



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held on Monday, 4th March 2019 at the East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston at 19:00.

PRESENT: Councillors Christine Bowman, Andrea Chapman, Lisa Duff, Barbara Gale, Pat Gander, Elizabeth Linton, Glyn Mathias, Rick McElroy, David Moore, Steve Toney (Chairman) and Steve Wilkinson

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

County Councillor Roger Elkins (until 19:13)

District Councillor Terry Chapman (until 19:13)

ABSENT: Councillor Danny Shah

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The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;
BTP – British Transport Police;
JEAAC – Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee;
NHS – National Health Service;
CPRE – Campaign for the Protection of Rural England

NR – Network Rail;
SSALC – Sussex and Surrey Associations of Local Councils;
VHF – East Preston & Kingston Village Hall Foundation;
WSCC – West Sussex County Council;

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The meeting opened at 19:00.

187/19 INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Toney welcomed those present and explained some items of meeting protocol.

188/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence had been received and was accepted from Cllr Shah.

An apology had also been received from Mrs Dorothy Lee.

189/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

190/19 EAST PRESTON YOUTH CLUB

The council had been due to receive a presentation from Ben Young, Service Manager at Arun Youth Projects which runs the East Preston Youth Club on behalf of its management committee. Mr Young had sent his apologies at lunchtime on the day of the meeting as he was too unwell to attend. The Clerk had sent Mr Young the council's best wishes.

191/19 PUBLIC SESSION

No members of the public were present.

192/19 COUNCIL RESPONSES

There were no public comments for councillors to respond to.

193/19 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

County Cllr Elkins explained the WSCC budget had actually only been approved on 15th February and was unchanged from what the Clerk had written in the Minutes of the last meeting.

Cllr Elkins thanked the Clerk for adding WSCC press releases to the council's website and sometimes into emails to residents.

West Sussex Fire & Rescue Service was still recruiting on-call firefighters.

WSCC was promoting more online reporting and it was now possible to request birth, death and marriage certificates online and even to book a registrar.

Cllr Elkins reported on a meeting held in the Council Office with selected residents of Sea Road concerning the parking problems in the area. The meeting was additionally attended by Cllr Toney, District Cllr Chapman and WSCC Highways Officer, Rob Torrance. The meeting decided there was scope for the Parish Council to show its support more explicitly for any proposals; although not previously mentioned, this will help the scheme's score when it comes before JEAAC.

There was a follow-on meeting with just Cllr Elkins, Cllr Toney, Mr Torrance and Mr Cross. This had discussed short-term options at Roundstone Level Crossing. This was reported at item 12 of the Clerk's Report to this meeting. Cllr Elkins said he was waiting to see what suggestions Mr Torrance came back with.

In response to a question from Cllr Linton, Cllr Elkins said Mr Torrance was aware of the traffic management consultation carried out by this council in 2015. However, WSCC was still saying it would not consider the consultation proposals further until after the dualling of the A259 had completed.

In response to a question from District Cllr Bower, Cllr Elkins said Mr Torrance was working on defining the lines of communication between WSCC and BTP.

194/19 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Cllr Bower advised the meeting ADC was very much in an end-of-term state.

Cllr Bower understood the Judicial Review being sought on the Planning Application for an M&S food hall on the Roundstone by-pass had now been dropped.

Cllr Bower also understood ADC would not be asking new homeowners to make up for the S106 money lost when the developer of ten houses in Aldwick went bust before the S106 money had been paid to ADC.

Asked about the Judicial Review local residents had sought concerning the granting of Planning Permission EP/45/17/HH for a property in Beechlands Close, Cllr Bower said he did not know the current status.

(District Cllr Bower and County Cllr Elkins left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

195/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2019

The draft Minutes had been circulated on 7th February asking for comments by 14th February.

1286 The Council **RESOLVED** the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 4th February.

This action was completed.

196/19 UPDATE ON MATTERS IN THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Council NOTED the following report, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting, without comment:

Monthly Update Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Minute 911/17 – Clerk’s Report, item 6 – Postbox outside the Council Office, 10th November [2017]**
3. **Minute 812/17 – Audit & Governance Committee – boundary review**
4. **Minute 015/19 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Precept for 2019/20**
5. **Minute 119/19 – West Sussex County Council**
6. **Minute 131/19 – New items for the next meeting (4th March 2019)**

1. **Introduction**

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 4th February 2019.

2. **Minute 911/17 – Clerk’s Report, item 6 – Postbox outside the Council Office, 10th November [2017]**

The personalised sheet giving details of collection times was installed on about the 12th February. The day-of-the-week indicator is still absent.

3. **Minute 812/17 – Audit & Governance Committee – boundary review**

Jackie Follis at ADC contacted both East Preston and Angmering Parish Councils on 14th January asking both councils to “set out the detail of your proposal/objection” before 1st March. I have drafted a response in conjunction with Cllrs Toney and Linton and this has also been past District Cllrs Bower and Chapman for comment. This letter will be sent on 26th February.

4. **Minute 015/19 – Finance & General Purposes Committee – Precept for 2019/20**

The council received an email on 13th February, as follows:

“Morning Simon. Thanks for the newsletter that was delivered yesterday. [...] Council Tax 2019/20: I must remark that I cannot recollect getting any e-mail asking for comments about the Tax, and as only member responded, methinks that the greater number of us didn’t, or thought that passing opinions about it were, basically, contra-productive! After so many consecutive years when councils tried to out-do each other by freezing Council Taxes, we end up having to hike rates high to make up the short-fall! Everybody expects the rates to rise each year to maintain the rising costs of everything. Just keep those rises reasonable and, most particularly, affordable! [...] Keep up the good work!”

I looked at the report MailChimp produces for each e-newsletter and was able to confirm 544 subscribers opened the email, the correspondent included.

5. Minute 119/19 – West Sussex County Council

County Cllr Elkins met with four residents of Sea Road – Mr and Mrs Sharp, Mrs Forster and Mr Doyle to talk about parking in the area adjacent to the Village Green and south. Cllr Elkins included his WSCC colleague, Rob Torrance in the meeting together with District Cllr Chapman and Cllr Toney.

6. Minute 131/19 – New items for the next meeting (4th March 2019)

As members will have read in Minute 157/19, Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 18th February, SSALC confirmed it was possible to offer a reward for information leading to a conviction as long as that reward was proportionate to the value of any damage done. I contacted CrimeStoppers for additional information, as suggested by SSALC, but no response has been received. The committee has agreed to offer a reward in similar circumstances in future, the value of the reward would be agreed electronically at the time of the incident.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2019

Minute 911/17 – Clerk's Report, item 6 – Postbox outside the Council Office, 10th November [2017] – the Clerk did not believe a day-of-the-week tag had yet been provided.

197/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Accounts for February 2019 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

- 1287** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2018/19, value £3,240.84 (excl. VAT).
- 1288** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the Supplier Non BACS Invoices Paid report for February 2019, totalling £382.54 (incl. VAT).
- 1289** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid report for February 2019 totalling £18,149.19 (incl. VAT).
- 1290** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report, showing £287,183.03 (incl. VAT) for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

The council NOTED the paper Bank Reconciliations to 14th February 2019. Cllr Mathias had completed a bank reconciliation in the week before the meeting.

The council NOTED the to-date Income & Expenditure Summary for 2018/19.

The Chairman thanked the council's Book-keeper, Mrs Khoo, for her work on the above reports.

198/19 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The council NOTED the following reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Committees

Since the last meeting, the following committee meetings have taken place: Finance & General Purposes on 18th February, Major Events on 25th February and Planning & Licensing on 4th, 11th and 25th February.

Draft Minutes from all these meetings are likely to have been circulated by the time of this meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2019

Amenities Committee

Two tenders have now been received relating to the Sea Road toilet refurbishment structural work; a third company has still to submit a tender. A meeting is to be scheduled with Lauren Willard to discuss the tenders further before they are presented to the Amenities Committee meeting in March.

The progress on the installation of the Solar lighting around the MUGA has been slow. It is proving difficult locating the correct poles/method of installation which adheres to safety regulations. Tracy has suggested the lights might be affixed to existing flood-lighting poles and ADC have been contacted to seek agreement and for any advice on installing the lighting correctly.

The beach access work continues, the application forms have been submitted - this will be a lengthy process to complete the registration on the Definitive Map.

Dawn Reid – **Assistant Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2019

Community Engagement Committee

The relevant paperwork for the Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event was submitted to the East Preston Festival Committee before the closing date of 14th February.

The Fitness and Fun 2 playscheme on 19th February was the best-selling yet.

Tennis coaching dates of Fridays 5th, 12th and 19th July.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2019

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The committee met on 18th February. Draft Minutes have been circulated to all councillors.

The committee agreed to grant the whole £1,000 budget line to any constituted body which takes on the running of the South Strand toilets. The committee deferred any decision about future grants until after the Local Elections in May, in case there are new councillors who have different views.

The committee agreed to award the East Preston Festival Committee up to £2,000 to cover its insurance premium for the coming year and to sponsor a children's event during Festival week. Final figures will be provided by the Festival Committee once available. The council's agreed budget for 2019/20 has £2,000 in its Festival budget line.

The council considered quotations received for decorating the exterior of the Council Office. A quotation was accepted from a village-based businessman and work will take place in the spring.

As mentioned above, the committee agreed the council could offer a reward for information leading to a conviction following any future incidents against the council. The amount of the reward would be agreed electronically by committee members at the time.

The committee agreed a recommendation concerning cctv, see Agenda Item 13a below.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

22nd February 2019

Major Events Committee

The committee met on 25th February and agreed the initial line-up for the fourth Food & Drink Festival, due to take place on 24th August. The line-up again includes some much-loved, previous attendees together with new attendees. The committee also agreed to expand into the car-park again and has agreed four businesses to go there.

The committee considered quotations received from caterers for the end-of-term event on 12th April. Invitations for this were mainly sent out on 20th February, from a list compiled by the office and reviewed and amended by committee members. The response has been very positive.

There was little to discuss about the Christmas Celebrations event. Petworth Town Band has been booked to be the main musical attraction outdoors. Booking forms for stalls at the Village Hall had been sent out on the 25th February and will be subject to the same post-closing date selection process as the Food & Drink Festival bookings.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th February 2019

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met on 4th, 11th and 25th February. The draft Minutes from these meetings will have been circulated by the time of this meeting.

The meeting on the 4th was solely to consider some plans received relating to 1, Tamarisk Way, EP/186/18/HH as the initially-received plans were lacking in some important details. The committee agreed to raise objections to this proposal.

Two building and two tree Applications were considered on the 11th. The two tree Applications were both referred to the ADC arboriculturist and the committee raised no objections to the other two Applications.

A further two Applications were considered on the 25th, and no objections were raised to either.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th February 2019

Additionally:

Amenities Committee – Chairman Cllr McElroy reported the committee was scheduled to meet on 18th March. He was hopeful for a meeting with the council's architect, Mrs Willard, about the Sea Road toilet block before that meeting. A second quotation had now been received for consideration.

Audit & Governance Committee – Chairman Cllr Mathias advised the committee was scheduled to meet on 11th March.

Major Events Committee – Chairman Cllr Linton reported the committee was having a meeting on Wednesday, 13th March to consider any matters relating to the end-of-term party being held on 12th April.

The Clerk reminded the meeting the end-of-term party was falling during the pre-election purdah period. Although there was nothing in law about purdah, the end-of-term party was not to be used to promote candidates. The focus of the event was entirely on thanking those local residents who have helped the council over the past four years.

There were no updates for the other four committees.

199/19 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – CCTV PROVISION

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

Finance & General Purposes Committee – cctv

Cllr Wilkinson, as Vice-Chairman of this committee, to introduce this item.

Council is asked to agree the remainder of this year's Contingency budget line is ring-fenced towards the costs of cctv.

Each year, the council has a Contingency budget line as there are often unexpected expenditures that simply could not have been predicted or planned for. This is usually set at £10,000. At the time of writing, just under £3,000 of the budget line has been spent this year on matters as varied as new doors and frames for the South Strand toilet block, the blue plaque for Far End and its unveiling reception, Silent Soldiers and advertising the Assistant Clerk to the Council role.

The committee is recommending to Full Council the remainder of this year's Contingency budget line, at the end of the financial year, is ring-fenced in the council's reserves towards the costs of cctv in 2019/20.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

25th February 2019

Cllr Wilkinson explained the background.

There was some discussion about the likely cost of a cctv installation but this was not yet known. Cllr McElroy felt the approximately £7,000 proposed to be ring-fenced from this year's Contingency budget line could well be enough, but until discussions with suppliers started, it was difficult to say. There was a definite feeling any provision must include a maintenance package.

Cllr Chapman had attended the Sussex Police Contact Command and Control Department on 3rd March. Part of the message received there had been Sussex Police's desire to have cctv out there in communities as it, to some extent, effectively replaced the "bobby on the beat." It was also useful for providing evidence.

Cllr Duff asked how the council would justify having cctv on the Village Green but not, for example, around Lashmar Rec which has also been subject to complaints from residents. The simple answer was the Village Green was owned by this council, Lashmar Rec, for example, was not. The Village Green had also recently been the site of vandalism clearly targetted against the council.

1291 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree the remainder of this year's Contingency budget line is ring-fenced towards the costs of cctv.

200/19 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

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

Working Parties

The new lease to the Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club has been received and can be signed at the meeting with the club on Tuesday, 26th February. The lease is to be signed by Cllr Toney and myself and returned to the solicitor who "will then arrange to complete the Deed of Surrender [of the current lease] and new Lease on 1st April."

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

21st February 2019

Cllr Mathias confirmed all the relevant documents had been signed and were back with the relevant solicitors. The new lease will begin on 1st April and be for one day fewer than 25 years. The lease includes a simple increase of £500 every five years. This should be ahead of inflation.

201/19 CLERK'S REPORT

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

Clerk's Report

1. **Introduction**
2. **Police matters**
3. **Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests**
4. **Memorial service for former District Councillor, Dennis Wilde, 4th February**
5. **East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 5th February**
6. **SLCC Sussex Branch, Arun & Chichester Clerks' Networking Lunch, 5th February**
7. **South Strand toilets meeting, 5th February**
8. **FITNESS and FUN 2, 19th February**
9. **FITNESS and FUN 2, 19th February – Dawn's thoughts**
10. **The Martlets 10th Anniversary, 21st February**
11. **Visit by Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, 21st February**
12. **Roundstone level crossing meeting, 22nd February**
13. **Social Media**
14. **MailChimp stats**
15. **A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
16. **Recent bouquets and complaints**
17. **Leave**
18. **March meetings and events**

1. Introduction

This is the report mainly covering February 2019 and matters which may not arise elsewhere on the agenda.

2. Police matters

Overnight between 2nd and 3rd February, various notices were vandalised on the Village Green. Additionally, the Parish Council half of the noticeboard by the Village Green had its door ripped off and the notices within carefully removed. The community side of the noticeboard was seemingly untouched. This is believed to have been a targeted attack and Sussex Police was informed but closed the case immediately as there was no evidence available.

Sussex Police was also contacted on 22nd February after a suspicious package found on Lashmar Rec was handed in to the Council Office. The response received, "Obviously it is of concern and "could" be drugs, but equally it could be something quite innocent. As it's been found on the rec there won't be any forensic opportunities and we would simply destroy it. As a result I would suggest that it's disposed of."

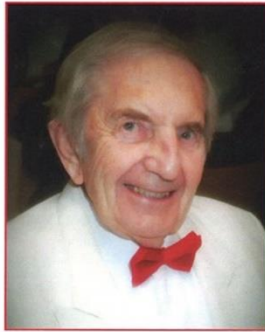
3. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests

The council received no Freedom of Information or Data Protection requests during the month of February.

4. Memorial service for former District Councillor, Dennis Wilde, 4th February

Cllr Bowman and I attended this service as East Preston Parish Council's official reps. Kingston Parish Council and Arun District Council were also represented. All three of East Preston and Kingston's current District Councillors were present – Ricky Bower, Terry Chapman and Mike Clayden.
The service and tea were held at Angmering Baptist Church.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
For the life of
MR DENNIS FREDERICK WILDE
1925 – 2018



Monday, 4th February, 2019 – 2.30pm



Angmering Baptist Church

5. East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 5th February

I attended this, the first Business Breakfast of the year, held at Kerry's Community Tea-room.

Two businesses attended for the first time, Wenda, of Classic Ices and Betsey the vintage ice-cream van and Paul, who runs a coffee supplies company.

George Schlich came along and gave a very interesting talk on his business as a patents and trademarks attorney. George lives in East Preston and runs his highly successful business from Littlehampton. In addition to explaining how patents, trademarks and copyright can protect a business, George told us about some of the products and ideas he has been involved with over the years. His talk ended with a lively question and answer session.

There was general consternation about the vandalism at the Village Green two days before the meeting. There was some discussion as to whether the vandalism should be publicised in the press and the feeling was it should not be given any publicity that might encourage the perpetrator(s) or copy-cats.

Kim Billingham has taken on an administration role for the East Preston Business Community page, joining Tim Bigger and me in being able to post to the page.

Thanks to Kerry for use of the Tea-room.

6. SLCC Sussex Branch, Arun & Chichester Clerks' Networking Lunch, 5th February

Dawn and I attended this meeting in Bersted. Other Arun local councils represented were Findon, Angmering and Bersted Parish Councils. A slightly larger number of Chichester District local councils were represented. It may just be me, but I came away from the meeting with the feeling Arun local councils were better organised and more on the ball than Chichester local councils.

Topics covered included May's local elections, the future of Silent Soldiers, and banking arrangements for council's with more than £85,000 in reserves, that figure being the current Financial Services Compensation Scheme limit.

7. South Strand toilets meeting, 5th February

I attended this meeting with Cllrs Toney and Wilkinson. The meeting was chaired by George Schlich, who is representing East Preston Infant School in these meetings. Other organisations represented were Kingston Parish Council, Angmering-on-Sea Estate Residents' Association (AoSERA), West Kingston Residents' Association, and there were a handful of beach chalet owners present.

Initial financial commitments have been made by both parish councils and AoSERA, the latter subject to approval at its Annual General Meeting in May.

The next meeting was scheduled for 28th February at 17:30, which I may not be able to attend.

8. FITNESS and FUN 2, 19th February

I attended the beginning of the second of this financial year's half-term, half-day playschemes. Cllrs Bowman and Duff were there to oversee the event and to provide refreshments for children and parents, grandparents and guardians. Dawn spent some time at the playscheme once I was back in the office – this was part of Dawn gaining an overview of the council's activities through the year. With twenty-nine children taking part, this was easily the most successful so far.

The council first ran a half-term, half-day playscheme in February 2010. The next has already been scheduled by the Community Engagement Committee for Tuesday, 6th August. This too will use Bee-Fit for running the children's activities. Cllr Duff publicised this to those present at the end of the event.

I issued a SurveyMonkey survey to all attending adults and results from that will go first to the Community Engagement Committee.

This time, a few parents left booking forms for us at the Infant School reception from where we collected them. This was an unofficial arrangement, appreciated by parents and I have now formally agreed with Mrs New we can do this again in the future. This should help us avoid having to cancel any future playschemes because of lack of bookings.

9. FITNESS and FUN 2, 19th February – Dawn's thoughts

(As mentioned above, Dawn attended part of the event as part of her knowledge-gathering as the council's Assistant Clerk.)

I was there for an hour or so and joined in. It was very well organised. The children were getting involved in the activities and all seemed to be enjoying themselves. For example, they were all playing running around, physical activities. There was very little parental participation and this is something to be looked at for the future.

There was then a refreshment break which was Cllr Duff's special fruit kebabs, made by the children themselves. The creation and the consumption of these kebabs were enjoyed by the children.

Following the refreshments, all the kids enjoyed making something to take home, for example a mask or a toy.

Overall, I thought it was very well run. Everybody seemed to know what they were doing when. I sat with some parents and grandparents and their feedback was very positive. All the children were all involved whilst I was there.

10. The Martlets 10th Anniversary, 21st February

Dawn and I attended this together with Cllrs Linton and Moore. Cllr Moore's report is below.



Left to right: Dawn, me and Cllr David Moore. Behind us, Linda Healey (Area Coordinator, East Preston and Angmering Girlguiding) and Margaret Moores (Chairman, East Preston Floral Group) talk to a senior representative of Shaw healthcare Group.

(Photograph taken by Jane Harris, Relationships and Sales Manager, Shaw healthcare Group)

11. Visit by Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, 21st February

The notes below are a combination of my own notes and those taken by Cllr Linton when I was unable to, my thanks to Cllr Linton for that.

About sixty-seven people attended this event held in the recently enlarged Junior School hall. Eight East Preston parish councillors, four Kingston parish councillors, one Arun District Councillor, one West Sussex County Councillor, Dawn and I representing the office and the rest were members of the public. (Parish councillors Chapman, McElroy, Moore and Shah had all given their apologies.)

Keith Harris set up a table to publicise Community Speed Watch and received interest from a couple of people willing to become members of the team.

Following a welcome and introduction by Cllr Toney, Katy talked for about twenty minutes to explain her role as the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner. Katy represents the 1.6m residents of Sussex in their involvement with Sussex Police. Katy is responsible for setting the Sussex Police budget each year, currently £270m and works closely with the Chief Constable to oversee how that money is spent. Katy is the only one of the forty Police & Crime Commissioners in the country who holds monthly performance meetings with the Chief Constable. Additionally, Katy has a budget to support and help the victims of crime; there is a specialised service in place for children who are victims of crime.

Sussex is one of the “safest counties” in the country.

60% of the county’s police funding comes from central government and is subject to fair funding formulae which are not as fair as they may sound. If funding was truly applied fairly, Sussex Police would have in excess of £30m extra to spend each year. Sussex residents pay the 5th lowest police precept in the country for the 14th largest force in the country. Katy has recently increased the police precept by an average of £2 per household per month and hopes to have an additional 400 officers recruited over the next four years. Taking natural wastage into account, Katy believes that will result in a net gain of 200 officers. Sussex Police has not undertaken such a large recruitment for a long time and this has given rise to problems such as too few trainers and training rooms.

All officers now have smartphones and can use these to take statements far more efficiently than having to call a witness into a police station. Officers also wear body cameras now, and these have proven very effective as a tool for defusing anger and aggression from situations. Three times recently, Katy had been approached by members of the public reporting they had seen a police officer out and about; this was a direct consequence of the new recruitment mentioned previously.

At the end of her speech, Katy offered to take questions from the floor.

District Cllr Bower asked what was Sussex Police’s relationship to British Transport Police (BTP). KB replied BTP worked closely with Sussex Police, particularly around railway stations. KB gave an example of shoplifting in Hastings by youths from another town who were travelling by train without tickets. They were caught for fare evasion and then found to be laden down with stolen goods.

NA said there was much emphasis placed on the need to report incidents to Sussex Police but the 101 service often meant long delays waiting to be connected to a call handler. KB answered improvement of the 101 service is the Chief Constable's no. 1 objective for the current year and the new Deputy Chief Constable has this as a key area of her responsibility. The average wait time is 12 minutes but at busy times that can easily go up to 45 minutes. At such times, 101 call handlers can be diverted to 999 calls which naturally take precedence. Call handlers need to be aware many members of the public will never have spoken to a police officer before; this can be daunting and information has to be coaxed out of those members of the public. 101 calls do not have a set time in which they need to be concluded and puts a further burden on the service. When external recruitment levels have been low, potential police officers have seen becoming a call handler as an easy route into the service, giving them internal recruitment opportunities they would otherwise be denied. This leads to constant churn within the 101 workforce.

DM asked whether collaboration between Sussex and Surrey Police Forces had totally been a win-win situation. KB answered in some areas it had been, in others it had not been. Some police services such as forensics and police dogs are now seamlessly shared across the two forces. Less successful was the Human Resources side of the operation as there were tensions revolving around the differences in pay between the two counties, owing to Surrey's closer proximity to London meaning its officers could be paid a greater London weighting or South East allowance. Wholesale amalgamation was not currently possible because of the differences in council tax the two counties paid towards their police forces. As mentioned earlier, Sussex paid the fifth lowest figure in the country but Surrey paid the highest figure and bringing those two figures towards some form of parity would likely leave a lot of residents in Sussex unhappy.

Cllr Gander asked whether Sussex Police had the resources in place to tackle low-level crime such as anti-social behaviour. KB replied she did not view anti-social behaviour as low-level crime as it often led to more serious crime. Young people were bored these days as there were fewer facilities available to them, such as youth clubs. She was giving more money to local Community Safety Partnerships to channel young people into more positive activities. Nearly £1m had been given by central government to fund early intervention programmes specifically in Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton & Hove, Worthing and Littlehampton.

Chairman of Kingston Parish Council, Cllr Geraldine Walker, said the information coming to local councils from Sussex Police was too little and, recently, the figures presented to the four-monthly WSCC Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee meetings had a combined figure for East Preston and Kingston, could this be separated again. KB replied she would investigate the second part of Cllr Walker's question. Going back to the start of Cllr Walker's question, KB replied it had been agreed three or so years ago, officer time was better spent out fighting crime than attending council meetings which were usually an ineffective use of their time. There are weekly police newsletters available online which detail local police activity as far as it is possible to do so. Sussex Police was improving its online reporting system constantly and soon it would be in a position to provide feedback to reporters. Police officers no longer needed to know about just the physical world, they now also needed to be fully aware of the possibilities of the digital world.

AF stated there had been 3,200 officers in Sussex Police in 2010 and that figure had dropped to 2,400 today. Was it right for someone in East Preston to have to wait, in an emergency, for an officer to come from Bognor Regis? KB replied the decrease in the number of officers was not reflected in the increased number of crimes reported. Over the past decade people have become more willing to talk about certain crimes; this has led to that increase in the number of crimes reported. The nearest officer available will still be the officer to attend an incident. Certain crimes were decreasing, for example burglary because of the technological advances in forensics.

RD talked of criminal damage at his property which he was able to trace back to theft of alcohol from the local One-Stop. He collected evidence which could have been used by forensics but no officer had attended before the case was closed. Would the increased recruitment lead to a more visible presence of police officers on the beat? KB replied the recruitment would see an additional 250 officers, 150 Police Community Support Officers, and 50 specialist officers by the end of the four-year period. Anti-social behaviour was not just something for the police to tackle. Local authorities and various other agencies were in place to work with the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour, not all of whom were young.

WA questioned what action was being taken about local drug-dealing and asked what sort of drugs were being dealt these days? KB asked whether Sussex Police had been informed about the drug-dealing and, when advised it was, asked people to keep on reporting. Every morning, police teams agree what that day's priorities are and this is driven by latest reports received. KB replied she did not know what the drugs of choice were in this area, but did

talk of the prevention work being carried out to prevent young people being used by big city (organized) criminals to sell drugs in the local area.

KR had witnessed youths on motorbikes in the village and had overheard them dealing MDMA. She had called the police but had been told what she was witnessing was anti-social behaviour and not a police matter. KB replied that was the wrong response from the police. Taking of Class A drugs was illegal and should be tackled.

GM asked how much the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner cost to run each year. KB replied the Office cost £1.3m a year to run and her personal salary was £86,700. He then asked what the net increase in officers would be over the four-year recruitment programme. KB replied the net increase would be 400; this took into consideration the number of officers lost each year through natural wastage (120-150).

DJ said he was traditional and liked to see bobbies on the beat. Were there strategies in place that would help with this? For example, could retired police officers be re-employed to work in call centres freeing up other resources to become police officers? KB said she regularly saw waste and was committed to tackling it but some could not be tackled. For example, the force was stuck in a 30-year Private Funding Initiative to provide a custody service. This service could be run more effectively in-house but there was no breakpoint in the contract.

District Cllr Bower asked what provision was made for older people who were not confident or experienced or able to use new technology in place of reporting crimes the traditional ways? KB said she was very cognisant of the age profile of the county and it would remain possible for members of the public to report crimes via the telephone.

PA said he had heard several times people present saying they would feel happier with bobbies back on the beat. He was aware police officers drove through the village centre most days but was it not possible for them to park up and just spend five to ten minutes walking, being more visible, meeting local residents and re-instilling some degree of confidence? KB replied she had a two-hour meeting every Friday and at those meetings she and he would discuss matters and suggestions brought to their attention during the previous week.

HC said she had been helping a local family following a burglary. The family did not speak much English and felt understandably unsettled by the incident, which Sussex Police closed after a week. HC had contacted her MP who managed to get the case reopened as there was evidence not being considered by Sussex Police. HC felt the family had been targeted as part of a wider burglary ring. KB said burglaries should always result in police attendance as there was usually forensic information readily available.

JH said she had recently moved from Worthing thinking East Preston was a sleepy village so was shocked to be hearing of drug abuse and dealing within the village. She asked whether East Preston was safe and most of the people present replied it definitely was. She asked whether she could leave her front door unlocked whilst working in her back garden or was there a risk of opportunistic crime in the village. KB said she would never advise anyone to leave their front door unlocked wherever they lived. JH said she had hoped to hear more about local crime statistics at the meeting. KB said that was not information she readily took around with her, but useful information could be found at <https://www.police.uk/>. There were also police newsletters could be signed up for.

The final question came from County Councillor Roger Elkins who asked about the increase in scams perpetrated on local people in any number of ways. KB replied police across the country were much savvier to such crime than they had been even five years ago, most had scam teams and Sussex Police had led the way in this. Over-75s scammed on average lost £20,000 in a hit. In extreme cases, this could lead to the suicide of the victim who was often too ashamed to tell anyone else they had been scammed.

With KB needing to retrieve her car from an MoT centre, Cllr Toney thanked Katy for having come to the village and for being so open to the questions asked. Katy said she would be happy to visit the village again on another occasion. The public showed its appreciation of Katy in the usual way and the meeting ended at 20:45.



Katy Bourne
addressing members
of the public

Public feedback following the event has all been positive.

12. **Roundstone level crossing meeting, 22nd February**

I attended this meeting called by County Cllr Roger Elkins to discuss short-term signage and markings options at Roundstone Level Crossing. Cllr Toney and Rob Torrance, WSCC Traffic Officer – Arun District were also in attendance. This was called at too short notice to include members of the public or a representative from Stagecoach.

Any extension of yellow hatching at the crossing would be the responsibility of Network Rail. Neither Cllr Elkins nor Mr Torrance had an up-to-date contact at Network Rail, but would try to find one.

Mr Torrance did not believe an additional Give Way sign on the Hares side of North Lane would help as he felt it was too remote from the junction.

Mr Torrance did not think a refuge / island at the top of North Lane which could then be home to an additional Give Way sign was possible as it would not leave room for buses and large lorries to manoeuvre around it.

The white STOP sign in the eastbound carriageway of Worthing Road that only comes into force when the level crossing red lights are flashing cannot be moved as it cannot be behind the sign which refers to it.

Mr Torrance did think there was some scope for an additional “advance” Give Way sign some 50m south of North Lane’s junction with Worthing Road but that would need to be an illuminated sign as it is in an area of street-lighting.

13. **Social media**

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

- Photographs of Village Green vandalism from early hours of 3rd February – 10,909 people
- ▲ Publicity for AJT Showers Ltd. opening in North Lane, East Preston - 982
- Poster for KEPT East Preston Spring Clean (first posting) - 831
- Photograph of very early morning snowman in Seafeld Road – 706
- Poster for East Preston Festival Committee Indoor Boot Sale – 682
- WSCC Public Notice announcing temporary closure of Bury Hill – 628
- Poster for NHS Our Health & Care: Our Future events - 585
- Poster for 1st East Preston Scouts Table Top Sale (first posting) – 583
- Poster publicising West Sussex Local Access Forum - 540
- Found keys – 518
- Lost hearing aid - 506

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 24th February)

The number of people currently like the council on Facebook is 1,193, an increase of twenty over the last report.

No posts placed on Nextdoor.

14. **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 – 31st January – sent to 787, opened by 526 to date (67.1%)

Parish Council news – 6th February – sent to 787, opened by 542 to date (69.1%)

Parish Council news – 14th February – sent to 790, opened by 506 to date (64.1%)

Parish Council news – 21st February – sent to 792, opened by 512 to date (64.6%)

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

"Is there a local First Aid course that I can attend?"

"The treeworks on the A259 are having a major impact on my health, who can I speak to?"
(Asked by a resident of Downs Way. I put the caller in touch with WSCC.)

"Is there a solicitor in the village?" (This was asked by two unrelated people, but there is no obvious solicitor in the village.)

16. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

During this small farewell gathering, Andy Beams said he had enjoyed working for and with East Preston Parish Council. He said it was the best-organised council at which he had locummed, had a very good Clerk (no, honestly, he did say that) and that of all the councils he had worked with, East Preston councillors were the group most clearly working in the same direction. The following day, I received an email from Andy which contained the following, "Just wanted to say a big thank you to you, the other staff and the councillors for making me feel so welcome at East Preston during my time there and for my leaving gifts. It genuinely has been a very enjoyable experience and I wish you all well for the future."

A councillor, having received a response from ADC to a letter of support she had forgotten she had submitted to ADC, "Gosh, I'm well impressed you sorted out my problem."

From a resident of Rustington, "Thank you for the e mail [newsletter] which is always good to read and to keep up to date."

A resident in North Lane asked which tree contractor the council used. After using the same contractor, the resident wrote in, "Tom has now been to remove a 30-40ft eucalyptus hanging over my cabin which gave me cause for concern in high winds. It is now down to ground level with the stump poisoned to kill it. Tom and his team did an excellent job, arriving on time, working hard all day with only 15 minutes break at lunchtime. What impressed me most was that as daylight diminished he brought in five more employees to make sure all was cleared up by the end of the day."

Chris Shore, lead custodian of the East Preston boules piste included the following in an email to his boules contacts, "I am pleased to report that our once again vandalised notice

board has been quickly repaired and re-erected next to the terrain with grateful thanks to Simon and his team at the Parish Council.”

A resident of West Ridings got in touch wanting to know what he could do to help keep the South Strand toilets open. I replied, explaining about the group being formed to keep the toilets open and giving him the background to this council’s decision not to renew the lease. He replied, “Thankyou for such a comprehensive reply, it is really appreciated,” and agreeing for the leader of the group to contact him direct.

A resident of Willowhayne Crescent who attended the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner talk, emailed in, “I found the meeting very informative and Katy, herself, is impressive. I would have liked to know more about the nature of crime in our area and what steps are being taken to combat it. East Preston IS a delightful village in which to live but, in order to keep it and its residents safe, one needs to be realistic about crime in the area.”

17. **Leave**

I am off on Friday 1st, Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March. I also hope to be off on Thursday, 28th February, although I will attend the start of the South Strand toilets meeting that afternoon.

18. **March Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

3 rd	Visit to Sussex Police Force Command and Control Department (11:00, Sussex Police Headquarters, Lewes) (AC only)
4 th	Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
5 th	East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast (08:00, Grub & gumption) WSCC Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee (19:00)
11 th	Audit & Governance Committee (14:00, Council Office) Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
13 th	NHS Tobacco Control Strategy Launch (09:30, Regis Centre, Bognor) (RMC only) End-of-term party catch-up (11:00, Council Office) Arun District Association of Local Councils (19:00 tbc) (ST only)
14 th	Pensions workshop (10:00, Civic Centre) (SC only) NHS Local Community Network Board (tbc) (PG only) WSCC Health & Wellbeing Marketplace Event (10:30, Parkside, Horsham) (AC, LD, EL, DM and DR only)
18 th	Amenities Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
19 th	NHS Our Health and Care...Our FUTURE (17:00, Worthing) (DM only)
21 st	St Barnabas Hospice Outreach Project vehicle in Village Green car-park (10:00 – 14:00)
23 rd	REAL Patients Group meeting (LD)
24 th	KEPT East Preston Spring Clean (10:30 to 12:30, Warren Recreation Ground car-park)
25 th	Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) Community Engagement Committee (18:45, 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**

26th February 2019

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his report.

Item 13 – Social Media – Cllr Linton questioned whether the figure of 10,909 people reached by the Facebook post on vandalism on the Village Green was correct as it seemed disproportionately higher than the other posts. The Clerk confirmed the figure was correct as the post had been shared by a number of people leading to the seemingly exponential reach of the post. As at least one councillor said, “People love bad news.”

202/19 **EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

The council NOTED the following reports which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note the following reports:

Eastern Parishes Meeting, 5th February

On The 5th February I went to the Eastern Parishes meeting and also in attendance were the Chairmen of Rustington and Kingston Parish Councils, Councillors Jamie Bennett and Geraldine Walker respectively. Carole Ward, Clerk to Rustington Parish Council, had planned to attend to clerk the meeting but was unable to do so for personal reasons. The Chairmen of Angmering and Ferring Parish Councils, Councillors John Oldfield and Carole Robertson, had sent their apologies as had our own Chairman. Mrs Ward has kindly agreed to clerk the meetings which will all be held in Rustington for the foreseeable future.

As there were only the three of us present, there was not a lot we could discuss. We agreed a draft Agenda for future meeting dates and the next two meetings will be on 21st May and 24th September 10:00 at Rustington.

Rustington Parish Council has been campaigning for a meeting with the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and Sussex Police Chief Constable and they requested dates for the group to meet up with them in Lewes. Either 12th or 13th March were put forward depending upon their availability. [Clerk's Note: this meeting has now been set for 10th April.]

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

6th February 2019

The Martlets 10th Anniversary, 21st February

The Martlets, Fairlands, East Preston

Councillor Elizabeth Linton, the parish clerk, assistant clerk and me attended the tenth anniversary of The Martlets Care Home. Also present was the chairperson of Arun District Council, Councillor Alan Gammon. I was made very welcome by the manager Angie Douglass. I then wandered around ground floor speaking to a number care staff and residents, including a very lively 93 year old who was having great time chatting to all the visitors.

The Martlets has large communal areas for residents and families to enjoy inside the home as well as a large south facing garden.

Cllr David Moore

26th February 2019

**Visit of Katy Bourne, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner, 21st
February**

East Preston Junior School, St Mary's Drive, East Preston

We were very privileged to have Katy Bourne, The Police and Crime Commissioner accept our invitation and visit our village on the evening of Thursday 21st March for a talk about her role in this position.

Mrs Bourne is responsible for setting the strategic direction and priorities for Sussex Police.

It was very nice to see a large audience from our parish and from neighboring parishes. Mrs Bourne spoke for approximately 35 minutes about her job role and involvement within the Police Force.

It was then the turn of the audience to asking questions about the Policing around our parish and surrounding areas. I think a lot of us do not realise how difficult a job the Police have and how stretched their resources are.

Mrs Bourne has informed us about the extra money she managed to extract from various avenues to increase staffing levels. The meeting ended with the prospect of a further visit in the near future.

I would like to thank everyone who attended for a very worth while evening.

Cllr Steve Toney – **Chairman of the Council**

3rd March 2019

**WSCC Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, Highways & Transport
sub-group, 28th February**

Rustington

As well as myself there were representatives from Angmering, Ferring, Kingston and Lyminster & Crossbush parish councils; West Sussex County Councillors Roger Elkins and James Walsh (Chairman) and three WSCC Highways officers.

The items that may be of interest to East Preston residents are as follows:

The North Lyminster bypass will be considered by WSCC Planning Committee on 26th March and, hopefully, work will start late spring 2020. The Southern bypass tenders should be back by the 8th March with work to start in late May.

The A259 site clearance has commenced and the earliest the main works should start will be August depending on utilities and compulsory purchase orders. It is hoped there will be a public consultation, out-of-hours in Haskins and possibly a venue at the other end of the works, say, Body Shop.

The Compass No 12 bus to Manor Retail Park, Littlehampton sea front etc should continue for another two years as the funding is in place. Interestingly it averages between 1,800 and 2,000 passengers a month. The Stagecoach No 9 bus will be rerouted to include new development in the future.

The Angmering traffic calming works are complete barring minimal corrections, remedial works and signage.

There is still money to be spent by the end of March so potholes and possibly repainting of faded lines could be requested. The quickest referral is through the Love West Sussex website so be quick!

Next meeting is Thursday, 23rd May at 2pm.

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

28th February 2019

203/19 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Cllr Linton underlined the urgency in getting potholes and white line reports into WSCC before the end of the month.

204/19 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (1ST APRIL 2019)

Council AGREED to receive Dementia Training on Tuesday, 16th April, 7pm at the Infant School.

The meeting concluded at 19:35

Chairman: *Cllr Steve Toney* Date: **1st April 2019**

END