

MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

4TH JUNE 2018

SUPPORTING PAPERS

Agenda Item 6b

West Sussex County Council (WSCC) – School Effectiveness Strategy Consultation

Council is asked to consider the following email received on 29th May:



A new School Effectiveness Strategy is currently being developed which will outline how the County Council will work with education providers over the next four years to ensure that all West Sussex children and young people really do get the best start in life. It will replace the current Strategy for School Improvement 2016-2019.

The new School Effectiveness Strategy will underpin the aims in the [West Sussex Plan 2017-2022](#) to meet the County Council's vision of "Improving educational outcomes in West Sussex by championing all our children and young people".

The County Council wants to listen to everyone that is involved in education provision across West Sussex. To create strong partnership working, the views of all stakeholders are being sought in this consultation on a Draft Strategy. Schools, educational settings, academy trusts, the Dioceses, other organisations, parent, carers, children and young people are invited to comment.

We would like to invite your comments on the Draft School Effectiveness Strategy to help ensure that the County Council is taking the right steps to improve educational outcomes in West Sussex.

This consultation will remain open until **Friday 15 June 2018**.

Councillors wishing to respond are asked to let me know and then to arrange a time they can get together to respond. Thank you.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th May 2018

Agenda Item 8

Minutes of Monthly Full Council meeting, 14th May

The draft Minutes were circulated to all councillors on 16th May, asking for comments by 23rd May. No suggested amendments were received.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24th May 2018

Monthly Update Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Minute 261/18 – Public Session – East Preston Library**
3. **Minute 315/18 – West Sussex County Council – A27 Arundel Bypass**
4. **Minute 316/18 – Arun District Council**
5. **Minute 322/18 – Clerk’s Report – Item 2 Police Matters**
6. **Minute 322/18 – Clerk’s Report – Item 9 St Barnabas House Hospice Outreach Project (HOP) visit**
7. **Minute 322/18 – Clerk’s Report – Item 13 Social media**

1. **Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 14th May 2018.

2. **Minute 261/18 – Public Session – East Preston Library**

I have asked Mrs Davey for a breakdown of the visitor figures as requested but have had no reply at the time of writing. Mrs Davey replied on 4th May, “East Preston hasn’t held any one off Events apart from the Christmas Village Event along with yourselves so the figures are from regular Library users. The only other regular activities held at the Library are Knit & Natter on Wednesday afternoons which have 6 attendees and our Toddler Time which has roughly the same.”

3. **Minute 315/18 – West Sussex County Council – A27 Arundel Bypass**

A small number of paper copies of the Highways England *A27 Arundel Bypass Preferred route announcement* document are available in the Council Office.

4. **Minute 316/18 – Arun District Council**

The proposal to include Arun District Council as a formal attendee at West Sussex County Council Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, Highways & Transport sub-group meetings was passed.

Cllrs Bower and Chapman have been making investigations into how the South Strand toilet block might be kept open after East Preston Parish Council has not renewed the lease which expires on 31st March 2019.

5. **Minute 322/18 – Clerk’s Report – Item 2 Police Matters**

Further to the incident on 3rd May, the affected business has now installed some CCTV cameras around the property.

6. **Minute 322/18 – Clerk’s Report – Item 9 St Barnabas House Hospice Outreach Project (HOP) visit**

I now have a confirmed date of Wednesday, 29th August for the vehicle’s next visit.

7. **Minute 322/18 – Clerk’s Report – Item 13 Social media**

As listed, one of the posts made last month was advising residents of a fallen tree at the junction of Sea Road and Normandy Drive. A resident of Normandy Lane commented on the photo, “Rather than shaming on Facebook how about making sure the owner of the property is ok firstly then aware or able to cut back the bushes.” I explained I had posted the photograph to alert pedestrians to this danger around a blind corner and I had also contacted neighbours of the house in question who were able to confirm the residents were ok. The commenter took some persuading but did eventually say, “Ask [councillor] who I am and she will tell you I have lived here for 35 years probably longer than all you people from London and have the best interest of EP at heart. From experience as you will well remember if you have lived here long enough the parish council has a track record of photographing peoples houses, not mine, and publishing pictures either derogatory comments. I refer you to the village statement pamphlet probably around 9 years ago. Simon I am on your side in protecting the village and I understand now that it was posted from a safety point of view. I hope that clears things up.”

I responded to the points raised but have received no further comment. As councillors may know, I am not from London. Whilst the Village Design Statement received some financial support from the parish council it was not published by the council.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th May 2018

Agenda Item 11a

Annual Financial Matters – Accounts for year-ending 31st March 2018

Council is asked to approve the accounts for the year-ending 31st March 2018 and can be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

The accounts have been checked to the satisfaction of our Internal Auditor and can be found at Appendix A of these papers. At its meeting on 21st May, the Finance & General Purposes Committee agreed it would recommend to Full Council approval of the annual accounts. (Minute 336/18)

Councillors with any questions are invited to call in to the office prior to the meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th May 2018

Agenda Items 12a and 12b

Annual Financial Matters – Annual Return for year- ending 31st March 2018

Council is asked to agree Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year-ending 31st March 2018 can be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

At the end of each financial year, it is necessary for this council to complete an Annual Return which is then sent for external audit.

Appendix B shows the two sections of the form the council needs to agree can be signed by the Chairman and me. Appendix B also includes the Internal Auditor's completed page of the Annual Return.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th May 2018

Agenda Item 13

Committees

Since the last meeting, the following committee meetings have taken place: Finance & General Purposes Committee on 21st May. The Amenities and Planning & Licensing Committees are due to meet on 29th May and the Community Engagement Committee on 31st May.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th May 2018

Agenda Item 13d

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The committee met on 21st May. The draft Minutes from the meetings have been circulated.

Cllrs Shah and Wilkinson were elected Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee respectively. This means Cllr Shah is automatically appointed a member of the Audit & Governance Committee.

As above, the committee approved the council's year-end accounts.

The committee considered Grant Aid applications from 14 organisations working in the village. Twelve applications were successful, one has been deferred pending further information and one has been rejected. At the time of writing, I have only been able to inform the successful organisations.

The committee also considered a funding application from the East Preston Festival Committee – this being considered against a separate budget line for tourism. As the Festival Committee’s insurance premium this year was lower than last year, the council has been able to sponsor three activities at the Children’s Extravaganza event on 2nd June and still have a little money left in that budget line. The three activities are CircusSeen circus skills workshop, Robbie the Magician and two performances of a Punch and Judy show.

The committee reviewed its Terms of Reference and agreed no changes were necessary. The committee also carried out the annual review of the council’s Financial Regulations and Financial Regulations Schedule and agreed the former needed to be updated to reflect the council’s move to electronic banking. Proposed changes to the Financial Regulations will be put before the committee’s August meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

3rd May 2018

Agenda Items 14a

Amenities Committee

This item is on the Agenda in case anything urgent emerges from the Amenities Committee meeting this evening.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

30th May 2018

Agenda Items 15a-d

Working Parties

All four of the council’s working parties continue to work on already-known projects.

The Website Working Party has seen a live draft of the new website and has passed some comments back to the designer. All the background work is carrying on.

There are no major updates from the other three working parties.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th May 2018

Agenda Item 16

Annual Parish Meeting

Council is asked to note the draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting which was held on 21st May. These have been circulated electronically to councillors and are reprinted at Appendix C below.

The Minutes are approved and signed at next year's Annual Parish Meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th May 2018

Agenda Item 17

Clerk's Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
4. **“Missing” bus stop in North Lane**
5. **Year-end internal audit, 17th May**
6. **East Preston library clean, 20th May**
7. **Royal British Legion Silent Soldiers**
8. **Meeting with Tracey Down, Arun Office Services, 24th May**
9. **Defibrillator familiarisation session, 24th May**
10. **Social Media**
11. **MailChimp stats**
12. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
13. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
14. **Leave**
15. **June meetings and events**

1. **Introduction**

This is the report mainly covering May 2018 and matters which may not arise elsewhere on the agenda.

2. **Police matters**

On 9th May, we were approached by a resident asking if Sussex Police could step up its patrols around the Village Green as sizeable (15+) groups of young people have been

congregating and making threats towards local residents trying to enjoy the Village Green peacefully. Sussex Police agreed to step up its presence around the Village Green.

Police were called to an incident in Normandy Lane on Sunday, 27th May. This incident closed Normandy Lane and also involved the Air Ambulance landing on the Warren Recreation Ground during the Blauuw Cup championship. The Air Ambulance left empty-handed after twenty minutes. When asked for information by a local resident, Sussex Police said the matter was a personal one and they could provide nothing further.

3. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests

No new requests received this month.

4. "Missing" bus stop in North Lane

A resident called in to the office on Friday, 11th May, asking if the council could help him with the matter of the "missing" eastbound bus stop opposite the junction with Lavinia Way. The westbound bus stop at this location is well-marked and both bus stops appear on Google maps, for example. However, because there is no pole and flag and no road markings, apparently not all drivers are aware and not all will stop. I contacted Stagecoach and received the following reply:

Good morning Simon

The physical bus stop on the Lavinia Way side of the road is marked "and other side of road" so drivers should be allowing customers to board and alight from an area opposite. If cars are parked in the vicinity it can make it difficult to stop as close to it as we would like. Recent failures to comply with this were brought to our attention and staff were reminded. I shall make sure the notice is re-issued and our training team are advised.

These 'ghost' stops are not uncommon and can be confusing for all. They usually come about as a result of objections to having a pole and flag outside of a dwelling or difficulty in siting the equipment.

I am sure we will be able to resolve the matter satisfactorily. It is a little-used stop so it's quite possible that some members of staff have been driving that route for a number of years and have never had to stop there. However, I completely understand how infuriating it must be for our customers if the bus doesn't stop when they wish it to.

Best regards

Rob Vince
Operations Manager

I have informed the resident of this and his response was, "Our neighbours and ourselves have both had problems getting the driver to stop sometimes as they have said there is not a stop indicated there. It is very frustrating when the bus sails passed. Others are much more obliging. Many thanks for your efforts on this."

5. Year-end internal audit, 17th May

The council's internal auditor, Rachel Hall of R. S. Hall & Co., completed the council's year-end audit during her visit on 17th May.

Mrs Hall's report will be considered by the Audit & Governance Committee at its next meeting. However, the summary is as follows:

SUMMARY AND OPINION

One of the functions of internal audit is to give assurance to members of the council that the financial systems are operating correctly, and can be relied upon.

In connection with my examination, and having regard to the items reported herewith, no matter has come to my attention that gives me reasonable cause to believe in any *material* respect that the regulatory requirements have not been complied with.

Excellent systems and internal controls are in place to ensure the correct documentation and recording of income and expenditure.

The accounting arrangements, procedural controls, records and documentary evidence are considered to be above average, and accurately record the Council's financial position.

6. **East Preston library clean, 20th May**

After months of negotiation, we were able to give the outside of the library a much-needed spruce-up on Sunday, 20th May. It was decided a Sunday would be a better day as it gave a longer window in which work could take place.

Members of the public invited to take part were Vic and Linda Ruocca, whose idea the library clean was, and Jerry and Jennifer Hardy who were able to bring professional decorating expertise to the event. A few other local professionals were invited to join in but were unavailable on the day.

Councillors present in the morning were Cllrs Toney and Wilkinson; Cllrs Duff and Linton did turn up for the afternoon session, but there was nothing that could be done at that point because of the success of the morning session. Karen Toney also attended in the morning, as did County Cllr Roger Elkins who set to giving the front lawn a new edge. Work completed included rubbing down and repainting the handrails at the entrance to the library; washing down the fascias; washing the windows, the flag pole, the front sign, the slate on the front wall, the plaques at the war memorial; painting those window-frames that were not too rotten. The library service provided refreshments and both Library Assistant, Elayne Jones and Cluster Manager, Vicki Davey popped in to give moral support. Both were very pleased with the improvements achieved. County Cllr Elkins reported positively on the event to the Annual Parish Meeting on 21st May.

Community volunteers present would like the council to think of running similar projects in the future as did members of the public who walked past during the event.

I posted four photographs from the event on to the council's Facebook page. Comments received included:

"Wow, looks good. Well done."

"Thank you everyone.... looks sparkling ✨ now!"

"Looks fabulous, see what can happen, when people come together, great partnership working!" (former Cluster Manager, Jane Chilton)

"Looks lovely well done x"

"An excellent job"

"Looks amazing. You did well all of you!"

An article was submitted to the Littlehampton Gazette and published online on 23rd May and will hopefully be in the paper edition on 31st May.

Karen Wallace and other very senior members of the WSCC Library Service have said they have never seen the library looking better.

7. Royal British Legion Silent Soldiers

Council handyman, Mark Edwards, installed the council's three Silent Soldiers on Monday, 21st May. These were sited in the north-western corner of the Village Green, the eastern end of Two Acres and within the war memorial area outside the library.

Initial response has been positive:

“What a great idea and tribute”

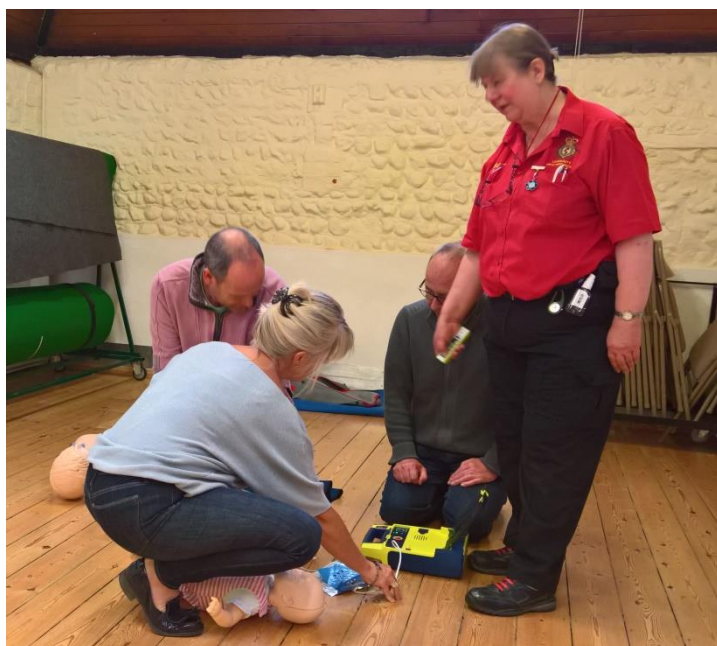
8. Meeting with Tracey Down, Arun Office Services, 24th May

I had an informal meeting with Tracey who has taken over from Pam Overington-Gould as main contact for the Angmering-on-Sea Estate Residents' Association and the West Kingston Residents' Association. This meeting was mainly explaining to Tracey this council's reasoning behind not renewing the lease on the South Strand toilet block in 2019.

9. Defibrillator familiarisation session, 24th May

As part of the council's Awards For All grant success, the council had to organise a defibrillator familiarisation session. This was advertised through the council's e-newsletters and paper newsletter although, unfortunately, we know not all residents had received their paper newsletter in time. (I have asked the distribution company for an explanation of that.)

The event was led by two of Worthing's Community Responders, Sally Holmes and Jenny Lindsay. Cllrs Duff, Gander, Linton and Shah attended together with the council's Assistant Clerk, Mrs Khoo. Five members of the public attended. Prior to the event, when asked whether they were attending, some members of the public I spoke to said they had attended a similar session previously and did not feel they needed to attend again.



Phil and Kay Morrell and Dennis Church receive expert instruction from Sally Holmes.

The Community Engagement Committee will consider whether or not to hold a further session later in the year.

10. **Social media**

These are the Facebook posts published since the last supporting papers which reached more than 500 people:

- ▲ Post showing Danny and Twinkle Shah outside Seaview Stores with their Silent Soldier – 964 people
- Post following the library clean – 881 people
- Repost of BBC News report about the success of Community Speed Watch and a call for volunteers – 803
- Photograph of the mid-installation defibrillator cabinet letting the public know it would not be operational until Sussex Ambulance confirmed so – 561
- Post of the official WSCC notice of temporary road closure at Angmering station level crossing on 2nd/3rd June.
- Photographs of the first three Silent Soldiers in position – 543
- Photograph of Cllr Gander alongside the now-commissioned defibrillator cabinet advising it was now operational - 530

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 28th May)

The number of people currently following the council on Facebook is 1,096, an increase of six over last report.

The Community Speed Watch article led to a small amount of unexpected criticism led by the comment, “I’ve seen these before on the village green where vehicles are braking anyway as the road has only 100 meters or so before becoming the T junction , You are being vigilante, and a dangerous & unnecessarily distraction to motorists in a very pedestrian area , I’m sure many motorists will look in the wrong direction at the speed gun rather than the pavement outside the shop & cafe , Can’t you find something more productive to do instead of playing at being a police force ?” Members of the public responded to this comment in a more positive manner.

No posts placed on Nextdoor.

11. **MailChimp stats**

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

Parish Council news – 9th May – sent to 748, opened by 493 to date (65.9%)

Parish Council news – 18th May – sent to 746, opened by 487 to date (65.5%)

Parish Council news – 23rd May – sent to 744, opened by 454 to date (61%)

12. Things we have been asked since the last meeting

“Can you believe how mad the football world has become?” (No, not really.)

“Do you know where I can borrow some football nets for the Festival Scarecrow competition?” (Asker now in touch with the Football Club.)

“Can you sell us some tickets for the Open Gardens, please?” (No, you need to go to one of the Festival box offices.)

13. Recent bouquets and complaints

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident of North Lane after Cllr Moore spoke at an ADC Development Control Committee meeting, “Good afternoon Simon , just a quick note to thank you for sending David to speak on behalf of E.P.Parish Council against the proposed planning Application EP7/18/PL .I believe his contribution was very helpful along with David Sayers of the East Preston and Kingston Preservation Society.”

From a resident of Clarence Drive, “Thank you for your time and assistance with this”, in reference to a Planning Application backing on to Clarence Drive and a land ownership matter in that vicinity.

From a resident of The Street, “I have just moved here from Littlehampton and think this is a divine little village. I do like having a local council I can approach.”

From a resident of Normandy Drive, “Thanks for a good [Annual Parish Meeting] last night.”

From the Chairman of the East Preston Festival Committee, Jackie Pilcher, “On behalf of the Festival Committee, I would like to thank all at the Parish Council for arranging for the Owls About Town to come into Festival. A fantastic addition to Festival! We hope that you have a fun & successful evening.”

Thanks from the East Preston & Kingston Horticultural Society for advertising its Festival rose show.

14. Leave

No members of council staff currently have any leave planned in June though Tracy may have a few days off in the middle of the month.

15. June Meetings and Events

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 4 th | Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School) |
| 5 th | Business Breakfast (08:00, <i>Mrs Beeton's</i>) |
| | Owls About Town (18:00, Village Green) (helpers to set up from 17:30 please) |
| 7 th | Come and Meet Your Local Councillors (10:30 to 12:30, Council Office) (helpers to set up from 09:45 please) |
| 8 th | Sussex Community Rail Partnership Coastway West launch (10:45, Hove Station) (EL, RM, DM and SC only) |
| 9 th | East Preston Festival Carnival Procession |
| 11 th | Audit & Governance Committee (10:00, Council Office) (tbc) |
| | Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) |

- 14th Food & Drink Festival Working Party (10:00, Council Office)
- 15th Arun District Council Local Plan, Non-Strategic Sites Development Plan Document briefing (10:30, Civic Centre, Littlehampton) (tbc)
- 16th East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation Annual General Meeting (13:00, Village Hall)
- 19th WSCC Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee (19:00, Littlehampton Town Hall)
- 20th Arun District Association of Local Councils quarterly meeting (tbc)
- 22nd Sussex Community Rail Partnership Coastway West Stakeholders (14:00 to 16:30, Visitor Centre, Shoreham Port Authority)
- 25th Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)

N.B. where committee meetings fall on the same day, the timings of these meetings may be subject to change.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

8th May 2018

Agenda Items 18a-b

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note the following reports:

West Sussex County Council Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, Highways & Transport sub-group, 17th May

The Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee Highways and Transport Sub-Group (JEAAC H and T) met on Thursday 17th May in Littlehampton. I have extracted items relevant to East Preston for my report.

New Terms of Reference were submitted and the most relevant detail being the permitted membership which is all County Councillors, two Arun District Councillors and one representative from each of the local Town and Parish Councils.

Work on the A259 should start in late spring or early summer in 2019 and will include some night work.

Regarding the slip road from the A259 into East Preston, District Cllr Terry Chapman underlined the need and support for the scheme and there will be a meeting with County Cllrs Bob Lanzer (Cabinet Member for Highways & Infrastructure), Roger Elkins (East Preston and Ferring) and Deborah Urquhart (Angmering and Findon) in the not too distant future. Current project manager Tony Bathmaker is moving onto pastures new and his replacement, Sarah McKnight should also be present at this meeting.

It was advised that when updating The Neighbourhood Plan cycle routes and footpaths should also be included.

In the progress report from WSCC Highways it was noted that surface dressing of Fairlands and The Street had been included (finished even) and I requested Sea Road resurfacing should also be included.

The list of Traffic Regulation Orders approved this year will be sent to JEAAC by Ben Wiffen so something to note.

The next meeting will be on the 18th October 2018.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton – **Vice-Chairman of the Council**

18th May 2018

Arun District Dementia Action Alliance – Open Forum, 24th May

Civic Centre, Littlehampton

I attended this event held at the Civic Centre in Littlehampton. The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Gammon gave a brief introduction setting out the aims of the event, namely to identify what is currently provided in Arun, what is missing and what organisations can do to support Arun in the future. There are currently 3,350 people with dementia in Arun which is expected to increase by 7.5% by 2030. Other figures estimate that by this time 1 in 3 of the population may be affected to some degree.

The event had no formal structure and attendees were able to gain information from several groups who had stands in the meeting room, providing literature and resources. These included:

West Sussex Telecare

They provide a range of telecare devices enabling people to live safely and independently inside and outside the home, including a lifeline device free of charge for 13 weeks for people to trial. If anyone proceeds with the purchase a smoke alarm is then also fitted, free of charge, with a direct link to the Fire Brigade. They are happy to come and chat about their services to local groups.

Alzheimer's Society

They work alongside the mental health teams helping with diagnosis and support after diagnosis. They also act as a signposting service for families to other available services.

Jo Jingles

Whilst this is primarily a music class for young children under the age of 5, they have recently started a new music class bringing together 3 generations for mutual benefit. This came about after watching the success and benefits enjoyed by young and old in the TV programme 'Old Peoples Home for 4-year olds'

West Sussex Library Service

I was particularly impressed by the amount of resources provided by the Library for people with dementia or memory impairment, including:

Reminiscence packs – they currently have 200 packs available on a variety of themes, including sports, gardening, WW2. Although East Preston doesn't stock these, they can be ordered and available the next day.

Memory Management Library Card – No fines will be charged if books returned late and it is free to borrow audiobooks with this card.

Pictures to share. Books are for family, friends and carers to share with people with dementia. A variety of media can be attached to photographs to aid memory

Home Library Direct. If a person with dementia or their carer is unable to visit the library, volunteers can select, deliver and return the library books to people.

I came away feeling encouraged that there is a lot of information and increasing resources for people with dementia. However, my concern would centre on how this information is more readily made available to the public. To illustrate this point, information on this forum was not readily available.

Cllr Pat Gander

28th May 2018

Agenda Item 20

Co-option of new councillors

With effect from 1st May, the council had two vacancies. The notice for the second vacancy was published on 1st May. Residents had until 21st May to request a by-election. Confirmation was received from Arun District Council on 22nd May, "I can confirm that we have not received a request for a by-election so you are now free to co-opt" [both vacancies].

An article has been published in the Spring 2018 Newsletter asking for people to come forward if they are interested in applying to be co-opted to the council for the remainder of the current term, i.e. until May 2019. More publicity of the vacancies can now follow.

If a closing date of 21st June is set for receipt of applications, council could co-opt at the July Full Council meeting. No councillor objected to this timescale at the last meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

29th May 2018

Appendix A

Annual Financial Matters – Accounts for year-ending 31st March 2018

Council is asked to approve the accounts for the year-ending 31st March 2018.

East Preston Parish Council Income and Expenditure Account For the year ended 31 March 2018

Year ended 31 March 2017		Year ended 31 March 2018
	INCOME	
216,258.00	Precept (+ ADC Council Tax Base Grant 2016/17 only)	234,773.12
7,810.00	Rent income (Property: 124 Sea Rd)	8,205.00
2,453.91	Rent income (Sports) - Parish Council	2,000.00
2,929.30	Other income (Amenities & Admin)	858.39
3,833.04	Community Engagement	5,656.02
0.00	WRG Trust Income (inc Sports & V/Hall Rent)	23,088.01
0.00	Reversal of School Crossing Accrual 31 March 2017	7,467.50
(300.00)	Write-off - 2015/16 Debtor - GT Railway	0.00
0.00	AoSERA Street Lighting	2,863.65
(63.58)	AoSERA - Unpaid VAT	(229.49)
0.00	Village Green Parking income	505.83
2,725.68	Bank interest received	3,356.32
<u>235,646.35</u>	TOTAL INCOME	<u>288,544.35</u>
	EXPENDITURE	
(26,182.23)	General Administration	(35,816.27)
(66,716.81)	Staff Costs (Salaries, Officer Training & Travel, VO Clothing/Supplies)	(58,937.41)
(967.09)	Property Costs - 124 Sea Rd	(1,178.71)
(4,400.00)	Grant Aid Section 137 & Section 142	(2,050.00)
(1,501.95)	Donations/ Contributions	(1,523.30)
(49,122.54)	Amenities	(44,638.18)
(570.27)	Street Lighting	(3,340.19)
2,354.00	Write-off - 2015/16 Creditor - ADC Bins	0.00
0.00	WRG Trust Total Expenditure	(23,088.01)
(8,488.01)	Annual Contingency Budget	(2,522.93)
0.00	General reserve	(75,000.00)
(17,390.90)	Community Engagement	(18,578.58)
(12,660.43)	Loan capital repayment	(13,130.62)
(2,393.69)	Loan interest	(1,923.50)
<u>(188,039.92)</u>	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	<u>(281,727.70)</u>
<u>47,606.43</u>	TOTAL NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	<u>6,816.65</u>
	GENERAL FUND	
156,888.57	Balance 1 April	185,270.68
47,606.43	Total net Income after interest	6,816.65
<u>204,495.00</u>	Balance before transfers	<u>192,087.33</u>
	Transfers to/ (from) Reserves	
5,775.68	Operation Watershed	0.00
0.00	Village Improvement Fund	20,000.00
0.00	EP Youth Provision	5,000.00
(25,000.00)	Lashmar Rd MUGA	50,000.00
0.00	School Crossing Patrol	(7,500.00)
0.00	WRG Trust Sea Road Toilets Refurbishment	(14,299.16)
0.00	Parish Shopfront	(1,605.00)
0.00	Village Clock	(1,000.00)
0.00	Receptions	(300.00)
<u>185,270.68</u>	Balance 31 March	<u>242,383.17</u>

**East Preston Parish Council
Balance Sheet
as at 31 March 2018**

Year ended 31 March 2017		Year ended 31 March 2018
	CURRENT ASSETS	
225.00	Debtors	54.00
50.00	Prepayments	0.00
6,307.82	VAT recoverable	4,389.26
309,838.88	Cash & Bank	320,061.18
<u>316,421.70</u>		<u>324,504.44</u>
	CURRENT LIABILITIES	
(631.30)	Creditors	(9,060.89)
(13,443.50)	Accruals	(6,280.00)
<u>(14,074.80)</u>		<u>(15,340.89)</u>
<u>302,346.90</u>	NET ASSETS	<u>309,163.55</u>
	Represented by	
185,270.68	General Fund	242,383.17
62,076.22	Village Improvement Fund	42,076.22
5,000.00	EP Youth Provision	0.00
50,000.00	Lashmar Rd MUGA	0.00
	School Crossing Patrol	7,500.00
	WRG Trust Sea Road Toilets Refurbishment	14,299.16
	Parish Shopfront	1,605.00
	Village Clock	1,000.00
	Receptions	300.00
<u>302,346.90</u>		<u>309,163.55</u>

The above statement fairly represents the financial position of the authority and reflects its income and expenditure for the year.

**Signed
Chairman**

RFO

Date

Annual Financial Matters – Annual Return for year- ending 31st March 2018

Council is asked to agree Sections 1 and 2 of the Annual Return for the year-ending 31st March 2018 can be signed by the Chairman and the Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer.

Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2017/18

We acknowledge as the members of:

EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2018, that:

	Agreed		'Yes' means that this authority:
	Yes	No*	
1. We have put in place arrangements for effective financial management during the year, and for the preparation of the accounting statements.	✓		<i>prepared its accounting statements in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations.</i>
2. We maintained an adequate system of internal control including measures designed to prevent and detect fraud and corruption and reviewed its effectiveness.	✓		<i>made proper arrangements and accepted responsibility for safeguarding the public money and resources in its charge.</i>
3. We took all reasonable steps to assure ourselves that there are no matters of actual or potential non-compliance with laws, regulations and Proper Practices that could have a significant financial effect on the ability of this authority to conduct its business or manage its finances.	✓		<i>has only done what it has the legal power to do and has complied with Proper Practices in doing so.</i>
4. We provided proper opportunity during the year for the exercise of electors' rights in accordance with the requirements of the Accounts and Audit Regulations.	✓		<i>during the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to inspect and ask questions about this authority's accounts.</i>
5. We carried out an assessment of the risks facing this authority and took appropriate steps to manage those risks, including the introduction of internal controls and/or external insurance cover where required.	✓		<i>considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.</i>
6. We maintained throughout the year an adequate and effective system of internal audit of the accounting records and control systems.	✓		<i>arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority</i>
7. We took appropriate action on all matters raised in reports from internal and external audit.	✓		<i>responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.</i>
8. We considered whether any litigation, liabilities or commitments, events or transactions, occurring either during or after the year-end, have a financial impact on this authority and, where appropriate, have included them in the accounting statements.	✓		<i>disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.</i>
9. (For local councils only) Trust funds including charitable. In our capacity as the sole managing trustee we discharged our accountability responsibilities for the fund(s)/assets, including financial reporting and, if required, independent examination or audit.	Yes ✓	No	N/A <i>has met all of its responsibilities where it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.</i>

*Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response. Describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified.

This Annual Governance Statement is approved by this authority and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

dated DATE/TIME

Signed by the Chairman and Clerk of the meeting where approval is given:

Chairman SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Clerk SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Other information required by the Transparency Codes (not part of Annual Governance Statement)
 Authority web address

AUTHORITY WEBSITE ADDRESS

Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2017/18 for

EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL
ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance
	31 March 2017 £	31 March 2018 £	
1. Balances brought forward	254740	302346	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	211789	234773	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.
3. (+) Total other receipts	23857	53771	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.
4. (-) Staff costs	-66717	-58937	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include salaries and wages, PAYE and NI (employees and employers), pension contributions and employment expenses.
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	-15054	-15054	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).
6. (-) All other payments	-106269	-207736	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cashbook less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).
7. (=) Balances carried forward	302346	309163	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	309839	320061	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March – To agree with bank reconciliation.
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	1040581	1112615	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.
10. Total borrowings	55522	42391	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).
11. (For Local Councils Only) Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	Yes	No	The Council acts as sole trustee for and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
	✓		N.B. The figures in the accounting statements above do not include any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2018 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return present fairly the financial position of this authority and its income and expenditure, or properly present receipts and payments, as the case may be.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

DD/MM/YY

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YY

and recorded as minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chairman of the meeting where approval of the Accounting Statements is given

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Annual Internal Audit Report 2017/18

EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

This authority's internal auditor, acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with relevant procedures and controls to be in operation **during** the financial year ended 31 March 2018.

The internal audit for 2017/18 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Agreed? Please choose one of the following		
	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	✓		
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	✓		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	✓		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	✓		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	✓		
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	✓		
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	✓		
I. Periodic and year-end bank account reconciliations were properly carried out.	✓		
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	✓		

K. (For local councils only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
	Trust funds (including charitable) – The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.	✓	

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

17/05/2018

RACHEL HALL (ACA)

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

Rachel Hall

Date

17/05/2018

*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

**Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned, or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

Agenda Item 16

Annual Parish Meeting

Council is asked to note the draft Minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting which was held on 21st May.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - EAST PRESTON

21st May 2018

The Annual Parish Meeting at East Preston duly convened and held this day at the East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston.

Present: Parish Councillors Barbara Gale, Pat Gander, Rick McElroy, David Moore, Danny Shah, Steve Toney (in the Chair) and Steve Wilkinson

West Sussex County Councillor Roger Elkins (East Kingston and Ferring)

Arun District Councillors Ricky Bower and Terry Chapman (East Preston with Kingston)

Martha Pusey, Dementia Support

Members of the Public: Celeste Amoo, Linda Denton, David Gander, Pauline and Malcolm McLelland and Jennifer Wallace

Clerk to the Council: Simon Cross

Apologies: Parish Councillors Christine Bowman, Lisa Duff, Elizabeth Linton and Glyn Mathias

The Chairman of the Council, Councillor Steve Toney, opened the meeting at 19:02, and thanked and welcomed those attending. Those present agreed the meeting need not run in the order of the published agenda.

APM2018/01 - To receive a presentation on dementia awareness

Martha Pusey started by explaining she no longer worked for Age UK but as of a fortnight ago, she worked for Dementia Support from its new “dementia hub” at Sage House, Tangmere. Martha thanked the council for giving her this opportunity, at the beginning of Dementia Awareness Week, to give a short talk to the Annual Parish Meeting.

Currently, 1 in 3 people could develop dementia and that risk is increasing; eventually everyone could be at risk of developing dementia. Dementia is no longer about old people; the youngest person to have been diagnosed with dementia was 32. Experts are beginning to understand there is also a children’s version of dementia and this has been seen in 5-year-olds.

Dementia Awareness week is just one initiative to try and remove the fear and stigma attached to dementia, which is an umbrella term for about 150 brain diseases, the most common of which is Alzheimer’s Disease. There are still many negative connotations in the public domain, for example some media still refers to those with dementia as “the living dead.” There is no known cure for dementia and even regular news articles about eating more or less of this, drinking more or less of that are just stabs in the dark.

Dementia affects different people in different ways. For some, even the simplest everyday tasks can become a minefield. Even something as mundane as making a cup of tea has, when broken down, about fifty separate steps from having the initial thirsty thought to sitting down and not forgetting to drink the tea you have made.

For anyone with concerns about any relatives, Martha suggested keeping a log of concerns and then speak to a GP. GPs are more dementia-aware now and much more open and helpful. With the right care and support people with dementia can live well.

Dementia Support is one of a number of organisations working to make Arun a dementia-friendly community wherein residents are more aware of dementia and better able to work with it. Martha said Arun District Council had been wonderful receptive to this idea and all customer-facing staff had recently undertaken relevant training. Dementia Support offers a one-hour session on becoming a Dementia Friend. Businesses and other local organisations are all being encouraged to take part.

Diagnosis rate in West Sussex at the moment is really bad with diagnoses taking up to 18 months. With new facilities open at Sage House in Tangmere, it is hoped to cut diagnosis time down to about two weeks.

In addition to assessment facilities, Sage House has a community café and a range of drop-in activities. These have to be funded by the user but the cost per session is based upon what the user can afford. Dementia Support's work at the moment is currently all funded by fundraising. From an outreach perspective, the organisation works really closely with other local organisations such as Coastal MIND, Age UK, GuildCare, local councils, Clinical Commissioning Groups and so on.

Currently, Dementia Support's catchment area is from The Witterings north to Midhurst and from Littlehampton west into the eastern part of Hampshire. Although Sage House has only been open for a couple of weeks, already people in Surrey are getting in touch about whether their relatives can practically attend sessions there.

In response to a question about night-time care for those with dementia, Martha suggested relatives contact locally-based care agencies which were likely to be able to provide support. There may be cost implications but that would depend upon the assessment made by social services.

More information on Sage House and its activities can be found on the Dementia Support website () and interested people can self-refer if necessary. Informational visits to Sage House were welcomed.

As there were no further questions, Martha again thanked those present and left the meeting.

APM2018/02 - To receive a report from the West Sussex County councillor representing East Preston.

County Cllr Roger Elkins started by saying he had attended last year's meeting as a member of the public but was now here as the village's representative on West Sussex County Council (WSSC). Cllr Elkins gave some commentary on the roles he has assumed since becoming a County Councillor.

High on the County Council's achievements within the village in the past year had been the fantastic expansion project at both East Preston Infant and Junior Schools. This should be seen as a great investment in the future of East Preston.

As a member of the WSSC Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, Cllr Elkins had overseen several grants to organisations working in East Preston over the year.

Cllr Elkins is a firm believer in the value of libraries in the centre of communities. The WSSC Library Service is running more events and training sessions to keep members of the public familiar with latest technologies available from and in libraries. Libraries have a role to play in tackling social isolation and Cllr Elkins said we could expect to see more services running out of libraries in the future.

Cllr Elkins reported he had joined an East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast earlier in the month. The meeting had been very enjoyable and underlined what a vibrant community there is in East Preston.

Like all public sector organisations, WSSC was facing financial challenges. The Leader of the County Council, Cllr Louise Goldsmith, was undertaking a biennial survey of local residents under the What Matters to You 2018 banner.

Previous versions of the survey had identified certain priorities for the county and Cllr Goldsmith hoped the latest survey would fine tune those priorities further.

On the day before the meeting, Cllr Elkins had joined a Parish Council-organised working party to spruce-up East Preston library. The working party had included parish councillors Toney and Wilkinson and the Clerk and a handful of very handy local residents. The library looked much better as a result of their efforts and Cllr Elkins felt this had been a great example of what communities could do together when they tried.

Cllr Elkins finished his presentation by saying East Preston was a fantastic local community with a fantastic Parish Council and councillors and an excellent Clerk who was keeping him informed.

In response to a question about the standard of pothole repairs, Cllr Elkins said he was aware people were concerned some potholes seemed to need to be repaired within a matter of weeks of having been repaired. He reassured the meeting such revisit repairs were done at the contractor's expense, so no cost to ratepayers but he accepted that was not really the point. WSCC had been given £1.2m from a central government pothole fund and this had helped WSCC repair 8,500 potholes in the first four months of this year compared to 14,000 for the whole of 2017.

In response to a comment grass-cutting was "appalling", Cllr Elkins defended the county council's contractors who were having to cope with a sudden growth spurt along the county's verges with reduced resources. Perhaps the What Matters to You 2018 survey was an opportunity for the public to influence WSCC thinking of grass-cutting around the county.

There being no further questions for Cllr Elkins, he apologised and left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.

APM2018/03 - To receive a report from the Arun District councillors representing East Preston.

District Cllr Bower started by thanking the parish council for its work in the village over the past year.

He explained the new Local Plan, which has taken twelve years to author because of pressure for ever greater housing numbers, was now close to adoption. He was hopeful adoption would take place in July. Once the new Local Plan is in place, all made Neighbourhood Plans in the district will need to be assessed for compliance with the Local Plan. His gut feeling was the East Preston Neighbourhood Plan was probably going to be all right.

Cllr Bower explained the current process for referring Householder Planning Applications to the Arun District Council (ADC) Development Control Committee and how this had not been in place when a certain Planning Application had been granted Planning Permission in May of 2017. This particular Planning Permission was under threat of Judicial Review although he personally did not believe there was a case to answer.

District Cllr Chapman started by advising the meeting his comments were more by way of observations than a formal report.

ADC had recently extended its contract with Age UK for running services out of The Laurels in Rustington, amongst other locations. This was good news for the older residents of East Preston as The Laurels was so much more readily accessible than The Tamarisk Centre in Littlehampton had been in the past.

Party Houses were causing grief in the area again and currently there was no ADC strategy for how to control these. A small number of residents were finding, after up to forty years of quiet enjoyment of their property, they were suddenly living next to a Party House and enduring noisy, disrupted weekends.

East Preston had always been blessed by a high level of neighbourliness with plenty of societies keeping plenty of people occupied and entertained across the village. This had been deteriorating lately – party houses was an example – and a further example of this deterioration was the number of East Preston societies struggling recently because people have been subjected to personal verbal, and in one instance, physical abuse from disgruntled society members. Where were East Preston manners?

Without wishing to dismiss concerns about inconsiderate dog-fouling, Cllr Chapman asked for some leniency towards elderly and infirm dog-owners who literally may be physically incapable of picking up after their dogs. Those same dogs are often a lifeline for their owners, providing invaluable companionship.

Mrs McLelland said she had noticed often it was people walking along chatting being unaware of what their dog was up to behind them and joggers who did not clear up after their dogs.

Cllr Chapman repeated his comments about grass-cutting in the St Mary the Virgin churchyard made at the Full Council meeting on 14th May. The contractors had a large amount of work to get through and the contract for closed churchyards was very specific and maybe not as extensive as members of the public might have hoped.

Cllr Chapman praised the “superb commitment” of the parish council in providing a youth service in the village following the sudden withdrawal of WSCC youth provision in the village a few years ago. The council had contracted the services of the very dedicated Arun Community Charge and the Youth Club’s management committee could not function without the great commitment of the council’s Assistant Clerk, Tracy Khoo. For those not aware, the Youth Club had recently started a second night on Tuesdays in the Conservative Hall to complement the Friday nights in the old Youth Centre building between the two school buildings.

Various local agencies have started to work together as a Local Community Network addressing health and wellbeing issues across the county. The Clerk said the parish council’s Community Engagement Committee had agreed Cllr Gander could liaise with the Local Community Network but so far his emails to the contact he had been given had gone unanswered.

Cllr Chapman said the local parish councils and the district councillors were keeping the westbound slip-road off the A259 on the agenda now WSCC had said it would not provide this much-needed slip-road. He and Cllr Bower had asked for a meeting with the WSCC Cabinet Minister for Highways, Cllr Bob Lanzer.

Cllr Chapman asked the parish council to give some consideration, in due course, to attempting to include the area between Station Road and the A280, south of the A259, currently within Angmering Parish Council’s boundary. With recent and planned boundary changes, such a move would align the area better through the various tiers of central and local government.

Cllr Chapman ended by thanking the parish councillors who “really do a good job in sometimes adverse circumstances” and the Clerk and Assistant Clerk for doing “a fantastic job on the council’s behalf.”

In response to a request for an update on the future of the South Strand toilet block, Cllr Chapman said he was aware members of the public were assuming the parish council’s decision not to renew its lease on the toilet block after 31st March 2019 meant automatic closure by ADC. This had indeed been the situation when discussed at an ADC Full Council meeting on 11th January 2017 but was not necessarily the case now. He and Cllr Bower were carrying out some consultation and meeting with senior ADC officers to look at options before then calling a public meeting. The block does require some capital investment for which ADC had not budgeted and there will also be future running costs of course but the situation is not as bleak as some have portrayed.

In response to a question of why infrastructure only seems to be provided after housing in the UK whereas in Europe, infrastructure is provided first, Cllr Bower explained there was a trigger system on money from developers. For example, a trigger may be set at a certain number of houses in a development have to have been built or occupied before a developer has to pay a financial agreement. Mr McLelland added developers in the past had said early payment of money for infrastructure projects left them with a cashflow problem.

Cllrs Chapman and Bower left at the end of this item.

APM2018/04 - To confirm the Minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 18th April 2016

The Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 24th April 2017 were signed by the Chairman as a correct record, proposed by Cllr David Moore. There were no objections.

These Minutes had previously been noted by the Parish Council at its meeting held on 8th May 2017, Parish Council Minute 327/17.

APM2018/05 - To receive the Annual Report of the East Preston Parish Council

Cllr Toney advised the Annual Report had been included in the Spring 2018 Newsletter which had been being distributed across the village since the weekend of 12th May. As such did anyone want the report read to the meeting. It was agreed nobody needed the report to be read to the meeting.

The report, as included in the Spring 2018 Newsletter, read:

“Here is the council’s Annual Report for the past financial year.

“Although the council has had to face some major challenges and changes in the past few months, overall the year was another successful one for the council’s activities in the village.

“As part of East Preston Festival, the council ran a successful Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event. Attendance was down on 2016, primarily because the weather was unwelcoming. The event will be running again this year, 7th June, because councillors enjoy meeting you face-to-face and learning what you like about the village and what could be improved. Two attempts to bring Owls About Town into the village for an event on the Village Green failed because of poor weather. We shall try again this year.

“Each year, the council puts on two flagship events. In August, we held the second East Preston Food & Drink Festival which built on the success of the first with more stalls and more importantly more people attending and enjoying the afternoon. We will hold the Food & Drink Festival again this year, on Saturday, 25th August between midday and 5pm on the Village Green. Please pop the date in your diary now.

“In November, we held the fourth Christmas Celebrations event in its current format. This is a big, wide-ranging and successful event for a small village and is enjoyed by lots of you, yet it is a difficult event for the council to arrange as the village has two shopping areas and trying to link the two together each year is no mean task. The event is also run with only a very small team of community volunteers – if you would like to join in, please get in touch with the Council Office.

“In February, the council ran a playscheme for younger children, in conjunction with Bee-Fit. Attendance numbers were good, feedback was positive and the council is hoping to run similar events during the coming Autumn and Spring half-terms.

“The council is proud to have provided the new Multi-Use Games Area at the Lashmar Recreation Ground. This is free to use and will hopefully provide entertainment and exercise for people of all ages. Thank you to the residents who contributed extra financial support to this project. The Warren Recreation Ground improvements project has continued and been well-received by many. Further improvements will need to sit in abeyance for a short while as some of the other council projects, such as improvements to the Sea Road toilet block, reach a critical stage. Last summer and autumn, the council trialled improved access to the beach at the bottom of Sea Road. This was appreciated by many and the council is still working on providing a permanent form of improved access to the beach there.

“The council was sad to see Slater’s Cottage at 3 The Street disappear after about 150 years. Campaigns to have the building listed failed as it was not deemed sufficiently interesting or unusual to be saved. Alongside interested groups of residents the council’s Planning & Licensing Committee also fought in vain not to have Tudor Lodge in Sea Road replaced by a block of seven properties and not to have a new property built in a Vermont Drive back garden.

“Financially, the council has been careful with your money whilst still working to improve life in the village. The council’s independent internal and external auditors both raised no concerns about the management of the council.

“It will never be possible to please every one of you, but the positive comments we receive throughout the year outweigh the negative. The main negative for some of you this year was the introduction of charging for use of the Village Green car-park. This was never going to be something all of you welcomed but the council is pleased to see usage of the car park is increasing again.

“The council is approachable and willing to consider ideas you have for ways in which life in the village can be improved. Such suggestions are best submitted in writing so the correct committee can consider them or our officers can report on previous discussions on the same matter. We look forward to hearing your ideas and hopefully implementing some of them to make the village even lovelier.”

APM2018/06 - To consider any written resolutions received by the council no later than 14th May 2018

The Clerk to the Council confirmed no such resolutions had been received.

APM2018/07 – Public question time.

Cllr Toney opened the meeting up to members of the public to have their say on any matter affecting East Preston.

Mrs McLelland said she had seen the Clerk photographing the fig tree outside East Preston & Kingston Village Hall, was something bad going to happen to it? The Clerk responded he had been photographing the new growth on the tree as some residents had expressed concern when the tree had been pollarded last year. Despite the new growth now appearing at the very top of the tree, there was still some concern the tree might yet not flourish and comments the council must replace the tree if it did not flourish.

Mrs Wallace read the following statement to the meeting:

“May I remind everyone that in [Full Council] Minute 874/15, Resolution 0958 in December 2015, Full Council resolved to pursue the matter of the Millennium Wall hanging and I quote “with the intention of seeing the Millennium Wall-hanging reinstated in its previous location with in the East Preston & Kingston Village Hall, because the wall-hanging is part of East Preston’s heritage and is of great importance to many residents.” This resolution still stands but has not been realised.

“The positioning of the Collage in the Library is temporary made clear by a notice placed alongside it. The question of “until when” needs to be answered by the Parish Council and the Village Hall Committee who are joint Trustees of the Foundation.

“The Warren Recreation Ground, which includes the Village Hall, was bequeathed to the residents of East Preston and we believe we have every right to have our concerns and wishes considered and should not be flagrantly ignored by a very small group of people who seem to consider themselves “arbiters of taste”, accountable to no one.

“Since Spring of 2015 the Village Hall Committee has seen the reaction to the removal without consent of the Wall-hanging and been aware of the opinion of the Parish Council. Now we sincerely hope that in the near future there can be sensible and amicable discussion resulting in a fair conclusion.”

Mrs Amoo concurred and asked whether many people had contacted the council following the last Annual Parish Meeting to say they had visited the library and their thoughts on the wall-hanging being in the library. The Clerk replied there had been some initial positive comments when the wall-hanging had been installed but he could not say whether these had been as a result of the Annual Parish Meeting. Mrs Amoo said the wall-hanging was part of the cultural heritage of the village as was the Village Hall and these needed better stewardship for future generations.

Mrs Amoo said there had been an increase in litter and general untidiness around the village. Only the day before the meeting she had been around just part of the village with a litter pick and had collected a binbag’s worth of litter ranging from sweet wrappers to beer bottles to unused condoms and a pair of tights. Cllr Gander replied there had been some informal discussion between councillors on just this subject and it would be discussed formally at a future Community Engagement Committee meeting although she could not say when. Cllr McElroy reported the council’s Finance & General Purposes Committee had met that morning and had agreed its Grant Aid grants for 2018. One of these was to the local Scout troupe and as part of the grant, the troupe would be asked to propose some form of village litter-picking event. There following some discussion about the value of education of all ages in this matter.

With no further questions forthcoming, Cllr Toney closed the meeting at 20:47 and invited those present to join the council for a drink and less formal conversation.

(end)