

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

**7TH APRIL 2025
at 19:00**

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, 3rd March 2025

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 5th March, asking for suggested amendments by 12th March. None were received.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 7

Monthly Update Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Minute 892/22 – Public Session – West Sussex County Council Highways**
3. **Minute 141/25 (Finance & General Purposes) – Kingston Parish Council – Judicial Review**
4. **Minute 014/25 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Lashmar skatepark**
5. **Minute 098/25 – Stagecoach South**
6. **Minute 181/25 – Ian Hart Funeral Services – Conservative Hall**
7. **Minute 184/25 – West Sussex County Council – Traffic Regulation Order for Sea Road**
8. **Minute 198/25 – West Sussex County Council – electric vehicle charging points**
9. **Minute 200/25 – Clerk’s Report – Item 2 – Police matters**
10. **Minute 203/25 – East Preston Youth Centre**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 3rd March 2025.

2. Minute 892/22 – Public Session – West Sussex County Council Highways

Three residents of Milliers Court, Worthing Road attended the Full Council meeting held on 7th November 2022, following a fatal road traffic accident in Worthing Road on 25th October.

The police investigation finally resulted in a conviction of a motorcycle rider who hit an elderly lady as she crossed the road in broad daylight. On 28th February, the rider was sentenced to three years and nine months in prison; he had been disqualified from driving at the time of the accident.

The three residents reported to the meeting they had a petition of 100 signatures asking WSCC to implement some traffic calming measures in Worthing Road. They had contacted then-MP, Sir Peter Bottomley, and he had directed them to County Cllr Elkins.

Now the criminal case has now ended, I have asked Cllr Elkins whether WSCC routinely takes any action following fatalities.

This whole topic may now reappear at council meetings.

3. Minute 141/25 (Finance & General Purposes) – Kingston Parish Council – Judicial Review

On 26th March, council received the following from Kingston Parish Council: “Please could you pass on to EPPC this Council's sincere thanks for supporting our Judicial Review application regarding planning Application K/46/23/PL (as recorded in our minutes). The £3000 has made a big difference to our final costs as you can see from the attached. The outcome was very disappointing but at least we tried! Also FYI, there is an application in to Arun to remove the affordable housing (commuted to £s)”.

I have asked my Kingston counterpart, Mrs Val Knight, to let me know if her council decides to object to the new Application and seeks this council's support.

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

The latest date ADC has provided for the installation is 2nd and 3rd April with a soft reopening on 4th April.

5. Minute 098/25 – Stagecoach South

The new bus timetable was announced on 4th March, the day after the March Full Council meeting. The webpage gave answers to some of the point respondents had raised during the consultation period. The new timetable will take effect on Sunday, 6th April.

An online news article published on 28th March gave details of new bus stops which had been requested for new services being introduced but no timescales for when those bus stops would be implemented. The closest to East Preston would be stops on the A259 for the new No. 701 service.

6. Minute 181/25 – Ian Hart Funeral Services – Conservative Hall

Ian called on the morning after the meeting to thank the council for letting him introduce his ideas for the Conservative Hall to the community.

7. Minute 184/25 – West Sussex County Council – Sea Road parking restrictions

The residents of Sea Road represented at the March Full Council meeting came back to me agreeing a survey should be published in an e-newsletter without waiting for council to have a further discussion about the future of charging at the Village Green car-park. This was published in the e-newsletter dated 13th March.

At the time of writing, 62 people have responded to the survey, although only 60 answered the question of whether “there should be additional parking restrictions opposite the Village Green in Sea Road” – 75% in favour, 25% against. I shall share the results document with councillors and then with the lead campaigners in Sea Road. The freeform text is, as always, interesting.

8. Minute 198/25 – West Sussex County Council – electric vehicle charging points

As per the Minute, I contacted the project manager to ask about the number and speed of electric vehicle charging points which could be implemented.

On 6th March, I emailed councillors to inform them, “7kWh chargers are the normal install, which puts them at the low end of the ‘fast’ category. East Preston would not be a viable site to situate ‘Rapid’ Chargers, the long and short is there just wouldn’t be enough usage at this point to warrant the significant outlay that comes with rapid chargers.” Therefore, the offer remained six charging points in the Village Green car-park.

In response, support for the scheme was not as comprehensive as it had been. Two respondents asked for confirmation the parking bays adjacent to the charging points would not become exclusively for the use of electric vehicles and the project manager has not responded to that question yet.

In consultation with the Chairman, and in light also of the comments made at the last monthly meeting about perceived underuse of the car-park and also concerns raised by local residents and businesspeople about the implementation of electric vehicle charging points in the northern shops slip road, we agreed now was not the time to implement charging points in the car-park.

9. Minute 200/25 – Clerk’s Report – Item 2 – Police matters

On 11th March, our insurer confirmed settlement of £4,154.49 for the rebuilding of the wall at the Sea Road toilet block damaged in the incident of 7th February.

10. Minute 203/25 – East Preston Youth Centre

I understand, unofficially, the centre has been leased to a children’s organisation already active in the village.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

31st March 2025

Agenda Item 9

Committees

Since the last Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Audit & Governance, Community Engagement 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**

28th March 2025

Agenda Item 9a

Amenities Committee

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in March, but here are some updates.

Warren Recreation Ground Car-Park – The damaged railing panel located next to the height barrier at the car-park's entrance has been replaced. A contractors' vehicles collided into the railings and caused the damage. The contractor has covered all costs to replace the damaged panel.

Warren Recreation Ground Car-Park Line re-painting – The car-park will be closed on the 3rd April 2025 for line repainting. The committee were made aware of vehicles parking directly next to the children's play entrance causing issues for vehicles reversing out from parking bays. The committee has an additional yellow hatched area to prevent this happening.

Litter Bins – The committee has agreed to the installation of three new litter bins, one is to be placed inside the children's playground and it is likely to be a novelty type bin to encourage children to dispose of litter correctly. A second will be next to the serenity garden at the south eastern corner of Warren Recreation Ground and the third which is a sponsored litter bin is to be located at Two Acres. Arun District Council Cleansing will be installing all three bins.

Village Green – Following the recent removal of the white poplar trees at the south western corner of the green, the committee is exploring the idea of enhancing this area into an accessible space for all to enjoy. Three committee members are consulting with a local Landscape Architect regarding how this could be achieved. The committee is also consulting with the Disabled Access Group (DAG), who initially had asked for the access to the green to be improved.

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

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

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 9b

Audit & Governance Committee

Cllr Mathias is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 10th March.

On behalf of the council, the committee agreed an initial Memorandum of Understanding between the council and the Warren Recreation Ground charity. This will address a recommendation made in the internal auditor's interim audit, undertaken last October. The Memorandum of Understanding is not yet perfect but any changes will now be made after the internal auditor's final visit for the financial / municipal year, in May.

Cllr Wilkinson provided an update on his work on reviewing the Council Plan. He has sent the plan back out to current committee chairs, asking them to review the section related to their committee. Cllr McElroy noted mentions of ADC needed to be handled carefully in light of the devolution work currently taking place.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

13th March 2025

Agenda Item 9c

Community Engagement Committee

Cllr Linton is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 24th March. Some of the matters discussed included:

East Preston Festival, 6th to 15th June – councillors are asked to let Cllr Linton know their availability for two events during the week: *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* on the morning of Saturday, 7th June, 09:30 – 12:30, and *Ems Friendly Farm on the Village Green*, Tuesday, 10th June, 16:30 – 19:30. Partial availability is better than none. Councillors know the format of the first event, and would be required mainly for crowd control and visibility at the second event.

Also at part of the Festival, the council will be hosting three sessions of free tennis coaching on the Warren Recreation Ground, in conjunction with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club. These will be on Fridays 6th and 13th June and Monday, 9th June.

Defibrillators – the committee has been trying to find a site to host a defibrillator in the north-east of the village, just south of the Roundstone level crossing. Cllr Toney has received agreement from East Preston Fire Station and the committee has agreed to fund the purchase and, possibly, the implementation of a defibrillator at cabinet at the site. See Agenda Item 10a.

Warm Welcome Space – ahead of the final session of the year, the committee agreed the council should give a small spring plant to each attendee at the final session.

Sports Clubs – the committee agreed a suitable date for the meeting of the village's main sports clubs should be on Monday, 28th July.

Communications Audit – the committee considered an offer for a professional Communications Audit and agreed to recommend commissioning of such, see Agenda Item 10b below.

First Aid training – the committee considered an offer from St John Ambulance to provide some free-of-charge First Aid training within the village. The committee will consider this further at its next meeting.

Hedgehog warning signs – the committee agreed an Environmental Initiatives Working Party request to purchase up to three hedgehog warning signs at a cost of £26.99 each. Cllr Gunston will propose sites for these, based upon the recent call for information on where hedgehogs are seen in the village.

Roundstone Level Crossing traffic management consultancy – following the widening of the brief after the meeting with Angmering and Kingston Parish Councils, a further request for funding was agreed. See Agenda Item 10c below.

The committee's next meeting will be on 9th June.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 9d

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in March.

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th March 2025

Agenda Item 9e

Major Events Committee

Cllr Linton is Chairman of the committee.

The committee did not meet in March.

Funday Sunday on 27th April is pretty much sold out. Councillor Hill is the lead councillor and the theme is Spring.

All is on track for the **Food & Drink Festival** on 23rd August and **East Preston Christmas Celebrations** on 22nd November.

The council's attempt to set off the 2024 Christmas Celebrations **fireworks** on 21st March were cancelled due to the weather forecast. This proved the correct decision.

The **Autumn Quiz** will be held in the Junior School on 12th October and, via Councillor Duff, we have booked a quiz master. Cllr Linton is the lead councillor for this event.

Agenda Item 9f

Personnel Committee

The committee did not meet during March, and there are no updates. Just a reminder we would like all councillors and officers to get themselves an up-to-date DBS check, but not before 1st May. The council will cover the cost of a basic DBS check.

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

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

24th March 2025

Agenda Item 9g

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met on 24th March; the meeting on 10th March had not been required.

The committee considered one Application to which it raised no objections although it did ask for one window to be of obscured glass.

Work continues on revising the Neighbourhood Plan. Agenda Item 13a seeks council agreement to undertake consultation with stakeholder bodies and the Local Planning Authority i.e. Arun District Council.

On 1st April, the council was informed by ADC it had been awarded a further Community Infrastructure Levy payment of £969.68 in relation to a development in Lashmar Road.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 10a

Community Engagement Committee – additional defibrillator

Council is asked to spend up to £2,500 on a providing and installing a defibrillator at East Preston Fire Station.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The committee has long been looking to provide a defibrillator for the north-east end of the village (south of the level crossing). Cllr Toney has now received agreement from the stationmaster at East Preston Fire Station for a freestanding cabinet and defibrillator to be installed close to the existing clothing bank. Expenditure on this should be no greater than £2,500. As you will see from the back page of Adrian's finance reports, there is £3,500 in the council's defibrillator fund. If the council agrees to spend this up-to-£2,500 from general reserves, the defibrillator fund can remain intact for any other community bids for defibrillator projects in the village.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th March 2025

Agenda Item 10b

Community Engagement Committee – Communications Audit

Council is asked to spend £550 on a Communications Audit.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The council has been approached by Mandy Jameson who has previously works as a communications expert for the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's office and is currently helping Trevor Leggo at West Sussex Association of Local Councils.

I can advise that a comms audit for East Preston PC would be charged at £550 and would cover the following:

- A face to face meeting with you and at least one of your councillors to discuss the council's existing methods of communication with residents, engagement levels and any elements you would like to change or improve
- Analysis of your current comms channels including website, social media, surveys, use of printed publications etc
- A written report with suggestions for improvements to your existing comms along with cost-effective ways to increase opportunities for resident engagement

Ms Jameson has recently undertaken a similar exercise at Angmering Parish Council which informed me "We had a session with Mandy which we did find useful. While she said we were doing a lot of the things she would suggest she did come up with other ways to do things which we are going to try. If you were thinking of doing a session I would say it was worth it."

The committee feels this exercise would be worthwhile. Funding would come from general reserves.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 10c

Community Engagement Committee – Roundstone Level Crossing traffic management consultancy

Council is asked to spend up to £9,000 (excluding VAT) on a traffic management consultancy regarding the Roundstone Level Crossing.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

Following the meeting with Angmering and Kingston Parish Councils, it was agreed to widen the scope of any consultancy to include the A259 roundabouts with Station Road and with the A280. This has resulted in a revised costing of £6,750. Angmering Parish Council has shown it is willing to contribute to the cost of the consultancy but not to what degree. If this council wishes to undertake this consultancy, I would suggest it expects to pay the full amount – which is likely to be more than £6,750 – with any donation from Angmering Parish Council being a bonus at the end of the consultancy.

The fee proposal does not include an independent Stage 1 Road Safety Audit the need for which would be determined later; this would cost approximately £1,200. Additional meetings would be charged at £350 and normal disbursements would be approximately an additional 5% of the fee (£337.50), hence suggesting up to £9,000.

Any resolution tonight will supersede Resolution 1917 made on 2nd December to spend up to £4,500 on this piece of work (Minute 924/24).

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th March 2025

Agenda Item 11a

Finance & General Purposes Committee – amendment to Financial Regulations

Council is asked to agree some minor changes to the council's Financial Regulations.

Cllr Gunston to lead on this item.

WSALC advised councils NALC had released new Model Financial Regulations stating, "The Model Financial Regulations have been updated because of The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulation 2024, which came into effect last week. The changes are to Model Financial Regulations 5.4, 5.7 and 5.11."

Cllr Gunston offered to compare the wording of those paragraphs with our own Financial Regulations and reported, "Only change is to replace "The Public Contracts Regulations 2015" with "The Procurement Act 2023 and The Procurement Regulations 2024.""

My thanks to Cllr Gunston for his work on this.

Agenda Item 12a

Personnel Committee – training overspend

Council is asked to agree an overspend on the Officer Training budget line for 2024/25 to enable the council's bookkeeper to attend year-end software training.

Cllr Duff to lead on this item.

Councillors will be aware the council has been using new accounting software for the past financial year. This will be Adrian's first year of compiling the year-end under the new software and training is available. The training is £912 but it is essential and it does mean the budget line will be overspent.

Agenda Item 13a

Planning & Licensing Committee – stakeholder consultation

Council is asked to agree the revised East Preston Neighbourhood Plan can progress to Regulation 14 stakeholder consultation.

Cllr Bowman to introduce this item.

The East Preston Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group has now been revising the village's Neighbourhood Plan for some time, a very small number of people putting a lot of time and effort into this review. The revised plan has been informally reviewed by ADC and also reviewed by our contractors Oneill Homer; both organisations have helped bring the revised plan to this point.

If council agrees to this recommendation, this will supersede Resolution 1906 made on 4th November 2024 (Minute 810/24).

Agenda Item 14

Working Parties

Only the Environmental Initiatives Working Parties met in March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th March 2025

Agenda Item 14a

20mph Working Party

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this committee.

As reported last month, the working party had met on 24th February and would like a meeting with WSCC Highways. I asked County Cllr Elkins to facilitate the arrangement of such a meeting and he called me on the morning of 24th March for more details. He is happy to liaise with Highways on arranging the meeting but said a new Highways officer for this area is soon to start work and Cllr Elkins felt it would be best to wait until that officer is in post, likely late May.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 14b

Environmental Initiatives Working Party (EIWP)

The working party met on 12th March.

Regretfully we took the decision to ask council to disband the working party as we believe our work can be taken over by Parish Council committees. We are proud of the achievements of the committee listed in last month's report. All outstanding projects will be completed. The Village Hall booking for the proposed Green Day has been cancelled, the Community Engagement committee has been asked to order some hedgehog signs and write an article explaining how parishioners can work with the Parish Council on environmental, as well as other issues.

Allotment adoption, cycle signs and verge planting will be completed by the individuals who have been leading on these projects. Before we adjourned to the Tudor Tavern for a closing drink it was agreed that members could keep in contact on a less formal basis.

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

23rd March 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.

A new tenant has occupied the flat since early March. He has spotted some faults which the previous tenant had not spotted and the council has, hopefully, rectified these.

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.

I have chased the site valuation report with the council's valuer and await his response. Any report should be imminent and will then need to be considered by the working party.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 15a

Environmental Initiatives Working Party - disbandment

Council is asked to agree to disband the Environmental Initiatives Working Party.

Cllr Gunston to lead on this item.

As Cllr Gunston reported to Full Council last month, the working party feels it has achieved a lot and further achievements should be managed by existing council committees (Minute 197/25). It is likely a village environmental group will emerge and the council will work with this group as it works with other groups in the village.

The Terms of Reference for the working party were adopted on 14th September 2020. In the council's Standing Orders, clause 28d states, "The minimum number of active councillors on a working party at any time [is] to be three." Effectively those councillors who were on the working party until the meeting held on 12th March – Cllrs Chapman, Duff, Gale, Gunston and Hill – have all resigned, leaving the other eight councillors to choose three new working party members or to agree the Environmental Initiatives Working Party can disband.

Agenda Item 18

Sussex Police

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

Agenda Item 19

Clerk's Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Police matters**
- 3. Anti-social behaviour matters**
- 4. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
- 5. ADC Clerks' Meeting, 27th February**
- 6. Community Speedwatch meeting, 27th March**
- 7. Library of Possibilities and Wonder, 28th March**
- 8. Warm Welcome Space, 31st March**
- 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. April meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

PCSO Raj called into the office on the morning of 25th March, just to catch up. Caught on the hop, initially I had little to report to him, but once I got going...

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. **ADC Clerks' Meeting, 27th February**

This meeting was held at the Civic Centre, having originally been planned for November but cancelled then due to illness. The most senior officer present was Daniel Bainbridge, ADC's Monitoring Officer. Also on the top table: Lauren Fairs-Browning, Election Services Manager, and Shirley Quinlan, PA to the Chief Executive and other senior officers.

Other councils represented included: Aldwick, Angmering, Bersted, Clapham, Felpham, Slindon, Walberton Parish Councils and Arundel and Littlehampton Town Councils.

Some of the interesting points from the meeting:

Daniel noted an increase in complaints about councillors in 2024 over 2023 and 2022. Unlike previous years, he estimated two-thirds of all complaints about councillors had involved town and parish councillors rather than district councillors. I asked whether there were any particular themes to the complaints and was advised social media, personal interests coming into the council arena and general disrespect between councillors and between councillors and officers.

One council of 16 members had had 15 new members elected at the May 2023 elections, all, at that time, friends, but subsequently divisions had arisen and life at that council was pretty hellish. One councillor had resigned. Another councillor then got ten residents to call for a by-election rather than a co-option, and this cost the council £12,500.

Only one other council was represented by a man and he attended with his female boss.

One council has appointed a Community Clerk, whose role is mainly liaising outwards to community organisations and activities.

Several councils reported difficulties getting councillors to go on training courses, some new councillors feeling they don't need to have any training. I am grateful this council has a Training Plan in place which expects all councillors to undertake training once a term and equally grateful that councillors and officers happily attend such training.

There was some talk about devolution but really, nothing we haven't already seen in comms from the Chief Exec.

Some WSCC by-elections were likely as not all current councillors will have seen themselves sitting beyond the expected 2025 county council elections, now deferred as part of the devolution process.

Daniel would like to hold a further meeting of clerks in September.

6. Community Speedwatch meeting, 27th March

I attended the approximately quarterly meeting of the village Community Speedwatch (CSW) team. This was the first meeting led by the new coordinator, Gavin Bernard. The meeting was basically Gavin introducing himself and getting to know the team members, but Gavin also announced, in addition to Keith Harris, two other members have recently stood down, and John Wintle announced his intention to move away from the village shortly.

Part of Gavin's new role then will be to recruit some new members to the team. Shifts are scheduled around the availability of team members and commitment can be as little as one shift a month. If anyone reading this would like to know more, please contact me and I will put you in touch with Gavin.

7. Libraries of Possibilities and Wonder, 28th March

Cllr Chapman and I attended this event which was part of the 100th anniversary celebrations of the West Sussex Library Service. We sampled the service's new Virtual Reality (VR) headsets and our visit will form an article in the Spring 2025 Newsletter. (We took photographs of each other, but none are useable!)

Away from work, earlier in the same week, I attended an evening talk at West Sussex Record Office on the first 100 years of the library service. This was well-attended and interesting, led by Martin Hayes, former Local History lead for the county, and Russell Allen, current head of the library service.

8. Warm Welcome Space, 31st March

This was the final scheduled Warm Welcome Space session of this year. This session was led by Cllr Hill with support from Alison, Dawn, Cllr Linton and myself. We served 27 lunches, no session this year reaching the dizzy heights of 30+ attendees.

This year, Cllr Linton suggested we give all attendees a primula to take home with them, and these were well-received. (In the first year, we gave everyone an Easter egg and in the second year, we gave everyone a slice of cake to follow their soup.)

As before, as the session broke up, there were many complimentary comments passed by attendees and lots of gratitude expressed. Members of the Legion said they would miss the sessions and the extra people brought into the club. As we know, some Warm Welcome Session attendees have subsequently become members of the club too.

9. Social media

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

- A post announcing the cancellation of the Christmas Celebrations fireworks on 21st March – 6,323 people

(posts up to and including 31st March)

The number of Followers is currently 1,921, an increase of 13 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 – 20th February – sent to 946 subscribers, opened by 671 (71%)

Parish Council news – 27th February – sent to 946 subscribers, opened by 666 (70.5%)

Parish Council news – 6th March – sent to 948 subscribers, opened by 673 (71.2%)

Parish Council news – 13th March – sent to 945 subscribers, opened by 678 (71.6%)

Parish Council news – 20th March – sent to 948 subscribers, opened by 646 (68.4%)

Parish Council news – 27th March – sent to 951 subscribers, opened by 639 (67.3%)

11. Things we have been asked since the last meeting

“Perhaps the council can act to prevent the double parking that we have on St Mary's Drive which has completely blocked access to emergency vehicles?” (The Junior School was hosting a new monthly event and has spoken to the organisers of that event.)

In the wake of two village organisations arranging their Annual General Meetings on the same evening, I was asked whether there was still a Village Diary, the idea being organisations could check the Village Diary before booking an event to see whether any other organisation had an event on that evening or was planning one. In my 18 years in post, there has never been a Village Diary, and the person who asked me had been a councillor before my time and said there had not been a Village Diary then either.

12. Recent bouquets and complaints

(In addition to anything reported above)

From Sioned Vos, Chairman of East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society, “Thanks for the plug for the Preservation Society in the latest Newsletter - Diolch yn fawr!”

From Cllr Philippa Bower after I enquired about the health of Cllr Ricky Bower, “We are both very appreciative of the support shown by you and the Parish Council.”

None in writing as yet, but almost all attendees at the final Warm Welcome Space for 2025 thanked council representatives also present.

From a resident showing a film of a play she wrote in the Village Hall this month, “Thanks very much Simon. You were so helpful this morning.”

13. Leave

Currently, I am off on the 3rd, Dawn is off on 16th and 17th and Caspar on the 23rd.

14. April Meetings and Events

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

6th Beach Clean (11:00, Sea Road)

7th Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)

- 10th Sussex Community Rail Partnership (14:00, Lancing Parish Hall) (SC only)
- 12th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, Vicarage Lane)
- 14th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) (tbc)
 Personnel Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 27th *Funday Sunday* (cllrs 12:00 onwards, public 14:00, East Preston & Kingston Village Hall)
- 28th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) (tbc)
 Major Events Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 30th South Strand Community Toilets Annual General Meeting (10:00, Littlehampton tbc) (SC only)

N.B. where committee meetings fall on the same day, the timings of these meetings may be subject to change.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025

Agenda Item 20

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note any reports.

REACH meeting with West Sussex County Councillors, 13th March

Rustington Parish Council

Together with Alan Evans - Angmering PC and Gary Lee - Rustington PC I met with West Sussex County Councillors to discuss the REACH project. Unfortunately, Roger Elkins was unable to join us. Deborah and Alison confirmed that WSCC will assess the REACH toolkit when it is available later this year as well as helping with due diligence on potential Power Circle investors. The County Council cannot currently help with funding for the project or management of a Local Energy Company and will not guarantee the project. Once the toolkit is available we will explore ways in which the County Council can help promote REACH.

Cllr John Gunston –
Chairman of the Environmental Initiatives Working Party

23rd March 2025

ADALC Devolution Conference, 31st March

Civic Centre, Littlehampton

Many details still not clear. There were three presentations, key points from these are listed below.

Presentations from Dawn Hudd, Chief Executive of Arun DC.

- White Paper wants stronger engagements as community voice important.

- No framework yet from government.
- Arun working on a communications framework - not yet signed off.

Katy Bourne, Police and Crime Commissioner.

- This is an opportunity if we work together.
- “If you’re not at the table you’ll be eaten.”
- Be ambitious but realistic.

Paul Marshall, Leader of WSCC.

- Drivers for change - housing and need to save money
- Looking at scenarios for number of unitary authorities.
- July hopefully White Paper on how parishes can work with Unitaries.
- Need to devolve financial powers responsibly.

Issues from questions

- Parish Councils don’t have necessary skills and resources.
- Asset transfers being discussed in some areas.
- Set up clusters to share resources.
- List local assets and services. What is statutory and what not.
- Produce Parish Council strategic plan.
- Clerks are key to any changes.
- Wait for July White Paper but prepare.

Do we need a working party to consider our position?

Cllr John Gunston

31st March 2025

Agenda Item 22

New items to be referred to the next meeting – 12th May 2025

There will be two meetings on the evening of 12th May.

At 18:00, there will be the Annual Meeting of the Council. As last year, this will have a reduced agenda, mainly administration for the beginning of the new council year.

At 19:00, there will be the Annual Parish Meeting. I have invited Daniel Sykes, the Cyber Crime Protect and Prepare Officer for both Sussex and Surrey Police to join the meeting to present on cyber crime.

The Major Events Committee has an Agenda Item for its next meeting to sort out refreshments for the Annual Parish Meeting. Please let me know if you are willing to help with refreshments on the evening.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st April 2025