

**MONTHLY MEETING  
OF THE COUNCIL**

**6<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2026  
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 Full Council meeting,  
1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11<sup>th</sup> June 2026

**Agenda Item 7**

**Monthly Update Report**

1. **Introduction**
2. **Minute 176/26 – East Preston Allotments**
3. **Minutes 395/26 to 397/26 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

1. **Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2026.

2. **Minute 176/26 – East Preston Allotments**

Cllr Gunston has been liaising further with District Council Philippa Bower and will be able to provide an update to the meeting.

3. **Minutes 395/26 to 397/26 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return**

Adrian and I completed the paperwork, checked the bundle twice and sent it off on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, a week ahead of the deadline. Safe receipt has been acknowledged by the bundle being returned (having been scanned by the recipient).

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

20<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## Agenda Item 9

### Committees

Since the last Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Community Engagement, Flat & Frontage, Major Events and Planning & Licensing. Draft Minutes have been circulated to all councillors.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Agenda Item 9a

### Amenities Committee

Clr McElroy is chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in June.

**Planters** – The old wooden church planter, which unfortunately was beyond repair, has been replaced with a new bespoke composite sleeper planter. Ferring Nurseries installed the new planter and seasonal floral display.

Two new composite planters have been installed at the Roundstone Drive/North lane junction verge. The planters replace the two damaged wooden planters located next to the Diamond Jubilee Bench. Ferring Nurseries installed the new planters and seasonal floral displays.



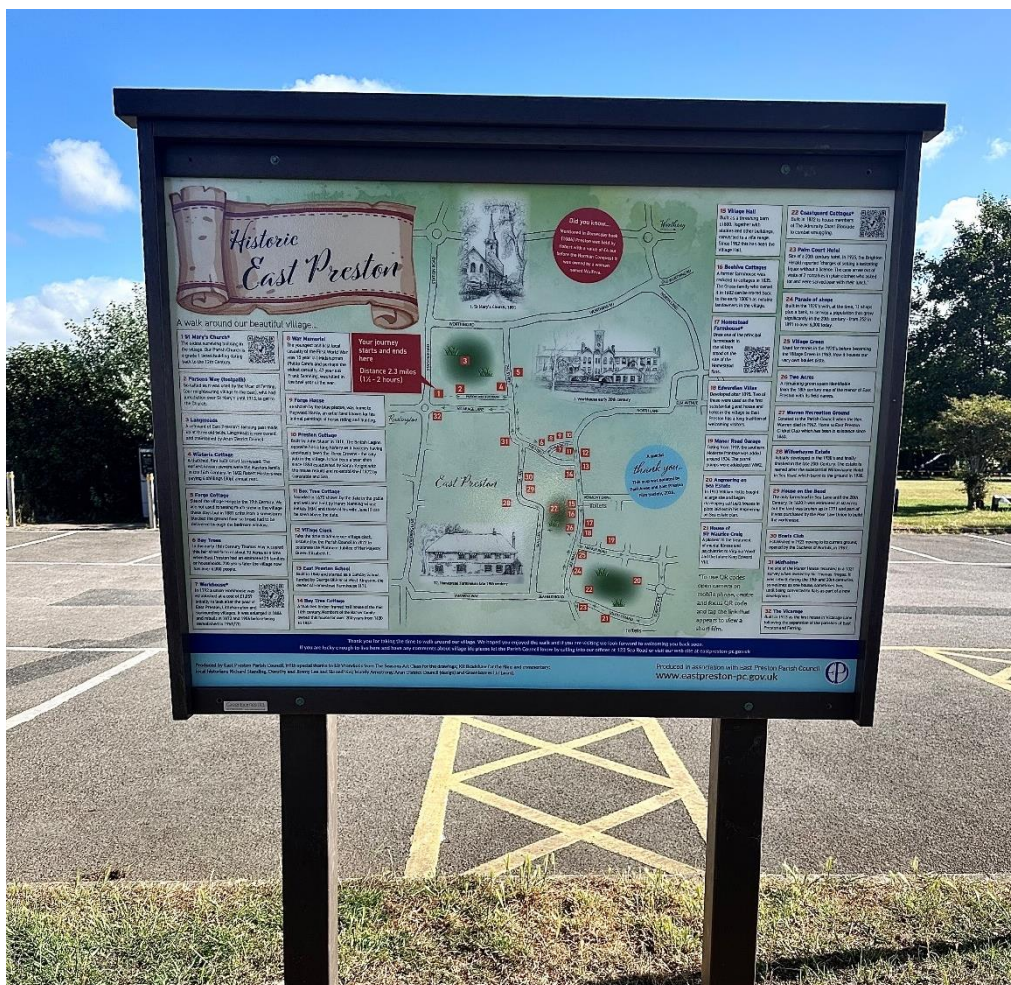
Also on this verge East Preston in Bloom (EPiB) installed the 'Welcome to East Preston' planter. Cooper Adams sponsored the cost of this planter and Ferring Nurseries donated the plants, compost and seasonal floral display.

**Village Green and Sea Lane Wildflower beds** – Unfortunately the preparation and planting of this year’s wildflower beds was overlooked by the councils ground’s contractor and it is now too late in the year to rotavate and seed the beds. An alternative option was considered of planting bedding plants, but given the predicted hot weather this was not advisable. The committee agreed to use the funds allocated for the wildflowers, to provide an additional grass verge cut prior to the council’s Food and Drink event in August.

**Warren Recreation Ground Tennis Court** - Following discussions with neighbours regarding the misuse of the Tennis Court, the committee has agreed to install new signage and extend the height of the chain link fencing.

**Sea Road toilets** – Cloud 9 repaired the damaged wall between the toilets and the footpath into the Village Hall. It is not known how the wall was damaged. Meanwhile, in view of the heat it was recommended we check the water coming from the external tap. The water supply comes directly from the underground mains supply, there it is not considered to be a high risk. A tap flush is regularly carried out at the toilets to flush out any stagnant water.

**Heritage Maps** – these have been installed to replace the Millennium Maps alongside the Village Green car-park and opposite the entrance to Beechlands Close. These have been installed in conjunction with the East Preston Film Society and Paul Amoo.



The committee’s next meeting remains scheduled for 10<sup>th</sup> August 2026.

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

29<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Agenda Item 9b

### Audit & Governance Committee

Cllr Mathias is incumbent chairman of this committee.

To date the composition of this committee for the current council year is: Cllrs Toney and Linton as Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council respectively, and Cllr Bowman as Chairman of the Planning & Licensing Committee and Cllr McElroy as Chairman of the Amenities and Finance & General Purposes Committees. Cllr Toney is also on the committee as the chairman of the Flat & Frontage Committee and Cllr Linton as the chairman of the Community Engagement and Major Events Committees.

The chairmanship of the Personnel Committees will be decided this month. I anticipate Cllr Duff will retain chairmanship of that committee. That would give room for a further two councillors to stand for this committee.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## Agenda Item 9c

### Community Engagement Committee

The committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> June and re-elected Cllrs Linton and Duff as chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

Some of the matters discussed were:

**Playscheme, 27<sup>th</sup> October** – the council is planning a family-friendly visit from Weird Science during the October half-term. More details in due course.

**St Mary the Virgin Christmas Tree Festival, 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> December** – Cllrs Chapman and Duff will lead on the council's involvement in this. The likely theme will be a focus on all the charitable organisations to which the council has awarded grants during the current term.

**Youth Provision** – the project working alongside Angmering and Rustington Parish Councils to provide a website to let local young people and their adults know what is available in the area is moving ahead. Local organisations have been given the chance to contribute content.

**Newsletter No. 79, Summer 2026** – the committee is working on this newsletter.

**Blue plaques** – the committee has a proposed new blue plaque, for which Cllr Moore is seeking further background information. The council needs some finance for this project, see Agenda Item 10a below.

**Hearing impairment group** – the meeting of this group scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> June was postponed due to some members of the public not wishing to venture out during the extreme heat on that day.

The committee's next meeting will be on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## **Agenda Item 9d**

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

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in June.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> August.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> May 2026

## **Agenda Item 9e**

### **Major Events Committee**

Cllr Linton is the chairman of the committee.

The committee met on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Cllr Linton was re-elected chairman and Cllr Toney was re-elected vice-chairman.

The committee considered forthcoming events as follows:

**East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 29<sup>th</sup> August** – all on track, with Cllr Chapman the lead councillor for this event. Pretty much all pitches have now been booked and paid for. The committee considered some public ideas for music at the event. The committee has a plan for live music this year but will reconsider the public suggestions for next year's event.

**Bingo afternoon, 4<sup>th</sup> October** – Cllr Duff is leading on this and needs to meet with the Clerk to finalise some details before we publicise starting with an article in the Summer 2026 Newsletter.

**East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 22<sup>nd</sup> November** – following logistical problems with setting up a gazebo at the Village Hall during Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> November, the committee agreed to move this event to the Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November. For the time being, the event is being called East Preston's Cool Yule. As previously mentioned, the event will be more of a Christmas market than previous Christmas events have been. The council is liaising with East Preston Library about an offering for children on a different date.

**Annual Parish Meeting** – the committee agreed to try not to hold this on the same Monday as the Annual Meeting of the Council next year, as this can be confusing for council members and residents.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> August.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 9f**

### **Personnel Committee**

Cllr Duff is the chairman of the committee.

The committee did not meet in June.

Ten councillors attended Chairmanship Training on Monday, 29<sup>th</sup> June. This training was designed not only for councillors who are or wish to be chairmen but also for all councillors to understand better how to support the chairmen of meetings. The training was provided by Celia Price of Mulberry & Co. Local Authority Services and was well received. From the answers we gave Celia to various questions, she formed the opinion the council was well-run and effective. Celia also provided refresher training on General Data Protection Regulations.

Ocean completed her work experience with the council on 4<sup>th</sup> June and has subsequently written an article for publication in the Summer 2026 Newsletter. The initiative will be reviewed by the committee at its meeting in July.

From 29<sup>th</sup> June, Dawn will be working a different pattern of hours; she will work the same number of hours but compress them into three days rather than four.

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

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

30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 9g**

### **Planning & Licensing Committee**

The committee met on 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Cllr Bradshaw chaired the first meeting and Cllr Bowman the second.

On 8<sup>th</sup> June, the committee considered three applications and raised no objections to any of them.

On 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the committee considered a further six applications. Initially, the committee agreed to object to one of the six, but after I had garnered further information from the planning officer, the committee agreed electronically the council should not object to that application. That said, we have raised concerns about the standard of the drawings submitted for this application, the second such complaint we have raised recently. This meeting was the

council's first committee meeting to be held in 118 Sea Road, simply because the room was a little cooler. The Major Events Committee and Kingston Parish Council have subsequently also had meetings in there.

Cllr Bowman and Mrs Vos met on 25<sup>th</sup> June and agreed further comments for the council to send back to the independent examiner of the revised Neighbourhood Plan although we would welcome a meeting with ADC officers first.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 10a**

### **Community Engagement Committee – blue plaque**

**Council is asked to expenditure of up to £700 on the provision of a blue plaque in honour of Winifred Scott.**

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

Let last year, local historian Richard Standing alerted the council and the Preservation Society to the history of Winifred Scott who lived an heroic life in World War I and beyond, settling in East Preston in about 1922. At the time of writing, Cllr Moore is tracing Miss Scott's World War I service. Mr Standing himself remembers being with his mother in Miss Scott's kitchen early in World War II, canning fruit.

The relevant householder has already agreed to host a blue plaque. On 17<sup>th</sup> March, the council's previous supplier of blue plaques advised a 14" diameter plaque is current £525 with a further £31.50 delivery charge, both prices excluding VAT. The committee is asking for £700 in case there are any increases to those price and also to cover any installation costs, although in the past a local company has installed these plaques free of charge.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

## **Agenda Item 11a**

### **Finance & General Purposes Committee – East Preston Community Boardwalk**

**Council is asked to agree to expenditure for the commissioning of a risk assessment from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.**

At the council's April meeting, "council RESOLVED to accept the offer from Sea Road Beach Access Ltd. to donate the East Preston Community Boardwalk to the council." The decision was not unanimous.

The following morning, I advised the Sea Road Beach Access Ltd. directors the council would be discussing how best to implement this transfer and that was duly considered at the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May. A member of the public attended the meeting and opined the councillors who voted in favour of accepting the gift of the boardwalk would be personally liable should there be any claim the council's insurers were not prepared to meet (Minute 342/26). The committee agreed the council should ask the directors of Sea Road Beach Access Ltd. to provide a RoSPA risk assessment of the boardwalk before it transferred the boardwalk to the council (Minute 355/26).

I advised the directors of this requirement, and received the response, partially reported below:

On the question of a RoSPA report we are not prepared to commission a report. EPPC, in full knowledge that there was no RoSPA report in place, agreed, by a significant majority of Councillors, to accept the gift of the Boardwalk, without conditions, and we expect EPPC to honour this commitment. You will recall back on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2025 Roy provided you with the email trail he had with RoSPA and our view was that any such report would be of no value (leaving aside for the cost involved) and was not a pre-condition of the liability insurance we have in place. It is for EPPC to decide whether they wish to commission a RoSPA report, and if they do, we would be willing to assist EPPC in providing RoSPA with any information they require.

As time is now moving on we will make the monthly direct debit insurance payments due at the beginning of June and July, but will then cancel further direct debits. If by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026 EPPC have not assumed ownership of the Boardwalk we will disburse the remaining funds in the bank account as the Board deems appropriate and close the bank account and apply to have the company (Sea Road Beach Access) struck of the Companies House Register. Of course, if EPPC honours their commitment by this date the balance of bank funds as previously agreed will be gifted to EPPC.

The chairman and vice-chairman of both the council and the Finance & General Purposes Committee, agreed I should contact RoSPA for its view of a risk assessment. Its response was as follows:

As a limited company with at least one employee they will be required under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 to undertake a suitable and sufficient risk assessment. If you adopt the structure, then the East Preston Parish Council will be similarly duty bound to conduct its own risk assessment too.

The risk assessment may be considered by the company to be of little value, but it is bound by law to undertake one.

We can undertake a risk assessment. Please can you send to me some photographs of the item in question so that I can gauge the extent of the work required.

Yours sincerely,  
David Yearley

That's where we stand. I have sent David some photographs, but do not have a price yet. At the time of Roy Allen's email from February 2025, the price quoted was just under £1,200 excluding VAT. Roy did complete his own risk assessment of the boardwalk at the time of its installation.

Council should now consider whether it wishes to commission a risk assessment and ask Sea Road Beach Access Ltd. directors for a bit longer before handover, or does it not want to commission a risk assessment and allow the offer to be withdrawn by Sea Road Beach Access Ltd., leaving the boardwalk without an owner and uninsured.

## **Agenda Item 12a**

### **Flat & Frontage Committee**

**Council is asked to confirm the creation of this committee.**

Cllr Toney to lead on this item.

At the council's June meeting, it agreed to upgrade the Flat & Frontage Working Party to the Flat & Frontage Committee, in principle (Minute 402/26, Resolution 2125). The decision was taken in principle as it had not been on the agenda for that meeting and on the understanding the decision would be ratified at this meeting.

The committee has held its first meeting and elected Cllrs Toney and Linton to be chairman and vice-chairman respectively.

In order to populate this committee, any agreement to create this committee will be understood to include the waiving of Standing Order 4e which limits councillors to stand on no more than four committees simultaneously (except for the chairman and vice-chairman of the council). This waiver will stand only for the duration of this committee.

The Finance & General Purposes Committee will allocated the committee a budget at its August meeting.

Following the first meeting, the committee has been seeking further quotes for remedial works to 118-120 Sea Road, including separating the two properties ahead of renting out the flat at 120. The committee has scheduled a second meeting for 27<sup>th</sup> July.

I am still open to a better name for the committee if anyone has one.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

## **Agenda Item 13**

### **Working Parties**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 13a**

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

As agreed at the last monthly council meeting, Cllr Gunston drafted a response to the government's latest consultation on devolution. He then circulated this asking for any comments before the submitted it on behalf of the council.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

## **Agenda Item 13b**

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

This working party is currently without a chairman.

As part of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> May, those members of the Leases Working Party present considered the latest correspondence from the bowls club's negotiator and agreed a response. Council reps are meeting with Bowls Club reps, without negotiators, on 7<sup>th</sup> July. There's room for one more if someone wishes to attend.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 14**

### **118-120 Sea Road, East Preston**

**Council is asked to consider any matters relating to 118-120 Sea Road.**

An opportunity for any member of the Flat & Frontage Committee to address the meeting on this matter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

## **Agenda Item 15a**

## **West Sussex County Council**

**Council is asked to receive a report from County Councillor Roger Elkins, the representative for East Preston & Ferring Ward.**

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1<sup>st</sup> July 2026

### **Agenda Item 15b**

#### **West Sussex County Council – Traffic Regulation Order ARN8019-MM**

**Council is asked to agree its response to a Traffic Regulation Order consultation for increased parking restrictions in Worthing Road.**

On 17<sup>th</sup> June, the council was invited to participate in a public consultation about “a short extension to existing double yellow lines on the north side of Worthing Road in East Preston, at the western end of a layby located mid-way between the junctions of Copse View and The Street.”

The details were circulated to all councillors electronically on 18<sup>th</sup> June and also included in the e-newsletter published on the same date. “The new restriction is proposed as part of a scheme to improve access to an existing bus stop in the layby mentioned above. This scheme will include changes to the kerblin at this location and the revised restriction is necessary to accommodate the new layout.”

The council’s response must be submitted by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> July.

**Also, does council feel Traffic Regulation Orders could be considered by the Planning & Licensing Committee on its behalf?** This is just a thought.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

18<sup>th</sup> June 2026

### **Agenda Item 15c**

#### **West Sussex County Council – Clarence Drive**

**Council is also asked to consider correspondence from a resident of Clarence Drive.** At its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2025, “council RESOLVED unanimously to support better traffic management, in whatever form, in Clarence Drive” (Minute 535/25, Resolution 2005). An application was duly submitted to WSCC Highways, but was rejected. Some months later, the council, County Cllr Elkins and a representative of WSCC Highways have been sent the following email:

Dear Roger, Simon and Gary ,

I am writing to ask that the ongoing road safety concerns on our road be revisited following a tragic incident that occurred during the school run yesterday morning around 8.29am

A neighbour's Bengal cat was struck by a vehicle and suffered severe graphic injuries. The cat was not killed instantly and remained alive for a period after the collision before eventually succumbing to its injuries. The owner has reported the incident to the police.

The circumstances were particularly distressing for the owner, who found his pet after a witnessed rang on his door bell and had altered him of the fact and where another person hand his pet wrapped in his jacket. The owner was left shocked and deeply upset, knowing there was little that could be done to save his cat. For many people, pets are cherished members of the family and this incident has had a significant emotional impact on both the owner and the wider community.

This tragic incident has brought renewed attention to longstanding concerns that residents have raised regarding traffic conditions on our road. As a dead end residential road, we continue to experience problems associated with school run traffic, including excessive speed, inconsiderate parking, parking on grass verges and damage to the tree lined environment. These issues create hazards for residents, pets, pedestrians and most importantly to children and venerable.

Residents are aware that proposals previously supported by the Parish Council that did not progress with West Sussex County Council due to constraints and funding and that even basic speed awareness measures could not be pursued by the Parish Council because unavailable funding . However, this latest incident demonstrates that the concerns raised by residents remain valid and unresolved.

The concerns regarding traffic conditions are not solely those of local residents. A tradesman who has been working in the road for the past three weeks independently commented on how poor and potentially dangerous the situation appears, particularly during school run periods. Having witnessed the daily traffic patterns, he expressed concern about the speed of some vehicles and the congestion caused by parking. His observations provide further evidence that the issues being raised by residents are genuine and noticeable to others who spend time in the area.

The incident has also been brought to the attention of both the local infant and junior schools by a family member of the owner of the cat as there is growing concern about safety during school drop off and pick up times.

In addition, I have spoken directly with PC Rijo Raju regarding the concerns on our road. He advised that he will attempt to carry out a traffic patrol in the area, although no specific timescale can be given at present. He also indicated that efforts will be made to explore the possibility of additional road safety signage and involvement in a Community Speed Watch initiative. While these measures are still at an early stage, it is encouraging that the concerns raised by residents are being recognised and that preventative action is being considered.

While this incident involved a family pet, many residents fear that unless action is taken, it may only be a matter of time before a more serious accident involves a child, pedestrian, cyclist, or another road user again. The loss of a beloved pet is tragic in itself, but it should also serve as a warning that the existing road safety concerns have real consequences and cannot continue to be overlooked.

I would therefore ask the Parish Council to reconsider this matter and engage once again with West Sussex County Council Highways to explore what measures may now be available. These could include speed monitoring, vehicle activated signs, Community Speed Watch initiatives, traffic calming measures, improved parking controls, or further engagement with the schools regarding safe and considerate driving.

Given the history of concerns raised by residents, the previous discussions regarding road safety measures, the observations of independent third parties, the involvement of the police and local schools, and now this tragic incident, I believe there is a strong case for the situation to be reviewed as a matter of urgency.

Residents are keen to work constructively with the Parish Council, West Sussex County Council Highways, the police and local schools to identify practical and effective measures that will improve safety for everyone using the road.

I would be grateful if this matter could be discussed at the next Parish Council meeting and if residents could be informed of any proposed actions or next steps.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Additionally, having been spoken to by a couple of residents, PCSO Raj asked whether the village's Community Speedwatch (CSW) team could organise some patrols in Clarence Drive. Whilst alerting the CSW lead, Gavin Bernard, to this request, suggesting he visited the site, I replied to PCSO Raj the site would not likely be deemed suitable by Sussex Police because visibility, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times is not great and is probably below Sussex Police's threshold, which is why the council had previously asked Sussex Police to visit the site during school drop-off and pick-up times.

Please could the council think of any actions it could take in this matter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st July 2026

## **Agenda Item 16**

### **Arun District Council**

**Council is asked to receive a report from the district councillors representing East Preston and Kingston, Cllrs Philippa Bower, Ricky Bower and Paul Kelly.**

**Council is also asked to note the change to the requirements for a councillor's Register of Interests.** Councillors should also note there is no longer a requirement for councillors' home addresses to be published on the council's Register of Interests. The following information has been provided by Amy Mitchell, ADC Executive and Governance Support Officer:

Please be advised that from the 29 June 2026, local authorities will not be required to publish an elected or co-opted member's home address in local authority registers of interest.

The new section 32A of the Localism Act 2011 (as inserted and made by section 65 of the English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026), makes clear that a member's home address should not be disclosed on the authority's public register of interest unless the member has requested otherwise. To aid transparency, public registers of interest will still state that a member has an interest, the address of which is withheld under section 32A. The exact address details will still need to be declared to the monitoring officer, in the usual way, and remain available internally to Arun District Council in order to continue to prevent conflicts of interest.

Please note, for most councillors no action is required, as this council has a dispensation granted by the ADC Monitoring Officer and dating back to November 2023 not to publish councillors' home addresses – this was following threatening correspondence from a member of the public. However, I have contacted a small number of councillors who do need to update their Register of Interests because of recent changes in their circumstances.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 17**

### **Sussex Police**

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 18**

### **Clerk's Report**

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**
4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
5. **East Preston Festival: *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors*, 6<sup>th</sup> June**
6. **East Preston Festival: *Putter Madness*, 9<sup>th</sup> June**
7. **Community Speedwatch (CSW), 21<sup>st</sup> May**
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. **June meetings and events**

#### 1. **Introduction**

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

## 2. **Police matters**

The council was unable to attend the Arun District Association of Local Councils meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> May due to existing committee commitments, however, when the Minutes were published on 12<sup>th</sup> June, I noted the following statement: “Members heard that Inspector Wickings [Arun Neighbourhood Policing Team] visits parishes on a rotating basis to discuss local concerns directly with councils and residents before taking issues away for further action.” I questioned this with Insp. Wickings as that was not my understanding. Insp. Wickings replied, “I think there may have been some miscommunication there, I have the All Parishes Meeting that I chair. But I haven’t been out to visit the councils on a rotating basis, so not sure where that has come from. At the All Parishes I offer the opportunity for the parish and town councils to raise local issues, so I can either answer questions or task out some work. I wouldn’t be able to get around all the councils as there are so many of them.”

## 3. **Anti-social behaviour (ASB) matters**

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

I did meet with two Rustington residents about an ASB matter as they had previously spoken to me about an ASB matter within East Preston although this new matter was in Rustington. Having heard the actions they had already taken, I advised them to go straight to their MP, advise they accepted. I let my Rustington counterparts know of this and they had no problems.

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

Three new request received during June, all related to the playing of cricket on the Warren Recreation Ground. We have now received 9 FoI requests in the past 13 months; the preceding 9 requests were raised between 2010 and 2021. Other topics in the past 13 months are the sale of the Conservative Hall and the East Preston Community Boardwalk.

## 5. **East Preston Festival: Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, 6<sup>th</sup> June**

Owing to a forecast of poor weather, the council held this event in the office space at the front of 118 Sea Road, a good opportunity for members of the public to see the space currently available ahead of refurbishment works.

Cllrs Bowman, Bradshaw and McElroy were all unavailable, but the other ten were all involved. Cllr Chapman provided home-made mini strawberry cheesecakes, which were well-received. Although not as many as some previous years, enough residents attended to make it worth holding. Some came to discuss serious concerns, others simply to say thank you for all they perceive the council as contributing to the village. I shall write a follow-up article for the Summer 2026 Newsletter.

During the event, a local business donated eight chairs and a sofa suitable for use in a breakout room-type setting. Thanks to all councillors who helped carry these into the new space.

## 6. **East Preston Festival: Putter Madness, 9<sup>th</sup> June**

This event, on the Village Green, was scheduled to run from 16:00 until 19:00. Once again, the weather forecast was not great, but Cllr Linton and I agreed at midday it was worth attempting to run the event. This decision proved a good one as there was no rain throughout

the event although it was windy. Phoebe and Paul from Globetrotters Bar & Golf Ltd. arrived at about 14:15 and took about 75 minutes to set up.

The first putter punters arrived at about 15:30 and set off around the course. Cllrs Chapman, Duff, Gunston, Linton and Moore all took part whilst being on hand for residents; Cllrs McElroy and Toney were on hand for residents without taking part in a round. For the first two hours, the attraction was consistently busy, with attendance dropping off from about 18:00, pretty much as the wind increased. Bearing in mind, the first participants had been early, it was agreed the event could close at 18:30. Paul and Phoebe took about half an hour to pack up.

On the day feedback from participants of all ages was positive. On the morning after, a man I walk past some mornings stopped me to say how much his daughter had enjoyed the event.

## **7. Community Speedwatch (CSW), 16<sup>th</sup> June**

Gavin Bernard and I completed a Community Speedwatch shift in Sea Road for an hour from 08:30. On a busy morning of bright sunshine, we recorded 221 vehicles travelling in either direction, only one of which was travelling above the threshold for reporting to Sussex Police.

## **8. Social Media**

Only one of the council's Facebook posts reached more than 500 people in the past month:

- Short-notice notification of temporary closure of eastbound Littlehampton Road at Ferring – 4,523 people
- Publicity for Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, 6<sup>th</sup> June – 1,466
- Publicity for Putter Madness, 9<sup>th</sup> June – 1,406
- Publicity for the annual East Preston Festival stoolball match, 5<sup>th</sup> June – 568

(posts up to and including 30<sup>th</sup> June)

The number of Followers is currently 2,030, an increase of 3 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 – 28<sup>th</sup> May – sent to 962 subscribers

Parish Council news – 4<sup>th</sup> June – sent to 963

Parish Council news – 11<sup>th</sup> June – sent to 962

Parish Council news – 18<sup>th</sup> June – sent to 962

Parish Council news – 25<sup>th</sup> June – sent to 959

Further to my comment last month, the MailChimp software continues to record the open information differently to before and now apparently unreliably. I will continue to monitor this, but until this is fixed, I will not be able to provide a figure for the percentage of recipients who opened the email.

Furthermore, the old way in which an e-newsletter was automatically published to the council's Facebook page is no longer working – this appears to be a setting somewhere within Facebook which I have not found yet. I will try an alternative way of posting this week and see whether that works.

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

Was the parish council consulted on the plans for outside seating at The Podgy Spaniel?	Yes, and I shared with the author the council's letter of objections to this proposal which was granted Planning Permission by ADC.
Can you help with two dogs that are running free in the Manor Road, Upper Drive area?	Not really, but I did suggest the caller contact Sussex Police and I did post this matter on the council's Facebook page.
I live next to the fire station which needs to repair its fence, who should I contact?	I suggested an email to the general Fire & Rescue Service email address in the first place.

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

(In addition to anything reported above)

From the chairman of East Preston Festival Committee, Janine Nicholson, "On behalf of the Festival Committee, I would like to thank you for participating in this year's Festival by organising your supporting event(s), thereby helping us to create an interesting and varied programme. We are very grateful for your continuing support."

From the lady asking about The Podgy Spaniel, "Thank you for your reply, I was sure it was on your radar .... belt and braces!"

Later in the day in question, I emailed the lady who had called in about the two dogs. She replied, "I phoned 101 and the call handler said that it was unlikely the police would be able to send anyone out, but they noted it all down in case there were more calls. The dogs had two near misses with cars while I saw them so I think it was for the best I phoned, difficult isn't it. I haven't heard anymore, hopefully their owner came looking for them. Thanks so much for your help on the phone, much appreciated!"

Thanks received from two residents of just over the border in Rustington who wanted to see me because I had previously helped them with an East Preston matter. I let my counterparts at Rustington PC know about this and Rosie replied, "Thank you for the heads up and support given to these residents. We would advise the same."

Following the Chairmanship Training on 29<sup>th</sup> June, trainer Celia emailed, "You have a great bunch of councillors who genuinely seemed to want to be there - which isn't always the case when it comes to training 😊"

#### **12. Leave**

The only leave booked at the time of writing is me, 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> July.

#### **13. July 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.

- 4<sup>th</sup> East Preston Junior School 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary open morning (10:00-12:00)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 7<sup>th</sup> East Preston Junior School 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary show, *Darwin Rocks* (14:00, East Preston Junior School) (DM and SC)
- 11<sup>th</sup> East Preston Repair Café (10:00, East Preston Infant School)
- 13<sup>th</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Council Office)  
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00, Council Office)
- 16<sup>th</sup> Sussex Community Rail Partnership quarterly meeting (10:30, Shoreham Port Authority)
- 20<sup>th</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Council Office)  
Community Engagement Committee (19:00, Council Office)
- 27<sup>th</sup> Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Council Office)  
Flat & Frontage Committee (19:00, Council Office)

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 19**

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

**Council is asked to note any reports from Members attending other meetings and events.**

#### **ADC Local Cycling and Infrastructure Working Party Phase 2 briefing, 9<sup>th</sup> June**

##### **online**

I joined 10 other Parish and Town councillors at a presentation to discuss stage 2 of the ADC Local Cycling and Infrastructure Working Party (LCWIP). The first consultation attracted 859 responses and priority walking and cycling routes have now been planned. The most interesting for East Preston is probably the proposed cycle route between Littlehampton and Worthing.

A second round of consultations from 22<sup>nd</sup> June to 31<sup>st</sup> July will gather feedback on the proposals. This will be backed up by a series of roadshows (one planned for East Preston) and guided walks - so look out for details.

Funding and local government reorganisation were recognised as two issues which may delay implementation. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), developers and West Sussex County Council have been identified as possible sources of money. The plan also looks at connections to areas outside Arun to make it attractive to the new local authority.

Simon has a copy of the slides for this meeting if anyone would like to see them.

Cllr John Gunston

12<sup>th</sup> June 2026

## **Agenda Item 21**

### **New items to be referred to the next meeting – 3<sup>rd</sup> August or 7<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

In line with most councils, no monthly council meeting in August although a full programme of committee meetings will continue as usual. The Chairman reserves the right to call and August monthly council meeting if he feels it necessary. Otherwise, your next monthly council meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> September. No speakers are currently booked.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26<sup>th</sup> June 2026