 2024

Agenda Item 9d

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 19th August. Representatives of the following three organisations attended: East Preston Festival Committee, 1st East Preston Scout Group, Sea Road Beach Access Limited.

The Festival Committee simply wanted to update the council on its ambitions to become a Community Interest Company (CIC) which will give committee members better protection. The 1st East Preston Scout Group were successful in applying for a donation from the council’s Greener Buildings Fund to help with installing solar panels on the Scout Hall. A decision upon a grant request for help with materials for the Sea Road Beach Access project was deferred pending further research by the council.

The committee considered and agreed a request for “a contribution of £100 towards the core funding costs of Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice.” The grant will “enable us to develop our digital platforms”.

The committee deferred a request from ADC for assistance in funding an upgraded skatepark at Lashmar Rec.. The committee has asked ADC to provide greater detail on the proposals.

The committee noted a new Fire Risk Assessment had been carried out by the Village Hall Foundation committee. Cllrs Toney and Wilkinson agreed to be available for any discussions resulting from the exercise.

The committee agreed all three PIR sensors in the Council Office should be replaced. This is scheduled for the morning of 3rd September.

The committee’s next meeting will be on 18th November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

23rd August 2024

Agenda Item 9e

Major Events Committee

The committee met on 19th August.

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

Some of what was discussed follows:

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

As councillors will be aware, a very reluctant decision was taken on the morning of the Food & Drink Festival to cancel it because the weather simply was not on our side, nor likely to improve in time. Thanks to Cllrs Chapman and Bowman and Dawn for ringing around all the stallholders, some of whom were, perhaps understandably, less than gracious in learning of our decision. That said, one of the ungracious still came to the Village Green to see the situation for himself and he then contacted Alison to apologise for his earlier attitude and to say he agreed the right decision had been made. For probably only the second time, I sent out a second e-newsletter within a calendar week, advising recipients of the cancellation of the event. This elicited a nice number of emails all of which supported the council's decision, many recognising how much work the council had put into the event. Not all the Facebook comments were as understanding, but it's easy to be a keyboard warrior and talk absolute nonsense. Thanks also to Cllr Linton for arranging for an email to be sent to all members of the tennis club. The committee is having a debrief / feedback meeting on Friday, 30th.

The committee agreed a proposed date for the next Funday Sunday, 27th April, and I have submitted a booking request to the Village Hall for that date. If the 27th is unavailable, the next best date would be 13th April.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 21st October.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

27th August 2024

Agenda Item 9f

Personnel Committee

The committee met on 15th July.

I was re-elected chairman of the committee and Cllr Gale newly elected vice-chairman.

Personnel met this month and discussed mental health training for council. We are currently looking at an online option called "conversations in the community" provided by Mind. <https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/helping-someone-else/conversations-in-the-community/>

Committee also agreed to taking out HR support for the next 5 years to support us all with legislation changes and best practice.

We discussed movement of councillors around committees and groups and that we would encourage all councillors to visit a meeting they may not have attended to increase our knowledge and experience in different areas. Please consider this in the next few months.

The committee agreed councillors attending event should only wear hi-vis whilst they are actually and officially on duty. To do anything else could confuse members of the public.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 14th October.

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

17th July 2024

Agenda Item 9g

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 meeting on 22nd July, the committee considered four Applications and agreed not to raise any objections. At its meeting on 12th August, the committee considered three Applications and agreed not to raise any objections. At its meeting on 27th August, the committee agreed not to object to the three Applications put before them, two being for the same property in Sea Road.

The Neighbourhood Plan review is progressing. The Steering Group has secured a further grant of £2,477 towards the costs of the review.

Although not deemed worthy of the status of an official local council consultee, this council has submitted comments, via Kingston PC, to the ADC consultation on proposals for new beach huts. Although proposed to be located in Kingston, vehicular access would be via East Preston as closer roads are private.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 9th September.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th August 2024

Agenda Item 10a

Personnel Committee – HR support

Council is asked to agree to a five-year contract with Council HR and Governance Support for the provision of HR support to the council.

At its meeting on 15th July, the committee reconsidered purchasing this support for the council. Following the change of government at the beginning of July, a lot of HR changes are predicted for the first year. The committee agreed to recommend to Full Council purchase of the five-year package, which is the most cost-effective. The cost to the council will be £1,400 per year.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

16th July 2024

Agenda Item 11

Working Parties

The Conservative Hall and Environmental Initiatives Working Parties met in July and August respectively.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

27th August 2024

Agenda Item 11a

20mph Working Party

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this committee.

The appeal the council had submitted to Michele Hulme, WSCC Highways Head of Local Highways Operations, has been rejected. A meeting of the working party on the evening of 27th August, agreed to pursue the same original Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) request but as a Community Highways Scheme (CHS) as financially the proposal is above the threshold for a TRO. This pursuit will depend upon the results of speed surveys, see Agenda Item 12a below.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th August 2024

Agenda Item 11b

Conservative Hall Working Party (CHWP)

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman of this working party.

On 17th July, I found an email, sent to my old email address on 11th July. A letter from the Trustees was attached, advising the council of a branch committee meeting which had taken place on 9th July, “At that meeting the Committee resolved to withdraw the offer to transfer the freehold of the Hall to the Parish Council and instructed the Trustees to act accordingly, hence this letter.”

On 26th July, a For Sale board was erected at the Conservative Hall.

The Working Party met on 29th August, and agreed Cllrs Wilkinson and Linton should offer to meet with the Trustees. To date, the Trustees have not agreed to meet with any council representatives.

Agenda Item 11c

Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP)

The working party met on 12th August.

We discussed a number of new projects. Following a meeting with Arun District Council (see below) we will be contacting Worthing Allotment Management who manage allotments in Worthing to find out how we may be able to set up an association to manage East Preston allotments.

Other actions included speaking to the Tennis Club about rain gardens, finding out where hedgehogs are in the village, production of green wheelie bin storage systems and producing plans for a pilot verge project.

The REACH solar panel and battery project now has a project manager and Rustington will be holding a public meeting to launch the project on Wednesday 2nd October at the Samuel Wickins Centre at 7pm.

Next meeting Monday 30th September 7pm.

+ + +

The third session of the East Preston Repair Café took place on 13th July, and was as popular as the two previous sessions have been. The commemorative plate which had first been brought along to the June session, was brought back and carefully repaired by Mark. This plate was part of a collection for a local resident suffering with dementia but able to take much joy from the full collection. Just a few of the other items through the door were a toaster, a violin and an electric golf trolley.



A real team effort, including our own Lisa, helped to weave a basket back to full health.

+ + +

On 13th August, together with Simon Cross and Alex Tatham from Community Infrastructure I met Richard Tomkinson the Group Head of Housing for Arun District Council. We ran through the details of the REACH project and Richard asked us to send him a proposal to present to the relevant committee with a view to including Arun's housing stock in the project. We have now sent details to Richard and should hear back from him in November.

Richard confirmed that he will be visiting the site in East Preston to assess if it can be used for development as the land is not yet designated as allotments. As Arun DC does not have the manpower to manage allotments Richard would welcome a proposal to manage the plots from a "friends of" group. We will consider this proposal at the next meeting of the Environmental Working Party.

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

23rd August 2024

Agenda Item 11d

Leases Working Party

No update on the negotiations with East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club. The club has submitted a counter-proposal, but the working party has not yet been able to meet to consider a response.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22nd August 2024

Agenda Item 12a

Working Parties

Council is asked to agree to fund traffic speed surveys in Sea Road and The Street, at a cost of approximately £700, this to be funded from the council's contingency budget line for this financial year.

Cllr Wilkinson to lead on this item.

In support of the council's request for a 20mph speed limit on The Street, Sea Road and Fairlands, the working party would like up-to-date traffic speed data for The Street and Sea Road. WSCC Highways no longer provides such information for local councils, but will allow external companies to undertake such work. In the past, this council has used Obtrada for this work, and it is to it we would turn again. We last used Obtrada in January 2023, at which time each survey cost £250 (excl. VAT), with a £75 fee payable to WSCC.

Likely impact upon reducing crime and disorder – difficult to say.

Likely impact upon the environment – ultimately the data received may lead to the successful implementation of a 20mph speed limit on three roads in the village, which will be good for the environment.

Agenda Item 15

Sussex Police

Council is asked to note any report from Sussex Police should one be received.

Agenda Item 16

Clerk's Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**
4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
5. **Society of Local Council Clerks' monthly networking meeting, 16th July**
6. **East Preston Men in Sheds, opening reception, 2nd August**
7. **East Preston & Kingston Horticultural Society Summer Show, 3rd August**
8. **Community Speed Watch team meeting, 15th August**
9. **Waves Music Therapy charity fun day, 17th August**
10. **East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation Annual General Meeting, 17th August**
11. **Community Speed Watch, 21st August**
12. **Social media**
13. **MailChimp stats**
14. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
15. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
16. **Leave**
17. **September meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. **Police matters**

Concerns about youths smoking cannabis in the south-eastern corner of the Warren Recreation Ground have been passed to Sussex Police.

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

The homeless man continues to live on Langmeads Field, now causing concern to at least two local residents. I have emailed the ADC Homeless Outreach team twice, but received no acknowledgement. I understand the team is rarely office-based, feel I could have received an acknowledgement by now, my first email having been sent on 17th July.

As mentioned in the item above, there are concerns about cannabis-smoking in the Warren Rec, and this has also been submitted as a case to the ADC anti-social behaviour team.

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. **Society of Local Council Clerks' monthly networking meeting, 16th July**

Dawn and I attended this meeting which took place at the offices of Littlehampton Town Council. Councils in Arun and Chichester districts were represented, ranging in size from Littlehampton itself down to Apuldram.

Steve Hill attended from West Sussex County Council Highways. He talked about the pilot scheme in which this council is a participant. The pilot scheme had been underway for about a month by the time of the meeting, and I was not alone in being a bit confused about what its objective is, so we talked about that.

The infrequency and standard of grass-cutting around the county. One village reported not only had the grass-cutting team gone through a designated wild meadow for the second year running, it had also mowed only half of a roundabout. Steve suggested communities feeling there is a need for more grass cuts each year should lobby their county councillors. Interestingly, this had happened on Facebook on the afternoon before the meeting when some residents published a call to arms on the subject of insufficient grass-cutting and how much of a problem this can be for some dogs.

Steve also talked about a pilot in West Sussex called Greenprint. This is one of seven schemes across the country, centrally-funded, working on converting grass cuttings into biofuels and suchlike. If the pilot is successful, the future may see more grass-cuts per season than the five we have currently.

All councils seem to have trouble getting contractors to provide quotes and to commit to works.

WSSCC has appointed a new officer to oversee the installation of electric vehicle charging points (EVCs) in the county. He is now looking at provision of on-street points and I have asked councillors to suggest possible locations in the village. Closing date for suggestions is the end of this month.

6. East Preston Men in Sheds, opening reception, 2nd August

Councillors and officers were invited to attend the official opening reception of the East Preston Men in Sheds shed, as recognition of the support the council has given this initiative from the outset. The following attended: Cllrs Toney, Linton, Bradshaw, Duff, Gale, Gunston, Hill, Mathias and Moore whilst I was joined on the officer side by Dawn and Alison.

The reception was held in the Miller Barn. After an initial speech by the group's Chairman, Neil Ellis, everyone was invited outside to admire the shed. Tony Page then took over in order to thank two people who the group felt had been intrinsic to getting the group to this point. One was me but, more importantly, the other was our own Pat Gander who was given the honour of cutting the ribbon to the shed. Pat also made her own, emotionally-charged speech, Pat being the councillor who initially wanted to pursue the idea of setting up a shed in the village.

Following the speeches, attendees were able to see inside the shed and admire its range of equipment.



Photograph courtesy of Littlehampton Gazette

7. East Preston & Kingston Horticultural Society Summer Show, 3rd August

This annual event took place on the Warren Recreation Ground in less than ideal weather.

Entries were possible in over 100 classes covering flowers, crafts, fruit and vegetables, baking and confectionery and photography. Although a few classes had only one entrant, most classes were well supported.

Celia Buckley, Chairman of the Horticultural Society, reported, "There were 53 exhibitors and 391 exhibits. We can only estimate the number of visitors in the afternoon because we charge £1 for adults and 50p for children (young children free). We took £317 on the gate and the majority will have been adults."

Additionally, outdoors was a number of stalls including groups such as East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society, Friends of St Mary's, The Baytree Club, Worthing MENCAP, and entertainment was provided by Robbie the Magician and a silver band.



Just a few examples from the Summer Show

8. Community Speed Watch team meeting, 15th August

I attended the regular Community Speed Watch team meeting, at which the shifts for the coming few months are populated and the group discusses various related matters.

The main news was Keith Harris's decision to stop being coordinator after about six years. The meeting agreed Keith had achieved much in that time. Keith himself felt he had given the initiative all he had to give it, and it was time for a new coordinator to move the group forward. Keith will continue to work with the council on whatever variation of the 20mph zone the council next puts forward to WSCC Highways.

9. Waves Music Therapy charity fun day, 17th August

I popped in to the very start of this event. Councillors will already be aware Waves Music Therapy is based in East Preston and provides music therapy for people of all ages.

This event was run in conjunction with Melanie Martin of the SALT Kiosk and is believed to have not only raised the profile of the charity, but also raised money for both Waves Music Therapy and for the Reach the Beach initiative.

10. East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation Annual General Meeting, 17th August

From the Waves event, I went straight to the Village Hall for the Foundation's Annual General Meeting. Cllrs Bowman and McElroy also attended, and Cllr Toney had given his apologies.

Four of the existing Trustees were re-elected: Toni McElroy, Nicola Adams, Liz Taggart and John Penny. The fifth, Roy Allen, stood down for personal reasons as advised at last year's Annual General Meeting. On behalf of the council, I thanked the whole committee for the good work they had completed over the year in running the hall, and then I thanked Roy too for the good work he has done as Premises Manager for just over five years. Members of the public, hirers, also thanked Roy for his excellent service to the Village Hall.

Roy's resignation means the committee is now down to just four members. I have suggested to the Chairman, Toni, we run a Use It or Lose It type article in the Autumn 2024 Newsletter. Although people are using it, too few are helping to run it. Roy gave a list of tasks which individuals could take on such as weekly fire alarm testing and monthly emergency lighting testing. If responsible people could be found to take on these tasks, it would help greatly.

A few comments were made about the future of the Conservative Hall, but I did not get the impression people at the meeting were that fussed.

11. Community Speed Watch, 21st August

I carried out a Community Speed Watch shift in Sea Road with Keith Harris and Danny Reginiano. At this location, the team can monitor traffic in both directions. We were there from 09:00 for an hour and recorded 222 vehicle movements. Almost all drivers were driving within the speed limit, but one was reported to Sussex Police for travelling at 36mph.

Only one resident really had any advice for the team, and she believed our time would be better spent tackling petty vandalism to which she has been subjected, the latest incident apparently being gravy and onions poured over her windscreen. She did not say whereabouts in the village this had taken place.

12. Social media

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

- Post announcing the cancellation of the Food & Drink Festival – 9,875 people
- Lost key – 1,207
- Announcing the operational readiness of the East Preston Men in Sheds shed – 1,122
- Post advising residents of ADC's public consultation on Lashmar Rec skatepark - 873

(posts up to and including 26th August)

The number of Followers is currently 1,877, an increase of nine on the last report.

13. 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 – 26th June – sent to 933 subscribers, opened by 670 (72%)

Parish Council news – 5th July – sent to 934 subscribers, opened by 657 (70.6%)

Parish Council news – 11th July – sent to 936 subscribers, opened by 665 (71.3%)

Parish Council news – 31st July – sent to 936 subscribers, opened by 662 (71%)

Parish Council news – 7th August – sent to 937 subscribers, opened by 673 (72.2%)

Parish Council news – 15th August – sent to 937 subscribers, opened by 637 (68.9%)

Parish Council news – 22nd August – sent to 936 subscribers, opened by 632 (67.7%)

Parish Council news – 24th August, cancellation of the Food & Drink Festival
- sent to 933 subscribers, opened by 624 (67%)

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

“How can I get rid of an old boiler?” (Through Biffa, ADC has a large items collection service, (01903) 734520.)

“Is there anything that can be done about the smell of cannabis coming from a neighbour? It’s vile, make me and my children feel sick and we have to close all our windows and doors in this heat so we don’t smell it?” (I suggested the resident start a diary and contact the anti-social behaviour team at ADC.)

“Is it possible to know what is happening at Pizza Perfect? Is it reopening as Pizza Perfect?” (No, the council would be unlikely to hear anything much upfront in this situation.)

“Please could you do me a favour? Please could you fix my phone, it’s no longer ringing?” (Pressed a few buttons, sorted.)

“Please could I have a tree outside my property in Mendip Close, to replace a WSCC replacement tree which died?” (I contacted the WSCC Highways tree guy and he said this site was already on his list, with a tree due to be planted sometime between November and February.)

“Please could we have fox-proof bins on the Village Green?” (ADC is considering this.)

15. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident of Willowhayne Crescent, following some council treeworks on the Village Green, “A rather belated thank you for trimming the trees to the rear of the Village Green. It has certainly improved the light and maybe BT won't keep whinging that they can't repair my phone line using Health & Safety as an excuse!!”

In response to the e-newsletter sent at 06:00 on 5th July, the morning after the General Election, a resident of Tamarisk Apartments emailed, “Thanks Simon for getting up at the crack of dawn to send this.”

From the resident with the cannabis neighbour, “Thanks so much Simon, this is so helpful. I don’t know why I didn’t think to contact you before!”

In response to the e-newsletter of 31st July, a resident of Upper Drive wrote, “Many thanks for all your work on our behalf and please continue, it’s well appreciated by the majority of residents ✓”

In response to the news the council was donating a small amount of Lego to the library's new Construction Club initiative, Sarah Brand, Library Manager, wrote, "That's lovely news that the council has a donation to make to Construction Club – we'll certainly be pleased to receive it. Thanks again for being so supportive of this new activity – the Parish Council is a great Library advocate and we genuinely really appreciate you!"

From a resident of Angmering Lane, "I just wanted to thank you for all your effort getting a meeting organised regarding the railway crossing. I wasn't able to attend the meeting as I was out of the country. However, I hear it was very interesting and I do feel that I'm not getting stuck at the crossings as much and for as long, so I'm truly grateful. Thank you also for everything that you do for our lovely village."

From a resident of Sea Road, after helping her with a Community Concern Reporting Form to ADC's anti-social behaviour team, "Thank you for pointing me in the right direction Simon. Although it is low priority I am pleased it has been logged with anti social behaviour team."

Thanks received from the resident of Mendip Close looking for a replacement tree.

16. Leave

Adrian is on leave for the week beginning 2nd September. Dawn is on leave from 17th to 25th September inclusive. I am on leave on 26th September.

17. September Meetings and Events

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 2nd Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Full Council (18:30, East Preston Infant School)
- 9th Disability Action Group (12:00, British Legion) (DR only)
Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Warren Recreation Ground AGM (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 14th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, Vicarage Lane)
- 19th Society of Local Council Clerks local monthly meeting (11:00, Bersted) (SC only)
- 20th Chairmans' Networking Meeting (19:00, Bersted) (ST only)
- 23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 25th ADC Monitoring Officer Clerks' Meeting (10:00, Bognor Regis) (SC only)
Greenleas Coffee Morning (10:30, Rustington) (KB only (so far))
- 29th East Preston Beach Clean (11:00, Sea Road)

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**

27th August 2024

Agenda Item 17

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note any reports.

Welcome Café, St Mary the Virgin church, 1st July

I had a very enjoyable and informative time at the monthly Welcome Café coffee morning. I was able to promote the Food & Drink Festival and the Repair Café. Lots of concerns about WSCC Highways matters, such as the potholes in Station Road. I found attending the event very worthwhile.

Cllr Andrea Chapman

10th July 2024

ADC Housing Strategies Consultation, 17th July

Civic Centre, Littlehampton

I attended the Housing Strategies Consultation at Arun Civic Centre at 5pm on Tuesday 16th July.

As far as I could tell I was one of only 2 Parish Councillors from the Arun District who attended - the other being from Aldingbourne.

The rest of the congregation was made up of Arun District councillors, Arun employees and some third-party employees too.

There was an IT issue so we were handed paper copies of the slide-show and talked through the plans of the district housing initiative.

As far as I could tell there are 5 main objectives of the Housing Strategy I was able to glean from the presentation and conversations which took place:

1. Delivering the right homes in the right places
2. Improving the quality of housing
3. Environmental impact
4. Providing housing for the elderly
5. Preventing rough sleeping

A few interesting things I learnt whilst there were the following:

1. There is currently an up to 18 month wait for a studio flat in Arun and a wait of “many many years” for a house. But this is apparently very good in comparison with other councils.
2. 26p of every pound spent by ADC spent on housing goes towards combatting homelessness
3. Surprisingly, there is actually no requirement written in law for any council in England to actually have a Housing Strategy in place
4. The housing needed mostly is a mixture of 1 bed apartments and more luxurious large houses

There was also a long debate about homelessness and housing benefits between the Arun District Councillors which seemed to be misplaced from one of their own meetings, but other than that it was an edifying visit. Ultimately, I learnt some information that may be useful in the future at Planning and Licencing meetings.

Agenda Items 21 and 22

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 council has invited the Trustees to meet with Cllrs Wilkinson and Linton, but no agreement to meet has yet been reached.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

27th August 2024