

**MONTHLY MEETING
OF THE COUNCIL**

**3RD MARCH 2025
at 18:30**

SUPPORTING PAPERS

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

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Agenda Item 2

Conservative Hall

Ian Hart Funeral Services has asked to present to the council its plan for the future use of the Conservative Hall. For this reason, this meeting will start at 18:30.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 7

Minutes of Monthly Full Council meeting, 3rd February 2025

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 8

Monthly Update Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Minute 817/24 – Clerk’s Report – Item 10 – South-East Community Rail Partnership, 17th October**
3. **Minute 924/24 – Community Engagement Committee – Roundstone Level Crossing**
4. **Minute 014/25 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Lashmar skatepark**
5. **Minute 098/25 – Stagecoach South**

1. **Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 2nd December 2024.

2. Minute 817/24 – Clerk’s Report – Item 10 – South-East Community Rail Partnership, 17th October

As part of the Railway 200 celebrations, attendees at the meeting were asked to propose temporary blue plaques for local railway stations, and I proposed one for Angmering Station to commemorate its history in delivering locally-grown fruit and vegetables to London from the 1840s onwards. On 12th February, we were informed our proposal has been put forward for final agreement, and it is possible the plaque will be in place by the end of April. The only other Coastway West stations nominated were Hove, Lancing and Littlehampton.

3. Minute 924/24 – Community Engagement Committee – Roundstone Level Crossing

The latest proposal from the traffic consultant has been received and has been seen by Cllr Linton and shared with Angmering Parish Council. I have not had time to give it much consideration yet, and will refer this to the Community Engagement Committee meeting scheduled for 24th March.

As an aside, last week I asked what was the latest on the Lancing signalbox operations moving to the Network Rail Three Bridges Rail Operating Centre (TBROC). My contact replied, “I’m not sure when you visited, but the Three Bridges Rail Operating Centre (TBROC) is certainly a very busy location these days, controlling a substantial part of the railway. Just last November we introduced the newest workstation at TBROC covering part of the south London railway around Tulse Hill, Peckham and Crystal Palace. As I understand it at some point all (or almost all) operations in this part of the country will be transferred to TBROC, but I don’t know the timescales for the section controlled from Lancing – it of course would require a major resignalling project, which would be a few years away. I will check in with colleagues and see if I can find more information on this.”

4. Minute 014/25 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Lashmar skatepark

No installation date has yet been provided by ADC, but the tarmac work has been completed.

5. Minute 098/25 – Stagecoach South

Cllrs Bradshaw, Chapman and Gunston met on 5th February and constructed a council response to the public consultation into proposed changes to bus services affecting East Preston. Their comments included concern there would be fewer buses but possibly no greater reliability; increased waiting time between services; customers may need to leave as much as an hour earlier to get to appointments; East Preston residents may then be less likely to use the service; a service every 20 minutes would be better than a service every 30 minutes; the last No. 11 of each day is earlier than the last No. 700 of the day is currently; where will bus stops be located on the A259 for the No. 701.

This was submitted to Stagecoach South on 6th February, and James O’Neill providing comments back almost immediately. Cllr Gunston said of James’s comments, “I’m impressed with Stagecoach’s response. Much better than Southern Rail. Sounds like we are being listened to although not sure it will mean more buses in EP.”

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 10

Committees

Since the last Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Amenities, Finance & General Purposes, 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**

24th February 2025

Agenda Item 10a

Amenities Committee

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 10th February.

Village Green accessibility – the committee has agreed to approach local resident, Michal Zarzecki, the designer of the scheme proposed by the Disability Action Group for improving access to the Village Green. The committee believes it can explain to Michal the constraints of the Village Green, and Michal will be able to interpret those alongside the needs of the Disability Action Group.

Warren Recreation Ground boundary fencing – The section of broken fencing along the northern boundary has been replaced. The committee had previously obtained Land Registry documents to assess ownership of each section of the boundary fencing, on this boundary there was no definitive owner. The committee agreed to contribute 50% of the cost.

Warren Recreation Ground Outdoor Gym Equipment – The committee has been researching types of new gym equipment with a view to replace the existing failing equipment. The new equipment would be located at the same place, next to the tennis court and include a Calisthenics Unit and resistance type pieces of equipment. The committee is currently consulting with the Cricket Club regarding this proposal. The committee will be approaching Full Council to fund in the region of £35 - £40,000.00 to complete this project.

Bus Shelters – Following the removal of the North Lane damaged bus shelter in March 2024, the committee deferred making its decision on whether or not to replace the shelter until after the winter months. This allowed further time to gage public response regarding the need for a replacement shelter. Over a ten-month period, the committee received four enquiries, three of which asked for the shelter to be reinstated. The committee took into consideration the locations of all shelters in the village and the proposed new bus routes. After a great deal of consideration, the committee agreed not to replace the North Lane bus shelter.

The committee's next full meeting will be on 19th May 2025.

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

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 10b

Audit & Governance Committee

Cllr Mathias is the chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in February and there are no updates. The committee's next meeting is on 10th March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

21st February 2025

Agenda Item 10c

Community Engagement Committee

The committee will next meet on 24th March.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –
Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee

21st February 2025

Agenda Item 10d

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 17th February.

The committee agreed to donate £3,000 to Kingston Parish Council which had had its request for a Judicial Review into the Planning Permission granted for a development of 47 homes on land north-east of Kingston Lane, reference K/27/24/PL. The Judicial Review had been refused and further costs of £10,000 had been awarded against Kingston Parish Council. In response to an email informing her of the council's decision to donate, my Kingston Parish Council counterpart, Val Knight, wrote, "Fantastic! Thank you EPPC. It is great to have the support of EPPC."

On behalf of the council, the committee agreed to set up some new ear-marked reserves and close down some others – full details in the meeting's Minutes.

Cllr Gunston led an initial discussion on whether or not this we as a council would like to be at the forefront of devolution discussions, see Agenda Item 13a below.

Cllr Gunston also led a discussion about the format of the financial reports presented to council each month. The committee agreed he could discuss this further with Adrian and make changes he felt appropriate. Subsequently, Cllr Gunston has had an initial discussion with Adrian.

The committee started a discussion on funding for possible future projects.

Cllrs Chapman and Duff joined the final ten minutes of the meeting at my invitation as on the day of the meeting, I had received a call from estate agents commissioned by WSCC to market its East Preston Youth Centre building. The committee was interested enough to ask me to arrange a site visit immediately before this meeting.

The committee's next meeting is on 13th May.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 10e

Major Events Committee

Cllr Linton is Chairman of the committee.

The committee met on 17th February and Simon has circulated the draft Minutes from the meeting.

The theme of **Funday Sunday** on 27th April is Spring and Councillors Chapman and Duff will be decorating the hall accordingly. Councillor Hill is the lead councillor and will arrange a new poster for this event. Valerie Eschbæcher has been doing a sterling job selling tickets at Warm Welcome Space sessions. Councillors, if you are available to help on the day, please let Helen and me know.

The **Food and Drink Festival** will be held on the 23rd August and, hopefully, the whole of the village hall will be booked in case of inclement weather so a smaller scale event can still be held.

The **Autumn Quiz** will be held in the Junior School on 12th October and Councillor Duff is contacting a quiz master. Councillors, if you are available to help on the day, please let me know.

Christmas Celebrations will be held on 22nd November and initial planning for this is underway, but will move up a gear in a few weeks' time.

The committee began consideration of an EIWP idea, **Green Day**, at which local and select national organisations will have the opportunity to display their green credentials and initiatives to local residents. The proposed date for this is 13th September, and considerations are continuing.

Martyn's Law, officially **The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill**, was discussed and this committee is aware of the legislation but, at the moment, the council is not affected. Cllr McElroy is the council's lead on this.

We are hoping to celebrate the arrival of Spring on the 21st March and will, weather permitting, let off the **Christmas Celebrations 2024 fireworks** at 20:00 on the Warren Rec. – these should last about five minutes. We are ordering barriers and hope Councillors will be available to help with crowd control!

Cllr Elizabeth Linton –
Chairman of the Major Events Committee

24th February 2025

Agenda Item 10f

Personnel Committee

The committee did not meet during February, and there are no updates.

The committee's next meeting will be on 14th April.

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

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 10g

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met on 10th and 24th February.

On 10th February, the committee considered two Applications and agreed to object to an Application in Pinewood Close. On 24th February, the committee agreed not to object to the one Application before it that evening.

Work continues on revising the Neighbourhood Plan. The Steering Group believes it will not be long now until the reviewed plan can be put before stakeholders and public for comment.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for Monday, 10th March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 11a

Amenities Committee – Warren Recreation Ground outdoor gym equipment

Council is asked to set aside up to £40,000 for the provision of replacement outdoor gym equipment on the Warren Recreation Ground.

Cllr Wilkinson to lead on this item although he may hand over to Cllr McElroy who has been working closely with Dawn on this matter.

The current outdoor gym equipment towards the north-western corner of the Warren Recreation Ground was donated by East Preston Film Society and opened officially on 15th May 2015. The equipment has reached the end of its useful life and the committee has agreed to replace it.

Dawn is just awaiting a final quote and then a decision of supplier can be reached. All quoting suppliers have visited the site.

Dawn believes £40,000 will be the most this project will cost the council. If the council agrees, this money will be taken from the general reserve.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th January 2025

Agenda Item 11b

Amenities Committee – Village Green car-park

Council is asked to spend up to £2,500 for the provision of four replacement bollards at the Village Green car-park.

Cllr Wilkinson to lead on this item.

Part of the damage at the Village Green car-park caused by the accident on 20th December was the removal of one of four large wooden bollards, placed between car-parking spaces and the ticket machine and cycle hoop area. The bollards are of an age and have probably been weakened by local weather and the accident showed the bollards were no longer capable of providing the protection they should. To that end, the committee would like to replace all four wooden bollards with stainless steel bollards.

This upgrade would not be covered by the insurance claim covering the damage of 20th December. Dawn has a quotation for the installation of four stainless steel bollards, 114mm diameter with reflective bands at a current cost of £2,230. If the council agrees, this money will be taken from the general reserve – this work was unexpected and no provision was made for it in the 2024/25 or 2025/26 budget.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 12a

Community Engagement Committee – Sussex and Brighton devolution public consultation

Council is asked to agree this council should respond to the government consultation, Sussex and Brighton devolution.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/sussex-and-brighton-devolution>

Central government has opened the public consultation into its devolution proposals to bring together East and West Sussex County Councils and Brighton and Hove City Council.

I emailed details to councillors on 20th February asking for any councillors willing to be part of the council's response to let me know. To date, nobody has.

Closing date for comments is 13th April.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 12b

Community Engagement Committee – A railway fit for Britain's future public consultation

Council is asked to agree this council should respond to the government consultation, A railway fit for Britain's future.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-railway-fit-for-britains-future>

Central government has opened the public consultation into its proposals for the future of Britain's railway network and services.

I emailed details to councillors on 19th February asking for any councillors willing to be part of the council's response to let me know. Cllr Gunston has volunteered so far.

Closing date for comments is 15th April.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 13a

Finance & General Purposes Committee – Sussex and Brighton devolution

Council is asked to agree this council should nominate itself to be a participant in discussions concerning the future of local councils after devolution.

Cllr McElroy to lead on this item.

The committee would like this council to be in at the start of discussions on devolution and how local councils will look after 2027 and how they will work with the Mayoral Combined County Authority after that date.

The committee agreed, if council agreed with the above proposal, our first contact would be with County Cllr Elkins.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 14

Working Parties

The 20MPH and Environmental Initiatives Working Parties met in February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 14a

20mph Working Party

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this committee.

Councillor members of this working party met on Monday, 24th February. We discussed the way forward for this as suggested by Keith Harris, outgoing coordinator of the village's Community Speedwatch group.

The working party agreed it would like to meet face-to-face with representatives of WSCC Highways to explain why we believe a three-road 20mph zone covering Sea Road, The Street and Fairlands is the best for this village, and to hear from WSCC Highways why it has not agreed with this proposal to date. Again, this should be directed to WSCC via County Cllr Elkins.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 14b

Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP)

The working party met on 24th February.

As it is likely the Green Day will now be arranged by either the Community Engagement or Major Events Committee, we felt there is little we do that is not being covered by the parish council as a whole. There is therefore a proposal to disband the Environmental Initiatives Working Party which will be voted on at our next meeting on Wednesday 12th March at 7.00pm.

As Chairman I must thank fellow councillors and parishioners who have helped make the group such a worthwhile experience. Just some of the projects we have completed between us: we have planted hedgelings, put up bird boxes, hosted a talk by Southern Water, surveyed villagers for their environmental awareness and ambitions, enabled hedgehog highways in the village, encouraged more residents to plant wildflower beds at home, produced a walking map, set up a Repair Cafe as well as contributing numerous articles to the quarterly newsletter and a green thought for the day for the regular e-newsletter. The greener buildings fund we suggested has contributed to insulation for the bowls club and the Village Hall as well as LED lighting for the Tennis Club and solar panels for the Scout Hut. We feel sure the parish council will keep up the good work we have started.

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 14c

Flat and Frontage Working Party (FFWP)

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman-elect of this working party.

The working party has not yet set a date for an initial meeting.

At the time of writing, a new tenant has passed all required letting agency tests and is due to move in on 5th March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 14d

Leases Working Party (LWP)

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this working party.

By the time of the meeting, I will have attended a site valuation with the council's valuer and a representative of East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club.

Agenda Item 15b

West Sussex County Council – Sea Road parking restrictions

Council is asked to agree to support residents further in their campaign to increase parking restrictions in Sea Road.

As reported to the last meeting, Cllrs Moore and Wilkinson and I met with three residents of Sea Road on 24th January. Last April, the council supported a proposal from residents in this section of Sea Road to increase the seasonal single yellow line parking restriction to a year-round parking restriction.

County Cllr Elkins had advised the residents they needed to show greater public support for the proposal but, for various personal reasons, it has not been possible to gather that support, and with those personal reasons still in place, the residents are asking the council to help.

Initial support would be in the form of setting up an online survey and including details of that in an e-newsletter. This would hopefully garner the right level of interest and support ahead of the residents submitting the application to WSCC. The residents understand there is the risk any survey results will not be in their favour, particularly if the survey comes from the council, but they are prepared to take that risk.

The residents believe the safety issues in the stretch of Sea Road opposite the Village Green affect residents across the village. Additionally, as residents on the western side of the road, they have concerns about exiting from their driveways when others have parked very close to those driveways, and they also have experienced verbal abuse from those same drivers.

I believe three of the residents will attend the meeting to put forward further their case.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Agenda Item 17

Sussex Police

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2025

Clerk's Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**
4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
5. **Warm Welcome Space, 3rd February**
6. **Trip to WSCC / Biffa Materials Recycling Facility, 18th February**
7. **Community Speedwatch meeting, 19th February**
8. **Warm Welcome Space, 24th February**
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. **March meetings and events**

1. Introduction

This is the report mainly covering February 2025 and matters which may not arise elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Police matters

Regarding the damage done at the Village Green car-park on **20th December**, on 13th February, the council received a letter from Sussex Police containing the paragraph:

We have now completed our investigation and after careful consideration of the facts it has been decided that Sussex Police will be taking no further action. The reason for this decision is: We have now identified the driver and upon reviewing the evidence conclude this case requires no further investigation.

On 19th February, the council received notification, "I can confirm payment has been issued in the sum of £1200.00 which is net of your excess. This should be in the account in the next 3 – 5 working days. The insurer will pass to the recovery team to get back your excess." On 25th February, Adrian confirmed this sum had been received into the council's bank account.

Meanwhile, on 9th February, I was advised by Toni McElroy, Chairman of the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation, of damage done to the retaining wall for the ramp to the Hoist Assisted Toilet (HAT) at the Sea Road toilet block. Our Biffa contractor also advised us of this. The wall was completely compromised, and Dawn and I taped it off first thing on 10th February. Mrs McElroy kindly watched Village Hall CCTV footage and was able to identify the damage had occurred on the afternoon of **7th February** and the driver had driven off without even getting out to inspect the damage. I made a formal request to Toni for the CCTV footage

and other information and this was passed to both our insurance broker and Sussex Police. Through our broker, we persuaded our insurer we needed to get the repair work completely quickly and Dawn liaised with Cloud9 as it had built the wall originally.

The perpetrator contacted the council on 20th February and said she had not realised her nudging the wall had caused such damage. I believe, she was only prompted to contact the council after a letter from Sussex Police. She asked for photographs of the damage and said she was willing to pay but once she had seen the damage, she realised the amount was more than she wanted to pay.

3. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) matters

No developments in anti-social behaviour matters in the village.

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. Warm Welcome Space, 3rd February

This was my turn to be the council's officer at the session. Cllr Hill was the on-duty councillor and Naomi Boulter was the official community volunteer on duty. Cllr Gale made a guest appearance talking to attendees, and Chris and Valerie Eschbæcher helped out when needed.

Joy Bradbury-Ball, ADC Senior Wellbeing Partnerships Officer, dropped in to see how the sessions were going. The following day, Joy emailed, "Yes, it was lovely to see what a nice time people were having, and I found out about some other groups which were running in the village." Joy gave out some leaflets introducing the Arun Wellbeing team and some of these have subsequently been delivered to the office for distribution to local residents.

6. Trip to WSCC / Biffa Materials Recycling Facility, 18th February

I organised two visits to the WSCC / Biffa Materials Recycling Facility for the 18th February. Further down these papers you will be able to read Cllr Chapman's report on the visit.

The morning visit comprised Cllrs Gunston and Gale, Dawn and members of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party, Sue Morley and Michał Zarzecki, together with Angmering Parish Council reps Cllr Alan Evans, Katie Herr, Tracy Lees, Rachael Wilkes and Roy Squires.

The afternoon visit comprised Cllrs Moore, Bradshaw, Chapman and Duff, Linda Denton as a member of the EIWP, David Cross, Richard and Angela Rayner as Repair Café volunteers, Kingston Parish Council Clerk, Val Knight, and me.

We were warmly welcomed by Biffa Education Officer, Jo Norman, and after an informative, in-depth presentation and conversation about the current state of recycling in the county, those able to were taken into the heart of the processing area to see household waste being sorted. Overall, the visit lasted about two hours.

7. Community Speedwatch meeting, 19th February

Following pleas in both the Autumn 2024 and Winter 2025 Newsletters, early in February, Gavin Bernard came forward interested in taking over the Community Speedwatch coordinator role from Keith Harris.

Having had an initial meeting with me, Gavin then met with Keith and me, an opportunity for Keith to explain his version of the role in greater detail and for Gavin to ask any questions. The meeting ended positively, with Gavin agreeing to do the online training after which Keith will take Gavin out for roadside training. Training complete, Keith will liaise with his Sussex Police contact about the official handover of the coordinator role.

8. Warm Welcome Space, 24th February

It was my turn again to represent the office at Warm Welcome Space. I worked alongside Cllr Gunston and, as community volunteer, Linda Denton. This session had 26 attendees, the highest number this season. All attendees had been before, but one was attending her first session this year.

Although the sessions start officially only at midday, many of the twenty-six were in and seated by that time. Similarly, although the sessions end officially at 16:00, by 14:00 only about five attendees were still present, and those were preparing to leave.

The sessions are being enjoyed and appreciated by all. There are five sessions in March and that will bring this year's Warm Welcome Space to an end.

9. Social media

Here is the council's only Facebook post in February to reach more than 500 people.

- A post announcing the Hoist-Assisted Toilet was closed until further notice following accidental damage inflicted upon the retaining wall of the ramp – 5,960 people

(posts up to and including 24th February)

The number of Followers is currently 1,908, an increase of 5 on 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 – 29th January – sent to 946 subscribers, opened by 670 (70.8%)

Parish Council news – 5th February – sent to 947 subscribers, opened by 664 (70.3%)

Parish Council news – 13th February – sent to 945 subscribers, opened by 665 (70.4%)

11. Things we have been asked since the last meeting

“Is the Parish Council still secretly funding the No. 12 bus service?” (Absolutely not.)

“Are there any ex-cons living in the village?”

“Do you think Network Rail would extend an invitation to a small party from EP to visit their railway signalling hub to see what goes into the management and control of our gated

crossings? The chosen ones could then report back to the many who moan about the service. Might be a good PR exercise for Network Rail and get into local papers, etc. Shows there is some empathy.” (I forwarded this suggestion to Network Rail which replied, as I already had to the author, the signalbox is very small and not ideal for visits. My Network Rail contact suggested a video could be made and used on social media to similar effect.)

“Please could you check if my email address has been removed as I have not received any e-newsletters for a few months now?” (System checked, e-newsletters were still being sent to the correct email address but not being received. New email address provided successfully.)

12. Recent bouquets and complaints

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident of Saxon Close, “Dear Simon. I am so grateful to you for forwarding my email suggesting that a dog poo bin be relocated to Angmering Parish Council. They have indeed had the bin in question repositioned as I suggested. Often the man or woman in the street feels impotent in matters of governance but on this occasion, I truly feel heard. I would appreciate it if you would forward this as well.”

From a resident of Vermont Way who called in to talk about a play she wants to put on, “Thanks for your help and encouragement today.”

From a resident of Golden Acre who asked for information on any timetable links between buses and trains, “I regard myself as an honorary EP resident! Thank you for the update and for all your good work. Keep it up!”

From a resident of Milliers Court who thought she had unsubscribed from the e-newsletter (she hadn’t), “I am so delighted to be able to receive my East Preston Parish Council Newsletter and thank you for your kind help. I enjoy the information and content so much. Particularly the information with regard to the boardwalk and the work carried out by the amazing volunteers - I am 93 years old and shall get so much pleasure out of taking my wheelie on the boardwalk. I shall be dropping a donation into the Council offices. Keep those Newsletters coming my way.”

From a resident referring to the filling of a pothole in Vicarage Lane, “thank you for your swift response! on the ball as usual” – I’m not sure whether that is genuine or sarcastic.

From the resident who suggested the visit to Lancing signalbox, “Sounds good about the video. Well done.”

13. Leave

Dawn will be on leave for the week beginning 10th March and I might be on leave for the week beginning 17th March.

14. March Meetings and Events

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 3rd Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 8th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, Vicarage Lane)
- 10th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) (tbc)
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)

- 12th Environmental Initiatives Working Party (19:00, Council Office)
- 24th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) (tbc)
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 26th VAAC Community Green Initiatives (14:00, Chichester) (JG)
East Preston Film Society 100th presentation (19:00, East Preston Infant School)

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 February 2025

Agenda Item 19

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note any reports.

Southern Water Your Water Matters, 12th February

St Mary's Centre, Felpham

This event had a wealth of information on work being done by Southern Water. At least 20 Southern Water employees at a number of stalls talked about the following - major investment projects, unflushables, wastewater treatment and flooding, community and education, developer services, customer service and support, water supply and treatment, clean rivers and seas and illegal connections. They are willing to support anything we want to do in East Preston. Contact yourwatermatters@southernwater.co.uk

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

12th February 2025

Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur – Meet The Charity 25th Anniversary Lunch, 13th February

Arundel Town Hall

I was lucky enough to attend and celebrate the 'Meet The Charity' event at Arundel Town Hall. Home-Start are celebrating their 25th anniversary and the Post Office in Arundel had provided lunch for everyone. It was a great opportunity to find out more about the work they do and its impact.

What they do and why

Home-Start's volunteers and staff provide support to parents across Arun, Worthing and Adur who are really struggling. All their services are free of charge and open to anyone who has at least one child under the age of 5 years. Despite West Sussex being considered an affluent county, there are still many children living in poverty, with areas of Bognor Regis and

Littlehampton in the poorest neighbourhoods in England. The cost-of-living crisis is making it harder than ever for parents to cope.

How they do it

Home-Start is a community-run service of local parents, Grandparents and professionals using lived experience to make life easier for families. They give compassionate, confidential, practical and emotional support to parents in their home, over the phone, at one of our family groups or in the community. They also run an in-house counselling service.

Of all the families that were supported by Home-Start in 2023-2024:

- 56% had at least one family member with a physical health condition.
- 87% were living with a mental health condition.
- 25% living in top 30% most deprived areas of England.
- 24% living in entirely inadequate housing.
- 46% were experiencing financial difficulties.
- 17% were experiencing domestic abuse.
- 85% of referred families have complex needs.

How you can help

Volunteer – if you can spare 2-3 hours a week after a short initial training programme and have experience as a parent, grandparent or working with children, contact admin@home-startawa.org.uk for an informal chat.

Keep in Touch – keep you up to date with their work, the outcomes our families achieve, events and relevant news. Sign up to their newsletter by visiting their website www.home-startawa.org.uk

Donate – If you are able, please donate monthly or give a one-off donation so that they can continue to improve the lives of local children and their families. Call **01903 953799** or visit www.home-startawa.org.uk

Finally – Parents – If you need support or perhaps just need to clear your head-please call Home-Start on **01903 953799**

Cllr Andrea Chapman

17th February 2025