



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex. BN16 1NN

01903 770050

<http://eastpreston-pc.gov.uk/>

Email: clerk@eastpreston-pc.gov.uk

MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held at 19:00 on Monday, 3rd August 2026 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston

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

ALSO: Simon Cross, Clerk to the Council

Three members of East Preston Festival Committee (all left at 19:38)

Three members of the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group and two members of the public (one left at 19:38, the others at 20:00)

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The following acronyms 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.

600/26 INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Toney welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the meeting protocol and safety information before leading a round of introductions.

601/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All councillors were present.

Apologies had also been received from County Cllr Elkins and District Cllrs P Bower, R Bower and Kelly.

602/26 DECLARATION OF PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

No interests were declared.

603/26 PUBLIC SESSION

No Agenda Item – A spokesperson for the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group read the following statement about safety over the southern boundary of the Warren Recreation Ground whilst cricket is being played.

Good evening.

I would like to ask a question regarding public safety on the southern boundary of Warren Recreation Ground ahead of this Saturday's cricket match.

At the recent home match against Broadwater, the cricket club's official match report records that **three cricket balls left the ground over the southern boundary**. One landed beside the Two Acres public footpath, one rolled across Oakley Gardens towards garages and driveways, and one landed on Oakley Gardens before bouncing into the front garden of No. 3, where it struck the wall or window sill of the bungalow.

I am particularly concerned because I raised concerns with the Council on several occasions, well before communication with representatives of the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group was brought to an end by the Council, about the safety of the southern and south-eastern boundaries and the effect of the dot-ball rule on unprotected areas. Those questions remain unanswered.

The match report states that the ball was retrieved from a resident's garden, but it does not say whether permission was sought before entering private property. As agreed, players do not have an automatic right to enter private land to retrieve cricket balls; doing so without the occupier's permission is trespass. We have previously recorded similar concerns where no note was left after balls landed on a resident's land and struck his roof, and cricket members reached through a fence to recover balls. **The resident has still not received a note and this was over 12 weeks ago.**

These are not isolated events. The cricket club's own official match reports over the last 11 years, excluding the COVID season, record **38 balls entering Two Acres, 4 confirmed balls entering houses, and further balls entering private gardens and now we have two more**. The Council has also previously acknowledged that cricket at Warren Recreation Ground presents a significant public safety risk, while both the RoSPA and Labosport reports recommend additional mitigation measures.

My questions is:

What action does the council intend to take to protect users of Oakley Gardens, public highway, public footpaths and private properties along that southern border?

Finally, I remain concerned that we as representatives are no longer able to raise straightforward public safety concerns directly with the Council and must instead communicate through a solicitor. That has made the reporting of potential safety risks unnecessarily complicated and time-consuming.

As another match is due to take place this Saturday, I would be grateful if this question could be answered this evening.

No Agenda Item – A different spokesperson for the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group asked Cllr Bowman if she could tell the meeting more about the fundraising committee she had joined to help the cricket club raise funds for increased safety netting. Cllr Bowman replied she had not joined any such committee.

Agenda Item 8 – Financial Matters – A further spokesperson for the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group asked for more information on an invoice paid to a company called Cardinus Risk Management. The Clerk explained the council had had the company undertake a buildings rebuild valuation exercise for insurance purposes.

604/26 COUNCIL RESPONSES

Cllr Toney asked the first spokesperson for a copy of her statement.

605/26 MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETING HELD ON 6TH JULY 2026

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 8th July asking for suggested amendments by 15th July. None were received.

- 2141 The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 6th July. Cllr Toney duly did so.

606/26 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. **Minutes 395/26 to 397/26 – Annual Governance and Accountability Return**
3. **Minutes 499/26 and 500/26 – West Sussex County Council – Clarence Drive**
4. **Minute 505/26 – Arun District Council – Register of Interests**
5. **Minute 508/26 – Audit & Governance Committee – Membership for 2026/27**
6. **Minute 515/26 – West Sussex County Council – Worthing Road Traffic Regulation Order, ARN8019-MM**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 6th July 2026.

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

The auditors came back to us on 27th July, asking for more information on the purchase of 118-120 Sea Road. Adrian and I will compile and provide the information shortly.

3. Minutes 499/26 and 500/26 – West Sussex County Council – Clarence Drive

I let County Cllr Roger Elkins know the council would like him to arrange a meeting of parties with an interest in improving the safety of Clarence and St Mary's Drives. Roger asked for more information which I provided him.

4. Minute 505/26 – Arun District Council – Register of Interests

Prompted by the update to the Register of Interest form, three councillors have recently called into the office to update their particular form. These forms have been forwarded to the Monitoring Officer at ADC.

5. Minute 508/26 – Audit & Governance Committee – Membership for 2026/27

At the committee's meeting on 13th July, Cllr Mathias was elected chairman and Cllr McElroy vice-chairman for the year.

6. Minute 515/26 – West Sussex County Council – Worthing Road Traffic Regulation Order, ARN8019-MM

I submitted the council's lack of objections to this proposal on the day after the last meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th July 2026

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

607/26 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

- 2142** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2026/27, value £621.00 (exc. VAT).
- 2143** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Regular Monthly Payments reports for July 2026 totalling £1,432.03 (inc. VAT).
- 2144** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid reports for July 2026 totalling £38,483.17 (inc. VAT).
- 2145** The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report for financial year to date totalling £7,683.06 (inc. VAT) for July 2026 (Year to Date, £187,452.83).

The council NOTED the Bank Reconciliations to 14th July 2026.

The council NOTED the Budget Summary for 2026/27 to date including earmarked reserves.

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

608/26 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 reconsider the offer from Sea Road Beach Access Ltd to donate the boardwalk to the council.

In April, council agreed to accept the donation of the East Preston Community Boardwalk to the council. The decision was not unanimous and other councillors expressed doubts at the July council meeting.

The council's Standing Order 7a states, "A resolution shall not be reversed within six months except either by a special motion, which requires written notice of at least six (6) councillors to be given to the Proper Officer in accordance with standing order 9, or by a motion moved in pursuance of the report or recommendation of a committee or a working party."

Subsequently, six councillors necessary have come forward to ask for the council to reconsider a decision made within the last six months. (Cllrs Bradshaw, Gale, Gunston, Linton, Moore and McElroy)

As agreed at the July meeting, I wrote to Sea Road Beach Access Ltd. again advising the council would like the company to undertake an independent risk assessment. The reply received was:

Dear Simon

In response to your email which we have all unanimously agreed on.

We notified your in February 2025 of why we were not commissioning a RosPa report;

We confirmed this in the presentation we made to EPPC;

We again made reference to the matter at the EPPC meeting at which the Council voted to take on the Boardwalk, in the full knowledge there was no RosPa report;and

We restated our position in my email to you of 27 May 2026.

The answer remains NO but our offer remains that if EPPC decides to commission a RosPa report we will assist you in the process.

We will take no further action until the previously set deadline of 15th July has passed.

Regards
Russell Granat
On behalf of Board of SBRA Ltd

I replied advising the council had the necessary six councillors who had requested a special motion asking for the council to reconsider this matter.

Sea Road Beach Access Ltd. has said it will not insure the boardwalk beyond the end of July. Roy Allen has confirmed he had cancelled the insurance direct debit with effect from 1st August. By the time of this meeting, the boardwalk will no longer be insured.

The money left in Sea Road Beach Access Ltd.'s bank account has, I believe, been donated to the East Preston Festival Committee, three members of which have registered to attend this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

20th July 2026

Cllr Gunston said he continued to have three concerns about the council accepting the gift of the boardwalk which, he added, he knew was a valuable and well-used asset to the village. Firstly, the unclear ownership of the land; secondly, the lack of an independent risk assessment; thirdly, what he perceived as a lack of cooperation between Sea Road Beach Access (SRBA) Ltd. and the council. Cllr Gunston felt the two organisations had failed to agree on anything.

Cllr Linton had read a Sea Road Beach Access Ltd. risk assessment dated 11th March 2025 and questioned whether the re-inspections of hazards mentioned in the risk assessment had taken place. Mr Allen replied he had reinspected the hazards on 10th May 2026.

Cllr McElroy expressed his concerns about the council accepting the gift of the boardwalk, primarily the lack of independent input to aspects of the project. Cllr McElroy also challenged the SRBA statement RoSPA did not carry out risk assessments of boardwalks as he believed they undertook the majority of risk assessment of boardwalks.

Cllr Hill had found information saying ADC was involved in offering concessions to third parties, could this be investigated for East Preston's boardwalk. Cllr Matt Stanley was the contact she had. Cllr Hill felt the boardwalk was of huge benefit to a wide cross-section of the community. The boardwalk also possibly fitted into the council's Ageing Population work. Surely the boardwalk could become the responsibility of a committee and be regularly checked just as the children's playground already is. Hayling Island had a boardwalk very similar to East Preston's, perhaps validating the design.

Cllr Wilkinson said East Preston's was not the only boardwalk in the county, what involvement had other councils had?

Mr Allen advised the paperwork to wind up SRBA had been submitted to Companies House and this had been acknowledged. Once the company has been wound up, the asset reverts to the Crown which will indemnify itself against claims and will not insure the asset. Mr Allen confirmed the insurance cover had ended on 1st August. Some councillors expressed concern the boardwalk was now uninsured.

Cllr Linton said she was concerned about future shingle movement, none of us could predict the future.

Mr Allen said the insurance cover had only ever been public liability not the structure itself. Mr Allen said he had had a structural engineer friend look at the design and he had agreed the design is fit for purpose. There had been no maintenance required in the first 450 days of usage.

Cllr Bowman said a RoSPA risk assessment would look mainly at slips, trips and falls.

Cllr Moore said the construction certainly appeared solid to the eye with minimal flexing occurring.

In response to a question from Cllr Toney, Mr Allen said the asset would automatically be owned by a landowner if one came forward. It would be for that person to decide the future of the boardwalk.

Cllr Gale said if she fell over because of the boardwalk she would very much want to sue someone but she did want any liability as a parish councillor.

Cllrs Hill and Wilkinson moved to defer voting on the resolution pending further investigations with other councils.

2146 The council **RESOLVED** to defer voting on the resolution on accepting the gift of the East Preston Community Boardwalk pending further investigations.

Seven councillors voted in favour, five against and one abstained.

Cllr Gunston said the council needed to ascertain whether or not the council's April resolution to adopt the boardwalk was valid as the council had signed no transfer document.

A member of the public suggested the public needed to be advised the boardwalk was no longer insured.

(Mr Allen and the three representatives of East Preston Festival Committee all left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

610/26 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION INTERNAL REVIEW POLICY

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

Freedom of Information Panel

Council is asked to approve a policy and procedure for handling internal reviews of Freedom of Information requests.

Twice recently, members of the public have responded to my responses to their Freedom of Information requests by asking for an internal review of my response. This had not happened before and the council did not have a specific policy and procedure for this.

I contacted local expert, Maureen Chaffe, who provides governance services for a number of local councils. Maureen was able to provide the proposed policy which you can find at Appendix A below.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

1st July 2026

Cllr Linton asked the Clerk how many Freedom of Information requests had been received so far this year; the Clerk replied approximately ten, two of which had resulted in a request for an Internal Review. In response to a further question, the Clerk said the requests had not all come from the same source. Cllr Linton felt the number of requests was unreasonable and was impacting upon the work the council wanted to do across the village.

2147 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to adopt the Freedom of Information Internal Review Policy.

611/26 LEASES WORKING PARTY – EAST PRESTON & KINGSTON BOWLS CLUB

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

Leases Working Party: East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club

Council is asked to consider the following update on the renewal of the lease to East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club.

The Leases Working Party is usually discussed at Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings. As Vice-Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Cllr Gunston will lead on this item.

Representatives of the club and the council agreed to meet on 7th July. The club explained it runs the facility for the village at no cost to the council. The council argued it had been using the renewal as an opportunity to bring the club's annual rent in line with that of the tennis club, using a square metreage figure based upon the tennis club's 2019 lease. Recognising the different demographics between the two clubs, the council had already reduced the opening point of the rent for the renewed lease. For the past eighteen months or so, negotiations have taken place between surveyors employed by both parties. The council's current offering is £500pa for the first five years, rising to £1,150 for years six to ten, and £1,500 for year eleven to fifteen, with further increases in years 16 and 21.

Cllr Gunston has provided the following thoughts as starting points for this discussion.

Two of the council's option are –

Agree to the club's request for a peppercorn rent. This can be in recognition of the fact the club does run the facility for the village at no cost to the village. In the past ten years, the council has given the club just one grant; for £1,000 in May 2023 for the replacement of the sprinkler system used on the bowling green (Finance & General Purposes, 16th May 2023, Minute 395/23).

The council could wait for the club to come back with its next offer. Any agreed sum will be backdated to the start of any renewed lease which would be 1st May 2025.

Councillors may well have other options to suggest. It would be useful for the council's representatives to know what council would like them to propose in a further meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th July 2026

Cllr Toney reminded the meeting the Bowls Club had cancelled the meeting with the council which had been scheduled for 28th July.

Cllr Gunston explained the Bowls Club was looking for a peppercorn rent, as they had in the now-expired 1965 lease; the council was looking to achieve a reasonable rent for a village asset. The council's opening position had been based upon the square metreage of the tennis club 2019 lease but, taking into consideration the different demographic of the bowls club's membership.

Cllr Gunston felt the council had three options and asked councillors to comment. 1. Agree to a peppercorn rent as some councils do in recognition of the club running the asset which might otherwise cost the council; 2. Do nothing and wait for the Bowls Club to come back with its next proposal; 3. Push for a resolution, possibly through legal channels.

Following some discussion, the council AGREED this matter should be deferred and referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 17th August. Councillors could submit their thoughts to the Clerk in the meantime.

612/26 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. **Meeting with East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club, 7th July**
6. **Presentation to East Preston Junior School pupils, 10th July**
7. **Meeting at Lancing signalbox, 10th July**
8. **Community Speedwatch (CSW), 21st May**
9. **Cube Storage, 15th July**
10. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
11. **Leave**
12. **June meetings and events**

1. **Introduction**

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

2. **Police matters**

On 10th July, council was informed the Office of the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner would again be running fora for local councils to interact with the commissioner's office. This year, the sessions will be held in person. More details to follow as and when.

On 14th July, I reported the criminal damage to the Station Road bus shelter to Sussex Police. This damage has taken place over a number of occasions. As there are not clues as to the perpetrator(s), Sussex Police will, at best, only be able to keep an eye out. It has not helped we have been unable to get a handyman Here is a photograph provided by a member of the public:



Unsurprisingly, with no evidence to go on, Sussex Police closed the crime report immediately. I contacted PCSO Raj separately, and he confirmed patrols in the area had been increased as a response to this damage. In the e-newsletter published on 21st July, I did ask residents to let Sussex Police know if they had any thoughts as to the perpetrators.

On 27th July, I contacted Sussex Police when the council was informed the bollards where Sea Lane reaches the footpath down to the beach had been removed and their holes filled with tarmac. I also let the Willowhayne Residents Association know and Dawn let West Sussex County Council know as the land is its but, feasibly, the lack of bollards gives vehicular access to the greensward to the south of Tamarisk Way. PCSO Raj quickly replied to say Sussex Police would patrol the area when possible.

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

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

A new case relating to The Street is currently building.

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

One new Freedom of Information request received in July. Two Freedom of Information internal reviews requested in July; these were considered by the Freedom of Information Panel on 27th July.

5. **Meeting with East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club, 7th July**

Together with Cllrs Toney, Gunston and Mathias, I met with representatives of East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club – Jon Clear, Russell Granat and Craig Baker – to discuss the terms of the lease renewal, now overdue by over a year. The club explained why it feels it merits a lower rate than currently being proposed by the council; the council explained its stance. A further meeting was set for 28th July but subsequently postponed at the request of the Bowls Club.

6. **Presentation to East Preston Junior School pupils, 10th July**

In response to an application for Grant Aid to help fund the presentation to every pupil of a 75th Anniversary bookmark, the Finance & General Purposes Committee agreed to underwrite the costs of the whole production run in exchange for the council logo being included on the bookmarks.

On this morning, Cllrs Duff, Linton and McElroy met pupils representing each year group and, by the new 75th Anniversary tree, were photographed with Mr Tidd, Headteacher. Everyone in the photograph had a quick chat about their favourite books and the children were genuinely pleased with their bookmarks. They were then going to hand out bookmarks to all their fellow pupils later in the day.

The new tree has been named Mighty Oak in honour of the song the school wrote with Waves Music Therapy to commemorate the anniversary.

Here is the school's Facebook post:



Subsequently, the council received this card:



Dear Parish Councillors

Thank you all for your help making our 75th anniversary celebration such a success. The Bookmarks have made a great memento for us all.

From Elsie-may and everyone at Epjs.

7. Meeting at Lancing signalbox, 10th July

Dr Beccy Cooper MP called this meeting which included representatives of East Preston, Ferring and Kingston Parish Councils, West Sussex County Council, Worthing Borough Council and Network Rail. Angmering Parish Council's invite was misdirected and not known about. I attended with Cllr Linton.

The meeting started in the driveway outside the signalbox as there is no meeting room in the signalbox. Pairs of attendees were invited to spend some time watching the level crossings operation. Cllr Linton and I discharged this part of the visit before the meeting started.

After about fifteen minutes of standing in the heat of the driveway, where there was little shade, Beccy suggested the meeting moved to The Railway pub across the road from the signalbox. Although an agenda had been published, the meeting did not follow much of it, and was more a forum for people to chip in their concerns and comments. At one point, one of the Network Rail reps, Harry, who had attended the public meeting his council hosted in July 2024, thanked me for being at the meeting and said I knew more about the topic than he did.

Amongst other things, we learned the technology in the signalbox probably dates back to the late 1980s and also there are no public level crossings on the London-Brighton mainline.

Unsurprisingly, Network Rail does not currently have the money to make necessary improvements. However, Beccy said she would meet with Heidi Alexander MP, the current Secretary of State for Transport. Beccy hoped she would be able to persuade Heidi to meet with the same representatives in the future; this might help with funding in the future. On 27th July, Beccy's colleague, Ian Walker, forwarded us the letter Beccy had sent to Heidi.

The meeting concluded with Beccy committing to quarterly meetings on the same topic.

Cllr Linton may well have more to add.

8. Community Speedwatch (CSW), 15th July

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 216 vehicles travelling in either direction, none of which was travelling above the threshold for reporting to Sussex Police.

A former councillor advised there is a speeding problem in Lavinia Way. Gavin said he would go and spend an hour in the suggested spot to see how many vehicle movements there are before suggesting the site to Sussex Police.

Gavin confirmed he had spent morning drop-off time in Clarence Drive and agreed visibility is too low to meet Sussex Police's criteria for a safe CSW site.

9. **Cube Storage, 15th July**

I visited the new Cube Self Storage facility in Station Road with Cllrs Gunston, Linton and McElroy. Cllr Gunston's report can be found further down these supporting papers.



(left to right) John, Cllrs Gunston, Linton and McElroy, and Ollie

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

Do you know where I can borrow or buy a top hat?

Some suggestions given, the asker thought they were useful.

Should a recently upgraded café provide toilet facilities?

I raised this with ADC Environmental Health, whose officer replied:

Thank you for your email concerning the above premises.

I am aware of the recent upgrade and transfer to new owners having inspected the business for food hygiene relatively recently. The lack of customer toilets was noted at the time and was subsequently discussed with my colleagues in planning to determine whether permission was required for the upgrade.

Planning have recently concluded that no further action is to be taken from a planning perspective and I will therefore be contacting the owners in due course to advise that they need to make toilets available for customers under our toilet and wash basin provisions. [Running a food business | Arun District Council](#)

If you have any further questions please contact me directly.

It's interesting that once a premises has 21 or more seats, toilet provision becomes gender-specific.

11. **Leave**

Dawn is on leave 3rd to 5th August; Adrian is on leave 24th to 26th August; I am also on leave on 26th.

12. **August 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.

3 rd	Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
7 th /8 th	Chestnut Tree House Hospice Open Gardens
10 th	Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Council Office) Amenities Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
17 th	Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00, Council Office) Major Events Committee (19:00, Council Office)
24 th	Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Council Office) East Preston Environment Group <i>Sync and Think</i> (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
29 th	East Preston Food & Drink Festival (12:00 until 17:00, Village Green)

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th July 2026

Item 7 – Meeting at Lancing signalbox, 10th July – Cllr Linton added it could cost £140m to upgrade the signalling and level crossing equipment on the West Coastway but this sum was not felt to be that great in central government terms.

Item 2 – Police matters – Cllr Bowman asked whether there was any update on the removal of the bollards at the bottom of Sea Lane. The Clerk replied this had been chased again with West Sussex County Council Highways without response.

Item 7 – Meeting at Lancing signalbox, 10th July – Cllr Gunston recorded a vote of thanks to the Clerk for his persistence in trying to improve life at the village's two level crossings, both of which were the cause of much consternation for local residents. The fact the village's MP was pushing for improvements was worthy of appreciation.

613/26 **EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

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

Other meetings and events – Part 1

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

East Preston Junior School, Darwin Rocks, 7th July

East Preston Junior School

As part of the 75th Anniversary celebrations at the Junior School, the council was invited to attend a matinee performance of a show called *Darwin Rocks*.

The show lasted just under one hour and was brilliantly performed by year six. Acting and singing was at a very high standard considering the performers age. I was also impressed by the diction which was delivered very clearly. The songs were very catchy and the choreography fitted the libretto perfectly.

Both Dawn and I had wonderful time being entertained by year six of East Preston Junior School.



Cllr David Moore

7th July 2026

Energise South Downs, 14th July

Arundel

I attended this event run by Energise South Downs who last year fundraised just over £300k for three roof top solar projects. They are now reviewing what motivates people to invest in community energy. The session focussed on Arundel, Warningcamp and Burpham. 5 tables were each given a technology to discuss - wind, solar panels, solar farms and heat pumps and asked to decide what would be appropriate in the parishes. Solar farms were unpopular as there was no obvious space. Onshore wind turbines proved divisive but 1 group suggested 5 medium turbines could be sited in the area. Domestic solar panels and heat pumps for 50% of houses were proposed. Each suggestion was then run through a computer model and showed the significant power generated and the decrease in CO2 emissions for the area as a whole. The turbines, solar panels and heat pumps together would provide enough energy for the whole area.

Other interesting comments - 10 times more heat pumps were installed last year in France compared to the UK. Although wind turbines reportedly kill 100,000 birds a year it is estimated 40 million are killed by cats. We were reminded reducing energy demand by draught proofing, insulation and triple glazing can be done in all properties regardless of age or listing. A thought provoking event.

Cllr John Gunston

15th July 2026

Cube Self Storage visit, 15th July

Station Road, East Preston

Councillors Linton, McElroy and myself joined Simon for a visit to the new Cube Self Storage building on the edge of the Parish near the station. We were shown around by Olly and John.

About half of the site has already been fitted out with 2 sizes of storage unit and they have welcomed their first customers. They hope to open officially in 2 weeks and the rest of the site will be developed as the business grows. They have a similar facility already operational in East Sussex together with facilities in countries such as Thailand and Vietnam.

Units are rented by the month and typical customers are people moving house or working abroad and small businesses who need stock storage space. The current plan is to have approximately 250 units available in the main building, after which some independent, drive-up units may be added into the western car-park. Eventually, access to the site will be via keycodes, each tenant having their own code. The site will be operational between 6am and 10pm, but staffed only during office hours.

We offered to help with any local information they may need. Thanks to Simon for organising the visit.

Cllr John Gunston

15th July 2026

614/26 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Nothing was added.

(The four remaining members of the public left the meeting at this point.)

615/26 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was not necessary to exclude public and press as all had left by this point.

616/26 CONFIDENTIAL – PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: STAFFING

(The Clerk excused himself from some of the discussion of this item.)

2148 The council AGREED unanimously to changes to the council’s staffing structure, both short-term and long-term.

617/26 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (7TH SEPTEMBER 2026)

The Clerk reminded those present the meeting would start at 18:30 with a presentation from Hope Blandamer, WSCC Resilience & Emergencies Team Adviser, on the subject of Community Emergency Hubs.

The meeting ended at 20:28.

Chairman: **Cllr Steve Toney** Date: **7th September 2026**

END