

Community Engagement Committee (CE), 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 5a

2026 Playschemes

Committee is asked to consider any matters pertaining to the Wild Science event on 27th October.

Cllr Duff to lead on this event.

Cllr Duff has secured the services of Wild Science for a two-hour session on the morning of 27th October. Final details are still to be agreed but the last meeting agreed the session should run from 10:00 and 12:00 with attendees welcome to drop in at any time.

Are we charging attendees? If not, could we perhaps welcome donations to this year's Chairman's Charity?

I have asked Cllr Toney whether the council needs to do anything more regarding the booking of the Scout Hall for the session.

An initial article has been included in the Summer 2026 Newsletter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 6a

Beach Cleans

Committee is asked to consider any matters pertaining to the Beach Clean scheduled for Sunday, 27th September at 11:00.

At the last meeting, Cllrs Chapman, Duff, Linton and Toney all said they could be available to help KEPT with the event. Does that mean I do not need to be?

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 7

East Preston Festival, 5th to 14th June 2026

The council hosted three activities this year.

Friday 5th, Tuesday 9th and Friday 12th June, **free tennis coaching** at the Warren Recreation Ground.

Saturday, 6th June, ***Come and Meet Your Local Councillors on Saturday, 6th June.***

Tuesday, 9th June, ***Putter Madness*** running from 16:00 to 19:00.

The committee is asked to review any matters pertaining to *Putter Madness* and the tennis coaching sessions. The committee has already reviewed *Come and Meet Your Local Councillors* – feedback from this event was included in the Summer 2026 Newsletter.

Committee is asked to begin consideration of any Festival events for 2027. There has already been some talk about bringing back *Putter Madness* but a different course. Meanwhile, the Festival Committee has loosely passed on to the council a suggestion from Littlehampton Croquet Club it would like to run a “try croquet” event on the Village Green. Is this something we want to pursue further? Would it fit the council’s criteria for a family-friendly event?

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 8a

St Mary the Virgin Christmas Tree Festival, 11th to 13th December

Committee is asked to consider the council having a tree in this year’s Christmas Tree Festival.

Cllrs Chapman and Duff are the lead councillors for this item.

At the last meeting the committee agreed on the theme of featuring all the organisations which have benefitted from a council grant in the current council term, although this suggestion could be changed if someone has a better idea.

I have completed most of the application form. **The committee needs to agree for how much we are sponsoring the tree.** In 2024, the council sponsored its tree for £75.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 9a

Christmas Lighting

Committee is asked to receive any updates on the village’s Christmas lighting.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

Rachel Brown of Event Power Engineering has confirmed the lighting should be installed by the end of September and has said she will confirm a date nearer the time.

Dawn has chased SSE and has been told a quote has been requested for the northern corner of the northern shops.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 10a

Youth provision

Committee is asked to receive any update on work undertaken in conjunction with Angmering and Rustington Parish Councils.

At the last meeting, we heard an initial advert had been placed in the relevant All About magazines in the June issue, asking local organisations to provide information on what they can offer anyone up to the age of 18.

A version of this call-out was also included in the e-newsletters of 18th and 25th June. Some information has been received from organisations but perhaps not as much as we would have liked.

The parish council has paid the first bill to Rustington Parish Council for the website and suchlike and we have now invoiced the Youth Centre to repay us.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 11a

Newsletter – Autumn 2026

Committee is asked to consider content for Newsletter No. 80, Autumn 2026.

The Autumn newsletter is usually delivered during the first half of November.

This issue always carries promotion for the village's Christmas event, so that is the front page sorted.

Additionally, we need to provide some updates to the village. For example, 20mph zone, Community Highways Scheme application for the extended pavement in Sea Road, 2028 calendar, Warm Welcome Space 2027, North Lane bus shelter, hearing impairment group, cricket, community boardwalk and so on. There is no reason why, if we start early enough, we should not be able to cover eight sides easily.

Bailey Hackett remains willing to write on behalf of the council if we can think of a topic for him.

What else might we include?

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 12

Blue plaques

Committee is asked to continue consideration of the case for Miss Winifred Scott, a former resident of Sea Lane.

The last meeting agreed Cllr Moore should undertake some further research on the honours awarded to Miss Scott, and that is underway. Cllr Moore has requested information from the London Gazette but does not expect to have that by the time of the meeting. Full Council has agreed to cover expenditure on a new plaque up to the value of £700 (Minute 509/26, Resolution 2134).

Meanwhile, **committee is asked to receive and update on the Stanley Holloway plaque located in Tamarisk Way.** In undertaking a quick check on the condition and cleanliness of the council's four plaques, Cllr Linton noticed the plaque honouring Stanley Holloway had started to blister. Although exactly the same age and same distance from the sea, the same was not happening to the Maurice Craig plaque.

I contacted the supplier which replied, "Looking at the images you sent over, it looks like this one is getting more of the elements thrown at it than the others, if they are ok. The blistering is corrosion, maybe the wind is carrying the salt water to the plaque more than the others and is getting hit harder? What I would say is to leave this for as long as you can, and then we can look at doing a refurbishment on it for you, and also look at adding a lacquer coat too, as this would help with the protection as I don't think this would have had a lacquer coat to start with."

I subsequently asked how soon he felt we should return the plaque to him for refurbishment, to which he replied, "I think the best thing to do is to just keep an eye on the plaque every few months, It's basically just how bad visually you are willing to let it go to be honest. Although we wouldn't want it to get too bad and have pits all over the face as then when we refurb it there will be some marks on the face. I would say you probably have a couple of years left before we look at a refurb, but again this is down to you and the visual appearance of the plaque. Going forward I think it would be best to have lacquer coats on all of the new plaques to further help protect them from the elements, and yes it would need to be sent back to us for the refurb."

My final question to date has been how much would a refurb cost. "The cost for a full refurb would be £428 and a lacquer coat would be £68. There is quite a lot of work involved as it would have to be sand blasted back to the bare aluminium and then finished back to new again. There isn't that much difference between a refurb to a new plaque to be honest." Add in the courier charges and I suggest we simply budget for a full replacement plaque in due course.

Committee is asked to begin consideration of a blue plaque to commemorate the coastguard station formerly located in South Strand. More information on the coastguard station can be found in Richard Standing's publication, *East Preston and Kingston – An Illustrated History*, on pages 77 to 80. This would be a project for the 2027-28 financial year.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 13a

Centre for Ageing Better – Age-friendly Town and Parish Guide

Committee is asked to consider any matters arising from the Age-friendly Town and Parish Guide.

A questionnaire was included in the Summer 2026 Newsletter, which will start delivery just before this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 14a

East Preston Environmental Initiatives Group

Committee is asked to consider arranging a meeting of local groups which might have an environmental leaning.

At the last meeting the committee agreed to organise a one-off meeting on 3rd August. Nothing concrete has come back from Michał Zarzecki and the council is now holding its own meeting on 3rd August, albeit likely to be a short one.

Cllr Gunston has been acting as an unofficial messenger between council and Environment Group and has asked for words which the council can send out to organisations about the meeting. No words have yet been forthcoming.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 15a

Hearing impairment

Committee is asked to continue consideration of supporting the setting up of a support group in the village for those with hearing impairment and their allies.

Cllr Hill is the lead on this project. A meeting was scheduled for 24th June but postponed once members of the public felt it was likely to be too hot to leave home. Cllr Hill and I have looked at other dates but have decided it best to wait now until September when, hopefully, the heatwaves will have subsided. Cllr Hill was going to let her contacts know.

On 10th July, Cllr Linton and I attended a meeting at Lancing signalbox. As we were early, I suggested we pop down to look at the Lancing Community Hub. We could not get in as there was a lip-reading class taking place. Cllr Linton has more information on this.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

14th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 16

Community Speed Watch

The 20MPH Working Party was disbanded by council on 1st June following a lack of councillors willing to be part of the working party (Minute 401/26).

Committee is asked to receive an update on the decision to purchase Speed Indication Devices.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 17a

Defibrillator

Committee is asked to continue consideration of the provision of another defibrillator in the village.

Cllr Toney has recently been in touch with the Station Master on this matter.

An East Preston resident has chased the council on this, citing the lack of a defibrillator in the northern half of the village as evidence the north of the village is forgotten about.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 18

East Preston sports clubs

The committee is asked to consider any matters relating to the meeting scheduled for 28th September at 19:00.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 19

Roundstone Level Crossing

Committee is asked to consider its position regarding the Roundstone Level Crossing traffic consultancy.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The last meeting agreed concerns about families and, in particular, children using Roundstone Lane to cross between Angmering and East Preston, without walking west to the official crossing should be flagged to County Cllr Elkins at the monthly council meeting on 6th July. Cllr Elkins was unable to attend that meeting so I have emailed him the concerns. This council is currently asking him to get involved with several matters.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 20

East Preston Christmas Celebrations fireworks

Committee is asked to consider the fate of the 2025 East Preston Christmas Celebrations fireworks.

Cllr Linton to lead on this item.

The last meeting suggested the Football Club might be able to use them. I have made initial contact with Tim Teasel, Chairman and his initial response is, “Oh wow yes most definitely if available. Perhaps for bonfire night thank you. We could let off on the main pitch so away from people. Is there a charge? Maybe we could do something for a charity and raise funds on the day”.

Depending upon the committee’s response to this, we may need to start seriously considering asking our supplier to come and dispose of them safely for us.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th July 2026

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 21

Warm Welcome Space 2027

Committee is asked to consider any Warm Welcome Space offering it wishes to make in 2027.

The March meeting of the committee reviewed the 2026 offering and agreed I should ask attendees at the final session a few questions. Although most people did not have a preferred day of the week, if they were pushed to have a preference it would be Monday again. Wednesday is more of a Baytree Community Lunch Club day of the week, particularly the second of the month when they have a coffee morning and a quiz. One such morning had had to be cancelled because of competition from Warm Welcome Space.

In a recent meeting with representatives of the Bowls Club, the council had suggested the club could be a Warm Welcome Space venue. Upon reflection though, the councillor who suggested that felt the lunch prep side of this might not be feasible.

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 22

Community Emergency Hubs (WSSC)

Committee is asked to consider West Sussex County Council correspondence on the subject of Community Emergency Hubs.

On 7th July, the council received the following email:

Good afternoon Mr Cross,

I am writing to you from West Sussex County Council, Resilience and Emergencies Team. We are rolling out a programme across West Sussex where local communities are supported to establish Emergency Community Hubs (CHub). I believe your parish council is a perfect candidate to join this programme.

A CHub is a place where the community comes together during times of crisis to support each other, link in with other local communities and agencies, and coordinate local help. A Community Emergency Hub is a place for a community to coordinate its own efforts to help each other during and after a disruption such as a flood or loss of power. It is run by the community, for the community so it is formed and operated by local people who turn up. It may open spontaneously or with encouragement from emergency responders/councils.

WSSC will support with the initial training, CHub equipment box, and ongoing links between you, us and other CHubs in the area. It is entirely free to you, and will complement the training already received under 'What If' by giving your community another asset to use to support each other.

You may find this YouTube video of the same programme from Swindon and Wiltshire Council helpful in understanding what a CHub is for: [Emergency Contact Hub Scheme - YouTube](#)

I would love to set up a time to speak further about this, and look forward to hearing back from you soon.

All the best,

Hope Blandamer
Resilience & Emergency Team Adviser

Cllr Linton and I agreed this committee should discuss first. I have asked Hope whether she can explain why East Preston is a perfect candidate.

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 23

Minutes of meeting held on 8th June

Committee is asked to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June. These were circulated to all councillors on 9th June asking for suggested amendments to be submitted by 16th June. None were received.

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 24

Matters Arising from previous meetings

Minute 437/26 – Newsletter – Summer 2026 – the newsletter was signed off by Cllr Linton late evening on 11th July and was sent to print on Monday, 13th July. This edition felt particularly rushed and is only six sides long but thanks to everyone who contributed. We do have a nice article from Ocean on her work experience placement and a good human interest piece, *A Tale of Two Hickeys*.

Consideration was given to having the Ageing Better survey as a totally separate page, inserted into the rest of the newsletter for ease of completing, but the costs were deemed too high.

Minute 451/26 – Terms of Reference – this matter should be resolved at the Personnel Committee meeting immediately before this meeting and the Terms of Reference presented to the committee at its September meeting.

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 25

Parked projects

Committee is asked to note the committee's currently parked projects such as Terms of Reference, any wellbeing projects, St John Ambulance First Aid training, village bus service, Give Your Stuff Away Day, 2028 calendar and Blue Billboard.

CE, 20th July 2026, Agenda Item 26

Next meeting (21st September)

Committee is asked to suggest any news items to be referred to the next meeting.