MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

1ST DECEMBER 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 the Monthly Full Council meeting, 3rd November 2025

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

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 7

Monthly Update Report

- 1. Introduction
- 2. (Community Engagement) Minute 463/25 Smartphone Free Childhood, 26th June 2025
- 3. Minute 832/25 and 782/25 Rustington Death Café
- 4. Minute 840/25 Correspondence Car Clubs
- 5. Minute 845/25 Personnel Committee IT policy
- 6. Minute 850/25 Arun District Council Mill Pond Way Play Area

1. Introduction

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

2. (Community Engagement) Minute 463/25 - Smartphone Free Childhood, 26th June 2025

Members will recall Cllrs Chapman and Duff and I attended a meeting of the Smartphone Free Childhood organisation at East Preston Junior School, reported to Full Council in July as part of the Clerk's Report (Minute 543/25).

On 20th November, the council received the following email from one of the organisers of that meeting: "I just thought I would update you further to the Smartphone Free event we held

back in June. Mr Tidd, the Headteacher of EPJS announced prior to the half-term in October that EPJS would be going smartphone free from November 2025, which is fabulous news. He is allowing year 6 children who already have one to continue to bring them if they were registered by the half term and they have to hand them in, but for all other years and effectively the whole school from September 2026 it will now be smartphone free!

"There is a lot of interest from all the locality schools in what Mr Tidd has done so we do hope there are some changes in other schools soon too, and we are hoping to hold another event next year aimed at other schools in the area, mainly feeders to Angmering and TLA, but it's early days so I'll keep you posted!"

3. Minute 832/25 and 782/25 - Rustington Death Café

The morning after the last meeting, I emailed thanks to Annie Hall of Rustington Death Café. Annie replied, "So glad it went down well, thanks for asking me. Do other councils have mini talks like this too before their meetings?"

I have said I will let other councils know Annie is willing to present to them too, but I am sure Annie would be willing to present to any group.

4. Minute 840/25 - Correspondence - Car Clubs

I have extended an invitation to Mr Moores to attend a future council meeting to talk in more detail about his suggestion for a car club. Mr Moores has said he may be able to attend in January, if not it would be March.

5. Minute 845/25 - Personnel Committee - IT policy

The council's IT policy is ready for councillors and officers to sign and most already have. I will have a few copies with me at this meeting for the remainder to sign.

6. Minute 850/25 - Arun District Council - Mill Pond Way Play Area

I emailed Oli Handson to let him know this council would not be pursuing any interest in the Mill Pond Way play area. Oli replied, "Thank you for confirming, much appreciated."

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 9

Committees

Since the last Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Amenities, Community Engagement, Finance & General Purposes and Planning & Licensing. By the time of this meeting the draft Minutes from all these meetings should have been circulated to all councillors.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

Agenda Item 9a

Amenities Committee

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 10th November.

Warren Recreation Ground – Site emergency access. The committee has reviewed the site's emergency access procedure, following a recent accident, an emergency vehicle was unable to gain access to the car-park. The emergency contact list has been updated to include mobile details which will be displayed on the site's new signage. A key safe is to be installed behind the flint wall next to the height barrier and all the site's access points are to have new keyed alike padlocks. The committee is discussing replacing the two yellow drop-down barriers at the security gate entrance.

Warren Recreation Ground – Benches. As part of the committee's five-year plan, to replace older wooden benches, which are in poor condition, with new composite benches, the two benches along the northern boundary of the recreation ground are both currently being replaced. Both benches are memorial benches, therefore all the memorial plaques will be reinstated.

Village Hall – In order to comply with fire regulations, the Village Hall Trustees are required to install access ramps at both the Children's Playground and the Warren Recreation Ground exits. The ramps are being made of galvanised steel and the playground ramp will be 7 metres in length to allow for the correct gradient and 1.5 metres wide. The committee agreed to reposition one of the playground benches and the frog litter bin in order to accommodate the new exit ramp.

The committee's next meeting will be on 9th February 2026.

Dawn Reid - Assistant Clerk to the Council

25th November 2025

Agenda Item 9b

Audit & Governance Committee

Cllr Mathias is the chairman of this committee.

The committee's meeting scheduled for 24^{th} November was rescheduled to 9^{th} December as it simply was not possible to complete the supporting paperwork in time.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

Agenda Item 9c

Community Engagement Committee

Cllr Linton is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 17th October.

Some updates:

Remembrance Sunday, 9th November – the committee agreed to meet with representatives of the British Legion branch regarding how next year's event should be organised.

Beach Cleans 2026 – in light of the diminishing returns from council-organised beach cleans, the committee agreed to suggest the reinvigorated KEPT might like to organise beach cleans during 2026, with some council support.

East Preston Festival, 5th to 14th June 2026 – the theme for the Festival has been announced as East Preston Goes Wild, and Cllr Duff will be looking for volunteers to form part of a council walking float to be part of the Festival Carnival Parade.

Christmas Lighting – new wraparound lights have been installed in the Northern Shops trees. The infrastructure has been installed in Two Acres which will enable lights there next year.

Hearing Impairment – following a meeting with one resident – another was unable to attend on the day – the council may be looking to help set up a group for residents with impaired hearing. The first step towards this will be an article in the Winter 2026 Newsletter next February. More can be seen in Item 5 of the Clerk's Report.

2026 East Preston Calendar – the calendar is available and can be bought from the Council Office during opening hours.

20mph zone – the committee would like to include a survey in the Winter 2026 Newsletter proposing a 20mph zone across the village. We know this is WSCC Highways's preference, but we do not know what support such an idea would get across the village.

Warm Welcome Space 2026 – the council has been awarded a grant from ADC but we do not know for how much yet. Although serious publicity has not started yet, we have had three residents start booking.

The committee's next meeting will be on 19th January.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 9d

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 17th October.

Some updates:

Budgets for 2026/27 – the committee considered the Administration and Finance & General Purposes budgets for the coming financial year.

Grant Aid 2025/26 – the committee agreed a further three grants for the current year: East Preston Film Club for set-up costs, new kit for KEPT (Keep East Preston Tidy) and a contribution towards the refurbishment of the memorial garden at St Mary the Virgin church. The following thanks have been received from the three organisations respectively:

"I would be very grateful if you would pass on our sincere thanks to the Finance Committee, for the grant they approved for the Film Club. We - the new Film Club committee - are delighted to be bringing regular film showings back to the village, and we're only able to do this thanks to the generous support we've received."

"Delighted to know we shall soon be receiving additional and new kit."

"That's a nice surprise. Thank you."

120 and 124 Sea Road – the committee considered a proposal made by a member of the public to the September Full Council meeting. The committee agreed not to place the flats with ADC for rental at this time as ADC will not exist in two years and its housing performance is currently under scrutiny. The committee did agree to revisit this proposition in five years' time.

Earmarked reserves – the committee reviewed the council's earmarked reserves identifying some which could be closed, the money within returning to the council's general reserve.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

<u>Agenda Item 9e</u>

Major Events Committee

Cllr Linton is Chairman of the committee.

The committee did not meet in November.

<u>East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 22nd November</u> – this event was again blighted by rubbish weather – rain and high winds. The indoor elements of the event were all successful but the children's procession and the fireworks both had to be cancelled. Our fireworks supplier did take back our 2024 fireworks and replace them with a new set. Councillors are asked to let Cllr Linton know if they have any suggestions for when the fireworks could be set off.

Two members of the public had medical incidents in the Village Hall car-park. Both were taken to hospital as a precaution; one was home by 19:00, the other not until 02:30 on the Sunday. I called upon both on the 23rd, although only the latter was home. By Monday, I was

able to confirm both patients were pretty much ok again, if bruised. Both incidents seem to be physical and not something the council could have prevented.

The event received some flak on Facebook after a lady in a wheelchair was mistakenly refused entry to the Village Hall. The councillor-marshal in question had realised her mistake and had tried to find the lady, in order to correct the mistake, but had failed. I posted an apology on Facebook and asked for anyone directly affected to call the office as I wanted to confirm this had only happened the once. The lady called and we had a decent conversation at the end of which she accepted this had been a one-off mistake.

My thanks to Mrs Toni McElroy, Chairman of East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation for having alerted me to this matter.

All community volunteers have received an initial thank you email and an invite to Thank You drinks in January.

Written feedback has been sparse but has included the following two comments: "Well done to EPPC for yet again holding an event while having to cope with the inclement weather," and "What a shame the weather spoilt much of the arrangements on Saturday. We were quite busy though in the hour that I was helping out."

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 15th December.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

<u>Agenda Item 9f</u>

Personnel Committee

Cllr Duff is Chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in October.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 12th January.

Cllr Lisa Duff - Chairman of the Personnel Committee

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 9g

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met on 10th and 24th November.

The committee considered two applications on 10th November, both for Sea Road. The committee agreed to raise no objections to one but did raise objections to the proposed parking layout for the June Sutherland Chapel; the proposal was for 22 spaces which was somewhat short of what the applicant had originally hoped to be able to provide but the

committee was also concerned some attendees may not be able to leave the site quickly if needed in an emergency elsewhere.

A further two applications were considered on 24th November. The committee raised no objections to either.

The committee's next meeting will be on 15th December.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

25th November 2025

Agenda Item 10

Working Parties

None of the council's working parties met in November.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 10a

20mph Working Party

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this working party.

No updates from this working party although the Community Engagement Committee would like to survey the village on a blanket 20mph zone.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 10b

Flat and Frontage Working Party (FFWP)

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman-elect of this working party.

No updates from this working party explicitly.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

Agenda Item 10c

Leases Working Party (LWP)

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this working party.

On 18th November, the council's surveyor emailed to say he had been advised by the clud's surveyor he was waiting for the club committee to meet to agree its next action in this matter.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 11b

West Sussex County Council – 2027/28 Admission Arrangements

Council is asked to consider any response to a consultation on 2027 [school] Admission Arrangements.

This morning, the council received the following email:

Dear Colleagues

West Sussex County Council is consulting (24 November 2025 – 16th January 2026) on the proposed admissions arrangements for 2027/28.

WSCC propose to reduce the Published Admission Numbers (PANS) for 5 Primary Schools:

- Bersted Green Primary School from a PAN of 60 to a PAN of 30
- Swiss Gardens Primary School from a PAN of 60 to a PAN of 30
- Upper Beeding Primary School from a PAN of 45 to a PAN of 30
- East Preston Infant School from a PAN of 90 to a PAN of 60
- The Meads Primary School from a PAN of 45 to a PAN of 30

In addition, we would welcome your views on our proposed admission arrangements and oversubscription criteria (community and voluntary controlled schools) for September 2027 entry, as well as key dates in the admissions process.

Please find included the link to the consultation which will run between the 24 November 2025 and 16 January 2026.

https://yourvoice.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions-2027-2028

If any of the information for this consultation is required in an alternative format, please contact us on <u>0330 222 8543</u> or via email at <u>schoolconsultations@westsussex.gov.uk</u> and we will do our best to assist you.

If any stakeholders are deaf or hard of hearing and have an NGT texting app installed on their computer, laptop or smartphone, they can contact us on 18001 0330 222 8543.

Please share the information and link with any relevant stakeholders or groups that you represent

Best wishes

Sarah Bideleux

Team Manager, Admissions South/West

I contacted Mrs New, Headteacher at East Preston Infant School to ask whether any council support was needed either in support of or against this proposal. Mrs New replied the school was still attracting a good number of pupils and a reduction in PAN would have severe financial consequences. By the time of this meeting, I hope to have spent some time with Mrs New getting more information on this.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 13

Sussex Police

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

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 14

Clerk's Report

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Police matters
- 3. Anti-social behaviour matters
- 4. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests
- 5. Hearing impairment meeting, 29th October
- 6. St Mary the Virgin church meeting, 31st October
- 7. East Preston Schools' fireworks display, 14th November
- 8. Official opening of the June Sutherland Chapel, Sea Road, 19th November
- 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. December meetings and events

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

No new police matters to report.

PCSO Raj did attend a large portion of East Preston Christmas Celebrations, on foot and talking to residents. He has also just let me know of another time in the village when he will be available for members of the public to approach him, 11:00 on Tuesday, 2nd December.

3. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) matters

No developments in anti-social behaviour matters in the village previously reported to ADC anti-social behaviour team.

4. Freedom of Information (FoI) / Data Protection requests

The council has received no further requests.

5. Hearing impairment meeting, 29th October

On two separate occasions earlier in the year, I have been stopped by residents wanting to talk about how the parish council might be able to help local residents with hearing impairment. Both residents have lost their hearing gradually but only in recent years.

In June, the Community Engagement Committee had an initial discussion based solely upon the first resident's comments. At that time, Cllr Hill was about to start a British Sign Language course and Cllr Duff offered to trial the Royal National Institute for the Deaf Connect course on behalf of the council.

This meeting was then called for Cllrs Linton and Hill to meet with the two residents and to gain a better understanding of how they felt the council might be able to help them. Unfortunately, on the day, it rained almost constantly, preventing one of the ladies from attending. However, the meeting went ahead and agreed the one resident would write an article for inclusion in the Winter 2026 Newsletter which would explain some of the problems she faces and also be a call out to other hearing-impaired residents should they wish to meet up. The lady who was unable to attend has been updated.

The Community Engagement Committee may now start to discuss whether it would like to support the setting up of a support group, much as it supported the setting up of East Preston in Bloom, East Preston Men in Sheds and East Preston Repair Café.

Cllrs Hill and Linton may wish to add to this report verbally.

6. St Mary the Virgin church meeting, 31st October

Semi-officially, at the invitation of church warden Chris Wood, I attended this meeting at the church which was for members of the congregation, and wider community, to gain some insight into the process which will, hopefully, eventually see a new vicar of St Mary's. About 35 people attended including Cllrs Hill, Mathias and Moore.

The meeting mainly heard from an archdeacon new to the diocese, Dr Tom Carpenter, who explain the mechanics of the recruitment process and then gave some thought on the less mechanical side of the process, mainly his belief someone in the diocese might question whether East Preston can afford to have a dedicated vicar or whether it may be necessary to share a vicar with a neighbouring church. This was not well-received and Dr Carpenter admitted he could probably have handled this part of the news better. He did say he appreciated the strength of feeling in the room and would feed that back when the opportunity arose. The first mechanical part of the process will be for the Parochial Church Council to write up a parish profile, a document made available to any vicar interested in learning more about the post. Dr Carpenter said the process could take nine months but admitted that it might take a lot longer.

Cllrs Hill, Mathias and Moore may wish to add to this report verbally.

7. East Preston Schools' fireworks display, 14th November

I was invited to attend the schools' annual fireworks display which is more than just a fireworks display. Not open to the public, the event runs from 17:00 to 19:00 with several stalls set up on the Infant School's playground. The fireworks are set off at 18:45 and last a full 15 minutes. In exchange for my ticket, I did spend a small amount of time on the gate checking potential attendees all had their qualifying wristbands.

The event appeared to be very well attended although heavy rain just after the fireworks started did lead to a bit of an exodus.

My thanks to Tracey McRae for the invite.

8. Official opening of the June Sutherland Chapel, Sea Road, 19th November

As Cllr Toney was unable to attend, I attended this event with Cllrs Linton and Chapman. The event was held at lunchtime to mark the opening of the refurbished former Conservative Hall, now called the June Sutherland Chapel and operated by Ian Hart Funeral Services.

The event was well-attended, although I only recognised a few faces there, primarily Terry and Anne Chapman, former trustees of the venue, and Mary Jeavons, churchwarden at St Mary the Virgin, and her husband Paul.

We were treated to drinks and high-standard nibbles whilst able to wander freely around the venue. The venue has been refurbished to a similarly high-standard and should be in use before the end of this month. Despite the number of people who had obviously come into the village to attend, there was no evidence of any traffic disruption or parking issues.

Ian took some time to talk to us and explained June Sutherland had worked for his grandfather before him and had been the last living link to his grandfather's undertaking business at the time she died.

Cllrs Chapman and Linton may wish to add to this report verbally.

9. Social Media

These are the council's Facebook posts to reach more than 500 people in the past month.

- Poster advertising a church jumble sale 1,643 people
- Post concerning access to the Village Hall during East Preston Christmas Celebrations
 1,584

(posts up to and including 24th November)

The number of Followers is currently 1,950, an increase of 7 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:

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Parish Council news – 29th October – sent to 961 subscribers, opened by 711 (74.3%)
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Parish Council news – 6th November – sent to 960, opened by 702 (73.5%)

Parish Council news – 13th November – sent to 961, opened by 684 (71.6%)

Parish Council news – 20th November – sent to 960, opened by 672 (70.4%)

11. Things we have been asked since the last meeting

"Is it legal to pay someone less than minimum wage because they are on probation?" (I contacted Miriam Nicholls, ADC's Business and Economy Manager and she believed this was not legal. Except for very specific circumstances, being on probation does not affect an employee's entitlement to the National Minimum Wage (NMW).)

"Who should I report a [live] seal on the beach to?" (We suggested WADARS and reported the seal to them ourselves. Had the seal been dead, we would have reported that to ADC Cleansing.)

"Can the parish council change a person's name for council tax purposes or do I contact Arun County Council?" (The parish council cannot help, a name change would need to be through the Revenues & Benefits team at ADC.)

12. Recent bouquets and complaints

(In addition to anything reported above)

A lady from The Ridings called in on Tuesday, 11th November and thanked everyone for the Remembrance Sunday parade and wreath-laying. I explained credit was only partly due to the council. I then accidentally made her cry by asking whether her interest in Remembrance Sunday was general or more specific. She replied her father had fought in both World Wars having lied about his age in order to join the Navy during the First World War.

From the Manor Road resident who attended the hearing impairment meeting, "Many thanks for your amazing understanding! You have a great understanding of "just people" – something that can't actually be taught or, I find, is really present in many people!"

Thanks received from some residents of Sea Lane Close after we made them aware of a one-day closure for resurfacing. WSCC had, apparently, only put up a small notice at the entrance to the road which some residents had just driven or walked past.

From a resident of Tamarisk Apartments who had asked for details of Christmas Celebrations road closures, "It all sounds good to me. Your hard work, along with the team, does not go unnoticed."

From a resident of Chermont Court, "We have just got back from watching the steam train and Pullman stock as it passed through Angmering station. A beautiful train which we were thrilled to see! Thank you for publishing the details in your weekly emails which enabled us to see it. We look forward to the next ones in December."

From a resident of Vermont Drive referring to the Autumn 2025 Newsletter, "Our copy has been delivered this morning. Re the centre pages: imaginatively conceived and brilliantly written. Well done (to both protagonists)!"

Also referring to Father Andrew's open letter in the Autumn 2025 Newsletter, a member of the Parochial Church Council wrote, "We are all amazed by Fr Andrew's eulogy published on pages 4 and 5 of the latest East Preston Newsletter. Several of our congregation live outside the Parish so we would very much like to include this eulogy in one of our weekly St. Mary's news sheets. Would it be possible to kindly email me the text so we can distribute that wonderful piece of writing throughout the congregation?"

From a St Mary the Virgin churchwarden in response to the news the council had awarded the church a small grant to help with the refurbishment of the church's memorial garden, "That's a nice surprise. Thank you. We have nearly completed the project, which is good before the winter weather hits us. When it is completed, I will send you a photo with a write up about the it for your Parish Magazine."

13. **Leave**

Nobody has any leave booked for December at the time of writing. My plan is for the office to close to the public at midday on Monday, 22^{nd} December and to reopen at 10:00 on Monday, 5^{th} January. Some members of staff may pop in for a few hours during that time.

14. December Meetings and Events

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 1st Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 8th Citizens Advice Bureau AGM (10:00, Chichester) (JG only)
 Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
 Audit & Governance Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 13th East Preston Repair Café (10:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 15th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
 Major Events Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 19th Baytree Community Lunch Club Christmas Lunch (12:00, Village Hall) (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

Agenda Item 15

Chairman's Charity 2026

Council is asked to confirm the Chairman's Charity for 2026.

On 28th October, I invited all councillors and officers to nominate a charity to be the Chairman's Charity for the coming year. I asked all nominations to be accompanied by a brief description explaining why the nominator was nominating that charity.

Eight people nominated a charity of their choice. Previously, the chairman's charity has been the RNLI and Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey Sussex.

Cllr Linton has devised the voting method. I shall bring voting slips to the meeting and Cllr Linton will oversee the voting. At the end of which, hopefully we will have a clear winner for the coming year. If not, Cllr Toney will be able to use a casting vote. Only councillors will have a vote.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 16

New items to be referred to the next meeting – 5th January 2026

With no presentations scheduled, the meeting will start at 19:00.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

24th November 2025

Agenda Item 17

To exclude the press and public

Owing to the commercially sensitive nature of the rest of the agenda of this meeting, **council** is asked to resolve to exclude the press and public from the rest of the meeting.

As per Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, a public body can resolve to exclude the public from a meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be discussed.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council

Agenda Item 18

118-120 Sea Road, East Preston

Council is asked to consider any matters relating to the purchase of 118-120 Sea Road, East Preston. At the time of writing, this is likely to be only updates on decisions already taken, but the situation is understandably dynamic and could change several times between now and the meeting.

Simon Cross - Clerk to the Council