



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

- MINUTES:** of the Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday, 17th August 2026 at Council Office 2, 118 Sea Road, East Preston at 18:00
- PRESENT:** Councillors John Gunston, Elizabeth Linton, Glyn Mathias, Rick McElroy (Chairman) and Steve Toney
- ALSO:** Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross
Three representatives of the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group (all until 18:15)
- ABSENT:** Councillor Steven Wilkinson

The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;
NALC – National Association of Local Councils

WSCC – West Sussex County Council.

The meeting opened at 18:00.

Cllr McElroy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

658/26 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence were received from Cllr Wilkinson (family commitment).

659/26 PERSONAL AND/OR PREJUDICIAL/PECUNIARY INTERESTS

None were declared.

660/26 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Clerk confirmed the members of the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group were only present to discuss their official complaint.

661/26 OFFICIAL COMPLAINT – WARREN RECREATION GROUND SAFETY GROUP

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

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Cllr McElroy invited the members of the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group (WRGSG), as the complaint was in the name of the group, to address the meeting. The representatives of the WRGSG asked for this Minute to be treated as a confidential Minute and read a prepared statement.

The Clerk read a statement on behalf of the committee.

The WRGSG representatives left the meeting at 18:10 and returned at 18:13 during which time the committee considered its response.

With the committee's agreement, Cllr McElroy said the council would provide a written response in due course which was then finessed to by the end of August.

(The representatives of the Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group left the meeting at this point.)

662/26 SECTION 137 GRANT AID 2026/27 – EAST PRESTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB

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

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Prior to the meeting, Cllr Linton had asked the Clerk to ascertain for what the club had paid fines of nearly £3,000 in the year ending 31st May 2025. The Clerk had not received a reply from the club by the time of this meeting.

The committee AGREED unanimously to defer any decision on this application and to invite the chairman of the club to attend the committee's next meeting.

663/26 EAST PRESTON CRICKET CLUB

The committee NOTED receipt of the club's accounts for the year ending 31st October 2025 and the number of playing members on the club's books. The committee NOTED this information had been provided by the club with the wish the information remain in confidence and not be shared with any third party.

664/26 LEASES WORKING PARTY: EAST PRESTON & KINGSTON BOWLS CLUB

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

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No councillor had commented further to the Clerk or Cllr Gunston between the council meeting on 3rd August and this meeting.

After some discussion, the committee AGREED unanimously the Clerk should write to the club expressing the council's disappointment at the cancellation of the meeting scheduled for 28th July with no indication given as to when a meeting could take place. The committee AGREED a reduction to £250 for the first two years only should be offered to the club with a reminder any agreement would automatically be backdated to 1st May 2025, which would be the start date for any renewed lease.

665/26 INSURANCE VALUATION OF THE COUNCIL'S BUILDINGS

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

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The committee AGREED with Adrian's advice not to include VAT in the insurance valuation.

The Clerk asked for a volunteer to complete the pre-renewal questionnaire with him; Cllr McElroy volunteered.

666/26 118-120 SEA ROAD

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

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The committee AGREED to delegate the £50,000 to the control of the Flat & Frontage Committee. Cllr Gunston had canvassed members of that committee as to a choice of replacement windows supplier and a decision had been taken to use Wizard Windows.

667/26 ASSET REGISTER

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

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The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Asset Register to all committee members on the morning of the meeting.

The committee AGREED the Asset Register looked good. The Clerk said he planned to meet with his three office-based colleagues in case there was anything these noticed needed further amendment.

668/26 TERMS OF REFERENCE

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

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The committee unanimously AGREED to adopt the slightly revised Terms of Reference. These would be version 16.

669/26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 12TH MAY 2026

The draft Minutes had been circulated to all councillors on 15th May asking for suggested amendments by 22nd May. None were suggested.

The committee AGREED unanimously the Minutes could be signed as a true record of the meeting held on 12th May and Cllr McElroy duly signed the Minutes.

670/26 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The committee NOTED the following report, which had been circulated ahead of the meeting:

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Nothing was added.

671/26 ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (16TH NOVEMBER)

Nothing was raised.

The Meeting closed at 18.32.

Chairman:

Date: **17th August 2026**

(END)

Version	Date / Action	Changes from previous version (if any)
Draft	18/08/2026 / sent to Cllrs McElroy and Gunston for initial approval	
	18/08/2026 / approved by Cllrs McElroy and Gunston for distribution to all councillors	
	19/08/2026 / distributed to all councillors	