MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

2ND NOVEMBER 2026 at 18:30

SUPPORTING PAPERS

Please note not every Agenda Item will have a supporting paper.

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Presentation

WADARS

Council is asked to receive a presentation from WADARS.

According to its website, "Wadars is a leading animal welfare charity and has been rescuing wildlife and rehoming companion animals since 1969."

Through its Grant Aid scheme, the council has been financially supporting the charity for several years.

The presentation will be given by Elaine, an Animal Rescue Officer.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 16th October 2026

Agenda Item 6

Minutes of the Full Council meeting, 5th October 2026

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 7th October, asking for suggested amendments by 14th October. None were received.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 16th October 2026

Agenda Item 7

Monthly Update Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Minute 515/26 – West Sussex County Council, Worthing Road Traffic Regulation Order**

3. **Minute 707/26 – West Sussex County Council – Royal British Legion**
4. **Minute 709/26 – St Mary's churchyard**
5. **Minute 714/26 – Reports from parish council committees**
6. **Minute 755/26 – Clerk's Report – Stagecoach South Customer Services bus visit, 29th September**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 5th October 2026.

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

This work to extend a small portion of pavement to make it easier to use the bus stop opposite the entrance to Copse View was completed towards the end of October. The bus stop pole used to be beside the bench.



3. Minute 707/26 – West Sussex County Council – Royal British Legion

County Cllr Elkins has now provided the Highways Officer with the necessary proof of his agreement with this proposal.

4. Minute 709/26 – Public Session – St Mary's churchyard

On 30th September, one of the churchwardens at St Mary's, Chris Wood, provided the following initial answer on the matter of what is acceptable on graves and what is not:

Yes, it has caused some upset, I'm afraid. Mary will be able to give you more details when she is back from holiday next week, but in short this is what they've said:

We're sorry that the Diocese of Chichester's strict rules about what may be placed adjacent to memorial plaques in the Churchyard have caused some upset.

But, sadly, Plastic flowers, Fairy lights, Windmills & soft toys will need to be removed by the end of September. Sorry.

Planted bulbs & fresh flowers are welcome, as are small trees IF BURIED IN A SUNKEN, UNPOLISHED ALUMINIUM POT to prevent them growing out of control.

5. Minute 714/26 – Reports from parish council committees

As reported last month, WSCC replaced its bollards at the southern end of Sea Lane. At the time of writing, WSCC has not yet provided Biffa with a key to the bollards, meaning Biffa's operatives may be driving around the bollards to get to the bins at the southern end of the footpath. This is being resolved between WSCC and Biffa.

6. Minute 755/26 – Clerk's Report – Stagecoach South Customer Services bus visit, 29th September

Following East Preston's lead, Angmering Parish Council has booked the Customer Services bus to visit during the week of November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 9

Committees

Since the October Full Council meeting the following committees have met: Major Events, Personnel and Planning & Licensing. Draft Minutes of the Major Events and Planning & Licensing meetings have been circulated to all councillors.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 9a

Amenities Committee

Cllr McElroy is chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in September.

Trees - The 2026 annual tree inspection was carried out and the committee has now received the condition and management survey. Amongst the recommended remedial work there are nine trees which need removing and replanting: Two at the Village Green/Four at Two Acres/Three at WRG. These trees are highlighted as in poor condition. The council's tree surgeon is scheduling the work in as soon as possible. Any replacement trees will be planted at the appropriate time of year for tree planting.

Sea Road Public Toilets - Asbestos Survey – as part of the ongoing management plan to monitor the asbestos in the toilet's storage cupboard's fuse box, the annual asbestos survey has been carried out. The report summary deemed it as very low risk, the management plan advises to monitor conditions and reinspect annual.

Deep Clean – The second deep clean in this financial year took place on 14th October 2026. As previously the work involved a deep clean including antibacterial treatment to all fixtures and fitting, walls and floors.

WRG and Playground fire escape pathways – Pathways have been installed from each of the Village Hall's fire exits. The pathway at the playground is a wet pour surface and links in to the existing wet pour surfaces. WRG path is a rigid type matting made from recycled material which will eventually cover over with grass. Both pathways link up and run to the WRG car-park which is the Village Hall's fire assembly meeting place .





Public Seating – A composite memorial bench has been installed at the north eastern side of the Village Green. The memorial bench was in memory of Mr Michael Stuart Grant who lived in the village for most of his life.

The committee's next meeting remains scheduled for 9th November 2026.

Dawn Reid – **Assistant Clerk to the Council** 27th October 2026

Agenda Item 9b

Audit & Governance Committee

Cllr Mathias is chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in September and is scheduled to meet in November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 9c

Community Engagement Committee

Cllr Linton is the chairman of the committee.

The committee did not meet in October.

At its meeting on 26th October, on behalf of this committee, the Major Events Committee agreed a quotation for additional Christmas lighting for Two Acres. The lighting company is confident it will be able to supply the additional lighting for this coming season.

Playscheme, 27th October – on the 19th October, the council was contacted by its chosen supplier for this event, Wild Science, cancelling its attendance, "due to a change in our expert's availability." Kindly, the email said the company would not apply a cancellation fee!

Massive thanks to Alison for finding a replacement company at such short notice, Backyard Bugs. All who had already booked were informed of the change and the booking page was appropriately updated.

On the day, almost 100 children visited the event which ran for two hours in the Marjorie Bridger Scout Hall.

Cllrs Duff, Linton and Toney all attended and will have their own comments to add. Further thanks to Alison and her son Flynn for supporting the event even though Alison was on leave.





photographs courtesy of Cllr Linton

Hearing impairment – Cllr Hill is hopeful a meeting of those originally interested can be held in November. This meeting had originally been scheduled for the meeting room at East Preston Infant

School as that would have had the best acoustics, but now it has fallen back into termtime the meeting will be held at Council Office 2.

Warm Welcome Space 2027 – ADC has awarded the council a grant for £500 to help with the costs of this year's sessions but wants the sessions to include December too. No reply yet from the British Legion on this matter.

The committee's next meeting will be on 16th November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 27th October 2026

Agenda Item 9d

Finance & General Purposes Committee

Cllr McElroy is the chairman of this committee.

The committee did not meet in October.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 19th November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 26th October 2026

Agenda Item 9e

Flat & Frontage Committee

Cllr Toney is the chairman of the committee.

All the windows apart from the two bay windows at the front and the large ground-floor window on the northern elevation have now been replaced. This includes the provision of a new front door for the flat at 120 Sea Road. Quotes are being considered for the electrical works to separate the residential accommodation from the commercial, carpets and decorating for the flat, fencing works and for a replacement shed on the northern side of the property. This shed would be council use; there is a small brick-built shed on the western elevation of the property for use by the flat.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 27th October 2026

Agenda Item 9f

Major Events Committee

Cllr Linton is the chairman of the committee.

The committee met on 26th October.

Some of the matters discussed were:

East Preston Food & Drink Festival – the committee agreed to host this event again in 2027, on Saturday, 28th August. A member of the public had suggested using East Preston Junior School, as a single site could cater for both an outdoors event or an indoors event in the case of bad weather. The Clerk is following up on that.

Bingo afternoon, 4th October – the committee agreed the event had failed to sell as there are numerous other bingo events in the area. In response to a question in a parish council e-newsletter, a member of the public had suggested a wreath-making event.

East Preston Cool Yule, 22nd November – event was coming together well as was the **End-of-term Party in April**.

***Funday Sunday*, 25th April 2027** – both the Village Hall and Vintage Candy have been booked for this event. Cllrs Chapman and Duff will be the event leaders.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 27th October 2026

Agenda Item 9g

Personnel Committee

Cllr Duff is the chairman of the committee.

The committee met on 12th October. Mostly, the meeting discussed the recruitment of a new Clerk. The closing date for applications was 23rd October. Thirteen applications have been received and by the time of this meeting, a paper sift exercise should have been completed. Thanks to Emily at the West Sussex Association of Local Councils for her help to date.

Training – the committee agreed to part-fund some licensing training for Cllr Bradshaw as the council's expert on licensing matters.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 12th October.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 9h

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met on 12th October only.

There was only one application considered, the committee's decision on that having been deferred from a previous meeting pending answers to some concerns the committee had. Having received some answers, the committee agreed not to object to this application.

All ADC suggestions for the revised Neighbourhood Plan have now been made and the ADC officer has asked for it to go that council's November meeting to be made. However, if it is not accepted onto that meeting, it will be made at that council's January meeting.

All town and parish councils within the ADC area have been asked to provide information on sports grounds within their area as legislation is due soon to enable sports grounds to be defined as Sporting Assets of Community Value. I provided the required information for The Lashmar, the Warren Recreation Ground, and the tennis and bowls club sites.

The council has submitted its annual report on Community Infrastructure Levy expenditure (none) and this can be found on the Governance page on the council's website.

The committee's next meeting is scheduled for 9th November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 10

Working Parties

Neither of the council's working parties met in October.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 10a

Devolution and Local Government Reorganisation (Devo WP)

There are no updates on this matter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 10b

Leases Working Party (LWP)

This working party is currently without a chairman.

As previously reported, the council is awaiting further correspondence from the Bowls Club. Club representatives are in touch with the council and there may well be something for the Finance & General Purposes Committee to consider at its meeting in November.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 11a

West Sussex County Council

Council is asked to receive a report from County Councillor Roger Elkins, the representative for East Preston & Ferring Ward.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 12a

Arun District Council

Council is asked to receive a report from the district councillors representing East Preston and Kingston, Cllrs Philippa Bower, Ricky Bower and Paul Kelly.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 13a

Sussex Police

Council is asked to note any report received from Sussex Police. A report for October was received on 26th October and circulated with the electronic pack for this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 14

Clerk's Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Anti-social behaviour matters**
4. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
5. **Dennis Watts, RIP**
6. **Meeting with East Preston Cricket Club, 6th October**
7. **Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) autumn engagement forum, 7th October**
8. **East Preston Festival Committee donations evening, 14th October**
9. **Interim internal audit, 19th October**
10. **Community Speedwatch (CSW), 28th October**
11. **Social media**
12. **MailChimp stats**
13. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
14. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
15. **Leave**
16. **November meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

No police matters to report.

3. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) matters

The case bubbling in The Street has now been made an official matter with ADC. Correspondence with ADC has been copied to Dr Beccy Cooper MP.

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

No new requests in October.

5. Dennis Watts, RIP

Not many current councillors will remember Dennis, but he was the council's main Village Orderly from May 2009 to November 2012. Sadly, Dennis died during the summer and I only found out by chance, scrolling through the funeral notices on the Ian Hart Funeral Service website. Dennis was an excellent and quietly conscientious Village Orderly, retiring in 2012 following the death of his wife, Wendy. He will be missed in the quieter corners of the village.

6. **Meeting with East Preston Cricket Club, 6th October**

Together with Cllrs Toney, Linton and McElroy, I attended a meeting with representatives of East Preston Cricket Club. The club was represented by Peter Dallimore, Steve Parsons and Colin Smith.

Before the meeting started, I had let the club know of the council's decision not to grant a licence for adult cricket in 2027 until improved safety measures have been implemented. Although clearly not the club's preferred option, the club representatives were very pragmatic about it and have accepted adult hardball cricket will not be played on the Warren Recreation Ground in 2027. The club committee is going to ask the club's players whether or not they would be willing to play at a different ground, temporarily, and the Sussex Cricket League has offered to help find such a ground.

The club agreed to provide the council with a proposal of increased safety measures, together with pictorial representations by the end of October. That proposal will initially be considered at the Amenities Committee meeting in November at which the committee will consider how best to discuss this with Warren Recreation Ground Safety Group and the wider community.

The meeting agreed an article should be included in the Autumn 2026 Newsletter and delivery of this newsletter is imminent.

7. **Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) autumn engagement forum, 7th October**

Cllr Bowman attended Arun district forum. Other councils represented were: ADC, Aldingbourne, Aldwick, Bersted, Clapham, Felpham, Littlehampton, Pagham, Rustington, Slindon and Warningcamp. The meeting was led by Mervin Dadd, a member of the PCC's team.

Mervin opened the meeting by letting all attendees introduce themselves. We were then asked to take part in a poll which listed sexual assaults and violence as the most reported crimes across the district: did this reflect our community? Most present said no, and reported other problems. Like many on the call, we reported bad driver behaviour, the scourge of e-scooters and their riders, graffiti and noisy motorbikes in the evening and overnight.

Mervin referred the call to Operation Scramble, recently launched by Sussex Police to target inconsiderate and dangerous use of e-scooters. In the 12 months to June 2026, Sussex Police received a total of 2,504 reports of e-bikes and e-scooters being ridden illegally. This is an increase of 53.7 per cent from the 1,629 reports received the previous 12 months. Of these, 25.6 per cent relate to antisocial or dangerous riding, and 51.8 per cent relate to suspected drug activity. These reports are in addition to incidents responded to by officers out on patrol. Apparently, there will soon be a televised crushing of confiscated e-scooters. Sussex Police is building a map of poor e-scooter behaviour; the map needs public input.

Beach huts in Aldwick have been subjected to a campaign of anti-semitic graffiti, mainly swastikas. The ADC rep on the call said it was believed this was solely the work of one homeless man and officers were trying to catch up with him. Most representatives on the call thought racist graffiti was at most rare in their communities; just a few days after the call, I spotted a small amount of racist graffiti at the bus shelter in Ash Lane.

The subject of a mobile police pod was raised by Rustington PC. This has been due to start circulating around Sussex for over a year now but has still not appeared. Mervin said he would

check on progress. This police pod would be able to visit communities, set up for a number of hours and have members of the public visit. Aldwick said police officers had twice recently set up a table outside the parish council office but had given no warning so the council had been unable to promote the sessions which were accordingly poorly-attended.

There is a new District Commander for Sussex Police, and she is keen on improving communications. To that end, Mervin suggested a face-to-face forum and ADC said they could almost certainly host such a session.

We were asked whether anyone in our communities had expressed any concerns about prisoners being released early. Nobody said their communities were worried. Three West Sussex prisoners had been released early to date and one of those had already been recalled. A further twelve prisoners are scheduled for early release this month.

Cllr Bowman has written her own report which will, undoubtedly, cover different points to this report.

8. **East Preston Festival Committee donations evening, 14th October**

I represented the council at this meeting. Cllrs Toney and Bradshaw also attended, and Alison as a member of the Festival Committee.

I cannot say it often enough, the evening is always a really good way of learning about some of the good works taking place in the village, some of which quietly go under the radar. This year, the Festival Committee donated a total of £5,450 across thirty groups, some national but mostly local.

9. **Interim internal audit, 19th October**

Tracey Euesden visited the Council Office on the morning of 19th October and undertook her first internal audit for us. Her main concern was the fact the Warren Recreation Ground charity does not have a separate bank account. This has been a lesser concern for other internal auditors but Tracey's concern was such Adrian and I are working on a proposal to take to the next Finance & General Purposes Committee. This will finally see the charity having its own bank account. The council will need to agree an initial amount of money to set up that account on behalf of the charity.

Cllr Mathias, in his role as Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee, called in to meet Tracey.

10. **Community Speedwatch (CSW), 28th October**

Gavin Bernard and I completed a Community Speedwatch shift in Worthing Road for an hour from 08:00. On a relatively quiet half-term morning of bright sunshine, we still recorded 284 vehicle movements in either direction. Two were travelling above the threshold for reporting to Sussex Police.

For the first half of the shift, we were joined by Cllr Lisa Kenna. Lisa is the Roads and Parking lead for Findon Parish Council and had been in touch earlier in the month about the council's involvement with CSW. I had invited her to join this shift if she was able. I believe Lisa returned to Findon with all the information she needed ahead of making a proposal to her council.

11. **Social Media**

None of the council's Facebook posts have been seen by more than 500 people this month.

(posts up to and including 28th October)

The number of Followers is currently 2,054, the same as the last report.

12. **MailChimp stats**

Since the last papers were issued, the council has sent out the following email to local residents on the council's main e-mailing list:

Parish Council news – 1st October – sent to 958 subscribers

Parish Council news – 15th October – sent to 960

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

What can be done about cars parking on the grass verge in Orchard Road?	Not much really as both WSCC and Sussex Police see this as a low priority matter and more and more people have more and more cars which need to be stored somewhere, somehow.

14. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

From the resident asking about parking on grass verges, "Thank you for coming back to me so quickly. I totally understand the situation now and realise nothing will actually happen due to lack of resources. Anyway thank you for taking the time to reply."

From the Festival Committee in a letter inviting us to attend its Donations Evening, "May we also take this opportunity to thank you for your continuing support and encouragement in all we do."

15. **Leave**

Dawn is hoping to take off a week in November, but has not confirmed a date yet. I am on leave on 18th November.

16. **November 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.

2nd	Full Council (18:30, East Preston Infant School)
4th	VAAC Disability Equality Training (10:00 online) (DR only)
9th	Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Council Office) Amenities Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
11th	Hearing Impairment Group meeting (10:00, Council Office 2) Sussex Community Rail Partnership meeting (10:30, Worthing Football Club)
12th	Arun Community Transport AGM (14:00, Littlehampton)
14th	East Preston Repair Café (10:00, East Preston Infant School)
16th	Finance & General Purposes Committee (18:00, Council Office 2) Community Engagement Committee (19:00, Council Office 2)
21st	East Preston Cool Yule set-up (tbc, East Preston & Kingston Village Hall)

22nd East Preston Cool Yule (11:00 – 16:00, East Preston & Kingston Village Hall)

23rd Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, Council Office)
Audit & Governance Committee (19:00, Council Office)

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026

Agenda Item 15

Other meetings and events – Part 1

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

Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner (PCC) autumn engagement forum, 7th October

online

1. Anti-social behaviour actually includes e-scooters and e bikes being driven along pavements, roads, and beach promenades at a fast rate

2. More exposure from PCSOs throughout the districts. Transformation Strategies are being looked into to have more Public Access Points. Proposals being addressed are for 'pods' to be utilised in areas where it is felt necessary to have more exposure to the police – sounds a bit like the 'Tardis' being reinvented!!!!

3. Concerns were raised regarding what is the most effective way for reporting concerns to the police as people are reluctant to contact the police for what they might consider to be minor events is this because they think they are too busy or is it because they think that they would not be taken seriously. Clearly face-to-face is always the best way, however, how possible is this without increasing the number of PCSOs?

4. In our village it would be useful to have some form of presence at the events we hold in the village – open for discussion

5. The demographic within the different parishes needs to be considered regarding reporting minor crimes

6. Personally I felt that a particular response raised an issue. This was to be with the police offer's response and it was stated that some of the PCSOs have personality issues – wrong. The problem is that they are clearly not being trained on how to communicate effectively and can be using the patrol car as a barrier, for example. The Commissioner would benefit from delving into the human factors side of the training of a PCSO to give them a better understanding of how they are perceived by the public, both verbally and visually

Cllr Christine Bowman 8th October 2026

Arun Town & Parish Climate Action Network meeting, 14th October

online

I attended this session hosted by Arun District Council along with six other Parish Councillors. The CEO of Energise South Downs gave a presentation about how the company raises money and manages installation and maintenance of solar panels on medium to large roof spaces to produce renewable energy which can, in some instances, then be shared with the local community. They also run workshops to raise awareness of the benefits of renewable energy based on an analysis of the local area. As Alan Evans from Angmering Parish Council, who worked on the East Preston Energy project with me, was also on the call we discussed the project and agreed to send them details to see if it is something they may consider in future.

Cllr John Gunston 15th October 2026

Agenda Item 17

New items to be referred to the next meeting – 7th December 2026

No reason currently to believe the meeting will need to start any earlier than 19:00.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council** 28th October 2026