



# EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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## MAJOR EVENTS COMMITTEE

**MINUTES:** of the extraordinary Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston at 18:00

**PRESENT:** Councillors Christine Bowman, Andrea Chapman, Helen Hill and Elizabeth Linton (Chairman) and Steve Toney

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

Alison Roberts, Receptionist / Admin Assistant to the Council

**ABSENT:** Councillors Lisa Duff and Rick McElroy

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The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;

WSCC – West Sussex County Council.

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The meeting opened at 18:02.

### **027/26 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE**

An apology and a reason for absence were received and accepted from Cllrs Duff (ill) and McElroy (holiday).

### **028/26 PERSONAL AND/OR PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS**

None were declared.

### **029/26 PUBLIC SESSION**

No members of the public were present.

### **030/26 EAST PRESTON CHRISTMAS EVENT 2026**

At the committee's meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> December, several concerns had been expressed about the current format of the East Preston Christmas Celebrations event. This meeting had been called to discuss those in greater depth.

The meeting considered a number of proposals including those made by Cllr Duff by email and by Cllr McElroy at the last meeting.

The meeting AGREED the following points:

- ♣ unanimously to host some sort of Christmas Celebrations event again
- ♣ the date would be Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> November
- ♣ to offer the Father Christmas Storytime idea to East Preston Library with the council possibly providing gifts for Father Christmas to give to attendees
- ♣ to investigate the cost and overall feasibility of providing cover for the Village Hall car-park (Angmering Parish Council had contacts)
- ♣ to focus the event on the Village Hall complex: craft stalls in the Miller Barn, food and drink stalls under a temporary structure in the car park, seating and eating area in the Warren Room alongside a photo opportunity with Father Christmas
- ♣ neither the cricket pavilion nor Our Lady, Star of the Sea church would be used
- ♣ hot food trucks could be located in the Warren Rec car-park
- ♣ locating any stalls on the road would incur the administrative nightmare of a Street Trading Licence application at a cost of about £300
- ♣ road closure would be limited to the southern side of Vermont Drive at the north and the northern side of Oakley Gardens at the south
- ♣ stallholder car-parking could be requested from Our Lady, Star of the Sea church
- ♣ Cllr Linton to be lead councillor for the event with individual responsibilities delegated to other councillors

The Clerk reported Our Lady, Star of the Sea had already asked him for a booking for 21<sup>st</sup> November. The committee AGREED this should be held on to for the time being.

No decision was made about whether to include fireworks in the event. There was a suggestion the display could be launched from the Warren Recreation Ground rather than the Village Green. The Clerk reminded the meeting of Cllr McElroy's concerns about setting off fireworks in an area bordered by some thatched properties. The Clerk suggested the fireworks could be offered to East Preston Festival Committee with a view to it using them as a closing event for 2026 Festival week.



Looking to the future, should the council ever run Father Christmas's Storytime at Our Lady, Star of the Sea again, Alison suggested the grotto be set up in the diagonally-opposite corner to where it has always been before. This would allow attendees to enter through the north-facing back door of the hall, which could alleviate bottlenecks.

#### **031/26 AUTUMN BINGO, 2026**

At the committee's December meeting, it had agreed to defer setting a date for this event until it was known whether or not there would be a Christmas Celebrations event, the committee not wanting to cram major events too close together.

With a Christmas Celebrations date now set to 21<sup>st</sup> November, and with the East Preston Food & Drink Festival scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> August, the committee looked at possible Sunday dates in the first half of October. The Clerk would approach East Preston Junior School for availability on 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> October. The event would run from 14:00 to 17:00.

Cllr Duff would be asked to ask her bingo contact about age limits and gambling legislation considerations.

#### **032/26 NEXT MEETING (16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY, 19:00)**

Nothing new was suggested.

*The Meeting closed at 18:43.*

(END)