

Major Events, 26th October 2026, Agenda Item 5

East Preston Food & Drink Festival, 29th August 2026

Committee is asked to consider any matters pertaining to this event.

Cllr Chapman was lead councillor for this event and will have thoughts on possible improvements. For example, for future years, in addition to booking the Village Hall as a back-up location, the council should also seek a suitable road closure in case the event moves to the Village Hall.

Committee is asked to consider whether to hold a Food & Drink Festival in 2027.

Sticking with the August Bank Holiday Saturday, the event would be on 28th August.

One member of the public has suggested the whole event could be moved to East Preston Junior School. The event could be held in the school grounds but, should it rain, some of the event could move inside the school hall and some could stay on the school car-park, much as some vans had traded in the Village Hall car-park this year. That way, should the weather affect the event, the location would not actually change so no need to contact stallholders or visitors to redirect them; indoor stallholders would be able to park in the small car-park next to the Children & Family Centre, or whatever it is called these days. On the downside, the businesses at the southern end of the village may say their businesses will be negatively affected, and that may well be true but we are talking about just one day. The space available on the school playing field is slightly more than on the Village Green and the marketplace could set up on the car-park so people would naturally filter through the marketplace and on to the main arena, for want of a phrase. No need to close any major roads, although it would be wise to close St Mary's Drive. So far, for me, the positives outweigh the negatives.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th October 2026

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Autumn Bingo, 4th October 2026

Committee is asked to review any matters pertaining to this event.

Cllr Duff was lead councillor for this event.

Cllrs Duff and Linton and I decided on 30th September to cancel the event as nobody had pre-booked. Cllr Linton suggested something be included in any e-newsletter that week inviting people to let us know any reasons they thought the event had not sold and any suggestions for future autumn events. At the time of writing, one person has completed the survey, suggesting "How about affordable autumnal front door wreath making class?" No contact details given.

The Junior School should have cost £90 but I bought the secretary a box of chocolates which has stopped an invoice being issued in the past. So far, no invoice 😊

For at least two reasons, marketing started late. Firstly, the busyness of the office and secondly, the need for further information from the bingo man. For all future events, of any size, I suggest as soon as an event is agreed, the lead councillor sits with the office staff to work out **a strategy and timetable for the event**. For example, agree a date by which marketing must have started, agree a go/no-go date, agree the trigger for cancellation – that sort of thing.

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Remembrance Sunday, 8th November, 2026

Committee is asked to consider any matters pertaining to this event.

Road closures have been confirmed. Alison has asked Ritchie for some information which we have not received yet.

I have put out a call for councillors to let me know whether they are willing to be a marshal. The three members of the public who were marshals last year have all agreed to be marshals again this year. If we need to, I can advertise for more about ten days ahead of the day.

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East Preston Cool Yule – 22nd November 2026

Committee is asked to consider any matters pertaining to this event.

Cllr Linton is the lead councillor for this event and, in conjunction with Alison, will be able to provide any updates not covered below.

The marquee will be installed at the Village Hall during Saturday, 21st November. Alison and Cllr Linton have both said they might be available on site if necessary.

Most of the available pitches have now been booked I believe and money has been coming in steadily.

The event is on the front page of the Autumn 2026 Newsletter which has gone to print with delivery starting at the end of the month.

If we are to ask local shopfront businesses to decorate their windows, we need to get on with that soon. We have not ordered a replacement trophy yet, but lead-time is short.

East Preston Library has confirmed it will be hosting a couple of storytime events on Saturday, 12th December. It has asked whether the council is still willing to buy some sort of gift for attendees, probably a book. I have asked for financial details we can discuss so we may have those ahead of this meeting.

Committee is also asked to agree a date and time for an event debrief.

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End-of-term party, 2nd April 2027

Committee is asked to consider any matters pertaining to the end-of-term party scheduled for 2nd April 2027.

Our last update was Cllr Moore had agreed to play his clarinet while guests arrive. Whilst we hope he will be able to do so, it may not be possible and we may need to think of another local musician just to noodle a bit, as Andy Billups used to say. As I have written this, I have contacted another local musician and asked whether he would be interested, unpaid but welcome to stay for the whole party.

Currently, the possible list of invitees stands at 135. I suggest I bring a large print version to the committee's December meeting at which point we agree as definitive a list of people to invite as possible.

As agreed at the last Community Engagement Committee meeting, I have been in touch with Kifty's Kitchen who can offer us a £12 buffet menu. After some discussion with Alison and Cllr Linton, this is currently being amended slightly and I should have a version to discuss at the meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

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Funday Sunday, 25th April 2027

Committee is asked to consider any matters pertaining to this event.

Cllrs Chapman and Duff have volunteered to lead this event.

A repeat booking request for the Village Hall was submitted on 20th August. No confirmation yet, so I have chased with the Chairman of the Village Hall.

I approached Vintage Candy on 18th August and had a reply within two hours booking themselves in for the event.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

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Christmas Lighting

On behalf of the Community Engagement Committee, this committee is asked to consider the quote received for the annual Christmas lighting display on Two Acres.

On 8th October, I had a quick meeting on site with Dominic from the Christmas lighting company. We talked about wrapping the five trees that are adjacent to Sea Road – including

anything further back from the road would become complicated. Subsequently, we received the following email, "For hire and install it would £2400 per year over 3 years."

Cllr Linton will talk to Adrian before this meeting to ensure the money is available.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

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Budget for 2027/28

Committee is asked to start consideration of the committee's budget for 2027/28.

Before the meeting, either Cllr Linton or I will have spent time with Adrian beginning to fill in some figures which we can then discuss at the meeting. If I have something to circulate in advance, I shall.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

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Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill

Committee is asked to receive any updates relating to the implementation of "Martyn's Law", The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill.

Cllr McElroy is the council's lead on anything related to The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill.

There is a useful video on the government's Protect UK website - <https://www.protectuk.police.uk/martyns-law/martyns-law-overview-and-what-you-need-know>. This was circulated to committee members ahead of the last meeting too.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

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Minutes from the meeting held on 17th August 2026

Committee is asked to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on 17th August.

Draft Minutes were distributed to all councillors on 19th August, asking for any suggested amendments by 26th August. None were received.

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Matters Arising from previous meetings

Minute 681/26 – Safety barriers – following Full Council agreement, the safety barriers, cones and related items were ordered and have been received. These will be used first for the Cool Yule event on 22nd November. We will need to work out how we transport them anyway anytime.

Simon Cross – Clerk to the Council

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Next meeting (21st December)

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

Simon Cross – Clerk to the Council

15th October 2026