

# **MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL**

**2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
at 18:30**

**SUPPORTING PAPERS**

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

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## **Agenda Item 2**

### **Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur**

**Council is asked to receive a presentation from Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur.**

According to its website, “For 25 years, Home-Start Arun, Worthing & Adur has been there for families when life gets tough – providing early, personalised support that makes a lasting difference, helping parents navigate challenges before they become overwhelming — both relieving pressure on overstretched services and improving the wellbeing of thousands of children. We’re a community-run service of local parents and grandparents with lived experience – we understand how difficult family life can sometimes be. We offer compassionate, confidential, and non-judgmental support in the ways families need it most — through home visits, phone calls, local family groups, professional counselling or out in the community. We walk alongside families with empathy and kindness.”

Through its Grant Aid scheme, the council has been financially supporting the charity for over ten years.

The presentation will be given by Vince Mewett, Chair of Trustees.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 7**

### **Minutes of the Monthly Full Council meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 7<sup>th</sup> January, asking for suggested amendments by 12<sup>th</sup> January. None were received.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

13<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 8**

# Monthly Update Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 933/24 – Chairman’s Charity for 2025**
- 3. Minute 012/26 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – budget and precept for 2026/27**
- 4. Minute 013/26 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Roundstone Drive allotments**
- 5. Minute 017/26 – West Sussex County Council – East Preston Infant School**
- 6. Minute 019/26 – Arun District Council – Public Spaces Protection Order**
- 7. Minute 026/26 – Devolution and Local Government Working Party**

## **1. Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

## **2. Minute 933/24 – Chairman’s Charity for 2025**

On 26<sup>th</sup> January, the council received a Thank You letter from Air Ambulance Charity Kent Surrey and Sussex (KSS) within which was the following certificate:



This was an increase on the sum raised for the Chairman’s Charity in 2024.

**3. Minute 012/26 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – budget and precept for 2026/27**

On 13<sup>th</sup> January, I informed Joshua Helyer and Duncan Miller at ADC Finance of this council's decision regarding the precept for ADC to collect for us in the coming financial year.

**4. Minute 013/26 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Roundstone Drive allotments**

At the time of writing, no response yet from ADC to the questions this council posed it on 23<sup>rd</sup> December. A chasing email has been sent.

**5. Minute 017/26 – West Sussex County Council – East Preston Infant School**

On the morning after the meeting, I emailed a council response to the public consultation to Sarah Bideleux, WSCC Team Manager, Admissions South/West. Sarah replied, "Thank you for your email and response. I will ensure this feedback is included in the consultation. Please let me know if you have any further queries."

I also forwarded the response to Claire New, Headteacher at East Preston Infant School. Claire replied, "That's brilliant – well done!"

**6. Minute 019/26 – Arun District Council – Public Spaces Protection Order**

On the morning after the meeting, I emailed Dax O'Connor, ADC Community Safety Manager, to advise him the council had no comment to make about the public consultation. He thanked me.

**7. Minute 026/26 – Devolution and Local Government Working Party**

As agreed, Cllr Gunston drafted a response on behalf of the council and circulated it to all councillors. After several favourable comments, Cllr Gunston submitted the council's response on 10<sup>th</sup> January, just ahead of the deadline. I have an electronic copy should anyone wish to see it.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

**Agenda Item 10**

**Committees**

Since the last Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Community Engagement, Major Events and Personnel. By the time of this meeting, the draft Minutes from the Community Engagement and Major Events Committee meetings have been circulated to all councillors and those from the Personnel have only been circulated to members of that committee.

## **Agenda Item 10a**

### **Amenities Committee**

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in January.

**Children's Playground** - As recommended on the 2025 ROSPA inspection report, work to replace the ten remaining wooden floor panels on the multi-play units has been carried out. The work took place whilst the playground remained partly closed to allow the grass seed a chance to germinate.

**Warren Recreation Ground** – The council's grounds contractor has almost completed the grounds work at the south eastern corner. The area has been cleared, levelled and shrubs have been planted to provide colour throughout the year. The mulch topping will be added when the delivery has arrived.

**Northern Shops** – On the 12<sup>th</sup> January a vehicle drove into the two bollards located on the central grass verge. Both bollards were uprooted but not damaged. The incident was reported to West Sussex police and the council's insurers. Due to safety concerns the bollards were reinstated quickly. The cost of this work fell under the insurer's excess amount required therefore no claim has been sought. To get the bollards reinstated quickly, Simon used his authority to spend this money without reference to council.



Photograph courtesy of Alison Roberts

**Worthing Road bus shelter** – WSCC voluntary service has come back with a couple of designs for a replacement bus shelter opposite Hares. These will be considered at the committee's February meeting.

**Sea Road toilets** – Minor repair work has been completed at the Sea Road toilets. The concrete along the underneath of the thresholds of the unisex toilet doors had crumbled away.

The contractor has strengthening and replaced the concrete. The contractor has also re-laid and levelled a section of the block paving. Where the fig tree and its roots had been removed, the ground had settled and caused the block paving to sink.

**Church Planter** - The committee has purchased new composite sleepers to replace the old wooden sleeper planter outside St Mary's Church. The planter had badly deteriorated and on numerous occasions the flower planting contractor had carried out urgent repairs. The contractor will install the new composite planter when the spring planting takes place.

The committee's next meeting remains scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

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

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 10b**

### **Audit & Governance Committee**

Cllr Mathias is chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in January.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 10c**

### **Community Engagement Committee**

Cllr Linton is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 19<sup>th</sup> January.

Some updates:

**East Preston Festival** – the first council event of the Festival will be *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> June running between 10:00 and 12:00 at the Council Office. The second event will be *Putter Madness* mini-golf event on the Village Green between 16:00 and 19:00. Please put both dates in your diaries.

**Beach Cleans 2026** – KEPT (Keep East Preston Tidy) has agreed to run future beach cleans with some support from the parish council. Cllrs Duff, Linton and Toney have all agreed to be present at the clean on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March.

**Playschemes** – the committee is looking to host a family-friendly event during October half-term, not in the traditional sense of parish council playschemes. More details as and when the committee has a further idea of the format.

**2026 East Preston Calendar** – the committee agreed the 2026 calendar had been a big success with less than a handful of copies left unsold.

**Warm Welcome Space 2026** – average attendance at the sessions held so far has been: 21.

**Youth Provision** – Cllrs Chapman and Duff and the Clerk have been to meetings with Angmering and Rustington Parish Councils looking at what is available for local youth and what local youth would like. This council has an action to liaise with the publisher of *All About* magazines about a youth-targeted version.

**Centre for Ageing Better** – at the other end of the age range, the committee considered the Age-friendly Town and Parish Guide produced by the Centre for Ageing Better in conjunction with the National Association of Local Councils and the Society of Local Council Clerks. The committee agreed the document contained many good ideas, several of which were already available in East Preston. The committee agreed to spend an informal afternoon going through the guide listing what was already available in the village, what could work in the village and what would probably not work in the village.

\* \* \*

The last four calendars sold, in a rush, on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

The committee's next meeting will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

21<sup>st</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 10d**

### **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in January.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 10e**

### **Major Events Committee**

Cllr Linton is Chairman of the committee.

The committee met extraordinarily on 6<sup>th</sup> January to have a wider conversation about the East Preston Christmas Celebrations event without the pressures of other items on the agenda.

**East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 21<sup>st</sup> November** – the committee considered various options for how to rejuvenate this event, including the possibility of not holding an event at all. It was decided to hold an event centred wholly on the Village Hall car-park, hopefully including a covered area in the car-park. The Miller Barn would be used for craft stalls, the Warren Room as a seating area with the chance to have photographs taken with Father Christmas the car-park being used for food and drink stalls. Alison is investigating costs which will be considered further at the committee's next meeting.

**Autumn bingo, October 2026** – with a decision made there would be a Christmas Celebrations event on 21<sup>st</sup> November, the committee agreed to a date of either 4<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> October for this event, as those dates are roughly half-way between the Food & Drink Festival and the Christmas event.

\* \* \*

On 21<sup>st</sup> January, Cllrs Linton and Moore and I met with Ritchie Leccia and Nick Ward from the East Preston & Kingston branch of the Royal British Legion. The meeting was to get a better grip on what parts of any Remembrance Sunday event fall to which organisation. Backed by documents from central RBL, Ritchie and Nick explained branches cannot pay for or arrange any elements of any road closures related to a parade. For a parade to take place, the council would need to arrange and pay for the road closures, any related signage, barriers, documents and marshals. These elements would all be covered by the council's insurance. Assuming the council is prepared to do this, the council's officers can address these elements sooner rather than later. The Legion branch would remain responsible for everything else: the church service, the ordering and laying of wreaths, any invites or any event at the Legion club and so on. Regarding the costs of hiring barriers from Littlehampton Town Council, Nick offered to talk to the ADC Armed Forces Champion to see whether a cost-free alternative was available.

The Legion representatives also mentioned 30<sup>th</sup> June will mark the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of "The Day that Sussex Died", in the attack on the Boar's Head as a prelude to the Battle of the Somme which started on 1<sup>st</sup> July. The Legion branch is hoping to mark this anniversary in some way.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22<sup>nd</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 10f**

### **Personnel Committee**

Cllr Duff is Chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 12<sup>th</sup> January.

Matters discussed include:

**2027 Local Elections** – as far as we know, there will be no change to the timetable for town and parish council elections. Consequently, the committee would like to know how people are currently feeling about standing for re-election in 2027.

The council always maintains a list of people who have expressed a current interest in becoming a parish councillor.

**Work experience** – the committee agreed to an application from a local student to undertake a week's work experience with the council at the beginning of June. Committee chairmen are asked to consider spending a couple of hours with the student to explain what their committees do. The student is interested in politics so if anyone thinks of a short-term project she could undertake that week, please let Lisa or me know.

**Committee meetings** – with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> May, i.e. the day after the Annual Council Meeting, most committee meetings will return to the Council Office. This will save the council a small amount of money. All Amenities Committee meetings and some Planning & Licensing Committee meetings will remain in the school, as those are the ones most likely to attract members of the public.

**Contracts of employment** – Cllrs Duff and Gunston have started work on bringing the council's contracts of employment up to date, to reflect current employment legislation.

**WhatsApp** – Councillors and officers are reminded not to use WhatsApp for council business, beyond sorting site visits, informing officers of faults needing attention, that sort of thing. This reminder follows an Information Commissioner's Office ruling a council's WhatsApp conversations must be handed over in a Freedom of Information request.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> April.

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

16<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 10g**

### **Planning & Licensing Committee**

The committee did not need to meet in January.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

20<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 11**

### **Working Parties**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 11a**

### **20mph Working Party**

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this working party.

At the December Full Council meeting, it was agreed the council would canvass the public on implementing a village-wide 20mph zone and an article has been drafted for the Winter 2026 newsletter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 11b**

### **Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (Devo WP)**

Cllr Gunston is chairman of this working party which is currently dormant.

The working party did meet as part of the whole council on 5<sup>th</sup> January.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 11c**

### **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**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 11d**

### **Leases Working Party (LWP)**

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this working party.

In the middle of the month, our surveyor contacted me asking if the council had had any direct contact from the club. Learning the council had not, he undertook to chase.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 12a**

### **Warren Recreation Ground mediation exercise**

**Council is asked to agree to a temporary substitution in the council's representation in this exercise.**

In October, the council agreed to the council sponsoring a mediation exercise also involving East Preston Cricket Club and Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group. Each organisation is represented by three members.

The council agreed its reps would be Cllr Toney as Chairman of the Council, Cllr Wilkinson as Chairman of the Amenities Committee which is responsible for the Warren Recreation Ground, and me as the council's proper officer.

Cllr Toney will now be travelling to New Zealand on a family matter and will be away for most of February into the start of March. This means he could miss some future mediation sessions. I have discussed this with the mediator and the head of the company for whom he works, and both have said a substitute can attend in place of Cllr Toney, providing the correct paperwork has been completed. As Vice-Chairman of the Council, Cllr Linton is willing to attend as temporary substitute and will complete the paperwork once this meeting has agreed to her substitution. As necessary, Cllr Toney would resume his role upon his return.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 15**

### **Sussex Police**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 16**

# **Clerk's Report**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Police matters**
- 3. Anti-social behaviour matters**
- 4. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
- 5. Meeting with East Preston Sports Clubs, 12<sup>th</sup> January**
- 6. Society of Local Council Clerks Sussex Branch, quarterly meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> January**
- 7. ADC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Briefing, 22<sup>nd</sup> January**
- 8. ADC *Building community cohesion and resilience - together*, 23<sup>rd</sup> January**
- 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. Comments in response to the annual photographic round-up of the old year**
- 14. Leave**
- 15. February meetings and events**

## **1. Introduction**

This is the report mainly covering January 2026 and matters which may not arise elsewhere on the agenda.

## **2. Police matters**

On Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> January, the council was informed two of its safety bollards at the northern shops had been knocked over and driven over. CCTV footage from a local shop showed the driver had been an elderly male who appeared unaware of the damage he had caused either to the bollards or to his car. He was seen to go shopping and soon return to his car and drive off. Crucially though, the CCTV footage also provided his numberplate.

Dawn reported this to Sussex Police and initiated an insurance claim. The work to reinstate the bollards fell below our insurance excess so the claim was cancelled and the bollards reinstated. Sussex Police's roads department has not been very quick to respond. Believing the driver was lucky he only hit something inanimate, I approached the police through a different route, showing the same photographs Dawn had provided. My contact agreed the driver needed a friendly visit from police officers.

Meanwhile, PCSO Raj has arranged to be available outside the library for an hour on the morning of Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

## **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. Meeting with East Preston Sports Clubs, 12<sup>th</sup> January**

This was the second of the council's meetings with, initially, its outdoors sports clubs.

The meeting was chaired by Cllr Linton with support from Cllrs Toney and Moore. Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, East Preston and Kingston Bowls Club, East Preston Cricket Club, East Preston Football Club and East Preston Stoolball Club were all represented.

The meeting was also attended by Jackie Sumner and Ailsa Burkimsher from Voluntary Action Arun and Chichester. Councillors will remember, part of Jackie's presentation to council in September 2025 was a desire to work more closely with more sports clubs. They explained how VAAC works and how VAAC can help local sports clubs, and promoted the idea of a "federation" of local sports club working together for the greater good. A lively discussion followed.

All present would like to have a further meeting of the village sports clubs and agreed with Cllr Linton's proposal to aim for a meeting in four months.

One attendee who had not been at the first meeting emailed the day after, "I thought last night was a very good idea bringing our sports clubs together and helping to support them - well done!"

#### **6. Society of Local Council Clerks Sussex Branch, quarterly meeting, 16<sup>th</sup> January**

I attended this meeting which was held at Lewes Town Hall. The only other Arun council represented was Bognor Regis Town Hall, represented by its new Deputy Clerk, 25-year-old Max Hirst. 25!

The meeting received a presentation from our insurance brokers, Gallagher & Co., mainly on asset transfer from larger local authorities which are facing dissolution. ADC seems to be behind the curve on this, councils in other areas already in discussions with their higher authorities. Unrelated to asset transfer, one useful suggestion was councils should have the reinstatement value of their assets reviewed regularly, between every three and five years, and this is something the Finance & General Purposes Committee will now discuss later in the month.

During a more general discussion about asset transfer, some comments were made about how district councils are seeing the transfer as a chance to make money. BRTC Max previously worked for a unitary authority in Wiltshire and said, in his experience, district councils are about making money whereas unitary authorities are about making savings; therefore, if a local council can wait, it will likely be given a second chance to receive an asset once the unitary authority has settled into being.

This council's increase in budget in 2026/27 has taken it outside the protection of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). I asked those present from larger councils whether there was an alternative scheme for protecting money held in bank accounts. The advice given was to spread funds across multiple financial institutions, rather than keeping them all in one place. Time permitting, I think this is something that needs to be mentioned to Dr Beccy Cooper MP at our next meeting with her as this means a lot of public money becomes unprotected just because a local council has ambitions.

Two days before the meeting, the government had announced its new UK Town of Culture 2028 scheme. One town will win £3m to enable it to put on a programme of cultural events in 2028. Although there is a small town category for towns with a population of under 10,000 people, the meeting did not think villages would be eligible.

After the meeting, most attendees stayed for a networking lunch at ASK, across the road from the Town Hall.

#### **7. ADC Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) Briefing, 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

I attended this evening presentation with Cllrs Gunston and Wilkinson. Angmering PC was the closest other council represented. Please find Cllr Gunston's report at Agenda Item 17b below.

#### **8. ADC Building community cohesion and resilience - together, 23<sup>rd</sup> January**

I attended this lunchtime workshop at the Civic Centre. Although aimed at clerks, one parish councillor did attend from the west of the district. Other councils represented included Aldwick PC, Angmering PC, Bognor Regis TC, Findon PC, Littlehampton TC, Pagham PC, WSCC and a range of representatives from ADC. Several other councils had accepted the invite but did not attend.

Throughout the event we were asked to work in groups to talk about what we felt were the behavioural concerns across the district and in our own communities, and then to start looking at what changes can be made, primarily through the use of community power. One very good point made was we all talk about our "community" but any one community comprises many smaller communities and sometimes it can be easy to ostracise a small community when addressing the whole community. Or indeed vice versa: the safeguarding officer at ADC mentioned it had recently devised an event to tackle domestic violence within the Eastern European community but when a small number of those outside that specific community learnt of this, there was some complaining a similar event had not been designed for all. The keyboard warriors took to their keyboards but were mostly shouted down by more understanding contributors rather as had happened in East Preston with the campaign against the June Sutherland Chapel. Pretty much everyone in the room had experienced the negative face of social media more than they would like.

My Angmering counterpart, Katie Herr, gave a short presentation on the Angmering Community Network which has been borne out of the parish council's Angmering Revealed events. Rather like this council's past Business Breakfasts, the Angmering Community Network is a loose assemblage of village organisations, recently expanded to include businesses, meeting quarterly to share knowledge and support.

The Safer Arun Partnership, led by ADC, carries out regular street audits, mainly in town centres, looking to see where a collection of small improvements could result in a larger overall improvement. The Partnership will provide councils with a copy of the form used on the audits and maybe Community Engagement could look at this in conjunction with our former councillor walkabout initiative.

A community safety fund is soon to be launched, with grants of up to £2,500 available.

Overall, this felt like the beginnings of a very good piece of work by ADC, perhaps a shame it has come so close to its demise.

As an aside, I learnt at this meeting the Oving Scarecrows competition arose during the Second World War from the village's proximity to Tangmere Airfield. The villagers created lots of scarecrows to make pilots think there were lots of people about. Apparently.

## 9. Social Media

Just the one council Facebook post to reach more than 500 people in the past month.

- MailChimp repost of end-of-year photographic round-up – 508

(posts up to and including 25<sup>th</sup> January)

The number of Followers is currently 1,975, an increase of 11 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 – 31<sup>st</sup> December – sent to 960 subscribers, opened by 712 (74.2%)

Parish Council news – 8<sup>th</sup> January – sent to 962, opened by 731 (76%)

Parish Council news – 15<sup>th</sup> January – sent to 960, opened by 708 (73.75%)

Parish Council news – 22<sup>nd</sup> January – sent to 960, opened by 681 (70.9%)

## 11. Things we have been asked since the last meeting

“Does the Warren Recreation Ground own the land at the bottom of my garden in Surrey?”  
(Highly unlikely. Caller had been informed such by The Woodland Trust after a protected tree fell on to his listed wall from a piece of land he believed The Woodland Trust owned. Whoever he spoke to there said the land was owned by the Warren Recreation Ground. Perhaps we should claim it and sell it!)

## 12. Recent bouquets and complaints

(In addition to anything reported above)

“This is just to thank you and your staff for all that you've done for the village this year and to wish you a very happy, healthy and peaceful New Year.”

From the Festival Committee, following the inclusion in an e-newsletter of an ad for some IT support, “Thanks Simon, someone got in touch yesterday so we're all sorted 🌟”

From the secretary of the Disability Action Group of East Preston after Dawn and I had suggested it might like to pay a couple of visits per year to the Baytree Community Lunch Club, “Thanks for the suggestion Simon, that's a brilliant idea!”

From a new attendee at this year's Warm Welcome Space: “It's lovely to be in the warm space, thank you all for making it possible.”

In response to my response to a question about the temporary graphics chosen for The Podgie Spaniel, a resident emailed, “Thank-you so much for your thoughtful reply to my email.”

From a member of Dr Beccy Cooper MP's office staff, upon her retirement, “Many thanks for all of your help whilst I have been working for Beccy, it has been very much appreciated.”

### **13. Comments in response to the annual photographic round-up of the old year**

For the fifth year running, on 31<sup>st</sup> December, the council published a photographic round-up of the year, village photos taken from a number of sources. This year's was the largest issue to date.

Some comments received in response:

“Lovely pictures. A very happy new year to you and the team.”

“Thank you all for all you do for our lovely village. I very much enjoyed looking back over the year through the gorgeous collection of photos.”

“Thank you so much for the brilliant compilation of photos, summing up a year in East Preston. Wonderful. My friend in the USA loved them last year, so I know he'll enjoy these too. Thanks also, for all you do for us.”

“Thank you for a lovely gallery of photos of EP through 2025.”

“Wow, this really captures the best of the village – some really stunning photos. What a great advert for EP. Thank you! Have you thought about making them into a slide show for YouTube?”

### **14. Leave**

I may have a couple of days off at the beginning of the month. Alison is off for the week beginning 16<sup>th</sup> February. No other leave has yet been booked.

### **15. February Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Arun District Association of Local Councils (19:00, online) (ST only)
- 9<sup>th</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) (cancelled)  
Amenities Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 10<sup>th</sup> ADC Community Infrastructure Levy briefing (18:00, online) (SC only)
- 14<sup>th</sup> East Preston Repair Café (10:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)  
Major Events Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)

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

## **Other meetings and events – Part 1**

**Council is asked to note the following reports.**

### **East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation meeting, 21<sup>st</sup> January**

#### **East Preston & Kingston Village Hall**

The meeting ran to schedule and all matters arising from the previous meeting were covered and discussed.

A few other points were raised:

1. With effect from April 2026 the Hirers can no longer pay by cheque as cheques will no longer be processed. All Hirers have the relevant banking information.
2. A lovely lady very kindly donated £100.00 to the EPKVH due to the care and assistance given to her by Toni and Karen when she fell playing table tennis and had to wait nearly 12 hours for an ambulance; an ambulance finally arrived at about 02.30 the following day. This delay is being addressed by the Committee and a letter will be written to the Ambulance Service.
3. The external ramps from the Miller Barn and the Warren Room will commence installation over the Spring Period.
4. Terms and Conditions were reviewed and Liability Insurances by Hirers are required to be updated and evidence shown that this Insurance has been reviewed.
5. A decision was made to install a new boiler during the summer months.
6. Bay Tree would like to buy a new Fridge/Freezer for the Village Hall.

Next Meeting will take place on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2026 @ 10.00.

Cllr Christine Bowman –

**East Preston Parish Council official representative to East  
Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

### **Arun Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) briefing, 22<sup>nd</sup> January**

#### **online**

Cllr Wilkinson and I and our clerk Simon attended this presentation to introduce a consultation on Arun's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP). This long term plan, required by the Department for Transport, will identify priorities for key routes giving the greatest benefit to the community. It will also provide the evidence for external funding.

The aim is to provide people with alternative means of travel to help combat health, climate and air quality challenges. Having developed the scope for the plan the next stage is to gather

evidence before determining the types of improvements required. The consultation will start on 26th January and run for 6 weeks.

We will urge parishioners and local walking and cycling groups to take part in the consultation.

More information can be found at <https://ethos.govocal.com/en-GB/projects/arun-lcwip/2>

Simon has a recording of the briefing and a pack of slides should anyone wished to see them.

Cllr John Gunston

25<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 19**

### **New items to be referred to the next meeting – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026**

No guest speaker is scheduled so the meeting will start at 19:00. Should this change, I will give councillors fair notice.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 20**

### **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**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026

## **Agenda Item 21**

### **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.

At the time of writing, our solicitor is not recommending indemnity insurance.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> January 2026