



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held on Monday, 1st July 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, John Gunston, Elizabeth Linton, Glyn Mathias, Rick McElroy, Steve Toney (Chairman) and Steve Wilkinson

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

West Sussex County Councillor Roger Elkins (until 20:25)

Mr and Mrs At (Mr until 20:53, Mrs until 20:25), Mrs Ao, Ms Bd, Ms Bh, Ms H (all until 20:25), Ms Hs (until 20:22), Mrs M and Mrs W (both until 20:25)

ABSENT: Councillors David Moore and Danny Shah

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The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

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

NR – Network Rail;
SLCC – Society of Local Council Clerks
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.

563/19 INTRODUCTIONS

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

564/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence had been received from Cllrs Moore (Littlehampton Sea Cadets meeting) and Shah (away on family business).

1335a The Council **RESOLVED** unanimously to accept Cllr Moore's apology for the meeting.

1335b The Council **RESOLVED** to accept Cllr Shah's apology for the meeting. Three councillors abstained.

An apology had also been received from District Cllrs Bower, Chapman and Kelly.

565/19 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

566/19 PUBLIC SESSION

Agenda Item 11a – Amenities Committee – Mrs At opened public session by querying Cllr McElroy's position with regards to the council's investigations into the provision of a closed circuit television system on the Village Green. Mrs At was concerned there was a conflict of interest for the council with Cllr McElroy's company being one of those ask to quote for the system. Mrs At said Cllr McElroy's involvement "worries me," and said she had looked through the Minutes and could not find any information on what decision had been made by the council.

The Clerk responded Cllr McElroy had declared his interests in this matter at every meeting at which it had been discussed, usually absenting himself from the meeting whilst the discussion took place. The council had set up a small working group which was investigating the provision of closed circuit television and Cllr McElroy was not part of that group. That group would, in due course, make a recommendation about how the council should proceed in the commissioning of closed circuit television.

Cllr McElroy added his company had been invited to provide a quotation to the council.

No Agenda Item – Mrs W read the following statement to the meeting:

CLOSURE OF THE TAP-DANCING CLASS

When the Parish Councillors sanctioned the installation of a new floor in the Miller Barn were they aware that that it was at the sacrifice of the Tap Dancing Class?

The Village Hall was bequeathed in 1943 for the "benefit of the public generally and especially the inhabitants of the parishes of East Preston and Kingston for meetings, lectures, classes and other forms of recreation and leisure activities, with the object of improving the conditions of life for the said inhabitants"

After running this class for over 20years the Tap Class tutor was just last week informed that the class must finish from August because it has damaged the existing floor and would be a problem with a new one. The new floor has been contracted to be installed at the beginning of August but the class members were told of the situation on this very day the 1st of July. At the last Hirers' meeting they were assured that there would be more discussion on the subject, which did not unfold.

The "damage" is mainly peeling of the paint/lacquer that was applied in 2015 and seems to have had little or no maintenance since. It is not considered dangerous in any way at present.

The main reason for the upgrading of the floor seems to be to make it more "aesthetically pleasing". While this may be desirable, "fit for purpose" is surely the main criterion for the people that actually put the Hall to good use.

The Hall serves many purposes and has a tremendous amount of footfall. It is obvious that there are many causes of wear and tear and it is grossly unfair to name just one activity as the culprit.

If the floor is installed, tap dancing ceases and then the damage continues, will each group be blamed and dismissed one by one?

The Village Hall Committee is not fulfilling its purpose here and is possibly in breach of covenant.

We are told that the contract with the flooring company can be revoked/reviewed and the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee agreed to have a further meeting with Hirers.

A more robust floor could be considered, even at greater cost, as the whole future of the Village Hall is at stake not just this one activity.

Even though the Village Hall funds are substantial maybe a Grant could be requested as was obtained for the last floor treatment.

Alternatives such as moveable floor coverings or different footwear have been considered but are not feasible.

Will the Parish Council, as Custodian Trustees of the V.H. agree to have some discussion with the Village Hall Committee and help us voice our concerns?

Cllr Toney replied the council had been made aware of the Foundation's concerns about damage but not that the new flooring would effectively mean an end to tap-dancing on the floor unless some form of covering was used. Cllr Toney said he would call a meeting with the Chairman of the Village Hall Foundation, Mr Melser. Cllr Toney said he would like the chosen contractor to attend the meeting too. Cllr Toney asked Mrs McElroy, Bookings Secretary for the Village Hall, if there was anything she would like to say on behalf of the Foundation.

Mrs McElroy explained the floor needed to be replaced because of its current condition. Chips in the paintwork and lacquer suggested the floor needed to be sanded and re-lacquered but the floor could not be sanded again because it was already at its minimal thickness. Mrs McElroy said the Chairman of the Foundation and the contractor were already hoping to meet with Mrs Sally Parkinson, tap dancing teacher. The proposed flooring is solid European oak, which will carry a 15-year guarantee. However, the contractor has said no guarantee will be issued if metal shoes are used. Mrs McElroy said the Foundation committee had suggested workarounds to the dancing teachers. Portable flooring to cover the permanent flooring would need storage. The chosen contractor had already replaced floors at Clapham & Patching Village Hall, Findon Village Hall, Sompting Village Hall, the Steyning Centre and several schools. The flooring proposed was believed to be the hardest-wearing flooring available. A workaround had been proposed by the Irish dancing group, and this was being considered by the Foundation committee.

Mrs Ao said there was no known surface resistant to footfall. Mrs Ao questioned where the line between usage and damage was. Mrs Ao echoed Mrs W's opening comment, asking "what is the purpose of a Village Hall?" Even if dance groups were taken out of the Village Hall, Mrs Ao felt the matter of damage to the floor would come up repeatedly. Mrs Ao said she had never danced on anything other than a wooden surface.

Mrs M said there were about fifty pupils in each of her daughter's tap classes.

Mrs McElroy said there did not seem to have been a maintenance contract for the current flooring but there would be for the proposed new flooring.

Cllr McElroy said he ran children's karate classes in the Village Hall, these requiring children be barefoot. Twice, children had injured themselves in scuff marks in the floor.

Ms Bh was concerned about the potential loss of income at the hall if the tap and Irish dancing classes were unable to continue. Ms Bh said she regularly attended events in the Village Hall and as regularly witnessed people scraping chairs back before they stood up. Ms Bh was also concerned about how the committee would prevent people in stilettos from using the hall.

Mrs McElroy answered this by saying there would be a clause written into the hire Terms and Conditions regarding the non-use of metal shoes.

Agenda Item 6a – West Sussex County Council – Mrs M expressed her deep concerns about inconsiderate parking in Sea Lane, especially just north of the island. Not only does this inconvenience local residents, but Mrs M was concerned about the impact upon emergency vehicles, particularly those attending the care home at the southern end of Sea Lane.

Cllr Toney invited County Cllr Elkins, who responded it was difficult to keep on putting down more and more double yellow lines. He was unsure what ADC's civil parking enforcement capacity existed and whether it operated at weekends.

Cllr Gander said she had seen how bad the parking situation had been in Sea Lane on the day before the meeting, including one car parked immediately beneath the parking restrictions sign.

Cllr McElroy recommended Mrs M enlisted more of her neighbours to complain to the Civil Parking Enforcement team at ADC to get them to come out and see the problems being experienced. The higher the number of different complainants the more likely a visit.

Ms Bh wondered whether free use of the Village Green car-park at weekends, for all but commercial vehicles, might relieve some of the problem.

No Agenda Item – Mrs At asked whether a 20mph speed limit and/or speed humps could be implemented in Sea Road and also in Old Worthing Road. Could Angmering and East Preston parish councils work on this together?

Cllr Toney said he was unsure speed humps work sufficiently.

County Cllr Elkins said such a project would be part of a Traffic Regulation Order, the process for which is lengthy and had been published in the Spring 2018 Newsletter. In this proposal, if the police did not support the idea it would be thrown out by WSCC.

The Clerk said the council's Community Engagement committee had agreed to fund two Automated Traffic Counter surveys in the village in conjunction with the village Community Speed Watch group. The CSW group had agreed to a site in Sea Road and one in North Lane and these were being finalised with the provider of the surveys, an East Preston resident.

Agenda Item 6a – West Sussex County Council – Mrs At also recalled how WSCC had been advised to incorporate increased yellow hatching around the A280/A259 roundabout to make it easier for traffic exiting East Preston to do so. WSCC had rejected this recommendation on financial grounds. The same was true of the once-proposed slip-road.

567/19 COUNCIL RESPONSES

There were no further responses from councillors.

568/19 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

County Cllr Elkins referred to the once-proposed slip-road and reminded those present of the enormous financial challenges being faced by the county council. Of the annual £530m budget for the county council, 36% was spent on adult social care, 18% on families and only 6% was spent on Highways. A budget meeting, open to the public, was being held on 11th July and would be streamed online.

Earlier in the day, Cllr Elkins, together with Mrs Reid, Assistant Clerk to the Council, had met with a resident who wanted to express his concerns and frustrations over the lack of infrastructure adapted for residents with reduced mobility or, where dropped kerbs did exist, the condition of some of those dropped kerbs. Cllr Elkins had found the visit very useful and had contacted a Highways Officer for suggestions as to how routes around the village could be improved.

Returning to business raised at the previous meeting, Cllr Elkins talked further about recycling in the county. The WSCC facility at Ford saves 71,000 tonnes of stuff from being sent to landfill each year. All facilities used overseas are fully-accredited by the Environment Agency.

WSCC and SSE were considering a £25m programme of replacing its streetlighting to be LED in the future. Over the remaining term of the PFI, it was believed this would save £63m. The carbon footprint of streetlighting would be substantially reduced and the LED bulbs would be dimmable remotely.

The county council was adopting a more risk-based approach to its Highways Infrastructure. Part of this was a proposal to reduce the coverage of gritting lorries each winter, basing a future programme on that in place in other counties.

In response to a question from Cllr McElroy, Cllr Elkins talked about WSCC's decision not to issue white bollards for verges any longer. The decision was taken a few years ago because the bollards caused a lot of problems, apparently, for the mowing teams and larger vehicles just drove over them more than respecting them. Cllr Elkins was aware some communities proposed hardening their verges to make them better for vehicles to park upon, but he personally felt that changed the feel of

a community and not necessarily in a good way. Cllr Elkins did wonder whether WSCC should look at issuing white bollards into communities which have taken responsibility for their own grass-verge cutting.

(Mrs Hedge left the meeting at this point.)

Cllr McElroy asked Cllr Elkins what was the county council's policy on solar panels and similar eco measures. Cllr Elkins replied most schools had solar panels now and the county council had its own windfarm near Goodwood. The opportunity for other buildings to incorporate solar panels was constantly being looked at.

(Cllr Elkins and all remaining members of the public left the meeting at this point except Mr At.)

569/19 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL

All three District Councillors had sent their apologies for the meeting.

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

Arun District Council

Council is asked to note the following report:

Report for East Preston Parish Council meeting 1st July 2019
From
Terry Chapman

1 Arun District Council: at present we are between meetings of the Full Council so there is little to report on the strategic plan front. However, the new administration has stated that they want to abandon the Cabinet system and revert to Committees. This will take some time to achieve, probably more than 12 months and if achieved will cost taxpayers more than the cabinet system and slow down decision making.

At the inaugural meeting of the new Cabinet it was "sort of decided" to get the District to declare a CLIMATE EMERGENCY. There was no clarification as to what this might mean in practice so I will keep you briefed as matters progress

Additionally, Arun was due to begin consultation on proposals for a new Pavilion Park in Bognor Regis today, 1st July. The Liberal Democrat administration has unilaterally stopped this and has also refused to publish the result of prior consultation with stakeholders thus denying the residents of Bognor Regis and surrounding areas the opportunity to say whether the design proposals were acceptable or not. The design cost more than £300k and is now destined for the WPB without any consultation with residents. What a poor example of local democracy and waste of taxpayers money, including tax payers in east Preston.

2 Village: Congratulations to all involved in the Festival and thanks to all those who made it possible. The weather might have been "kinder" by which I mean "kinda better" but it didn't dampen the village spirit.

I have two personal cases at present both involving residents who use mobility aids, one in Cherment Court and one in Normandy Drive. I will report further next month.

Finally, an apology for not being able to attend the D Day commemorative service at St Mary's. I was aiming to be back home from London at 10.23 but thanks to Southern didn't get back until 14.53.

Terry Chapman – Ward Councillor – 1st July 2019

570/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 3RD JUNE 2019

The draft Minutes had been circulated on 5th June asking for comments by 12th June. None were received.

1336 The Council **RESOLVED** the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 3rd June.

This action was completed by Cllr Toney.

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

Monthly Update Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 927/18 – Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice**
- 3. Minute 505/19 – Public Session**
- 4. Minute 518/19 – Community Engagement Committee – Death of a senior member of state**
- 5. Minute 525/19 – Sussex Community Rail Partnership**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 3rd June 2019.

2. Minute 927/18 – Arun and Chichester Citizens Advice

The third session took place on Tuesday, 18th June. The one appointment booked cancelled before the day and we were informed of this on the day. No further action necessary on our part.

Interestingly, or maybe not, a resident called into the office on 17th June asking when the next session would be. She was advised the sessions needed to be booked through the Littlehampton office, but when told they were only on Tuesday mornings, remarked that was no good as she was always busy on a Tuesday morning.

Further to Minute 510/19, no councillors had expressed any reasons why the CAB should not host weekly outreach sessions in the Council Office. I have informed Mr Badioli, Chief Executive, of this and await a date when such sessions will start.

3. Minute 505/19 – Public Session

In the middle of the month, the National Association of Local Councils published a document, *Precept statistics 2019/20*. Precepting local councils will raise £553,383,884 this year, an increase of 7% on last year. In West Sussex, the average precept increase was 9.77% and the average Band D increase was 8.46%.

Of the 8,772 city, town and parish councils recorded, 1,686 (19.22%) were grouped with us in the 4.0-9.9% increase in their Band D council tax. 140 more councils were in this bracket than last year. 1,685 local councils increased their Band D council tax by more than 10%.

The highest Band D increase was by a parish council in Northamptonshire, which raised its Band D rate by 189.84% from £89.38 to £259.06. A quick look at its Minutes suggests this increase is to fund the purchase of some land. This is on a par with the largest increase last year, which was a Devon parish council increasing its Band D rate by 188.8%.

The highest precept increase was by a town council in Wiltshire, which increased its precept to £2,948,550, a 37.54% increase. (The highest increase last year had been from a different town council in Wiltshire with a 69.1% increase.) Seven councils command a precept of over £2,000,000, two more than last year.

4. Minute 518/19 – Community Engagement Committee – Death of a senior member of state

I have placed an order for two condolence books, bound in dark blue leather. The pages of these will be lined.

5. **Minute 525/19 – Sussex Community Rail Partnership (SCRP)**

On behalf of this council, I submitted planting, more shelter and more seating as our three priorities. I advised Angmering PC and Rustington PC to submit their own priorities after they had discussed them. The online form was not freeform so it was not entirely possible to put whatever anyone wanted in. Rustington PC was in favour of asking for money towards an outreach youth worker.

Meanwhile, in a letter dated 20th June, Tim Barkley, Chairman of the SCRCP, advised stakeholders:

I am delighted to let you know that SCRCP has become a Community Interest Company.

The SCRCP has been a not for profit Limited Company since 2010 and this has served us well. However, as Community Interest Companies become more well known, and in order to explicitly demonstrate our community objectives, particularly to potential funders, the SCRCP Board decided to make the move to CIC status.

The SCRCP continues to be registered at Companies House and our VAT registration remains the same (details at the foot of this letter). Each year SCRCP will report to Companies House on our progress towards our community objectives.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

21st June 2019

Nothing was added.

572/19 FINANCIAL MATTERS

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

- 1337** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2019/20, value £17,780.00 (excl. VAT).
- 1338** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the Supplier Non BACS Invoices Paid report for June 2019, totalling £1,054.35 (incl. VAT).
- 1339** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid report for June 2019 totalling £11,163.03 (incl. VAT).
- 1340** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report, showing £145,643.29 (incl. VAT) for the financial year ending 31st March 2020.

The council NOTED the paper Bank Reconciliation to 14th June 2019.

The council NOTED the End of Year Final Budget Sheets for 2018/19.

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

573/19 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: Planning & Licensing on 10th and 24th June. The Major Events meeting scheduled for 24th June has been rescheduled to 2nd July.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

21st June 2019

Amenities Committee

Simon has commissioned an asbestos survey on the office building and the Sea Road toilet block. He has chosen to use the same company as used by Rustington Parish Council. The Chairman of the Council is aware of this decision. This will be paid for from the council's Contingency budget line for this year.

Further to the discussion held at the committee's last meeting a revised application for use of the Village Green during December has been received from the Kick Cancer Events organisation.

The wildflower meadows again seem to have been subject to a virulent weed. I have been liaising with the contractors over this. The local manager has taken the decision to "spray off all of the meadows we seeded in East Preston at the next opportunity. The weed has taken over them all and need to kill them off before they go to seed. We will continue to eradicate the weed until next year with more treatments." That said, there are some wildflowers beginning to peek through.

A longer report to council will be available after the committee's next meeting, which is on 8th July.

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

24th June 2019

Community Engagement Committee

Following the mention of a vacancy on the council's editorial team in Minute 515/19, Cllr Gunston has volunteered his services.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

19th June 2019

Planning & Licensing Committee

The committee met on 10th and 24th June and by the time of the July Full Council meeting, draft Minutes are likely to have been circulated from both meetings.

On 10th June, the committee agreed its responses to four Applications. The applicants of one of the four were present. The committee had no objections to raise over three of the applications whilst on the fourth it objected to the possible choice of materials for a property in Willowhayne Avenue. The committee also considered the Licensing Application which went alongside the Change of Use Application for 23 Sea Road, changing the premise to a micro-pub. The committee agreed not to object to the Licensing Application.

On 24th June, the committee will consider a further five Planning Applications, one of which was an amended version of an Application considered earlier in the year.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24th June 2019

Additionally:

Major Events Committee – committee chairman, Cllr Linton, mentioned the committee's next meeting was midday on the day after this meeting.

Personnel Committee – most recent committee chairman, Cllr Gander, advised the committee's first meeting of the new council year was scheduled to take place on 15th July.

Planning & Licensing Committee – in addition to his report, the Clerk said the council had received some complaints about music being performed outside The Tudor Tavern on 30th June between 4pm and 7pm. He believed this was contrary to the pub's licence but had referred the matter to ADC for further investigation.

There were no updates from the other four committees.

574/19 PERSONNEL COMMITTEE – STANDING ORDERS – LOCAL ELECTIONS

Cllr Gander talked the council through the following report which had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Personnel Committee – endorsement of political candidates in local and general elections

Committee is asked to agree a change to Standing Orders whereby incumbent councillors are not permitted to endorse candidates in General and Local Elections.

Cllr Gander to introduce this item.

At its meeting on 8th April, members of the Personnel Committee expressed concern the council's non-political status could be compromised after some councillors had signed the nomination forms for candidates in the recent local elections. The committee felt the council should be proud of its non-political status and should do all it could to retain that status for as long as possible. The committee also felt a nomination by a well-known parish councillor could be interpreted by the wider community as an endorsement from the council.

The committee agreed an additional Standing Order should be put in place preventing incumbent councillors from endorsing any candidate in a general or local election. The committee felt this would give councillors caught off guard the ability to turn down requests for them to, for example, sign the nomination forms of candidates.

All of the above equally applies to officers.

The proposed new Standing Order would read:

In order to protect the non-political status of East Preston Parish Council, this council does not allow incumbent councillors and officers to be signatories for any candidate in a local or general election. Incumbent councillors and officers are assured of the council's full backing should they refuse when asked to be a signatory for any local or general election candidate.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

20th June 2019

After some debate, during which councillors expressed their support for the council remaining and being seen to be non-political, whilst other questioned whether the new Standing Order suppressed their right to be seen to support a particular candidate:

- 1341** The council **RESOLVED** to a change to Standing Orders whereby incumbent councillors and officers are not permitted to endorse candidates in General and Local Elections.

575/19 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

Cllr Mathias said the Leases Working Party had not yet met as it was to be formed from the membership of the Audit & Governance Committee.

576/19 EAST PRESTON TWINNING ASSOCIATION

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

East Preston Twinning Association

(The report below was first issued to the 3rd June Full Council meeting)

Council is asked to agree the formal closure of the East Preston Twinning Association.

Council will be aware the members of the East Preston Twinning Association wound up the association last year, after 40 years of happy twinning with Brou, a town in France.

Philip and Marion Sherwin have been doing work to store an archive of Twinning Association material at the West Sussex Records Office in Chichester. Asked whether the Twinning Agreement was now formally redundant and whether all references to twinning should be removed, Philip and Marion's answer was:

"At the final visit to Brou it was quite clear that the Twinning Arrangements of visits were terminated, and speeches were made to that effect in the presence of the Marie and local officials. However, strictly speaking, we think the original Charter was a signed agreement between two local authorities; Brou's council funded and led their end but our Parish Council handed over all liaison to the Association, originally I believe they hosted the 'on arrival' reception in the village hall but, in our time, even this was funded by the Association though the PC made a small donation towards cost of the biannual visit {about 10% of the total I would guess}. I think the Parish Council should note demise of the Association and, if they don't want to take it on themselves, the Chairman should write a formal letter (in French) to the Marie saying that, sadly, the Twinning is at an end. Then delete all reference."

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

10th May 2019

1342 The council **RESOLVED** unanimously to agree to the formal closure of the East Preston Twinning Association.

577/19 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. SLCC Sussex Branch, Arun & Chichester Clerks' Networking Lunch, 4th June**
- 5. East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 6th June**
- 6. Royal British Legion D-Day Memorial Service, 9th June**
- 7. Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, 13th June**
- 8. Meeting with Rustington Parish Council, 14th June**
- 9. Tree removed from a residential grass verge, 7th June**
- 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. July meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

The council reported nothing new to Sussex Police this month.

3. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests

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

4. SLCC Sussex Branch, Arun & Chichester Clerks' Networking Lunch, 4th June

Dawn and I attended this meeting which was held in Bersted and led by Debbie Holcombe, Clerk to Bersted Parish Council. About eight councils were represented in addition to Bersted and East Preston.

Two topics were on the agenda before the meeting started: ways to engage more with local residents and councils' involvement as charity trustees.

There was discussion about ways to engage with local residents in person – councillor surgery events such as our own Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event, having a stall at local fetes and such like. There was also discussion about engaging via social media, and it was felt best to try to avoid raising anything controversial via social media and to avoid responding to criticisms made on social media. Social media moves very quickly and getting involved in slinging matches can prolong the agony of criticisms made and also highlight them to members of the public who did not feel there was a problem until someone else told them there was one.

The question about charities related very specifically to local branches of the Henry Smith charity, of which there is neither one in East Preston nor Angmering. In one Sussex village, the local branch of the charity has no governing document, the chairman of the charity's committee is paid, there seem to be no criteria written for who is eligible to claim from the charity, and the money comes into the council's bank account for onwards distribution even though the branch has its own account.

Dawn asked whether any of the councils present had rolling contracts but none did.

5. East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 6th June

Cllr Linton and I represented the council at this month's meeting. Eleven local businesses were also present. Twinkle Shah attended for the first time.

The main part of the meeting was a presentation from East Preston resident, Duncan Anderson, Chief Executive of South Downs Leisure. Included within the South Downs Leisure portfolio are Splashpoint, Field Place and Worthing Leisure Centre. Duncan addressed the meeting on the Wellbeing side of Health & Wellbeing. He has been the Chief Exec since 2015, formerly working as part of the local authority running the venues. In Duncan's view, Wellbeing is a bit of an unknown umbrella term too open to interpretation. On average a member of staff going off with stress or anxiety is off for 16½ days at a time. Loneliness can be as damaging to a person's health as smoking fifteen cigarettes a day. In 2018, whilst 230,000 people globally died because of wars, 800,000 people committed suicide.

South Downs Leisure had a Health and Wellbeing Policy which aims to ensure all staff had a good work-life balance. There were approximately 400 staff at South Downs Leisure and a recent initiative was a Learning Week, during which all 400 staff were given access to a variety of courses led by other members of staff. Duncan's course was on how to survive on the contents of your handbag. The thinking behind the Learning Week was it gave personnel the chance to learn something new and completely different during work time.

Leaders lead the way is one of Duncan's beliefs and an example of responding to that has been Duncan's stopping sending his colleagues emails out of working hours. Colleagues receiving emails at odd times of the day or night begin to think that's normal behaviour which is not a good thing.

Duncan is also involved in Worthing's Park Run and Worthing's Good Gym. Most people have some understanding by now of Park Run but Good Gym was a new concept to most at the meeting. In Worthing, the initiative is run in conjunction with the Borough Council. In brief, participants meet and do a short run ending at a destination where they carry out half an hour of energetic gardening or cooking for the homeless or something similar before a short run back to their starting point, the whole activity lasting little more than an hour. This may be more practical in East Preston than a park run, and certainly there were businesspeople at the meeting who expressed interest in taking part. Duncan ended by saying how much better such events seem to run when led by volunteers.

On behalf of John Wintle of KEPT – Keep East Preston Tidy I reiterated his plea for local businesses and individuals to support the three-year campaign by Wayne Dixon and his dog, Koda. On 1st February 2016, Wayne and Koda set off from Lancashire to walk the whole coast of Britain, collecting litter as they went as a way of highlighting this country's bad

relationship with its own litter. John was hoping local businesses would see a publicity opportunity in being able to give Wayne and Koda a meal or a bed for the night. Update: Wayne has now passed by this area without stopping.

Graham Street announced he and Liz were moving to Norfolk after forty years of living in the village. Graham has always been very supportive of the council and has been attending

Business Breakfasts since I started them officially in September 2011, although there had been ad-hoc ones previously. Liz has also supported Business Breakfasts, the East Preston Christmas Celebrations (another elf) and been a valued member of the East Preston Festival Committee for a number of years. Both will be much missed.

The next Business Breakfast will be on Wednesday, 3rd July.

6. Royal British Legion D-Day Memorial Service, 9th June

I attended this service at St Mary the Virgin. Councillors present were Cllrs Toney, Moore and Gunston. Former councillors present included Dorothy Lee and Jack Cogman. A moving service was led by Fr Andrew Perry. Hymns included *Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer* during which the Legion's Standards were presented, *Onward! Christian Soldiers* and *Jerusalem*. The service ended with all three verses of the National Anthem as the Standards were returned.



The Standards returning at the end of the service.

7. Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, 13th June

This event took place on the forecourt of the Council Office despite the forecast of rain throughout the morning. This, thankfully, did not come to pass. The following councillors attended: Barber, Chapman, Duff, Gale, Linton, Mathias, Toney and Wilkinson. All others had provided suitable apologies.

Firstly, thanks to Cllr Chapman for baking very well-received cupcakes which raised over £50 for Alzheimer's Society's Cupcake Day. This was paid in on 19th June.

Secondly, thanks to Colin, Karen and Kit at The Clockhouse for the use of four outside tables and sixteen outside chairs.

Thirdly, thanks to Janet and Patrick at East Preston Bowls Club for the use of the urn which was kept busy throughout the morning.

Finally, thank you to the twenty plus members of the public who came along and kept councillors talking throughout the two hours of the event.

As usual, I will collate the questions asked and these will be answered in an article in the next newsletter. Any questions raised that are particularly personal rather than generic will be answered personally.



Cllrs Bowman, Chapman, Duff, Gale, Linton, Mathias and Toney meeting members of the public including John Kimmer, David and Daphne Beale, Robert and Sue Morley and Alf Longhurst.

8. Meeting with Rustington Parish Council (RPC), 14th June

I had a quick catch-up meeting with my counterpart, Carole Ward, and the new Assistant Clerk, Rosie Costan.

The bulk of our conversation was about the No. 12 Compass bus service. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council had asked me to find out how much RPC pays towards this service each year. Currently £20,000. The service runs five times a day in each direction. Carole and Rosie understood why EPPC might want the service to be extended into the village and agreed to set up a meeting between the three of us and their contact at Compass. Currently between 1,800 and 2,100 passenger journeys are made each month.

In other discussions, Carole confirmed Rustington Parish Council does not have any rolling contracts.

9. Tree removed from a residential grass verge, 7th June

We were contacted by a resident on 7th June, concerned a tree had been removed by residents from a grass verge in a road near the fire station. In his opinion, the tree was perfectly healthy. By the time I had enough information, including photographs, to refer this to West Sussex County Council, the tree and stump had been removed.

The local Highways steward visited the site and spoke to the resident who claimed the tree had been unhealthy and they had removed it. The Highways steward, caught between two differing reports, felt he had no choice but to thank the resident and take no further action.

Why did the resident not report the unhealthy tree to the County Council and have the tree removed not at their own expense?

I asked whether this site could be put on a list for a replacement tree sometime, but received the following answer, "sorry no replanting unless the Parish want to pay for a tree." I have added this matter to the Amenities Committee agenda for 8th July.

10. Social media

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

- Notification a car had driven into the front of The Healthcare Clinic in North Lane and there may be traffic problems for a short while – 2,313 people
- Photograph of war memorial on the 75th anniversary of D-Day – 1,221
- Further post warning of local bicycle and motorcycle thefts – 1,117
- Found iPhone on Lashmar Rec - 995
- Advert from television production company looking for haunted houses – 820

- Photograph of Cllr Chapman's cupcakes as publicity for Come and Meet Your Local Councillors and the council's support of Alzheimer's Society's Cupcake Day - 726
- Highways England publicity for upcoming A27 roadworks – 713
- WSCC Public Notice of emergency roadworks in Dappers Lane, Angmering - 702
- Photograph publicising the new stubbie bins (for cigarette butts) installed by ADC outside The Clockhouse and The Tudor Tavern – 679
- A set of keys found in South Strand – 613
- A found debit card - 576
- Repost of Littlehampton Gazette article about sexual assault of a woman in Rustington – 548
- Final advance poster publicising Come and Meet Your Local Councillors - 507

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 23rd June)

The number of people currently like the council on Facebook is 1,231, an increase of thirteen over the last report.

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 – 22nd May – sent to 793, opened by 544 to date (68.6%)

Parish Council news – 30th May – sent to 793, opened by 522 (65.8%)

Parish Council news – East Preston Festival special – sent to 794, opened by 525 (66.1%)

Parish Council news – 12th June – sent to 797, opened by 522 (65.5%)

Parish Council news – 19th June – sent to 797, opened by 507 (63.6%)

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

“Can we get any more tickets for the sold-out Festival quiz night?”

“Please can I park on your forecourt for five minutes?” (This is noteworthy as it was asked by someone from outside the village whereas most people who park on the forecourt are residents but don't ask, even when the door is open and we are clearly in.)

13. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

For help given in trying to have two caravans moved on from the car-park of Beaumont Court, Worthing Road, “Really appreciate what you did:))”

Thanks from members of the South Strand Community Toilets committee for being allowed to use the Council Office meeting room for all their labelling up ahead of the tombola the committee ran at Party on the Green.

For help with getting two potholes in Willowhayne Crescent fixed, "Thank you the pot holes have now been filled in! x"

From a resident of Sea Lane, looking for an update on access for all to the beach, "Many thanks for your prompt reply."

Thanks from a resident of North Lane for help in getting WSCC to trim back foliage outside her property which was obstructing her view when exiting her driveway.

14. **Leave**

Alison is off week beginning 29th July. I will be off on 16th July. No other leave has been booked currently.

15. **July Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

1 st	Visit to Shoreham Harbour (16:00, Southwick) Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
2 nd	Major Events Committee (12:00, Council Office) SLCC Arun Clerks meeting (12:30, Bersted) (DR only)
3 rd	East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast (08:00, The Seahorse Café) SLCC Sussex Branch quarterly meeting (10:00, Heathfield) (SC only)
4 th	Sussex Community Rail Partnership quarterly meeting (10:00, Hove) (SC only)
5 th	Tennis Coaching of the Warren Recreation Ground (10:00)
8 th	Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) Amenities Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
10 th	SSALC HR course (10:00, Lewes) (SC only)
12 th	Tennis Coaching of the Warren Recreation Ground (10:00)
15 th	Disability Action Group or East Preston, Annual General Meeting (11:00) Personnel Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) Twice-yearly meeting with Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club (tbc)
18 th	Arun Dementia Action Alliance (12:00, Angmering Library)
19 th	Tennis Coaching of the Warren Recreation Ground (10:00)
22 nd	Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School) Amenities Committee (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
29 th	SSALC Councillors' Briefing (18:00, East Preston Infant School) (ALL councillors)

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**

21st June 2019

Item 5 – East Preston Business Community – Cllr Linton drew council's attention to the fact Mrs Street had offered the council an elf costume she would not be taking with her when she left the village. The council agreed to adopt the costume if it was still available.

Item 7 – Come and Meet Your Local Councillors, 13th June – the actual sum raised for Alzheimer's Society's Cupcake Day was £54.

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his report.

578/19 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:

Worthing Town Cryers, 5th June

Worthing

This group is part of the Alzheimer's Society and their meetings are held in Stone Lane, Worthing. I was invited to go along by Tim Wilkins who is the area co-ordinator, to listen and take part in the afternoon's discussions. There were 10 attendees and 3 invited guests.

We went through the Agenda from the last meeting including any notes from the May meeting.

At the last meeting, they had a visit from Worthing Fire Station personnel who gave a very interesting talk about Fire safety in the home. A few questions were asked at this meeting about the visit and I was surprised how much many remembered about the talk.

I was amazed at how much understanding and patience the team have towards their members. We had a discussion about "Visit England" - good or bad. This was asking the members how when they have been visiting places in the country about access and ways to help remember where the rooms are on what floor etc. by the use of colour coding floor levels.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday July 3rd between 13.30 and 15.30 hrs.

On Monday 22nd July there is a tea dance at Shoreham Academy to celebrate Alzheimer's 40th Anniversary.

A copy of the May minutes is located in the Parish office.

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

24th June 2019

WSCC Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee, 11th June

White Swan, Arundel

This meeting was held at the White Swan Arundel. It consists of West Sussex County Councillors, Arun District Councillors and Parish Councillors from the Eastern Area of the county.

The first 6 items on the agenda were to confirm appointments to various committees. I have been confirmed as lead Town and Parish member for this year.

Item 7, "Talk with us" was mainly about the parking of "vans, camper vans" etc around the streets in the Arun area. It was suggested that a "compound" in a designated area could be set up. It was pointed out that Ace van hire appear to be the main culprits.

Item 8, was presented by Inspector Sharon Sawyer on policing issues within the Arun area. Vehicle enforcement and removal is down to Arun District Council. The County lines drugs initiative is receiving extra funding, there is another 100 PCSO coming into force, of which 45 will be patrolling within West Sussex. Some parishes are asking for figures for Rural crime which appears to be on the increase.

Item 9, Your Sussex Energy was a presentation from David Edwards about this subject. They are an alternative to the "big 6." More information can be found on the web: yourenergysussex.org.uk or 0800 952 0001

Item 12, The southern section over the railway line at Toddington has been approved and work is starting soon. The section we are concerned about at the A259, the Compulsory Purchase Orders have been issued and planned work should commence in November 2019.

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

24th June 2019

Glamour Club, 15th June

Goring-by-Sea

On Saturday 15th June, Pat Gander and I, dressed to kill, went to the Glamour Club in Goring to get ideas for the Silver Sunday event we are holding in October.

We were greeted at the door of the English Martyrs Church hall by a dinner-jacketed man on stilts and shown into the hall where ladies and gentlemen wearing sparkly clothing introduced themselves. The organiser was Janice Moth who has arranged similar events in this area.

There were about 70 attendees seated at tables around the hall and the dress code was smart and/or quirky and fun. Tea and coffee was in unlimited supply and after introductions of the committee sandwiches were served whilst songs from the wars were sung by a lady in army uniform. During her break we were serenaded at our table by a lady guitarist who moved around the hall encouraging everyone to join in.

The volunteers paraded into the hall accompanied by music announcing the 'cakes' and this was followed by another session of 1920/30s entertainment.

The Mayoress of Worthing and her husband attended in an official capacity (huge chain of office) and the town crier resplendent in his uniform made for a thoroughly jolly event.

We certainly picked up some ideas and more detail will be discussed at the next Major Events Committee on Tuesday 2nd July at midday.

Cllr Elizabeth Linton

15th June 2019

East Arun Health Services Advisory Group, 20th June

Littlehampton

Neither Cllr Gander nor I was able to attend this meeting, but the following information is taken from the draft Minutes of the meeting. Cllr Chapman did attend and will almost certainly have information to add to this report.

Angmering and Rustington Parish Councils were both represented as was Littlehampton Town Council.

The meeting was chaired by Pippa Ross-Smith, representing the NHS's Coastal West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). Ms Ross-Smith announced there would be no senior representation from the CCG at future meetings, although the Minutes do not record the reasons behind this decision. It was proposed to incorporate these meetings into other existing meetings, possibly the Local Community Networks (LCN) meetings Cllr Gander already attends (after a year of knocking on doors which were not as open as they purported to be).

The Lawns Surgery in Rustington, used by some East Preston residents, closes officially on 30th June with the final appointments being held on 28th June. Patients registered at The Lawns have been given a choice of surgeries to move to; any that did not specify a preference within the given timescale, have been allocated to another practice, in line with the NHS process for a closing practice.

Fitzalan Medical Centre is out of Special Measures and again able to register new patients.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

24th June 2019

Southern Water: Working together to build a resilient water future for the South East, 27th June

Amex Stadium, Falmer

Ian McAulay – Chief Executive of Southern Water (SW) opened the workshop by apologising to the delegates as SW has just been given a record £126m punishment for spills of wastewater into the environment from its sewage plants and for deliberately misreporting its performance.

He was appointed in 2017 (after the events described above) and made the following points: -

- SW referred themselves to Ofwat (the water regulator) and the Environment Agency as soon as they became aware of what was happening.
- For legal reasons SW can only apologise now the investigations are over.
- £123m will be paid back as rebates on bills over the next 5 years. The remaining £3 is a fine imposed by Ofwat.
- £126 million will be absorbed by the company and not passed onto customers.

SESSION 1 Achieving a resilient water future - reducing consumption through behaviour change.

Our region is water stressed with a growing population. (SW plan for a 56% increase by 2080.)

SW has a 17% leakage rate and plan to halve this by 2050.

On average SW customers use 131 litres per day (low compared to other areas - partly because 90% of customers have meters). The plan is to get this down to a figure of 100 litres per day by 2040.

SW is looking at a number of ways to achieve the 100 litre target:-

- Smart meters to give monthly updates on usage.
- Streamlining water and leakage home visits.
- Community incentives for cutting consumption. A trial in Eastleigh, in association with Greenredeem, awards points that can be spent in local businesses.
- Pushing for water usage labelling – similar to energy ratings.

SESSION 2 Supporting vulnerable customers.

- SW runs a Priority Services Register for vulnerable customers. Customers qualify if chronically ill, disabled, have difficulty seeing or hearing or have mental health issues etc. They can then provide different types of help:
 - Help if my water supply is interrupted
 - Large print bills and letters
 - Braille bills and letters
 - Talking bills
 - Frequent meter readingsCustomers can apply by phone or online.
- SW operate a number of support tariffs e.g.:-
 - Discounts for those on pension credit or with household income under £16,105 pa.
 - Bill caps for those on means tested benefits.
 - Help for those in debt.

SESSION 3 Succeeding together: building a social contract

SW wants to work together with stakeholders to establish a “Social Contract” so that we all begin to treat water as a valuable resource. This has wider implications and involves other issues such as care for the environment, using less energy and less plastic.

After each session we had a round table discussion. Several points were raised: -

- One presenter suggested the most effective way to encourage users to drop their water consumption was by telling them that their neighbours were doing better. We therefore asked if we could have details of water usage for individual areas - to measure ourselves against the average and take steps to move towards the 100 litre target. I left my email address with one of the presenters.

- We discussed the possibility of sharing information on vulnerable people but concluded data protection issues made this difficult.
- The Refill App was mentioned as a useful way of finding retailers who will provide taps to refill water bottles thus stopping people buying water in plastic bottle. Retailers providing the water get the benefit of extra footfall.

Several tables at the venue were manned by Southern Water staff with details on various issues.

- Drainage and Wastewater Management plans (DWMPs). These plans are designed to quantify risks within a national standard. SW is working in conjunction with stakeholders to identify joint concerns and solutions to help long-term risks of growth and climate change. SW is running a pilot scheme on the Isle of Wight.
- Brochures and advice on how to save water. There was a practical demonstration showing the significant savings to be made by fitting a device to slow the rate of water in a power shower.
- Brochures and advice on how to obtain help with water bills

Suggested actions for East Preston Parish Council

- Raise awareness of need to save water. Southern provide free water saving home visits.
- Identify vulnerable customers to make them aware of available help.
- Look at Greenredeem to see if we can set up an East Preston reward scheme.
- Encourage parishioners to use the Refill App to find free water refill stations.
- If SW can provide usage data for East Preston parish we should set ourselves targets to reduce water consumption.

Cllr John Gunston

28th June 2019

Community Speed Watch team meeting, 27th June

East Preston Fire Station

I attended the latest of these two-monthly meetings of East Preston's Community Speed Watch team. Owing to a couple of last minute commitments, not all of the team were able to attend. PCSO Jason Lemm had been intending to attend, but he too was unable to attend owing to a last minute push for police resources to be in Chichester that afternoon.

The meeting was led by Keith Harris, current coordinator of the team. Those present all completed a form detailing when they are available to go on patrol during July and August. Another team member was due to have roadside training today, but a few more members would always be a good thing.

Keith talked to the team about the Obtrada traffic monitoring surveys the council has agreed to fund. These surveys will take a week and will record, number and type of vehicles and speed. The first two will be in Sea Road and in North Lane. The Community Engagement Committee has agreed to fund these from its Traffic Calming Measures budget line. Keith also mentioned he had worked with Paul Amoo as the Film Society has submitted a bid for funding from the Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner's community safety fund. The Film Society has applied for £4,000 to fund further traffic monitoring surveys around the village, in the hope there will be sufficient funding available to do comparison testing in say six months' time.

A ninth site within the village has now been approved by Sussex Police after the Community Speed Watch team expressed its concerns about one of the sites. The new site is in the north-south stretch of The Street.

There was some discussion about the effectiveness of temporary 30mph signs such as those which appeared in Old Worthing Road for westbound traffic a few months ago. I eventually received the following response from Steve O'Connell of the Sussex Safer Roads Partnership, "These signs are issued by us and placed by local prevention team officers as part of the preventative measures where there are active Community Speedwatch Groups or where we have received complaints about speeding from residents. The signs are placed and logged and will be rotated after a short period of time to also prevent drivers becoming used seeing them in one place, again this is part of our initiative to help reduce speeding within the Community and assist local groups."

A resident of Sea Lane felt there was a need for such signage in that road. The team meeting was not convinced signage about speed limits would do anything other than encourage some people to drive at the speed limit. Something to bear in mind when councillors review any completed What Can The Council Do For The Village? forms in due course.

A stall has been booked for the team to attend the East Preston Christmas Celebrations on 23rd November. I said the team could have some of the speed awareness wheelie-bin stickers we bought a few years ago for giving to interested residents. The team may investigate setting up a stall at the Classic Car Show if one takes place this year.

The next meeting will take place towards the end of August.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

28th June 2019

Cllr Gander added the Glamour Club event had been well-attended and was suitable for people of all ages. The Major Events Committee would be discussing its own similar event, scheduled for 6th October, at its meeting on 2nd July.

Cllr Chapman was pleased to report Cllr Gander had been spoken of positively at the East Arun Health Services Advisory Group meeting. An integrated medical hub for Littlehampton was now expected to be provided by the end of 2024.

(Mr At left the meeting at this point.)

Fitzalan and Coppice surgeries were both taking on new patients; hopefully they would mop up any patients not yet re-registered following the closure of The Lawns.

579/19 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

There were no responses.

580/19 AUGUST 2019 MEETING

The Chairman asked councillors to keep open their diaries for a possible meeting on 5th August. He and the Clerk would liaise as that date approached.

581/19 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (5TH AUGUST OR 2ND SEPTEMBER 2019)

Nothing new was suggested.

The meeting concluded at 21:01.

Chairman: *Councillor Steve Toney* Date: **2nd September 2019**

END