



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held at 18:30 on Monday, 6th October 2025 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bowman, Kit Bradshaw, Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, Barbara Gale and Helen Hill (all until 20:37); John Gunston, Elizabeth Linton, Glyn Mathias, Rick McElroy, David Moore and Steve Toney (Chairman) and Steven Wilkinson

ALSO: Simon Cross, Clerk to the Council

Cllr Roger Elkins, West Sussex County Council (until 18:40)

Cllr Philippa Bower, Arun District Council (until 19:40)

Kirstie Thomas, 4SIGHT Vision Support (until 19:08)

Alice and Robert Finnigan, Steve Hodgson and Trish Lemin, Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group (all until 19:45)

Linda Denton (until 19:45), Chris and Valerie Eschbæcher (until 19:08), Malcolm and Pauline McLelland (until 19:08) Sue Morley (until 19:40) and Fola Odejobi (until 19:08)

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The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;
AoSERA – Angmering-on-Sea Estate Residents' Association
NHS – National Health Service;
NR – Network Rail;
PCSO – Police Community Support Officer;
SLCC – Society of Local Council Clerks;

TRO – Traffic Regulation Order;
VHF – East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation;
WRA – Willowhayne Residents' Association;
WSCC – West Sussex County Council;
WSALC – West Sussex Association of Local Councils

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The meeting opened at 18:31.

754/25 **INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr Toney welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the meeting protocol and safety information and led a round of introductions.

755/25 **REVEREND ANDREW PERRY**

Cllr Toney invited all present to join him in a minute's silence in memory of Reverend Andrew Perry, incumbent vicar at St Mary the Virgin, East Preston from 2017 until his recent passing.

756/25 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

With the Chairman's agreement, County Cllr Elkins addressed the meeting at this point as he had another meeting to attend.

Cllr Elkins thanked the meeting for permitting him to speak so early in the meeting. He provided an update on local government reorganisation. The preference which has been submitted to central government is for a single unitary authority to cover the whole of West Sussex. The final decision will be central government's but the county council believed a single unitary authority would result in greater cost savings than two unitary authorities for the county and those savings would be realised sooner too. Any new unitary authority will be expected to maintain and improve upon its relations with local councils. The county council currently provides 80% of services across the county, so there is a risk of disaggregation in the reorganisation. The government's decision is expected in Spring 2026, closely followed by a mayoral election for the Sussex Strategic Authority in May 2026. A shadow unitary authority council would be elected in May 2027 with the new structure taking over in May 2028. Cllr Elkins reiterated all the above was subject to change.

Cllr Elkins also reported WSCC's Adult Social Care provision had been inspected by the Care Quality Commission in August and had now been rated Good, a noteworthy step up from its previous rating of Requires Improvement.

In response to a question, Cllr Elkins advised the role of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner will report to the new Mayor of Sussex and Brighton. The Fire & Rescue Service will become county-wide too.

(Cllr Elkins left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

757/25 4SIGHT VISION SUPPORT

(Cllr Wilkinson joined the meeting during this item.)

The meeting received a presentation from Kirstie Thomas, Chief Executive Officer of the organisation (charity no. 1075447).

Ms Thomas explained 4SIGHT Vision Support was established over 100 years ago and ran with a very small team with very limited funds handled between sixty and seventy new referrals each month along the 3,500 people currently supported within West Sussex. 36,000 residents in the county were living with some form of sight loss, the highest national average per county.

Ms Thomas stressed the importance of eye tests. Fearing what an eye test might tell them, people tend not to get their eyes tested as often as they should or at all. Ms Thomas asked everyone present to think of how their lives might change if they woke up tomorrow with an immediate sight loss. Ms Thomas said the organization knew people who stopped eating and drinking hot things for fear of burning themselves, stopped eating fresh food because of the fear of cutting themselves whilst preparing it.

Ms Thomas talked about some of the services 4SIGHT can offer including the Low Vision Assessment which will report on adjustments which can be made to make the life of someone with new sight loss easier. This would cover such things as lighting options and the best use of magnification tools.

4SIGHT is on hand in three of the county's major hospitals, available to provide counselling at the point of diagnosis. In recent years, the organization has seen a 200% increase in requests for advice with accessible technology and a similar increase in requests for advice on benefits.

The organization was supporting local residents who were still deeply affected by the pandemic, the isolation experienced at that time and additional complexities of initiatives such as social distancing which were sometimes more complicated to navigate as someone with impaired vision.

Ms Thomas advised people should always ask a vision impaired person whether they need any assistance. There will only ever be two answers, yes or no. The organization supports not only the vision impaired person but also the person's family, friends, employer, whoever needs help to adjust to the person's particular circumstances.

Ms Thomas ended by saying sight loss is not something which is going to go away.

Mrs McLelland thanked Ms Thomas for her talk as it had given her husband a better understanding of how her life was adjusting following the onset of her own sight loss. Mrs McLelland said how lucky she was to live in such a wonderful community where people had taken on board her situation and worked with her as best they could.

Cllr Gunston said his own experience of 4SIGHT had been its involvement with two residents the council supported during the pandemic. Cllr Gunston said the support 4SIGHT gave to those residents was brilliant and could not be faulted.

In response to a question from Cllr Moore, Ms Thomas said she was aware of GBR Blind Sailing but not in any great depth.

With no further questions forthcoming, Ms Thomas thanked the council for inviting her to address the meeting and thanked the members of the public for their feedback.

(Ms Thomas and seven members of the public left at the conclusion of this item.)

758/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All parish councillors were present.

Apologies were received from District Cllrs P Bower, R Bower and Kelly, Julian Ellis, Kelvan Gale and Dave Jull.

759/25 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None were declared.

760/25 PUBLIC SESSION

Agenda Item 13a – Amenities Committee – Warren Recreation Ground – Mediation Exercise – Mrs F said she and her neighbours were here as members of the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group (WRGSG). They had read the Clerk's supporting paper for this item and they favoured Mediator 2 as they believed the Joint Clarification Meeting was vital to the success of any mediation exercise.

Agenda Item 17a – Warren Recreation Ground Annual General Meeting – Mrs F asked whether this meeting was something anyone could attend. The Clerk replied the meeting was open to all and was advertised in council noticeboards and its e-newsletter. He added a member of the WRGSG not present this evening had said he would attend the Annual General Meeting although ultimately on this occasion he had not.

761/25 COUNCIL RESPONSES

There were no further council responses.

762/25 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

District Cllrs Ricky Bower and Paul Kelly had sent apologies for the meeting.

District Cllr Philippa Bower provided an update on ADC's response to this council's suggestion a local group took on the management of the East Preston allotments site. Cllr Bower read from the written response she had received from the district council's housing department.

“The site has been looked at by the Housing Development and Enabling Officer as part of a review of all allotment sites within the district and was brought forward with the interest raised by EPPC to take over the management.

“The site is considered as one that, together with the garaging adjacent to the allotment site, is very much underused and a review of how this could be addressed to improve an income from this site is underway.

“Discussions were based around the use of an SLA [Service Level Agreement] provided by EPPC but following a review by our in-house Legal Department, the advice is a leasing arrangement is preferable.

“Further discussions are needed to progress the details of the lease with the Parish Council particularly in relation to the responsibility for maintaining the site boundaries and the holding of a Public Liability Insurance Policy.

“These discussions are proposed to be arranged in the coming month however, with a Senior staff member away on Permanent Sick Leave staff resources are being stretched and progress with some elements of Housing Departments workload are inevitably suffering delays. Unfortunately, this matter has been one of them.”

Cllr Bower said she was bringing up this matter at every opportunity as an example of how ADC was letting down its town and parish councils.

The Clerk informed Cllr Bower the reason the site was “very much underused” was because ADC, several years ago, had taken the decision not to issue new tenancy agreements when a tenancy was surrendered.

Cllr Gunston expressed his deep frustration there were individuals and organizations within the village crying out to be allowed to cultivate an abandoned allotment but ADC had been actively preventing that for several years now and its promises of attention now were not being honoured quickly enough.

Cllr Bradshaw said another year’s growing season had now passed, and Cllr Mathias suggested the council should write to the Chief Executive at ADC to say her colleagues were not helping enough with this matter.

Cllr Bower reported the ADC Environment Committee was investigating how it would use fewer chemicals on weeds. This could take up to a year to investigate.

As chairman of the Planning & Licensing Committee, Cllr Bowman expressed the council’s frustration at the ADC decision to grant Planning Permission for Application, EP/69/25/HH which would result in a property in Tamarisk Way being remodelled into something much larger but, more importantly, more blocky than the existing property, something which had been objected to by the parish council, the residents association, East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society and some neighbours, all with valid reasons upon which ADC could have refused Planning Permission. Cllr Bowman continued, stating the passion of the small team of councillors and residents who had worked tirelessly on updating an already robust Neighbourhood Plan with a view to protecting the village from just this sort of inappropriate development.

The Clerk added the applicant’s agent had submitted a letter responding to the comments made in all objections, but none of the objectors had been given the chance to respond to those comments. Throughout the application, the property was described as Art Deco when most observers said it was Arts & Crafts, a very different style to Art Deco, but that had gone unchallenged.

Objectors had written to the village’s three district councillors twice, but had received no responses.

Cllr Bower said she would discuss this case with her husband, Cllr Ricky Bower as he was better versed in Planning matters than she.

Cllr Linton raised her concerns about the lack of dog and litter bins on the greensward south of Tamarisk Way and how some of those provided had recently been removed. The provision of bins was lamentable compared to the stretch of greensward heading west through Rustington. Cllr Linton also questioned the information ADC’s bin operatives were unable to enter children’s playgrounds because they did not have the correct DBS certification. Cllr McElroy added there should be no reason for a bin operative to need any DBS certification as the bin operatives were not being left supervising children within any playground. All parish councillors and officers here had up-to-date DBS certificates, it was not difficult.

Cllr Bower said she would investigate.

The Clerk advised Cllr Bower the council would later be discussing the future of ADC’s Mill Pond Way play area in light of ADC’s decision to close it and to replace it with landscaping. Cllr Bower said she would investigate.

(Cllr Bower and Mrs Morley left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

763/25 AMENITIES COMMITTEE – WARREN RECREATION GROUND – MEDIATION EXERCISE

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

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Cllr Wilkinson spoke in support of this report. He explained the Amenities Committee had met with the WRGSG at a committee meeting in August, and representatives of the council had met with the cricket club at a meeting instigated by the club early in September. Both parties had agreed to participate in a mediation exercise sponsored by the council.

Cllr Mathias suggested the council only commit to an initial mediation meeting at this point as he would not support any proposal which would have an adverse effect on the playing of cricket on the Warren Recreation Ground.

Mrs Finnigan said the WRGSG was not seeking a ban on cricket but it wanted to ensure the safety of users of the Warren Recreation Ground and those living adjacent was paramount.

In response to a question from Cllr McElroy, the Clerk said the cricket club had not explicitly stated a preference for a mediation provider but it had access to the same information as the WRGSG.

2022 The Council **RESOLVED** to allocated up to £2,000 towards the cost of a mediation exercise, on the understanding this cost may go up once mediation has started.

Cllr Mathias voted against this.

2023 The Council **RESOLVED** to use Mediator 2 for this exercise.

Cllr Hill abstained from both of the above votes stating she was not familiar enough with the situation to make an informed decision.

(All remaining members of the public left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

764/25 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2025

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 2nd September asking for suggested amendments by the 9th September. None were received.

2024 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 1st September. Cllr Toney duly did so.

765/25 UPDATE ON MATTERS IN THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council NOTED the following report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

The Clerk had nothing to add to the above report but was willing to answer questions. None were asked.

766/25 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Accounts for September 2025 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

2025 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2025/26, value £2,361.38 (exc. VAT).

2026 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Regular Monthly Payments reports for September 2025 totalling £400.84 (inc. VAT).

2027 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid reports for September totalling £40,295.51 (inc. VAT).

2028 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report for financial year to date totalling £145,550.05 (inc. VAT) for September 2025, (Year to Date, £319,627.38).

The council NOTED the Bank Reconciliations to 12th September 2025.

The council NOTED the Budget Summary for 2025/26 to date including earmarked reserves.

Cllr Toney thanked the council's bookkeeper, Adrian Vyse, for preparing the above reports.

767/25 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

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

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Additionally:

Community Engagement – Cllr Linton expressed concern at the lack of councillors attending the beach clean on 28th September. Although the Clerk had overseen a successful event, it perhaps had not looked good to members of the public no councillors attended. Cllr Linton said the committee would be considering the need for council beach cleans as the amount of litter to be found each session was significantly less than it had been in the past, as evidenced by the number of keen volunteers who no longer attended. Depending upon the outcome of that discussion, Cllr Linton said she might be looking to get more councillors involved in future beach cleans.

Cllr Bradshaw reported he had undertaken his own litter pick along Manor Road on the afternoon of the beach clean, amongst his findings: two pairs of men's underwear.

Cllr Linton confirmed the 2026 calendar was currently with the designer and should be available imminently.

Major Events – Cllr Linton confirmed the decision had been taken to cancel the Afternoon Quiz scheduled for 12th October. This was due to poor ticket sales.

The Clerk confirmed he had emailed all those who had booked and refunds had been issued. All had expressed their disappointment and understanding. He had also contacted both the quizmaster and the Junior School. The quizmaster had advised he had incurred no expenses and the Junior School said it just needed a box of chocolates as a cancellation fee.

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

768/25 AMENITIES COMMITTEE – WARREN RECREATION GROUND CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA

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

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Cllr Wilkinson spoke in support of this item. No questions were asked.

2029 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to additional expenditure of £2,000 to replace the floor panels of the multiplay unit.

769/25 PLANNING & LICENSING COMMITTEE – EAST PRESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

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

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As Chairman of both the Planning & Licensing Committee and the Neighbourhood Plan Review Steering Group, Cllr Bowman explained it had not been practical to circulate the latest draft of the Neighbourhood Plan because of its size, but it could be made available to councillors. Following the consultation exercise Regulation 14, the Steering Group believed the draft plan was ready to be submitted to ADC for it to refer to an independent examiner. The Steering Group had worked hard on getting the plan to this state.

2030 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to submit the draft revised East Preston Neighbourhood Plan to Arun District Council as Regulation 15 of The Neighbourhood Planning (General) Regulations 2012.

Councillors, including Cllrs Toney, Linton and Duff, thanked Cllr Bowman and her team for their work to date on this project.

770/25 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

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

Additionally:

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation – Cllr Gunston queried whether the council needed to keep its Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation Working Party whilst all information being produced suggests there will be no changes for town and parish councils. He reported that although the preference submitted to central government from the higher authorities in West Sussex had been for a single unitary authority, the *Shaping West Sussex* engagement exercise had recorded 62% of the population had been in favour of a two unitary authority model. Cllr Gunston confirmed the Clerk's comment there had been no financial details within the engagement exercise and yet the financials were being used as a basis for the decision for one unitary authority over two.

After some discussion, it was AGREED the working party should lay dormant for the time being.

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

771/25 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL – MILL POND WAY PLAY AREA

The following report was circulated ahead of the meeting:

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The Clerk explained two councillors had asked him for the council to consider this matter following the circulation of the letter ADC had circulated to households in the Mill Pond Way area asking for ideas for landscaping once the existing play equipment has been removed.

Cllr Wilkinson said he felt it unacceptable young children should walk from their homes in the Mill Pond Way area to the nearest play area, Lashmar Road. This would involve crossing Worthing Road, a road in which there were no pedestrian refuges.

Cllr McElroy said he had researched this on Google Maps, and the two play areas were either a four-minute drive apart or an eleven-minute walk apart, Google suggesting a walking route which was perhaps not the simplest. Cllr McElroy questioned whether we had any knowledge of how well-used the Mill Pond Way play area was, was it still needed? The Clerk replied he had asked ADC whether any consultation and similar documents could be made available but had received no reply to date.

After some further discussion,

2031 The Council **RESOLVED** to discuss the future of the Mill Pond Way play area further with ADC to see what options could be available to the council.

Cllr Bradshaw abstained from this vote.

772/25 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL – COUNCIL TAX

The following report was circulated ahead of the meeting:

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The meeting felt it was unclear what sort of response ADC was looking for, although councillors generally saw the proposal would help more people in need. However,

2032 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to respond to ADC's consultation saying it did not feel it could respond as no information had been made available on the impact the proposals might have on the council's Council Tax base.

773/25 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL – STATION ROAD SPUR ROAD

The Clerk reported the council had received the following email on 30th September:

Hi Simon,

You will be pleased to know that we now have a start date for the improvements at Station Rd.

The works include increased kerb heights, raising both footpath levels, road surfaces renewed along with pedestrian barriers both sides and revamp the bench.

WSCC have been involved with the pedestrian barriers. The new barriers will cause issues with cars that used to park on the paths. This is our road and we need to do something to preserve the future of the road, paths and cause less aggravation to our neighbours.

Work planned to start 21/11/25 but this may be flexible.

Any problems please let me know.

Many Thanks,
Lloyd Willson
Senior Surveyor, Property & Estates

The Clerk shared this just for information as the council had, in the past, needed to contact ADC fairly frequently about the aesthetic of the spur road, so this should be good news.

774/25 WARREN RECREATION GROUND – ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 8TH SEPTEMBER

Council NOTED the draft Minutes from the Annual General Meeting of the Warren Recreation Ground as held on 8th September. These had been circulated in advance of the meeting.

775/25 SUSSEX POLICE

No report had been received.

776/25 CLERK'S REPORT

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

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Item 11 – East Preston Beach Clean No. 24, 28th September – Cllr Linton asked whether the local resident had returned to pick up after his dog and the Clerk confirmed he had.

Item 12 – Social Media – the Clerk advised Cllr Linton the found bank card had not been claimed and had subsequently been destroyed.

777/25 EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

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

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Cllr Bradshaw said he and Cllr Moore had both enjoyed their trips to Greenleas and Ayton House. The Greenleas Macmillan coffee morning had ultimately raised £335. Both venues had invited council representatives to visit as the venues like to know how their residents can get involved in the local community and that does not just mean the village in which the venues are located.

Cllr Gunston said only about twenty people attended Dr Beccy Cooper MP's water event, and only one other was from East Preston. Subsequently, he had invited a Southern Water representative to visit East Preston as she may not be familiar with it.

The Southern Water website was very transparent about the company's failings and showed it was the 16th performing water board out of 17 in the country.

Nothing was added.

778/25 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Nothing was added.

779/25 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (3RD NOVEMBER)

The meeting will start at 18:30 with a presentation from Rustington Death Café.

Cllr Duff volunteered to organise a Christmas meal for the council.

780/25 118-120 SEA ROAD, EAST PRESTON – RESOLUTION TO APPLY FOR A LOAN

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

118-120 Sea Road, East Preston

Council is asked to consider matters related to the proposed purchase of 118-120 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1NN.

As previously discussed at the Extraordinary Meeting held on 16th June, the property known as 118-120 Sea Road is currently on the market comprising ground floor office space and two-storey living accommodation above. This property adjoins the existing council premises at 122 (office) and 124 (flat) Sea Road. The property is on the market for £450,000, and is for sale Freehold.

The council's Flat & Frontage Working Party thinks this is an ideal and possibly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the council to buy extended premises. The ground floor could, amongst other uses, become a meeting venue for village groups and could also provide office accommodation for those groups too. The meeting venue would be big enough to hold most, if not all, council committee meetings, which would reduce the amount of money the council currently spends on room hire.

The current government's devolution and local government reorganisation agenda could well mean this council's workload could increase in the next few years, possibly requiring additional staff.

The council could host organisations which could be beneficial to the village, e.g. Citizens Advice and Sussex Police sessions again. There is an outside chance we may even be able to get a bank to visit again.

All of the above could herald the beginning of the council sitting at the centre of a community hub. The council could oversee the creation of more new groups in the village just as it has East Preston Men in Sheds, East Preston in Bloom and East Preston Repair Café in recent years, all groups which add great value to the village.

Although not currently self-contained, the flat (120) could easily be made self-contained, enabling it to become additional income for the council/village and remain a rental property at a time when rental properties are hard to find.

Buying the property would provide another community asset for the village and would likely only appreciate in value.

Council needs to agree a purchase price.

There is a proposal to take about £200,000 from the council's current reserves which would reduce those more to the recommended level of a year's running costs. The remainder of the agreed purchase price would need to come from a loan.

Council can apply for a public works loan. To do so, the council needs to garner the support of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils. To that end, I have had a conversation with Trevor Leggo, CEO, and he believes the proposal is very sensible and he will happily support it. Trevor said we would need to gauge a degree of public support for the proposal although he accepted time was a constraint in this instance. In the e-newsletter published at 15:00 on 25th June, we explained the project to members of the public and asked them to complete a short questionnaire showing their support or otherwise for the proposal.

The loan itself, costing just over £32,000 a year over 10 years would add 11.14% to the precept. However, based upon current figures, we expect the loan, when offset by income from the additional rental property and other likely income, will mean an increase of no more than £5.72 on a Band D property. East Preston precept for a Band D property is currently £98.43 (and has been since April 2020) so £5.72 is just under 6%.

At its next meeting, the Finance & General Purposes Committee will consider any risks related to this loan and add them to the council's Risk Register.

Informally, on Carnival Parade day, Cllr Linton mentioned the proposal to Dr Beccy Cooper MP, who was also supportive of the idea.

Council to agree to apply for an annuity public works loan of £250,000 – repayable over 10 years at a cost of c.£32,000 per year.

Council to agree to release other funds required to complete the purchase of this property.

This may involve the payment of some penalty fees should we need to withdraw any funds from some of our longer-term accounts. Adrian is currently working out the financial implications upon our bank accounts and I will have more information on this at the time of the meeting (circulated in advance if possible).

Council to agree to appoint a solicitor to work on its behalf on this proposed purchase.

This supporting paper may be updated as more information becomes available, but any updated version will be issued no later than midday on 30th June.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th June 2025

The information supporting the proposal had not changed since the resolution taken at the meeting held on 30th June.

- 2033** The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for borrowing approval for a loan of £250,000 over the borrowing term of 10 years for the purchase of 118-120 Sea Road, East Preston, BN16 1NN. The annual loan repayments will come to around £32,000. Council also **RESOLVED** unanimously to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 6% which is the equivalent of an addition £5.72 a year (for a Band D property). This will be subject to a precept increase consultation.

The council, via its Finance & General Purposes Committee, will look to keep any increase to a minimum.

781/25 118-120 SEA ROAD, EAST PRESTON – RESOLUTION FOR SIGNATORIES

The Clerk explained the council's solicitor had asked for formal agreement by council as to which councillors could act as signatories in this matter. As Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cllrs Toney and Linton had agreed to be signatories.

- 2034** The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously Cllrs Toney and Linton could act as its signatories in the matter of the purchase of 118-120 Sea Road, East Preston.

(Cllrs Bowman, Bradshaw, Chapman, Duff, Gale and Hill all left the meeting at this point.)

782/25 LEASES WORKING PARTY

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

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Following some discussion,

2035 On behalf of the council, the Leases Working Party **RESOLVED** unanimously to ask Mr Deacon to continue negotiations along the terms suggested, i.e. £500pa for five years, £1,150pa for five years, £1,500pa for five years with rent reviews built in every five years (preset for the first two reviews). The council would only offer a 25-years lease, in line with its Land and Buildings Strategy (last reviewed in 2023).

The meeting ended at 20:50.

Chairman: Date: **3rd November 2025**
Cllr Steve Toney

END