

Terms of Reference for the Community Engagement Committee

version 8 – adopted 21st September 2026

1. Constitution

- 1.1. The Community Engagement Committee is constituted as a Committee of the East Preston Parish Council.
- 1.2. The Committee's terms of reference may be amended at any time by the Council. Minor amendments can be made within the committee itself.
- 1.3. The Committee may from time to time investigate, discuss or review matters outside its terms of reference if required to do so by the Council.

2. Authority

- 2.1. The Committee is authorised by the Council to manage any activity within its terms of reference.
- 2.2. The Committee is authorised by the Council to obtain external legal or other professional advice and to secure the attendance of anyone it considers has relevant experience, expertise or knowledge with the agreement of the Chairman of the Council and the Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- 2.3. Where a decision is needed ahead of a committee meeting, and this can clearly be justified, a decision can be made on behalf of the committee by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee in conjunction with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk. Wherever possible, committee members should be consulted electronically first. (Full Council, 4th May 2021, Minute 351/21, Resolution 1529)

3. Membership

- 3.1. The Committee shall be appointed by the Council from amongst its members and shall consist of not less than three members and not more than five. In accordance with Standing Order 4g, the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council may attend all committee meetings and may exercise their right to speak and vote.
- 3.2. The Committee shall elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman for the municipal year at its first meeting in every council year.
- 3.3. The Clerk of the Council is Secretary to the Committee.
- 3.4. The Chairman of the Committee will automatically sit as a member of the council's Audit & Governance Committee. On occasion, the Chairman of the Committee may send

another member of the committee to Audit & Governance Committee meetings as an official, named substitute.

- 3.5 Where there are more councillors willing to sit on a committee than spaces available, the Chairman of the Council and incumbent Chairman of the Committee, should agree to one of those extra councillors becoming the committee's official substitute.

Where it is necessary to include a substitute councillor, because of known absence or a conflict of interest, the official substitute should be approached first. Where that councillor is also unavailable or the committee does not have an official substitute, the Chairman of the Committee and the Clerk should agree between them the order in which to approach other councillors.

The maximum number of substitute councillors at any one committee meeting should be three (for committees of seven members) or two (for committees of five members). (added by Full Council on 4th November 2019, Minute 946/19, Resolution 1372)

4. Meetings

- 4.1. Meetings shall be held at least four times a year.
- 4.2. Additional meetings may be called by the Council or by the Chairman of the Committee.
- 4.3. The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Committee shall be at least one half of the members or not less than 3.
- 4.4 After any evening meeting, regardless of the venue, the Chairman and / or Vice-Chairman of the Committee must stay with the Clerk or Assistant Clerk until he or she has locked up the whole of the venue, as necessary. (added by Full Council on 4th November 2019, Minute 946/19, Resolution 1373)

5. Responsibilities

- 5.1 To encourage two-way communication with East Preston residents and organisations located within East Preston. Communication may include, but is not limited to, public meetings, notice boards, newsletters, electronic technology, councillor surgeries, resident surveys, social media etc.
- 5.2 To understand residents' and organisations' opinions and expectations of EPPC.
- 5.3 To monitor and review the council's Blue Plaque Policy.
- 5.4 To provide reports to Full Council regarding all opinions and expectations received.
- 5.5 To manage council-led events in the village except those being led by the Major Events Committee.

- 5.6 To propose a committee budget to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for onward recommendation to and agreement by Full Council.
- 5.7 To ensure sufficient councillors are involved with the council's editorial team. Ideally this will be the Clerk together with four councillors - the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee with other willing volunteers making the number up to four if any of the above roles are doubled-up.
- 5.8 To produce a paper newsletter to the village at least three times a year, production tasks to include writing, editing, proof-reading and sign-off, via delegation to the council's editorial team. To liaise with companies involved in the production and distribution of the newsletter, when necessary.
- 5.9 To complete and sign-off the risk assessment for any event led by this committee.

6. Reporting Procedures

- 6.1. The Chairman of the Committee shall produce a short written report for circulation to all councillors for the following Full Council meeting. Where this is not practical, the Chairman shall give a short verbal report in place of the written report.