



# EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES:** of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston at 19:00

**PRESENT:** Councillors Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, Helen Hill, Elizabeth Linton (Chairman), David Moore and Steve Toney

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

Mrs Linda Denton

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The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;  
EIWP – Environmental Initiatives Working Party;  
KEPT – Keep East Preston Tidy  
NHS – National Health Service;

NR – Network Rail;  
VHF – East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation;  
WSCC – West Sussex County Council.

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The meeting opened at 18:59.

### **055/25    APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

All committee members were present.

### **056/25    PERSONAL AND/OR PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

No declarations were made.

### **057/25    PUBLIC SESSION**

Mrs D thanked the committee for allowing her to attend its meeting, but had nothing else to say at this point of the meeting.

The committee AGREED Mrs D could speak on any item on the agenda at the appropriate time.

### **058/25    ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2024**

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

## **St Mary the Virgin Christmas Tree Festival 2024**

**Committee is asked to review the council's involvement in last year's Christmas Tree Festival.**

Cllrs Chapman and Duff were the leads for this activity and created a tree with the title, *We Treasure East Preston*.

I have already fed back to the organiser of the event, Kevin Hill, concerns from Cllrs Chapman and Duff about the platforms used for decorating and he has responded positively to those comments.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllrs Chapman and Duff were pleased with the tree they produced for the council. They both felt the whole event had been lovely and it had been extra lovely to have been part of the opening reception on the Thursday night. Cllr Hill said she believed £11,300 had been raised by the Festival.

Cllr Linton thanked Cllrs Chapman and Duff for their design work on the council's tree.

**059/25     COVID-19 DAY OF REFLECTION, 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH**

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

**Covid-19 Day of Reflection, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

**Committee is asked to consider involvement in the Covid-19 Day of Reflection.**

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has asked town and parish councils to consider supporting the first Covid-19 Day of Reflection:

**NALC calls on parish and town councils to support COVID-19 Day of Reflection 2025**

The secretary of state for culture, media and sport, Lisa Nandy MP, has announced a UK-wide COVID-19 Day of Reflection on 9 March 2025. This event will commemorate the fifth anniversary of the pandemic, providing a solemn opportunity for communities to reflect on the lives lost and the impact of the global crisis.

In a letter addressed to our chair, Cllr Keith Stevens, Lisa Nandy MP encouraged parish and town councils to participate actively in the observance. She highlighted the pivotal role of local government in fostering community engagement, urging councils to promote the event, support community-led initiatives, and consider hosting their public events.

Commenting on the letter, Cllr Keith Stevens said, "NALC is proud to stand with parish and town council in encouraging inclusive and heartfelt commemorations for the COVID-19 Day of Reflection. We believe this is a vital opportunity for communities to honour those affected by the pandemic while celebrating the resilience and solidarity demonstrated during those challenging times."

Parish and town councils already plan creative and meaningful ways to unite their communities. Initiatives may include tree-planting ceremonies, commemorative plaques, community walks, and virtual events for those unable to attend in person.

The announcement comes as parish and town councils increasingly focus on community wellbeing and fostering connections due to the pandemic's challenges. By uniting efforts at every level of government, the Day of Reflection 2025 promises to be a moment of national unity, remembrance, and hope.

How might the council support this event within the village?

Several councillors present said they had mixed emotions about the proposed Day of Reflection. The ripple effects of the pandemic were still being felt within the National Health Service and education and other areas of life. There were still members of the public who were reluctant to attend any large event at which there might be people they did not know.

The committee was unsure what might be expected of it but AGREED to acknowledge the event by letting the public know about it. The Clerk would contact both churches in the village to ascertain whether they had any plans.

**060/25    EAST PRESTON FESTIVAL, 6<sup>TH</sup> TO 15<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

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

**East Preston Festival, 6<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**Committee is asked to agree the format of this year's *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* event, 7<sup>th</sup> June.**

*Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* is a useful event in the council's calendar, an opportunity for residents to come and talk to a number of councillors on any matter relating to the village. Some residents book a particular time, others drop in as they are passing. Some come for a moan about certain matters but just as many others come along to thank the council for its efforts on behalf of residents.

Following the 2024 event, it was suggested the event should become part of the Festival Committee's Community Market on the Village Green on the same day, and that would require a bit more management of councillor resources to ensure the whole day was sufficiently staffed.

**Committee is asked to receive any update on the visit of Ems Friendly Farm on 10<sup>th</sup> June.**

On 29<sup>th</sup> September, the council received confirmation of its booking for the farm to visit the Village Green between 17:00 and 19:00. Councillors will need to be available to help with any setting-up required and any crowd control.

**Committee is asked to consider participation in this year's Carnival Parade on 14<sup>th</sup> June.**

The council has taken part in the Carnival Parade twice in recent year. Will 2025 be its third participation in recent years?

**Finally, committee is asked to consider any other Festival matters.**

There was a lengthy discussion about the options for *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors*, at the end of which the committee AGREED to keep the event to two hours on the morning of Saturday, 7<sup>th</sup> June, and AGREED the Environmental Initiatives Working Party would be supported if it wanted to spend the whole of that day at the Community Fête and Charity Market on the Village Green.

Mrs D said the council should be prepared to shout about its achievements at the event in case any attendees found themselves tongue-tied. Councillors all agreed attendees usually knew exactly what they wanted to talk about and were never tongue-tied.

Regarding Ems Friendly Farm, Cllr Linton asked councillors to be available on the Village Green from about 16:30 as it was likely some crowd control may be necessary.

The Clerk advised the committee the theme for this year's Festival had been announced as "Games and Pastimes – Past and Present". The committee AGREED not to take part in the Carnival Parade this year as it did not feel it could commit to taking part annually. The Clerk said the Council Office staff were already working on a window display; Cllr Chapman may be called upon to assist.

Nobody had any other Festival matters to raise.

#### **061/25    BEACH CLEAN, 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL**

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

### **Beach Cleans**

**Committee is asked to consider any matters relating to the Beach Clean scheduled for Sunday, 6<sup>th</sup> April.**

The main matter to discuss is councillor availability. Cllr Moore, please could you be available earlier that week to attach rubbish bags to litter hoops?

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllr Linton reminded committee members of the details for the event. Cllr Moore confirmed he would come to the Council Office on 3<sup>rd</sup> April to attach plastic bags to litter hoops.

#### **062/25    PLAYSCHEMES**

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

### **2025 Playschemes**

**Committee is asked to continue consideration of any 2025 playschemes.**

At the last meeting, Cllrs Chapman and Duff agreed to contact Accelerate to see if it would be willing to run a playscheme on our behalf.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllr Duff reported she had contacted John Lewry at ACCelerate, providing him with details of previous playschemes and asking him for suggestions either of what ACCelerate could provide the council or other suggested providers. To date, Cllr Duff had received no reply.

#### **063/25    COUNCIL OFFICE – BLUE BILLBOARD**

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

### **Council Office – Blue Billboard**

**Committee is asked to consider a Blue Billboard for the Council Office.**

At the time of writing, I have no update on this matter. I chased again this morning.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

On 18<sup>th</sup> January, the Clerk had received the following from Justin, "Apologies for the delay, things are a bit crazy at the moment. I can't provide any updates on this at the moment sadly. We're in a holding pattern on new installations until

probably Q2". The message did carry on to explain why the company was in a holding pattern, but that does not need to be recorded here.

The committee AGREED to continue pursuing this initiative when the company was in a position to help.

#### 064/25 CHRISTMAS LIGHTING

The following report was circulated in advance of the meeting:

### **Christmas Lighting**

**Committee is asked to receive any updates on the village's Christmas lighting.**

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The council has heard nothing further from Event Power Engineering Limited about its order for new lighting in the northern shops' trees for the next three years at £2,800 per year. We shall continue to chase and we can hope we are high up the list of new orders for Christmas 2025.

Full Council has agreed to set up a New Christmas Lighting earmarked reserve and will transfer most of this year's £4,000 budget to that at the end of the financial year. A further £4,000 has been budgeted for the new financial year.

Dawn has received nothing further from SSE regarding lights in Two Acres.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The Clerk said there was nothing to report about the provision of additional lighting which had been expected in November 2024. He would chase again.

The Clerk confirmed that scheme did not include Two Acres.

Mrs D mentioned some of the motifs had been lit 24/7 for the duration of the Christmas lighting season. The Clerk said both he and the Assistant Clerk had contacted SSE several times about this, all to no avail. Fortunately, the council was charged for the electricity it asked to use not the electricity it actually used.

#### 065/25 NEWSLETTER – WINTER 2025

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

### **Newsletter – Winter 2025**

**Committee is asked to consider content for Newsletter No. 73, Winter 2025.**

No. 73, the Winter 2025 newsletter, should go to print towards the end of January for delivery in mid-February, so please start thinking of potential articles now.

In the Roundstone Level Crossing article included in the Autumn 2024 Newsletter, we ended by pleading with drivers to behave more responsibly at both village level crossings when the gates are down or coming down. I have said a few times since then this could be a campaign for the council to run this year, even if that is only through newsletter articles. **Is this something the committee agrees we could or should do?**

Whatever articles we agree to include, we need to crack on with writing them!

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllr Duff added the new year would be a good time to publish an updated Wellbeing article.

Mrs D suggested an article seeking more volunteers to help at the Baytree Lunch Club.

The committee AGREED an article could be written about poor driver behaviour as everyone had examples they could give. Cllr Hill was tasked with the initial draft.

## **066/25     BUS SERVICE**

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

### **Village bus service**

**Committee is asked to consider new information related to the provision of a village bus service.**

I have had an initial conversation with my counterparts at Rustington Parish Council.

That council has been doing some investigations into operating a village bus service to make up for some of the loss of the No. 12 service (not that it has stopped running yet).

It has started to look at two options. The first would be the outright purchase of a minibus then run by Arun Community Transport (ACT). A minibus could cost £80,000 and annual running costs would be just over £40,000 for a five-days-a-week service. The second option would be for ACT to run a service on behalf of the council with a vehicle leased from Dial-A-Ride. The weekly cost of running this version just one day a week would be £200, annual cost £10,400.

I realise this is not a lot of information to be going on with, but **is this something the committee would like to investigate further, with or without Rustington Parish Council and, if so, who would like to work on this?**

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The Clerk said Stagecoach South had pre-warned him last week it would be issuing details of changes to bus services in the area in the week following this meeting. He had not been given any indication would those changes would involve.

Cllr Toney provided a convincing argument for why the council should not become the operator of its own bus service.

The committee AGREED Cllr Linton should have an initial conversation with Arun Community Transport with an idea of running a bus service two days per week, if possible. Any conversation with Rustington Parish Council would likely follow that initial conversation.

## **067/25     2026 EAST PRESTON CALENDAR**

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

### **East Preston 2026 Calendar**

**Committee is asked to consider any matters related to the production of a 2026 East Preston calendar.**

Cllrs Chapman and Duff are leads on this initiative.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllrs Chapman and Duff said all was well with this project at the current time.

The following report was circulated in advance of the meeting and covers the next two Minutes:

## **Community Speed Watch**

**Committee is asked to receive any update from the 20MPH Working Party.**

Keith Harris has been unable to meet with me yet, but we are hopeful for next week.

Nobody has come forward to be a new coordinator following the article in the Autumn 2024 Newsletter.

**Committee is asked to receive an update on the decision to purchase Speed Indication Devices.**

No change, i.e. following the correspondence mentioned above, it is possible some of the money being set aside for Speed Indication Devices may still need to be diverted to help persuade WSCC to implement the 20mph limit in Sea Road.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

### **068/25    COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – 20MPH WORKING PARTY**

The Clerk said he was meeting with Keith Harris on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> January to ascertain what the council could and should do next. Cllr Moore said he would attend this meeting too.

### **069/25    COMMUNITY SPEED WATCH – SPEED INDICATION DEVICES**

There was nothing to add, as any further progress on this would depend upon the outcome of the above Minute.

### **070/25    DEFIBRILLATORS**

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

## **Defibrillator**

**Committee is asked to continue consideration of the provision of another defibrillator in the village.**

Cllr Toney agreed to ask the Fire & Rescue Service whether a free-standing defibrillator cabinet could be located in a front corner of the fire station car-park.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllr Toney reported he had been given permission to install a defibrillator and cabinet at East Preston Fire Station, just on the brickwork to the side of the main door. The Fire & Rescue Service would then take ownership and would carry out maintenance checks and suchlike.

Cllr Toney further reported grants were available from Defibrillators in Public Spaces. The committee AGREED the council should attempt to get a grant and an up-to-date costing before agreeing, at the next meeting, to proceed.

### **071/25    WARM WELCOME SPACE**

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

## **Warm Welcome Space 2025**



**Committee is asked to consider any matters related to the Warm Welcome Space sessions for 2025.**

The council's bid for a grant from ADC was successful, and £1,000 was deposited into the council's bank account this week.

At the time of writing, there have been two sessions, both of which ran without any hitches. The first had 22 attendees, the second had 24. Both sessions had a first-timer, both of whom appeared to enjoy the session. Some who only attended sessions at the church last year have come to the Legion.

Cllr Chapman has attended a full session and Cllr Linton has dropped in supportively for part of a session, and both may have feedback for this meeting.

Currently, thirty people have registered for the session on 20<sup>th</sup> January. At the end of each session, all attendees are asked whether they intend to attend the following week.

Attendees generally turn up from about 11:45 and have nearly all left again by 14:00. For the first time ever, to me, a regular attendee said to me towards the end of the session this week, "I'm going to stay here a bit longer Simon, it's warmer here."

One attendee gave a small financial donation this week. **Is committee happy any such donations are put towards this year's Chairman's Charity?**

We have more committee volunteers this year than ever before, so most will only be required for a single session.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllrs Chapman and Linton said the sessions they had attended had generally run smoothly.

The committee AGREED it was happy for any donations made in regard of Warm Welcome Space to be added to the Chairman's Charity for the current year. Regarding the Chairman's Charity, the Clerk said he was in touch with a Sussex contact for Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) and was expecting to receive some collection boxes and some promotional material before the end of the month. He had also asked KSS if it could provide a speaker for the Annual Parish Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May.

**072/25    LITTLEHAMPTON COMMUNITY FRIDGE ON TOUR**

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

**Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour**

**Committee is asked to consider any matters related to Littlehampton Community Fridge on Tour sessions being held at the Village Hall.**

Since 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the Wednesday sessions have been held in the car-park at the Village Hall.

Four councillors, three officers and a number of community volunteers have now taken part in these sessions, and will probably have feedback.

There is a banner on site now, and that can be attached to one of the noticeboards at the beginning of each session. Councillor volunteers should remember to remove the banner at the end of the session.

For the session held on 1<sup>st</sup> January, it was necessary to hold the session in the foyer of the Village Hall as the weather was so bad. That was possible because it was a Bank Holiday and the usual hirers were not present, but such would be less possible any other week.



Cllr Linton said the location at the Village Hall simply did not feel as essential as the previous locations at the Conservative Hall and, before that, the Council Office. Some committee members favoured a return to the Council Office, although there were concerns about its location away from the centre of the village and the queue blocking access to other businesses. The committee AGREED with the Clerk's suggestion to wait a little longer until the new owner of the Conservative Hall is in place, and then approach that person about the sessions returning there.

The Clerk reported a matter which had been raised to him during the session on 15<sup>th</sup> January. Usually, the two disabled parking bays in the Village Hall car-park were not required by the regular Wednesday afternoon hirers, and the Chairman of the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation, Toni McElroy, was happy for the Fridge sessions to utilise both spaces. However, on the 15<sup>th</sup>, an East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society talk was taking place in the Warren Room and an attendee complained to the Clerk, at some length, he had not been able to use either of the disabled parking bays. There was some concern using only one bay would create a health and safety issue, but the Clerk simply asked for Fridge volunteers to be aware of whether or not there was an event on in the Warren Room on a Wednesday afternoon and, if there was, to be careful of taking up more than one space if safe not to.

#### 073/25 **BROADCASTING OF MEETINGS**

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

### **Broadcasting of meetings**

#### **Committee is asked to consider the future broadcasting of council meetings.**

At the time of writing, I cannot remember where this came from, but whilst there is currently no obligation upon the council to broadcast its meetings, now may well be a time to start considering this.

The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) is calling for hybrid meetings to be allowed. Responding to a consultation by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), NALC emphasised parish and town councils should be free to decide how and when to hold their meetings. This flexibility will empower parish and town councils to respond quicker and effectively to their communities' needs through in-person, remote, or hybrid formats.

Such a move though will come at some expense both in technology and, as some early-adopting councils do, of an additional member of staff at meetings to run the technology allowing the Clerk to continue being a clerk.

To date, I do not remember any member of the public asking if they could join a meeting remotely, but that does not mean they have not asked.

Interestingly, as part of the same consultation mentioned above, NALC "strongly opposed the introduction of proxy voting at council meetings. Echoing concerns raised by other stakeholders, we warned that proxy voting could lead to confusion, undermine democratic processes, and create potential conflicts of interest, particularly for larger councils with party-political dynamics."

Cllr Linton asked the committee whether any member felt this was something the council needed to consider at this time, and the committee AGREED unanimously it was not.

#### 074/25 **VILLAGE CRIER**

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

# **Village Crier**

## **Committee is asked to consider the introduction of a Village Crier.**

Cllr Hill has asked for the committee to consider this idea.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Cllr Hill explained a Village Crier could be a bit of fun within the village and could be used for opening events and making announcements around the village. A competition could be held to appoint an appropriate resident.

The Clerk said he felt Criers were more related to historic market towns and East Preston was never going to be a historic market town.

The committee AGREED not to pursue this idea at this time. Cllr Chapman said a Town Crier could always be borrowed from Arundel or Worthing if we felt we needed one.

### **075/25    MEETING OF VILLAGE SPORTS CLUBS**

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

## **Sports Club meetings**

### **Committee is asked to consider the creation of an annual meeting with the village's sports clubs.**

This idea initially came about at the start of the Greener Buildings Project, when Cllr Gunston and his Environmental Initiatives Working Party were working with the different sports clubs in the village such as the football club, cricket club, tennis club and bowls club. I had some feeling there may be funding available for combined sports rather than just from the governing bodies of each individual sport.

At this week's annual meeting with the tennis club, the club representatives were very positive about attending a meeting with other sports clubs, but felt the meeting needed to be facilitated and led by the parish council. The meeting would look at the clubs sharing best practice, details of good and poor contractors, just generally keeping each other better informed about their plans and achievements. It might even lead to a resurrection of the A Question of Sport popular Festival event.

As this is a form of Community Engagement, this has landed here.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

The committee AGREED the Clerk should contact the village's sports clubs to see what interest there was in such a meeting, which would, at least initially, be led by the parish council.

### **076/25    MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER**

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> November had been circulated to all members on 28<sup>th</sup> November asking for suggested amendments by 5<sup>th</sup> December. No changes had been suggested.

The committee AGREED unanimously the Minutes could be signed as a true record of the meeting which had taken place on 25<sup>th</sup> November and Cllr Linton duly completed this task.

### **077/25    UPDATE ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The following report was circulated in advance of the meeting:

## **Matters Arising from previous meetings**

**Minute 426/24 – East Preston Repair Café** – the Repair Café continues to run successfully. Cllr Gunston has organised a team drinks evening to take place on 22<sup>nd</sup> January.

**Minute 705/24 – Village Bus Service** – in December, I asked Chris Chatfield, Managing Director of Compass Travel, of any current plans for the no. 12 bus service. Chris replied, “At the moment I’m getting some temporary funding from WSCC to keep the 12 service going – pending a review of local bus routes. However it’s unlikely this funding will continue much longer and then sadly I’ll have no option but to withdraw the 12 completely since both East Preston and Rustington Parish Councils have now totally ceased any funding. Of course I’m always open to discuss the situation further if either PC was to reconsider possibly future funding for this service.”

**Minute 713/24 – Safe Spaces Scheme** – no further update from Cllr Gunston on this.

**Minute 715/24 – Chairman’s Annual Charity** – Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex (KSS) was voted the Chairman’s Annual Charity for 2025. We are in touch with Ruby Hunt, the Sussex Community Fundraiser, and expect to receive some publicity material from her soon and some collection boxes we can take around with us to events. Ruby just happens to live and work in Rustington.

Cllr Chapman, please could you create a new window for this? Thank you.

**Minute 905/25 – East Preston Official Guide and Map** – the online version of our 2022-2024 *Guide and Map* is no longer working, nor are any of the other publications on the publisher’s website – a password is required. The rest of the website appears to be working normally. I have tried contacting the company both via direct emails and through the website, and we are getting no reply.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Nothing was added.

### **078/25    PARKED PROJECTS**

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

## **Parked projects**

**Committee is asked to note the committee’s currently parked projects such as any wellbeing projects, Tennis Coaching 2025, a Classic Car Show and the WSCC Library Service centenary.**

This Standing Agenda Item is where committee members can agree which other items of committee business should be kept in mind if not under active consideration. This is also an opportunity to remind other committee members of projects which may have been overlooked.

I have approached the Head Coach of the tennis club about offering a few free tennis coaching sessions on the Warren Recreation Ground this summer, and he would do so happily if we agreed.

On 6<sup>th</sup> December, I received the following email from the WSCC Library Service:

Dear Simon

I'm contacting you from West Sussex Library Service to invite you to be part of our very special Centenary celebrations in 2025!

Our Library Service will have been running for 100 years next year, and as part of our celebrations we would like to recognise the contributions of a range of 'Library Champions' who have helped shape the service we deliver today.

**I am delighted to inform you that you have been nominated to be one of our Library Champions, in recognition of your support for of our service.**

As one of Library Champions we would like to thank you for your contribution with a special certificate which we would like to send to you in the post. You might like to use the certificate to help mark our centenary next year with a photo or video message on your social media – but this is entirely optional!

If you are happy to be involved, we would like to use your image, together with your name and a short sentence (which we will write) on our website, social media channels and in our customer email newsletter. The promotion will run throughout 2025 on our website and social media channels. Our customer newsletter is distributed to 120,000 West Sussex residents each month.

Please could you let me know as soon as possible if you would like to be involved, and if so, could you complete the following:

- **Supply 1 photo** showing head and shoulders, at least 200KB quality (any standard digital photo will be fine)
- Complete our attached **Media Consent Form** so we can be sure you are happy for us to use your image
- **Confirm a postal address** where we can contact you to send a Library Champions celebration letter and certificate

Thank you for being an outstanding Library Champion, supporting our service, and we hope we can celebrate you along with 99 other champions next year!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards

Kerry Dunnaway

I went back to Kerry and asked whether the Library Service meant the council or me individually. Kerry's reply, "In our selection process we have thought about individuals who represent their organisation and/or wider field. So we would like to recognise you as a Library Champion, as a representative of East Preston Parish Council. You might like to accept the certificate on behalf of all of East Preston Parish Council, and then perhaps do a group photo with the certificate which could then be posted it to us in our centenary year on social media." My preference is always for a group photograph. This is all ironic as I have only ever borrowed one book from the library and that was a couple of years ago when I was aged 7.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Committee members said it was lovely the Clerk's contribution to the Library Service was being recognised.

Cllr Toney said he would again contact Southern Classics about potentially running a show in East Preston in September.

Cllr Linton said she would liaise with Andrew Cook about free tennis coaching sessions.

Cllr Chapman mentioned Warm Welcome Space was not advertised on the council's website anywhere. The Clerk said he would rectify that.

079/25 **MAJOR EVENTS COMMITTEE – EAST PRESTON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS, 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER**

Cllr Linton said the Major Events committee had previously considered moving this event from 22<sup>nd</sup> November to 29<sup>th</sup> November. Cllr Linton had sought the opinion of Alison in the Council Office whose preference was for 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The committee AGREED unanimously to keep the event on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The Clerk would confirm this with relevant venues.

**080/25    NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (24<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2025)**

Nothing was suggested.

*The Meeting closed at 20:28.*

Chairman: **Cllr Elizabeth Linton**    Date: **24<sup>th</sup> March 2025**

(END)