



# EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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**MINUTES:** of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held at 19:00 on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston

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

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

Cllr Roger Elkins, West Sussex County Council (until 19:55)

Cllr Philippa Bower, Arun District Council (until 19:55)

Mr Roy Allen (until 19:07) and Mr J (until 19:55)

**ABSENT:** Councillor Steve Toney

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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 19:00.

In the absence of Cllr Toney, Vice-Chairman Cllr Linton assumed the chairmanship of the meeting. Cllr Linton asked Cllr Duff to act as Vice-Chairman for the meeting.

## **167/26 INTRODUCTIONS**

Cllr Linton welcomed everyone to the meeting, explained the meeting protocol and safety information and confirmed no personal introductions were necessary.

## **168/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology and a reason for absence had been received from Cllr Toney.

**2079** The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept the apologies received from Cllr Toney (holiday).

Apologies were also received from District Cllrs R Bower and Kelly, and Dorothy Lee and Sue Morley.

**169/26 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS**

None were declared.

**170/26 PUBLIC SESSION**

Neither member of the public wished to address the meeting at this point.

**171/26 EAST PRESTON COMMUNITY BOARDWALK**

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

**East Preston community boardwalk**

**Council is asked to consider a request to hold a special meeting of the council to discuss this matter further.**

On 18<sup>th</sup> February, the council received the following statement from Mr Roy Allen:

**Statement about the Community Boardwalk to the Full Council meeting of East Preston Parish Council, 2 March 2026  
by Roy Allen BSc (Eng), MIET, ACGE, PGCE, C Eng (retired) on behalf of Sea Road Beach Access Limited (SRBA)**

- 1 At the [Annual Parish Meeting on 12 May 2025](#) I asked the question:  
"Would East Preston Parish Council consider accepting a gift of the East Preston Community Boardwalk?"  
I now recognise that it is not a simple question for East Preston Parish Council to answer because:  
East Preston Parish Council do not know the past experience on which my engineering knowledge and expertise is based.  
The Community Boardwalk is a unique, novel design for which there are no standards against which it can be judged or tested.  
East Preston Parish Council must, of course, exercise due diligence; they require reassurance that the design and execution are of a suitable standard.
- 2 I would like to present a short, illustrated talk to the Full Council to address the Council's concerns. I would cover:  
My qualifications;  
Why the design challenges of designing and building a boardwalk beside the sea are similar to designing and building an offshore oil platform;  
How the East Preston Community Boardwalk improves on the designs of the Aldwick and Shoreham boardwalks;  
How allowance has been made for global warming;  
How the design has a small carbon footprint and is sustainable;  
How the design incorporates features to mitigate damage in the event of a major weather incident affecting the shingle beach;  
Why the design requires no routine maintenance;  
The advantages of East Preston Parish Council owning the Community Boardwalk.  
I will, of course, answer any questions Councillors may have.
- 3 I understand that there are no Council meetings scheduled for either 16 or 30 March 2026. I am able to present a talk on either of those dates.  
I hope that after my talk East Preston Parish Council will have sufficient information to make an informed response to the question:

**"Will the Parish Council accept the gift of the East Preston Community Boardwalk, together with Sea Road Beach Access Limited's remaining funds."**

Roy Allen BSc (Eng), MIET, ACGI, PGCE

Wednesday, 18 February 2026

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Following an invitation from Cllr Linton, Mr Allen read the above statement to the meeting.

In response, Cllr Gunston said he thought the community boardwalk was “absolutely fabulous” and that it was Mr Allen’s vision which had driven it into being. Cllr Gunston added he was concerned a meeting such as that proposed by Mr Allen would exacerbate the differences between the council and Sea Road Beach Access Limited about the future ownership of the boardwalk, especially as Mr Allen had not addressed the council’s previous concerns about land ownership and health and safety, at least not in ways in which the council was happy. He recognised there was a huge groundswell of goodwill towards the community boardwalk but, personally, he felt something more along the lines of the South Strand Community Toilets arrangement would be better than just handing the boardwalk to the council.

Cllrs Hill, Moore and Wilkinson all said they thought Mr Allen’s presentation would be a good idea.

**2080** The council **RESOLVED** to receive a presentation from Mr Roy Allen on the subject of the East Preston Community Boardwalk.

Three councillors voted against receiving this presentation.

The Clerk would ask councillors for any date preferences between 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> March.

(Mr Allen left at the conclusion of this item.)

**172/26 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> FEBRUARY 2026**

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 3<sup>rd</sup> February asking for suggested amendments by 10<sup>th</sup> February. None were received.

**2081** The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously the Vice-Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February. Cllr Linton duly did so.

**173/26 UPDATE ON MATTERS IN THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

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

## **Monthly Update Report**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 068/26 – Home-Start Arun, Worthing and Adur**
- 3. Minute 071/26 – Public Session – Stagecoach South**

**1. Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026.

**2. Minute 068/26 – Home-Start Arun, Worthing and Adur**

On the morning after the February meeting, I wrote to Vince Mewett to thank him for having attended the meeting. He replied, "Thank you for your email it was a pleasure and I'm glad it was informative."

### **3. Minute 071/26 – Public Session – Stagecoach South**

I wrote to James O'Neill, Stagecoach South Commercial Director, on the morning after the last meeting, asking him questions based upon Peter Galloway's comments at the meeting.

James replied on 11<sup>th</sup> February, as follows:

Hi Simon,

Thanks for your email, I hope all is well with you.

I'm pleased to confirm that work is well underway to improve the bus stop case information/flags etc round the village on the 11 route. We've added a few new cases where there were gaps; the WSCC team is also still reviewing and replacing stops more widely around the region with brand new posts including real-time information screens. Whilst that won't mean every stop in East Preston will be changed, it does mean more stops moving over to the new standards and overall a much better image at the roadside.

There's not usually a formal limit for time spent at a bus stop. We don't want to schedule excess time, for obvious reasons, but the 11 needs some slack to cater for railway gates being open or closed at Roundstone and Ferring.

Re fares, we do still offer a through ticket on Coastliner 700/701 although at some stage this will be phased out - not least because, when we can offer tap-on/off payment at some point within the next few years, a linked journey isn't really possible as everything will instead fall under a maximum Day cap. The through ticket saw a boom in popularity under the £2 fare cap because it undercut a Day ticket for the first time. Numbers have dropped a little with the change to a £3 fare cap and we'd expect them to fall away again at the point the fare cap ends (currently expected in April 2027). There isn't a plan to include the 11 in the Coastliner through ticket, because we'd immediately have calls for other routes like the 5, 9 and 10 to be included too - so we have to draw a line somewhere. As a partial mitigation we did introduce a Littlehampton local ticket last Easter, which has reduced the cost of some journeys, albeit not those beyond Worthing.

The daytime 11 is reasonably okay at the moment, but it does carry a high number of concessionary passengers which means revenue is challenging (the reimbursement we get has never been enough to properly pay the running costs of a bus service). The evening trips are extremely quiet as are a couple of the early morning buses. These may yet be subject to change at the next timetable review, although there's no commitment either way on that just yet.

I hope that all makes sense.

Thanks,

James

Meanwhile, on around about the 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> February, a number of new timetables appeared on bus stops where there had not previously been a timetable.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

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

### **174/26 FINANCIAL MATTERS**

The Accounts for February 2026 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

- 2082** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2025/26, value £255.00 (exc. VAT).
- 2083** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Regular Monthly Payments reports for February 2026 totalling £1,092.67 (inc. VAT).
- 2084** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid reports for February 2026 totalling £33,167.92 (inc. VAT).
- 2085** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report for financial year to date totalling £2,022.61 (inc. VAT) for February 2026 (Year to Date, £595,418.03).

The council NOTED the Bank Reconciliations to 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

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

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

## **175/26 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

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

### **Committees**

Since the last Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Amenities, Finance & General Purposes, Major Events, Personnel and Planning & Licensing. Draft Minutes from all but the Personnel Committee meeting have been circulated to all councillors. Those from the Personnel will only be circulated to members of that committee.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **Amenities Committee**

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 9<sup>th</sup> February.

**Warren Recreation Ground Tennis Court** – The committee received a request from Arun Pickleball Club, to consider facilitating the playing of Pickleball at the Warren Recreation Ground Tennis Court. The club gave a presentation at the meeting which outlined the benefits of the sport to the community. The committee raised its concerns relating to Pickleball noise levels and the impact this would have on residents. The committee agreed not to allow this request and suggested the club consider the multi-use games area (MUGA) at Lashmar Recreation Ground.

**Warren Recreation Ground south western boundary** – The grounds contractor has completed the south western corner improvement work. The area has been cleared, levelled, shrubs planted and new mulch laid. The contractor said the area should be starting to look its best by Mid-Summer.

**Sea Road Public Toilets** – The committee has changed the opening times for the public toilets to fall in line with Arun District Council opening times. The toilets new opening times are, Summer (1 May to 30 September) - 8am to 7pm, 7 days a week and Winter (1 October - 30 April) - 8am to 5pm, 7 days a week.

**Public Seating** – As a part of the committee’s ‘five-year bench plan’ to replace older wooden benches with new composite benches. The committee has replaced the bench on the grass verge by the junction of The Street and Sea Lane.

The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for 18<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

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

18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## **Audit & Governance Committee**

Cllr Mathias is chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in February.

The committee’s next meeting is scheduled for 9<sup>th</sup> March. Councillors are asked to let me know if there is anything they believe should be on the agenda for this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

## **Community Engagement Committee**

Cllr Linton is the chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in February.

Some updates:

**Warm Welcome Space 2026** – average attendance at the sessions held so far has increased from 21 last month to 23. Our thanks to all community volunteers who have helped so far this year: Chris and Valerie, John, Naomi, Linda and Mark. Alison, Dawn and I have all taken a turn at helping out too when the number of attendees booked has been high.

**Youth Provision** – on 26<sup>th</sup> February, Cllr Chapman and I are attending the next meeting with Angmering and Rustington Parish Councils looking at what is available for local youth and what local youth would like. I have followed up on this council’s action to liaise with the publisher of *All About* magazine about a youth-targeted version, and that will be discussed further, I’m sure.

**Newsletter No. 77, Winter 2026** – Cllr Linton, on behalf of the editorial team, signed off this newsletter on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Thanks to Cllr Bowman for producing an article on dog-walking etiquette at short notice after the council’s last meeting. The Spring 2026 newsletter is scheduled for publication in May – please let Cllr Linton or me know of any ideas for articles.

Mya de Hoedt, upon seeing the article of which she is the subject, wrote in, “Thank you so much! This is amazing and such an honour. I cannot wait to show the kids ❤️”

**Beach Clean, 29<sup>th</sup> March** – I am in discussion with a lead member of KEPT (Keep East Preston Tidy) about how this event will run between the two organisations.

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

## **Finance & General Purposes Committee**

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> February; Cllr Gunston chaired the meeting in Cllr McElroy's absence.

Amongst the matters considered:

**Warren Recreation Ground mediation exercise** – the committee agreed to set aside a maximum of £1,000 for up to three further two-hour sessions.

**Three-year grants** – inspired by last month's Home-Start Arun, Worthing and Adur talk, the committee agreed awarding three-year grants could be beneficial for some organisations. The committee will give this further thought when it considers those organisations which have applied for Grant Aid funding in the new financial year.

**Earmarked reserves** – the committee reviewed all of the council's current earmarked reserves and agreed some deletions.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> May.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## **Major Events Committee**

Cllr Linton is Chairman of the committee.

The committee met on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

Amongst the matters considered:

**East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 21<sup>st</sup> November** – the committee continued to work upon its plans for a revamped Christmas Celebrations event, which will come with a new name in due course. An earmarked reserve has been created for this event and from that, the council will hire a marquee to cover the Village Hall car-park, pending agreement with the Village Hall committee. The event will run from 11:00 to 16:00 rather than 12:00 to 17:00.

Cllr Bowman will liaise with local businesses in the northern shops to consider the possibility of setting up a children's area.

One of the next steps will be for committee members to meet with Alison in the office to work out the optimum layout for stalls both inside and outside the Village Hall.

**Funday Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> April** – the event has been publicised in the Winter 2026 newsletter and is effectively on sale from now. Cllr Gunston had agreed to be a waiter for the afternoon alongside members of the committee.

**East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 29<sup>th</sup> August** – the committee had no concerns about this event progressing to plan.

**Autumn bingo, October 2026** – the committee agreed to a date of 4<sup>th</sup> October for this event. The bingo will be led by one Simon Tooley and the event will be held at East Preston Junior School. Mr Tooley has provided a lot of relevant information which the committee will consider before its next meeting.

The hall at the Junior School has been booked for 12:00 to 18:00 at a cost of £90.

**Remembrance Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> November** – as mentioned in the committee’s report to the February Full Council meeting (Minute 077/26), the Legion can no longer arrange or pay for the road closure parts of the event. The committee agreed unanimously it would now arrange and pay for the road closures and oversee the marshalling of the parade. Any councillor wishing to be a marshal on the morning of 8<sup>th</sup> November should let me know as soon as they can.

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026

## **Personnel Committee**

Cllr Duff is the chairman of this committee.

The committee held an extra meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

Part of the meeting was to review the council’s complaints policy and procedure. Look out for an updated policy soon.

**Training** – the committee agreed it would be a good idea to arrange some chairmanship training for all councillors. This training would not only help chairmen lead more effective meetings but would also help all councillors support the council’s chairmen in those meetings.

**Speaking through the Chair** – the meeting also agreed to remind all councillors and officers they should always address meetings through the chair. Speaking out of turn may only happen occasionally but it can be very frustrating for the person spoken over.

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

## **Planning & Licensing Committee**

Cllr Bowman is chairman of the committee.

The committee met on 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> February, the committee considered eight applications. The committee agreed not to object to six applications, to defer one pending more information and to object to an application in Beechlands Close.

On the 23<sup>rd</sup> February, the committee considered the application deferred from the previous meeting. Although the committee had pointed out to the Planning Officer, via me, the drawings were incorrect, no revised drawings were forthcoming for the meeting. The application was for the

change of use of a premises in Sea Road. Although it had no objections to the change of use, the committee agreed to object to this application as it had concerns about the proposed layout to the back of the property and how this might affect neighbouring properties. Using their official ADC email addresses, I have let our three district councillors know of our objections and asked them to get involved.

At the same meeting, the committee also agreed not to object to an application to a crown lift for two trees in Sea Lane.

The Regulation 16 consultation period for the revised East Preston Neighbourhood Plan has now officially started. The closing date for comments is 17:00 on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and this has been advertised in the e-newsletter published on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Audit & Governance – no councillor had identified any items to add to the agenda for this meeting.

Community Engagement – Cllr Linton reminded councillors of the Beach Clean on 29<sup>th</sup> March which was being organised in conjunction with KEPT (Keep East Preston Tidy). As this was to be the first joint activity, it would be good if many councillors could attend.

The Clerk reported he had attended a further youth meeting with representatives of Angmering and Rustington Parish Councils. Rustington Parish Council has designed a website which, when on a phone, will look very much like an app, which should make it more appealing to its target audience. Each of the three parish councils would contact organisations within its own area inviting them to provide content for the website. There would be some running costs and these would need to be approved by the Community Engagement Committee which held the council’s budget for youth provision.

Major Events – Cllr Linton advised tickets were now selling for *Funday Sunday*.

Personnel – Cllr Duff reported the committee had met last week and had agreed all councillors should attend a chairmanship course. This course would benefit not only those who were already committee chairmen but also all councillors in renewing their understanding of what a chairman should be doing at a meeting and how all councillors can support that.

Cllr Duff also reminded councillors they should always speak through the chairman at any formal council meeting.

Planning & Licensing – Cllr Bowman questioned why ADC was spending £750 a day on a consultant to review the revised East Preston Neighbourhood Plan, especially now it was out for public consultation. The Clerk replied this was simply part of the process; the consultant was contracted to be an independent examiner and this was part of the national Neighbourhood Plan process regardless of whether the plan being reviewed was new or a revision.

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

## **176/26 EAST PRESTON ALLOTMENTS**

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

### **Amenities and Finance & General Purposes Committees – East Preston allotments**

**Council is asked to agree to set aside up to £1,000 a year, initially, to manage the East Preston allotments on a lease from Arun District Council.**

Cllr Gunston to introduce this item.

Please note, this item is shown under two committees as no decision has yet been taken about which committee will manage the allotments site should a lease be agreed. Council has already

agreed, in principle, to a lease with ADC for the management of this site (Minute 013/26, Resolution 2066).

ADC has advised us it currently pays between £35 and £40 per month for water supplied to the site, approximately £450 a year. Realistically, it would be impossible for any organisation to raise that sum from a site of just twelve plots. Cllr Gunston is leading on this project and would like council to set aside up to £1,000 a year to cover running costs and potential improvements to the site.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Cllr Gunston spoke in support of the above supporting paper.

Cllr McElroy said he had been paying £120 annually for an allotment in Croydon in 2011. Cllr Mathias said there were now commercial allotments and the annual fee for those was even higher than that.

Cllr Wilkinson questioned whether the council should be paying for the water. Cllr Gunston replied that was indeed debatable but he was trying to avoid too great an increase in annual fee from the start and, as a council, we wanted to get all plots back in use. ADC had said it was currently paying between £30 and £40 per month.

**2086** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to set aside up to £1,000 a year, initially, to manage the East Preston allotments on a lease from Arun District Council.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting in May would consider the practicalities of this.

## **177/26 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES**

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

### **Working Parties**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### **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 published in the Winter 2026 newsletter and members of the public have started to take part in the survey.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> February 2026

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

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

## **Flat and Frontage Working Party (FFWP)**

Cllr Wilkinson is chairman-elect of this working party.

No updates from this working party explicitly.

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

Cllr Wilkinson is the chairman of this working party.

Leases Working Party business was discussed as part of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> February, the committee agreeing the council's surveyor should continue to negotiate for the terms already put to the Bowls Club. The council's surveyor has acknowledged this.

Additionally:

20mph – Cllr Wilkinson advised the meeting the 20mph survey as featured on the front of the Winter 2026 newsletter was live and members of the public had started to respond.

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

### **178/26 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL**

County Cllr Elkins thanked the council for the chance to address it and said it had been interesting listening to more of the council's business and discussions than usual.

On the day of the meeting, families would have been learning whether or not their children had been accepted into their preferred schools. Cllr Elkins understood 97% of children had been allocated to one of their choices and this number would likely increase as last-minute spaces became available.

The county council's budget had been approved. It was a balanced budget, 58% of which went to education and 25% of which went to adult social services. Cllr Elkins reported a funding shortfall of £190m from central government to WSCC for the provision of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) support. In response to a question, Cllr Elkins said no services were at risk of being cut but the shortfall would need to be met from the council's reserves. Demand for SEND support was outstripping availability. Cllr McElroy said there was a rumour the government was about to withdraw the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) process.

March was Wellbeing month and Cllr Elkins was aware the Clerk had already made the public aware of some forthcoming events in libraries.

A new county council policy was introducing additional restrictions upon utility companies wanting to work close to trees on grass verges. This policy could see utility companies having to replace trees damaged during such work.

As a result of the government's Fairer Funding Review, the county council will probably lose several million pounds over the coming years.

For the record, the Clerk reported the following matter. After several years of campaigning by its residents and the council, Vermont Drive was resurfaced in August 2025. In September 2025, the Clerk had flagged to WSHCC Highways (WSH) the contractor had not reinstated the white lines at the junction with Sea Road nor the double yellow lines at the same junction. WSH had accepted this and had asked for the contractor to come back and sort this. By December, nothing had changed and the Clerk contacted WSH again. In January, WSH replied it had commissioned ADC to reinstate the markings on WSH's behalf. The Clerk had not known ADC had that ability. Talking to the manager of the relevant ADC team, the Clerk learnt the commission did not include white access protection lines that had been covered by the resurfacing work and he reported that to his WSH contact. At this point, WSH withdrew the order from ADC as there was insufficient funding available for ADC to reinstate any access protection lines too. The last comment from the WSH officer was, "I will be looking at a swift turnaround on this as I understand this will cause inconvenience as we approach the summer months." Cllr Elkins said he had been following this matter and had been planning on raising it at the six-monthly WSH meeting, but that had been postponed indefinitely.

### **179/26 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

District Cllrs R Bower and Kelly had both sent their apologies to the meeting.

District Cllr Philippa Bower reported she had only attended a meeting of the council's Audit & Governance Committee which had also contributed to the setting of ADC's budget for 2026/27.

On behalf of District Cllr Ricky Bower, Philippa reported the government was proposing sites of between 50 and 100 social housing properties would no longer require Planning Permission in rural areas. She was slightly sceptical about this but reassured housing associations would need to be involved from the beginning and they probably could not afford so many properties.

Cllr Bowman questioned when ADC might raise stronger concerns about building on flood plains. Cllr Bower said she would not buy a house built on a flood plain and that she too was concerned about the amount of building that did take place on flood plains.

Cllr Gale questioned when she could expect her new bin. Cllr Bower said she had a number Cllr Gale could call and she would pass this to the Clerk for onward distribution.

The Clerk asked Cllr Bower whether she had any concerns about the staffing profile at ADC as he was aware some good officers had recently left or were about to leave, possibly as a result of forthcoming local government reorganisation. Cllr Bower replied she had not spoken to any officer yet particularly concerned about their future.

Cllr Linton asked Philippa to pass on the council's best wishes to Ricky. Philippa thanked the council.

(Cllrs Bower and Elkins and the remaining member of the public left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

### **180/26 SUSSEX POLICE**

No report had been received.

### **181/26 CLERK'S REPORT**

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

## **Clerk's Report**

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Police matters**

3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**
4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
5. **Sea Road telephone kiosk**
6. **Network Rail incident, 27<sup>th</sup> January**
7. **Annual meeting with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, 10<sup>th</sup> February**
8. **Social media**
9. **MailChimp stats**
10. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
11. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
12. **Leave**
13. **March meetings and events**

## 1. **Introduction**

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

## 2. **Police matters**

Further to the incident on 12<sup>th</sup> January when a driver knocked over and drove over two of the council's safety bollards at the northern shops and Sussex Police taking our advice an officer needed to visit the driver as CCTV footage showed him apparently unaware of the damage he had done to the bollards and also to his car. On 9<sup>th</sup> February, I had a call from our current Neighbourhood Police Sergeant, Alex Johnston, telling me he had called upon the gentleman who had said he and his family had agreed he should no longer drive. Sgt Johnston had given the man an eye-test outside the property and the man had been unable to read a complete numberplate at 20m. After a few attempts, Sgt Johnston had no option but to advise the DVLA to revoke the man's driving licence.

PCSO Raj was available outside the library for an hour on the morning of Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February. The weather was poor. Nobody brought him any bicycles to security mark.

We have had a couple of reports concerning a damaged car in The Street, just west of the library. I contacted PCSO Raj about this and he confirmed it was a courtesy car and he had been in touch with the relevant garage about retrieving it. Update: the car was removed on 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</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 and responded to two Freedom of Information requests from one resident, both without requiring the input of the council's Freedom of Information Panel.

## 5. **Sea Road telephone kiosk**

Cllr Wilkinson asked me to find out BT's plans for the telephone kiosk (Public Call Office – PCO) on the island across the road from the Council Office. This is the answer received from BT:

Hi Simon

We have no current new plans for the kiosk; it is a kiosk that is protected under Ofcom universal obligation with the poor mobile signal it could not be considered for a removal. We have upgraded the line already ready for the big switch off - of the old copper lines so it is future proofed in advance.

**Regards**  
**Jonathan**

Jonathan Liggins | Team Member - Bangor | Voice Services |  
Payphones | StreetHub | Welsh Helpdesk

For information, the telephone number of the kiosk is 01903 772808

6. **Network Rail incident, 27<sup>th</sup> January**

Coming to work on the cold, rainy morning of Tuesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January, I was held up at the Angmering Station level crossing for over ten minutes. Being rush hour, this resulted in traffic backing up northwards on to the A259 and southwards well south of the junction of Worthing Road and Station Road. It was not possible to see how far westbound traffic was backed up on Worthing Road. In turn, this led to some drivers travelling on the wrong side of the road to reach their destination and others turning around out of the traffic with little room for manoeuvre. Schoolchildren were left standing in the cold rain, not the best start for anybody's day.

I reported this all to my Network Rail contacts, and received the following response at the end of 28<sup>th</sup> January:

Hello Simon,

Thank you for raising this and I am really sorry to hear about the disruption that you and your residents experienced yesterday morning.

We have discussed this internally with the team and I do now have an understanding as to what happened yesterday. Unfortunately, it does look like we could and should have done more here to mitigate the impacts on highway users and I am sorry that was not done.

We had some disruption yesterday, including a few cancellations. The snippet below shows the timings of trains arriving at Angmering; the actual timings for the crossing would be slightly different but this at least provides a view as to what was arriving, and departing, at what point and in which direction.

STP	Plan Arr	Act Arr	Origin	PI	ID	TOC Destination	Plan Dep	Act Dep
WTT	0735	0749%	Southampton Central	1	1N05	SN Brighton	0735	0750
WTT	0737	pass	Brighton	2	2Y08	SN Chichester	0738	0747%
WTT	0741	0742%	Littlehampton	1	2Y11	SN Brighton	0742	0743%
WTT	0742	0827½	Brighton	2	1N10	SN Southampton Central	0743	0828%
WTT	0747	0757%	Brighton	2	1S80	SN Portsmouth Harbour	0747	0759
WTT	0749	0754	Littlehampton	1	1H13	SN London Victoria	0749	0755%
WTT	pass		Westbury Tarmac		6O40	ZZ Ardingly Hanson Aggregates	0753½	(Q)
WTT	0758	0820%	Hove	2	2Y94	SN Littlehampton	0758	0821
WTT	0804	0803	Portsmouth Harbour	1	1S07	SN Brighton	0804	0804
WTT	0806	0817	Brighton	2	1S10	SN Fratton	0806	0818
WTT	0809	0810%	Chichester	1	2Y13	SN Brighton	0809	0812

As you can see we were dealing with some late-running services, and trains were presenting at the station out of their regular sequence.

On the day, the signaller in the box was a relief signaller, meaning that they wouldn't normally be based in this location. They managed the rail service safely and sought to support service recovery, but unfortunately the barriers were left down for longer than needed to have been the case, which resulted in the impacts that you personally observed. In total the barriers were left down for nearly twenty minutes, which is definitely a very long time.

Our Local Operations Manager agrees with that assessment and has spoken to our colleague directly, to review the decisions that were made and to discuss how we can all work to safely support a punctual railway while also considering the impacts that this has on highway users. These conversations will help us to manage this sort of circumstance in a better way in the future.

I am sorry again for the disruption that you experienced.

Yours sincerely,

**William AJG Knighton**  
**Senior Public Affairs Manager**  
Network Rail Southern Region

#### **7. Annual meeting with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club, 10<sup>th</sup> February**

Cllr Gunston and I attended this meeting at the club, held slightly later than usual as the Chairman of the tennis club, Alastair McCubbin had been unavailable for the usual January meeting date.

As the club had chaired the meeting last year, it was the council's turn and Cllr Gunston chose me to be in the chair.

The club representatives – Alastair, Sarah Fisher – Administrator, and for some of the meeting, Andrew Cook – Head Coach and Premises Manager – talked about the club's plans for investing in Court No. 1 to make it a more appealing court upon which to play. This will help the club to offer club sessions at full capacity, something it often cannot do at the moment because of issues with the court's drainage. Work is expected to start by the end of March, will last six months, and will also see a small reduction in the height of the hedge on the western side of the court. The club confirmed neighbours will be informed once a definite start date has been agreed. The court will be artificial clay and its markings will be integral.

On behalf of the council, the club has agreed to run some free tennis coaching sessions at the Warren Recreation Ground during Festival week.

#### **8. Social Media**

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

- Post advising of the latest public consultation period for the revised East Preston Neighbourhood Plan – 2,841 people
- Repost of ADC Changes to Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme post – 813
- Found child's bus pass – 577

(posts up to and including 24<sup>th</sup> February)

The number of Followers is currently 1,993, an increase of 18 on the last report.

#### 9. **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 – 29<sup>th</sup> January – sent to 960 subscribers, opened by 706 (73.5%)

Parish Council news – 5<sup>th</sup> February – sent to 960, opened by 709 (73.9%)

Parish Council news – 11<sup>th</sup> February – sent to 961, opened by 719 (74.8%)

Parish Council news – 19<sup>th</sup> February – sent to 960, opened by 722 (75.2%)

#### 10. **Things we have been asked since the last meeting**

“I wanted to enquire if there's possibility of some kind of permit to park outside the shops as a resident?” (Not through this council, directed caller to ADC Civil Parking Enforcement.)

“Do you know anything about new hedgerow laws?” (A quick search online brought me to this - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hedgerow-management-rules-cutting-and-trimming> - which only seems to apply if the hedgerow is on land used for agriculture.)

“Does the council have a policy for scattering ashes on its land?” (Not explicitly no, but it has allowed ashes to be scattered discreetly on the Village Green twice in the past twenty years. Rustington PC similarly asked that discretion is exercised and Angmering and Ferring PCs both said they have never been asked for permission.)

#### 11. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

Thanks from various residents for assistance and advice given in various matters over the past month.

Thanks from East Preston Yarnbombers for supplying a photograph of the knitting-as-a-hobby postbox topper from last year as they had forgotten to take any of their own.

Thanks from a resident of Milliers Court for alerting her to the planning application for the former Parkers Builders Yard which is adjacent to Milliers Court. I had alerted the building manager but it's not clear whether he forwarded that knowledge on.

#### 12. **Leave**

I have booked off the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March, so far. Adrian has booked 24<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> March and Dawn has booked off 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> March.

#### 13. **March Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change. Where committee meetings fall on the same day, the timings of these meetings may also be subject to change.

2<sup>nd</sup> Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)

6<sup>th</sup> WSALC Clerks' Networking Day (10:00, Billingshurst) (SC only)

9<sup>th</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)

- Audit & Governance Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Launch of the Arun Valley Line Podcast (13:00, Bognor Regis railway station) (SC only)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting our MP (details to be provided nearer the time)
- 14<sup>th</sup> East Preston Repair Café (10:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 18<sup>th</sup> Hot Cross Buns at Greenleas (11:00) (DM only)
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)  
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 29<sup>th</sup> KEPT East Preston Beach Clean (11:00, Sea Road)

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Item 8 – Social Media** – Cllr Linton asked the Clerk whether he had been able to return the child’s bus pass to its owner. The Clerk replied he had contacted local schools, none of whom knew of the child although it was a WSCC bus pass. After a week, he had simply sent the bus pass back to the address shown on the pass.

**Item 6 – Network Rail incident, 27<sup>th</sup> January** – Cllr Duff thanked the Clerk for finding out about the incident on 27<sup>th</sup> January as she too had been caught up in it.

Cllr Bradshaw thanked the Clerk “for a lovely report.”

**182/26 EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

No members had attended any external meetings or events during February.

**183/26 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2026)**

Nothing was suggested. Cllr Linton drew council’s attention to the fact three local organisations the council had helped set up were invited to attend the meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> April to update the council on their achievements and aspirations. As such, the meeting would be starting at 18:30.

**184/26 118-120 SEA ROAD, EAST PRESTON**

The Clerk reported the solicitor’s reports had been circulated to Cllrs Toney, Linton, Bowman and Gunston. The three present all said there were no issues with the reports and proposed exchange of contracts with a completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

**2087** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to exchange contracts for the purchase of 118-120 Sea Road with a completion date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026.

The Clerk had provided the council’s insurance broker with answers to all of its questions and would push for insurance cover to be in place as soon as possible so contracts could be exchanged. The contracts would be signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Clerk.

The meeting ended at 19:59.

Chairman: **Cllr Steve Toney** Date: **13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

END