



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

Council Office, 122 Sea Road, East Preston, West Sussex. BN16 1NN

01903 770050

<http://eastpreston.arun.gov.uk>

Email: eparishcouncil@btconnect.com

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MINUTES: of the Committee Meeting held on Monday, 22nd July 2019 at East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston at 19:00

PRESENT: Councillors A Chapman, L Duff, P Gander, E Linton (Chairman), D Moore and S Toney

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

Cllr J Gunston (until 19:42)

Vic Benney and Kelvan Gale (until 19:25)

ABSENT: Cllr C Bowman

The meeting opened at 19:04.

Cllr Gunston attended solely to speak on Agenda Item 21, *Feedback from Southern Water seminar*.

662/19 APOLOGIES AND REASONS FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Bowman (family commitment).

663/19 PERSONAL AND/OR PECUNIARY/PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

664/19 PUBLIC SESSION

Messrs Benney and Gale attended the meeting solely to talk about Community Radio. The meeting AGREED to discuss this first.

665/19 COMMUNITY RADIO

Mr Benney gave some details of his experience of community radio stations. Some of those in Sussex are based in Burgess Hill, East Grinstead, Bognor Regis, Seaford and two in Brighton. These all broadcast on FM and most over the internet.

OFCOM, the Office of Communications, is the governing body responsible for community radio stations.

Stations broadcast on FM. They can sell advertising time as long as the profits are ploughed back into the station or the local community.

OFCOM grants a licence based upon an application submitted.

A community radio service will rely upon a lot of volunteers. Content must be strongly local. OFCOM will check regularly to ensure the terms of the licence are being adhered to.

Mr Benney said the set up costs were in the region of £10,000 but could be slightly lower. Grant funding was usually available. Maintenance wise, the transmitter needs to be monitored to ensure it was broadcasting cleanly, but no major maintenance beyond that.

OFCOM preferred stations to have no more than a 5km radius.

The project had the capability to be a real intergenerational project. Mr Benney said it was important to keep volunteers engaged and to let them learn by making mistakes.

Music broadcasting was covered by the Performing Rights Society licence; reading books was covered by copyright and permission would need to be given by the author or rights holder.

Mr Benney said he would be happy to help if necessary by providing a few hours of consultancy.

The committee AGREED to seek public opinion on the desire for a community radio station for East Preston.

(Messrs Benney and Gale left the meeting at this point.)

666/19 SOUTHERN WATER MATTERS

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Water usage in the village

Committee is asked to consider further the actions identified by Cllr Gunston at the Southern Water seminar held in Brighton on 27th June.

Cllr Gunston's report of the seminar was presented to Full Council as an additional supporting paper for the meeting held on 1st July. I have copied his report into Appendix B below.

Cllr Gunston wrote on 11th July, "I'm planning to talk about helping vulnerable customers, conserving water and the Refill scheme at the Community Engagement committee meeting next week."

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

12th July 2019

Cllr Gunston gave a brief recap on his visit to the Southern Water Stakeholders meeting in Brighton on 27th June. Southern Water wants its stakeholders to help it in their communities. The council could help with a small splash such as a newsletter article or could make a deeper splash by inviting Southern Water to attend events in East Preston or carrying Southern Water leaflets in the Council Office. Some of these leaflets are aimed at vulnerable people and the council may have a greater insight into where some of those people live than Southern Water. The biggest splash would be to set up a so-called "social contract" between the village and Southern Water, looking at water use reduction targets and such like.

Cllr Gander felt there was the beginning of a community project here.

As about 90% of households in the village have water meters it should not be too difficult for Southern Water to give us a usage figure now and again in six or twelve months time. Southern Water also issued community rewards which could take a number of formats.

East Preston Infant School is already a recognised eco-school. Southern Water has, in the past, sponsored the school's tree at the Christmas Tree Festival and helped with the infrastructure of the whole event.

Cllr Gander felt there was probably a lot of information from Southern Water which should be made available to the social prescribing team.

The committee AGREED Southern Water should be invited to present at the Full Council meeting on 7th October.

Cllr Gunston AGREED to contact the person within the Vulnerable People department at Southern Water to get some more information the council could help disseminate.

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

East Preston Festival 2019

Committee is asked to review the Come and Meet Your Local Councillors event on 13th June.

Committee is reminded the event raised £54 for Alzheimer’s Cupcake Day - <https://cupcakeday.alzheimers.org.uk/>. Thanks to Cllr Chapman for baking for the event.

As always, thanks to The Clockhouse and East Preston & Kingston Bowls Club for the loan of equipment to make the event run smoothly.

As already reported to Full Council, the event kept councillors busy for the whole two hours. This year, there were fewer topics raised overall but answers will be given in the Summer 2019 Newsletter.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

Cllr Linton led a vote of thanks to Cllr Chapman for her lovely cupcakes which had raised £54 for the Alzheimer’s Society.

The Clerk reported answers to questions raised at the event had been included in the Summer 2019 Newsletter which had just gone to print. All councillors had been provided with an electronic copy of the newsletter ahead of it being distributed.

668/19 **FREE TENNIS COACHING ON THE WARREN RECREATION GROUND**

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Tennis coaching at the Warren Recreation Ground

Committee is asked to review this year’s free-to-participate tennis lessons again on the Warren Recreation Ground.

Sessions took place on Friday mornings 5th, 12th and 19th July at 10am.



Friday, 5th July
(l-r: Garry Ettridge, Celeste Amoo, work experience boy, Andrew Cook (Head Coach), Duncan Angus, Johanne Angus) (photograph by Cllr Elizabeth Linton)



Friday, 12th July
Duncan, Celeste, Garry and Cllr Lisa Duff (photograph by Simon Cross)

Attendance this year has definitely been up on previous years – five on the 5th, seven on the 12th. After the first session, I received a phonecall from all participants gathered around a single phone asking if they could all attend again.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

Cllr Duff had taken part in two of the sessions and thought they were wonderful. Cllr Duff praised Andrew Cook, head coach at Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club for his inventive games that kept everyone included.

Cllr Linton had spoken to Andrew and confirmed he felt the sessions had gone particularly well this year and he was happy to run them again next year. He felt scheduling the sessions for just after Wimbledon time had been a good move.

Friday mornings also seemed to have worked better for people.

The Clerk had received an email from one of the participants, “We really enjoyed the tennis coaching this summer. Please pass on our thanks to Andrew - he’s encouraged to take up our racquets again. Thanks too to the parish council for arranging and funding the venture. We’ve got to know some new people in the village, which is heart warming in itself.”

The committee was happy to hear the sessions had met a number of Wellbeing objectives, not just physical activity.

669/19 PLAYSCHEMES - FITNESS and FUN 3

Cllrs Duff and Gander advised they were leading on this event. Cllr Chapman is unavailable that day.

The Clerk said more bookings were needed.

670/19 MERCHANT NAVY DAY (3RD SEPTEMBER 2019)

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

Merchant Navy Day, 3rd September

Committee is asked to plan this year’s event.

Mrs Vicki Davey has confirmed the library service has no problem with the event taking place by the war memorial.

Cllr Moore has confirmed Littlehampton Sea Cadet Commanding Officer, Lt (SWCC) Brian Osborne RNR and Able Cadet, Ella Bartlett would be present again.

I have been in touch with Neil Walker, Chairman of the East Preston & Kingston Branch of the Royal British Legion.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

Cllr Toney and the Clerk confirmed they had not heard anything from Mr Walker. Cllr Toney would contact him again.

The Clerk said no officiating vicar had been contacted. He would contact Fr Perry.

Cllr Linton confirmed she would find a suitable reading to give. Cllr Toney will raise the flag. The Clerk will order cakes once confirmation has been received from the Royal British Legion.

671/19 OTHER CELEBRATION DAYS

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

Merchant Navy Day and similar

Committee is asked to consider a suggestion about Merchant Navy Day and similar events.

In addition to commemorating Merchant Navy Day in the past, the council has also celebrated Commonwealth Day (12th March) and expressed a wish to celebrate Sussex Day (16th June), but to date has failed in the latter task. The council celebrated Commonwealth Day in 2016, 2017 and 2018 but completely forgot it in 2019.

From time to time, the council receives an email from central government or the county council asking us to consider taking part in yet another day.

I would like the committee to consider rotating which of these days we commemorate each year. My proposal is the council marks only one such day each year on a rotating basis. Perhaps: 2020 – Commonwealth Day; 2021 – Sussex Day; 2022 – Merchant Navy Day, and so on.

A further suggestion might be to work with our neighbours in Rustington and Angmering Parish Councils and between the three of us maybe we could ensure each of the days is marked somewhere local. That would be something for Cllrs Toney and Linton to raise at the Eastern Parishes meeting.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

Cllr Linton said she felt the Clerk's suggestion was a good one. There was concern though about which of the other parish councils observed any of the days on the list.

After some discussion, the committee AGREED to keep marking Commonwealth Day and Merchant Navy Day annually.

The committee was unsure of the purpose of Sussex Day. The Clerk agreed to contact his Chichester City Council counterpart to ascertain how Chichester marks Sussex Day.

672/19 EAST PRESTON BEACH CLEAN NO. 14, 29TH SEPTEMBER

Cllrs Chapman, Duff, Gander, Linton and Toney all said they would be present. Cllr Moore said he would try.

673/19 FRIENDS OF ST MARY'S – CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL 2019

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Friends of St Mary's Christmas Tree Festival

Committee is asked to review any progress on the council's participation in the Christmas Tree Festival in December.

At the last meeting, the committee agreed this year's theme should be Five Ways to Wellbeing. The decorations used in 2016 have been retrieved from the council's garage and are now in the office should anyone wish to see them. I may even bring them to the meeting with me.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

After the school holidays, Cllr Chapman and Duff will collect the existing Christmas decorations and work on new ones.

674/19 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 28TH MAY 2019

The draft Minutes of the meeting held on 28th May had been circulated to all members on 31st May asking for suggested amendments by 7th June. No amendments were proposed.

The committee AGREED the Minutes could be signed as a true record of the meeting which had taken place on 28th May and this action was duly completed by Cllr Linton.

675/19 UPDATE ON MATTERS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following report by the Clerk was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Matters Arising from previous meetings

Minute 483/19 – Community Speed Watch – Automatic Traffic Counter – in addition to the site identified in Sea Road, Mr Harris came back with his team's request the other survey be carried out in North Lane south of the fire station, but north of the turning for Kingston. I compiled this information and map over to Obtrada which has tweaked the sites a little. These tweaks have been agreed with Keith, and Obtrada has gone off to contact WSCC and SSE to get agreement to attach its equipment to their lamp-posts and across the carriageway. We are currently looking at the surveys taking place during week beginning 9th September.

Minute 486/19 – East Preston Beach Cleans – the Infant School Beach Clean scheduled for 29th June duly took place. Unfortunately I was unable to attend but the council did arrange a sharps box for the school to take, just in case. Mrs Jo Rickard organised the event and said it had been very successful. Mrs Rickard may now organised a tidy-up in another part of the village.

Minute 497/19 – Death of a Senior Person of State – Full Council agreed to the purchase of two condolence books, and these arrived on 10th July. (3rd June, Minute 518/19, Resolution 1325) The purchase was funded from the council's Contingency budget line.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 Council term – No 12 bus service – I had a catch-up meeting with Mrs Carole Ward and Ms Rosie Costan at Rustington Parish Council on Friday, 14th June. Part of our discussions was the No. 12 bus service which currently serves Rustington and which this council might like to extend into East Preston. As per my report to July Full Council, RPC currently contributes £20,000 towards the running costs of the service. Carole and Rosie have arranged a further meeting for 23rd July with a representative from Compass, just to see what options could be explored, if any.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 Council term – blood transfusion service – I have passed the School Business Manager's contact details onto the National Blood Service to see whether it would be possible to run sessions in the Infant School. As of 10th July, the school has not been contacted by the National Blood Service and I have chased the latter.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 Council term – park runs – I contacted Robin Wickham and ADC and he had his colleague Jenny McMann contact me back. Jenny wrote: "I have been in contact with Daniel who organised the Littlehampton Parkrun and been advised the best way to start is; The first point of call would be to send an enquiry into parkrun - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/>, from there I would expect they will put the person in touch with the relevant Ambassador for the local area and discuss the possibility of arranging a new run. Hopefully this gives you a good starting point!"

Guidance sought on where and how the committee wishes to progress this.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 Council term – car-free Sundays – there has not yet been time to raise this matter at a Business Breakfast.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 Council term – mobile banking – no known progress.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 Council term – Sussex Community Rail Partnership – I submitted the suggestions of this council via the online system. Whether we will hear anything back remains unknown.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

10th July 2019

Minute 482/19 – Community Speed Watch – Cllr Moore said he found Keith Harris's presentation on Community Speed Watch very useful and informative.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 council term – Park Runs – Cllr Linton said the idea of Park Runs in the village had pretty much died a natural death. The proximity of other park runs in Arun and the logistical input necessary probably made Park Runs too large a commitment for this council.

Minute 500/19 – Ideas for the new 2019-2023 council term – mobile banking – Cllr Linton had spoken to someone in the Rustington branch of the Barclays who had had no understanding of our objective. The Clerk agreed to circulate to councillors when the Natwest mobile bank visited Arundel and Barnham. Any committee member willing to visit and speak to someone on the mobile bank should let the Clerk know so nobody else duplicates the visit. [Clerk's Note: Arundel – Thursday 14:00 to 15:00; Monday Barnham 13:15 to 14:45.]

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

Newsletter

Committee is asked to review content for Newsletter No. 52, Summer 2019.

The Summer 2019 issue will be published at the beginning of August, in order to catch the Food & Drink Festival market.

This is a list of some articles for inclusion:

Food & Drink Festival;
Come and Meet Your Local Councillors feedback;
final update on South Strand toilets;
Village Life (diary);
Thanks;
Something from East Preston Business Community;
~~Car parking at the southern end of Sea Road; generally inconsiderate parking;~~
Promotion of Beach Clean No. 14;
Update on Sea Road toilet refurbishment

Bits in red are changes to the last edition of this supporting paper.

That would probably be a full four-page newsletter. Assistance in writing any of these articles would be appreciated. Having done two six-page newsletters this calendar year, it would probably be best to keep this to four pages.

Copy needs to be signed off on 22nd July, during the daytime. Therefore this article is more as a prompt for copy for it.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

The Summer 2019 Newsletter had been signed off on Friday, 19th July, after the Clerk and Cllr Linton had visited ADC's printing design team on the 18th. An electronic copy had been circulated to all councillors on the day of the meeting.

The committee started to consider content for the Autumn 2019 Newsletter, which will be published in early November. The first two pages will be Christmas Celebrations. Standard articles will be Village Life (diary) and Thanks. The committee suggested articles on Southern Water, community radio and the Christmas Tree Festival should be included. Cllr Gunston would be asked to draft the Southern Water article.

677/19 WELLBEING IN EAST PRESTON – NHS LOCAL COMMUNITY NETWORKS (LCN)

Cllr Gander provided an update on the LCN meeting she had attended on 11th July. The new Primary Care Networks (PCN), each of which are supposed to cover between 30,000 and 50,000 people were questioning the need for LCNs now. It was possible the REAL and Regis LCNs would merge to cover the whole of Arun District.

The future of the East Arun Health Service Advisory Group was reviewed as there appeared to be some overlap and duplication of meetings. This meeting will not continue. Currently, East Preston is the only town or parish council represented at the REAL LCN meetings whereas all Eastern Arun local councils sent representatives to the Advisory Group meetings. Cllr Gander was unsure about future representation and said it may be she ends up the only parish council representative.

All local GP practices were training their staff in end-of-life care.

The REAL PCN has set up a Social Prescribing Steering Group. Future membership has not yet been determined, but all existing members have been asked to confirm what they can contribute. Councillor Gander will attend the next meeting when the matter will be discussed further and membership confirmed.

678/19 WELLBEING IN EAST PRESTON – INTERGENERATIONAL EVENTS

The council's Major Events Committee was busy working on *Funday Sunday*, scheduled for 6th October. The committee AGREED councillors could have a *Funday Sunday* T-shirt made by Cllr Chapman, to promote the event at the Food & Drink Festival on Saturday, 24th August.

679/19 WELLBEING IN EAST PRESTON – READING FRIENDS

Cllr Gander reporting Reading Friends was now up and running in the county with a reading group underway in Burgess Hill and reminiscence sessions taking place at Rustington Library. The Clerk reminded councillors of the reading group for homeless people in Littlehampton.

Cllr Chapman was keen to work with the Infant and Junior Schools involved with reading events for people in care homes and pre-schools and such like. Cllr Chapman mentioned DEAR sessions – Drop Everything and Read.

The committee AGREED it would be useful to have an early meeting with the new Headteacher at East Preston Junior School, Michael Tidd, who starts at the school in September. The Clerk will contact Mr Tidd.

680/19 DEATH OF A SENIOR PERSON OF STATE

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Death of a senior person of state

Committee is asked to continue consideration of a policy for actions to be taken upon the death of a senior person of state.

Alison and I have taken the Ringwood Town Council document and started to amend it for East Preston purposes. Cllr Linton has started to look at the revised document too. See Appendix A below.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

The committee AGREED the list at the top of the document should be replaced with or guided by an official link. With that possible amendment in place, the Committee AGREED to recommend the document to Full Council for approval.

681/19 OFFICIAL GUIDE 2019/2020

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

Official Guide 2019/2020

Committee is asked to review progress on the creation of the guide.

The council worked hard to ensure it had copy with the publishers in plenty of time for this edition. Unfortunately, the publishers seemed to have a problem with the guy selling advertising space and had to replace him with little advertising space sold. This has put publication back dramatically.

That said, publication is getting closer. The publishers want to issue sometime this summer, otherwise they risk losing advertisers which could set us back further. The articles which could not be fitted in at the time of the last meeting, have now been included. Date-specific articles by the Cricket Club and the Festival Committee have been replaced.

The latest draft was received on 4th July and circulated to all committee members. One correction has been received from Cllr Moore.

The front cover on the draft is a collage of photographs, but I am sure we can do much better. If anyone knows of a suitable portrait-oriented photograph, please let me know; or two landscape photographs.

Perhaps this committee could also delegate final sign-off to two members of the committee.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

Cllr Linton asked councillors to try and find suitable cover photographs.

682/19 DEMENTIA AWARENESS EVENTS

Cllr Toney reported he has attended a very useful session of the Worthing Town Cryers. He reminded the meeting dementia can hit at any age. Cllr Toney will go to future Town Cryers events when possible and will also ask Tim Wilkins, Alzheimer’s Society, if there is further training the council could undertake.

Cllr Gander reported on the local **Our Town** initiative. This is being trialled by West Sussex County Council in the REAL area and Ferring. People with dementia will be encouraged to carry a card giving contact details for their important person in case they are get disoriented whilst out. Shops and other buildings where help can be sought will carry the Our Town sticker in the window as recognisable help points. The Clerk AGREED to contact Joanne Cooke, Partnership Officer, at WSCC for more information on how East Preston can get involved.

683/19 WHAT CAN WE DO FOR THE VILLAGE?

The following paper had been circulated in advance of the meeting:

What can we do for the village?

Committee is asked to consider the *What can we do for the village?* forms received for the new council term, 2019-2023.

The lead article in the Spring 2019 Newsletter was entitled *What can we do for the village?* and invited residents to send in their suggestions for what the council could do over the next four years.

Not unusually, response has not been great, but comments received so far can be found below.

1	EL undated	Provide a bus service to the Southern end of the village.
2	GL 06/06/19	<p>The issues that I’d like to see progress on are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Changes to the management of the level crossing This must be the number one priority for the Council. The new traffic management system, introduced by the railway, does not address the main issue which has to be that the barrier is closed too early which makes getting out of the village even more difficult. Everyone that comes to visit us dreads the crossing and that frustration will lead to accidents. 2. Removing the verges in key locations to improve off-road parking We seem to be following the Ferring nonsense of planting barriers along the edge of the road but in this case it’s being done on public open space. Parents dropping youngsters off at school need to do so safely and it’s not surprising that they mount the grass verge along North Lane. These verges could be removed to facilitate off road parking. Roundstone Drive could also be a candidate where sensitive re-engineering and landscaping could dramatically improve the appearance of this area of the village. 3. Better management of the footways Unfortunately some households do not recognise that the regular maintenance of hedges is necessary. Pedestrian access is restricted In several locations and the Vicarage Lane junction can be difficult to negotiate as visibility is severely limited, in both directions, by overgrown hedges. A lovely feature of the village is the off-road footpaths but again these can be very difficult to negotiate due to dense nettles. 4. Continuing the brilliant work that keeps the village looking fresh and tidy. The planting to both areas of the village brightens the day. 5. One additional thought would be to remove the car park fee; it’s unnecessary. <p>I hope it doesn’t sound like a whinge. I really do feel that the Council does a great job but that damn crossing is a pain!!!!</p>
3	JH 13/06/19	East Preston is a marvellous village and we would like it to stay that way. My husband and I care very much about the village. However the speeding vehicles are a blight on village life. To answer the above question – we think our council should put in place deterrents to stop this inconsiderate, unreasonable, dangerous and law-breaking bad

		<p>behaviour. There are many offenders, including the regular ones, drivers of cars, trucks, vans and motorbikes. The regular persistent offenders, most of which either live or work in the the village, should know better. (Talk to residents and they will point out to you those regular offenders). The village is full of hazards: children’s playground, the elderly and sight-impaired pedestrians, parked cars on both sides of Sea Road, numerous side roads and driveways. And not one warning or speed limit sign is in place advising drivers of these hazards. Of course drivers should know the speed limit in a village; clearly some of them need reminding.</p> <p>There must be something that can be done, and hopefully before a tragic accident occurs. Signage, speed ramps, pedestrian refused island bollards or “noise cameras” (see attached newspaper article) to name just a couple of ways to make East Preston a safer village for all.</p>
4	JS 13/06/19	<p>Following on from JH’s letter in EPPC News, “Respect the Speed Limit”, couldn’t agree more! I live on Sea Road where there are numerous side roads with traffic entering and leaving Sea Road, 2 parades of shops, with slip roads, junction of Fairlands used by double decker buses into Sea Road, Village Hall & Conservative Hall with car parks much used by public, children’s playground, mothers with prams, push chairs & loose (!) young children trying to cross Sea Road. Also parked cars – making the road narrow & in places, no pavement.</p> <p>Surely all the above would be strong reason for 20mph request to Highways?</p> <p>In addition there are no signs at the moment about 30mph, slow down for elderly, children, etc – nothing. As JH has said, it’s an accident waiting to happen. <u>Please</u> let’s try & avoid it in whatever way we can.</p> <p>Meanwhile – thank you EPPC for <u>all</u> that you do for us, making EP a joyous place in which to live ☺</p>
5	DR 13/06/19	<p>Introduce 20mph speed limit between Lashmar Road and Southern Shops (Village Green)</p> <p>Disabled & pushchair access to the beach. Needs hard surface.</p>
6	R&SM 13/06/19	<p>ATM south village</p> <p>Tidying up grass verges</p> <p>Shared space – route through to beach to create an awareness of people walking to the beach</p>
7	BD 14/06/19	<p>Sorry, it’s me again, but this time responding to your question on behalf of the Parish Council, ‘What can we do for the Village?’ I’m delighted that Liz Linton is now Vice-Chair. She is the first parish councillor to whom I can relate, after nearly twenty years living in East Preston. But it is not any of my long-standing complaints that I am writing about. There is something else that I would very much like parish councillors to do, and I don’t think it will actually cost a single penny. I will explain.</p> <p>While wearing my biologist’s hat I have for several years spent countless hours striving to support and advise nature conservation teams working to improve habitats for declining species. Recently I have done a lot of work with volunteers restoring cemeteries and other formerly overgrown green spaces in Worthing. I know this might seem odd to you, that a pagan is helping christians to restore their cemeteries, but pagans venerate their ancestors with deep devotion, and I admire that same devotion in the christian teams I work with. They accept me unreservedly, and I didn’t expect that. We have made a lot of progress together, which you can see if ever you have occasion to visit Heene and Broadwater Cemeteries. Another project I work on is the Cortis Avenue Wildlife Garden, just to the south of Broadwater Cemetery. The attached documents were written by me as educational resources in connection with these and other projects, and will give you an idea of the philosophy behind the projects, and what our objectives are. They may seem quite hard-hitting, but of course we are in an extinction crisis, and need to change entrenched mindsets. The main objective is what I would like the parish council to champion in East Preston, namely the planting of native trees, shrubs, bulbs, and wild flowers in all communal green spaces, and the encouragement of residents to do likewise in their gardens. If gardens and public green spaces were planted and managed as extensions of the countryside, then East Preston would become a haven for birds, small mammals, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, bees and other invertebrates, whose numbers are now critically endangered, but which were once</p>

		<p>common in semi-rural villages like ours. It is depressing to realise that a baby born in East Preston in 2019 may never see or hear Turtle Doves, Willow Tits, or Lesser-Spotted Woodpeckers.</p> <p>I would like to ask that green space objectives involving natural planting and management become official policy in East Preston. We can't of course tell householders what to plant in their gardens, and I wouldn't want to alienate residents, but an official policy could be established for communal land, and a policy of encouragement and support agreed for private land where the owners are in favour of the objective of natural planting. I would be willing to offer advice if requested. Experience tells me that a few enthusiastic pioneers can influence a lot of neighbours. Such an approach has already happened on the Willowhayne estate where I live, at my prompting, and with the support of the Willowhayne directors. On the 11th I took a party of Willowhayne residents around their estate to show how comprehensively wildlife had been shut out by the way communal and private green spaces had been managed, and compared them with a visit to my own garden, which is teeming with wildlife. The walk had a big impact and I was left with promises by residents that ways would change. I hope that East Preston Parish Council will be prepared to adopt a similar position.</p>
8	KM 14/06/19	<p>Following your article I thought I would drop you a line about a couple of things as you so kindly asked!</p> <p>I very often drive past the Martletts where the busses stop and see a lot of congestion and drivers squeezing around the parked cars and parked busses. It always surprises me that parking is allowed at a junction and around bus stops. Please could you liaise with your council contacts to paint double yellow lines from the T junction of Fairlands/Sea road up to approx Fincham close, on both sides. I am a regular user of the 700 busses and am not criticising them at all - an excellent service!</p> <p>Also! The empty car park! The roads around the village green are crammed full of parked cars but the car park is completely empty. I know there was an issue with cars parking in the car park overnight but now it's gone to the other extreme of no cars parking there at any time at all. I would prefer to have free parking in the car park but with overnight parkers being charged a high overnight fee till say 9am and then being fined if they over stay. Such a shame to see it being so rarely used.</p> <p>Finally, thank you all so much for keeping East Preston such a lovely place to live. We may never say it to you, but my friends and I often comment on everything you do and say how lucky we are!</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
9	H&CS undated	<p>We really enjoy the lights around the village in the run-up to Christmas and New Year.</p> <p>Would love to see more Christmas Trees around the village with multi-coloured lights if possible.</p> <p>Could a Christmas window competition be introduced for shops and traders??</p> <p>Many thanks.</p>
10	AW 19/06/19	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve access to the beach for wheelchairs, prams and pushchairs, etc. that will allow the less able to more easily enjoy the seaside in a traditional way. This should be in a sympathetic manner to the site, perhaps with a wooden broad walk and linking the end of Sea Lane and Sea Road or Sea Road and The Strand, and absolutely <u>not</u> a concrete path. 2. Allow greening of the ditch banks particularly along the twitten between Sea Lane and Sea Road to make it more wildlife friendly. Apart from summer weeds that now are in evidence the ditch is usually as bare as the moon. 3. Cut several hedgehog size holes in the new fence on the southern boundary of the Warren Rec.. Hedgehog numbers are in decline and one of the reasons, identified by Sussex Wildlife, is due to all the barriers we erect between our gardens and around our green spaces that prevent them travelling between different places to forage and breed. Where else would this be an option? 4. Replace the annual wildflower beds on the Village Green, Sea Lane and other places with permanent wildflower areas and allow the grass to grow uncut in some places. This will be better for wildlife and make East Preston feel less urban.

11	RC 20/06/19	<p>I am grateful for the opportunity to write to you following the invitation in the Spring issue (No 51), of the Parish Newsletter.</p> <p>A particular concern over the past 21 years residence here in Fincham Close has been the ever-increasing growth of the 7 Sycamore trees that grow along the grass verge of Sea Lane, which front the wall of bygone Old Yews and Three Acres farms, which overshadow the lower end of Fincham Close.</p> <p>Whilst residents in No. 12 to 26 may be grateful for the wind-breaking effect of these trees, the present height of five of them does suggest the danger of falling branches or indeed whole trees, particularly as some of them show signs of dead wood at their crowns.</p> <p>I would suggest that they be topped by 20% to 25% before they become a hazard to persons or property.</p> <p>Thanking you for your attention in this matter.</p> <p>(N.B. I reported this to WSCC. An officer visited and reported back, "I inspected these trees, yesterday, all perfectly healthy and from what I could see, safe. Please explain to the customer that we no longer routinely lop the tops off trees unless there is a specific safety reason to do so." I have duly informed RC)</p>
12	JP 05/07/19	<p>.Support beach access project – we have many people in EP, young and older who have mobility problems and who are deprived of the delights of the beach</p> <p>.Review decision the banning of ALL exercise classes, especially on the Rec- while I understand that football and some classes that are loud may detract from some people's enjoyment that cannot be the case for my Tai Chi class, which is gentle and quiet.</p> <p>.Push WSCC for a Zebra Crossing at the north end of the village – Sea Road is quite busy and that road is not easy to cross if you are at all affected by mobility or sight problems.</p> <p>.Push WSCC for traffic calming measures in Sea Lane and Sea Road – too many people are speeding down these roads</p> <p>.Consult people before significant decisions are made on matters that impact on the village (such as not renewing the South Strand toilets lease). I understand the PC has a limited budget and has to prioritise and that councillors, like MPs, are elected to make decisions but the vox pox should be considered</p> <p>.Strongly remind people to trim back hedges which impede walkers, wheelchairs & mobility scooters.</p> <p>.Likewise remind people to park considerately – again wheelchair users, mobility scooters and people with pushchairs or prams are often forced into the road.</p> <p>.Give everyone who moves in to the village a welcome pack, including eg a map, PC contact details, Festival and events info and a copy of the official guide and the latest All About East Preston Magazine.</p>
13	RS 02/07/19	<p>Please could Sea Road toilet lights at Full Council meeting. Why are they still on and who pays for the electricity? (Let me know the result Tuesday)</p> <p>Clean up the overhanging hedges in East Preston.</p> <p>Move the table football table to the cricket ground, where it would be in full view.</p> <p>Ensure that Network Rail prosecutes drivers breaking the rules of the road at the level crossing.</p>
14	GT undated	<p>Replace the climbing frame removed two years ago from the privately-owned playground in Mill Pond Way.</p>
15	DJ undated	<p>In Battle in East Sussex, they have something called ELF – Every Last Friday. Venues across the town ensure they have additional entertainment or special offers that evening and residents know that and try to support those venues. Could this be replicated in East Preston?</p>

As you will see, the points raised cover a wide range of topics. Where possible, I have given an initial response.

Although the points raised do cover a wide range of topics, I wonder whether it would be an idea to invite all fourteen of the above residents to an inform round-table event with the Community Engagement Committee, where everyone can ask more questions and perhaps some idea of priorities can be achieved. If agreed, we could perhaps hold that meeting on Monday, 5th August in place of Full Council.

Additionally, a non-EP resident has asked whether the council could get hold of one of these:



I have seen these in Brighton, which is not where the non-resident took these photos. This could perhaps be discussed with the caravan park or café at some point.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

11th July 2019

The committee AGREED respondents should be invited to a round-table meeting on Monday, 5th August at 18:00 to discuss the comments they have made. The format of the meeting will be decided nearer the time.

The committee NOTED several of the points raised were already well on the council's radar.

Clr Linton advised BD had invited councillors to have a talk around his garden on Wednesday, 31st July at 10am. Clr Linton asked the Clerk to circulate an invite to all councillors. The talk would highlight the wealth of wildlife in BD's garden.

684/19 INTERGENERATIONAL PLAYGROUND

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Intergenerational playground

Committee is asked to give this suggestion some further thought.

Initially raised, by me, during the informal chat about the new term after the Annual Meeting of the Council on 13th May, this was discussed a little further at the last meeting. I do not expect anyone has had any time since to think further. Does this committee support the idea enough to form a proposal to be considered by the Amenities Committee?

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

12th July 2019

This matter was deferred.

685/19 WAR MEMORIAL

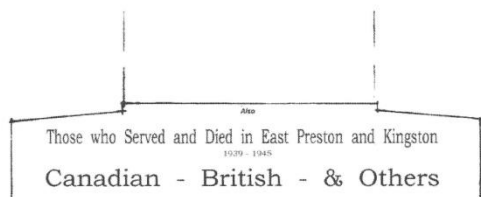
The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

War memorial

Committee is asked to consider a proposal for an additional plaque to be added to the war memorial.

The council has been contacted by local historian, Richard Standing, who believes an extra plaque should be added to the war memorial. On 2nd June, he wrote, "D-DAY East Preston with Kingston. The 75th anniversary of the beginning of the end of the war. It might be an idea for the Parish Councils of the combined parishes to erect a small tablet by the war memorial. Not to D-Day but to members of Canadian and British Forces and others killed in and about the village during the war, and not named on the present EP and K memorial".

Further information provided, upon my request, later on 2nd June, "The Village memorial has 19 names The Paget memorial at the church 20 names [it includes Middleton killed in the air raid]. Lt John Gordon of Kingston died of natural causes during the war but is not on the memorial. Sgt Frederick Davis is buried at EP Church with CWG memorial he died in 1946. Page 3 of my WW2 book lists another 15 names of people who may have had families in the village in and about WW2 including Galloway buried in the RC cemetery at Angmering. Page 4 of my WW2 book has names of British and Canadian personnel buried elsewhere as noted [if sources accurate] including three men who died at Kingston in a Boston flying from Ford in 1942. Four Canadians killed during training. British soldiers killed in similar incidents and from mines.



[As example]

8th Recce

April 14/44 we had a sad accident, a mine exploded on the beach at Angmering and killed Lieut Sutherland, Lieut Winslow, Sgt J Campbell and Cpl. Lilge[?], with Trp. Massaro being seriously wounded, it was a sad week-end in the Recce."

And so information has continued to be provided by Mr Standing, together with a proposed wording. "Tablet to be inserted on the lower step below the main Village Memorial. There are too many names, with any list perhaps incomplete, for these to be included. As Drawn the tablet would be the length of the top step or base of the main memorial. It would rise above it a few inches without obscuring anything. The top of the tablet should be sloped from the centre or have two sloping shoulders at a low angle."

Committee members are asked to visit the war memorial in advance of the meeting.

Perhaps the committee could agree two committee members to meet with Mr Standing to discuss this further.

If the Community Engagement Committee agrees with Mr Standing's proposal, it would need to persuade Full Council to purchase and install the additional plaque from its Contingency budget line which contains most of its £10,000 for the current year still.

Mr Standing has provided a wealth of supporting information.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

15th July 2019

Cllrs Moore and Toney AGREED to review Mr Standing's information and would meet with him if necessary. Cllrs Moore and Toney would agree a recommendation to the next meeting of this committee.

686/19 BLUE PLAQUES

The following paper was circulated in advance of the meeting:

Blue plaques

Committee is asked to consider suggestions received for further blue plaques in the village.

Mr Standing has submitted a number of suggestions of people who could be worthy of a blue plaque within the village. As he has provided a list of thirteen possible candidates, I do not intend to copy the information into these supporting papers.

Might I respectfully suggest a three-member panel is set up to consider these and all future blue plaque requests – perhaps Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council and Chairman of this committee (or Vice-Chairman if the post is held by either Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Council)?

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

12th July 2019

Cllrs Linton, Toney and Duff AGREED to read through the information on prospective honourees and agree a recommendation to the next meeting of this committee.

687/19 NEXT MEETING (23RD SEPTEMBER)

Nothing not already mentioned.

The Meeting closed at 20:55.

Chairman: *Cllr Elizabeth Linton* Date: **23rd September 2019**

Death of a senior person of state

Committee is asked to continue consideration of a policy for actions to be taken upon the death of a senior person of state.

PROTOCOL FOR MARKING THE DEATH OF A SENIOR NATIONAL FIGURE OR LOCAL HOLDER OF HIGH OFFICE

This protocol sets out the action to be taken in the event of the death of:

H.M. The Queen
H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh
H.R.H. The Prince of Wales
H.R.H. The Duchess of Cornwall
H.R.H. The Duke of Cambridge
H.R.H. The Duchess of Cambridge
H.R.H. Prince George of Cambridge
H.R.H. Princess Charlotte of Cambridge
H.R.H. Prince Louis of Cambridge
H.R.H. Prince Henry (Harry) of Wales
H.R.H. The Duke of York
H.R.H. The Earl of Wessex
H.R.H. The Princess Royal

The Union Flag to be flown for the preceding and for the following:-

- o The Prime Minister
- o The Member of Parliament for the constituency of which the Civil Parish of East Preston forms part
- o A serving Chairman of the Parish Council
(flag half mast till end of day of funeral)

PART 1 Implementation of the Protocol on hearing of the death

Action required	Authorised by	Other Notes
The Council's mourning Protocol will be implemented on the formal announcement of the death of any one of those persons named above.	Implementation will be authorised by the Clerk to the Council or, in their absence, the Deputy Clerk to the Council.	

PART 2 Flag flying

Action required	Implemented by	Other Notes
Immediately Union Flag will be lowered to half mast outside the library in The Street.	Chairman of the Council or Chairman of the British Legion or their representative.	If the death falls on a day or the period of mourning includes a day on which a flag other than the Union Flag is normally flown, that other flag should be replaced by the Union Flag at half mast.
Applicable only following the death of the Sovereign:		

<p>The Chairman of the Council will issue a statement via the Council Office, expressing the sadness of the Council and people of East Preston at the news of the death of The statement will also appear on the Parish Council's website.</p> <p>The statement will confirm that flags are to be flown at half mast and will give details of Books of Condolence. In the case of the death of the Sovereign or a member of the Royal Family it will also mention any arrangements for an e-Book of Condolence on the Royal website.</p>	<p>Statement to be issued by Clerk to the Council who will ensure copy appears on the home page of the Council's website.</p>	<p>Guidance on the content of the statement is set out in Annexe 2</p>
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PART 4 Events during the period of Mourning

Action required	Implemented by	Other Notes
<p>Review the programme of engagements undertaken by the Chairman of the Council to ensure it is appropriate in a time of national mourning and that it sits comfortably with the national mood.</p>	<p>The Chairman of the Council in discussion with the Clerk or Deputy Clerk to the Council.</p>	<p>Consideration will also be given to working with local faith groups to arrange some sort of service on the eve of the funeral (see Part 2).</p>

PART 5 Proclamation Day

Action required	Implemented by	Other Notes
<p>The Proclamation will be read as follows:</p> <p>By the Chairman of the Council at 2.00 p.m. Day of Death plus 3 after West Sussex County Council.</p> <p>All those listed in Annexe 3 to be invited to be present. All men to be in dark lounge suit / jacket and trousers. Black tie.</p> <p>Reading of the Proclamation to be publicised. Reading to take place outside East Preston library unless otherwise stated by current Chairman of the Council.</p>	<p>Notification of the reading of the Proclamation to be given by the Clerk to the Council identified in Annexe 3. Clerk to the Council to liaise with WSCC regarding timing of reading, if required.</p> <p>Clerk to the Council to ensure that the public are informed by way of a press release and on the Council's website</p>	

PART 6 Dress Code

Action required	Implemented by	Other Notes
On the death of the Sovereign, the chain of office will not be worn by the Chairman of the Council and instead badges of office will be worn on black neck ribbons.	The Council Office will have a stock of black ribbon.	

PART 7 - Marking a Silence

Action required	Implemented by	Other Notes
<p>Where the death of a senior member of the Royal Family is to be marked by a two minute Silence, an announcement will be made by Buckingham Palace.</p> <p>The Chairman of the Council will lead a Public Silence outside East Preston Library unless otherwise stated by current Chairman of the Council.</p> <p>All those listed in Annexe 3 to be invited to be present. All men to be in dark lounge suit / jacket and trousers. Black tie.</p> <p>The public observing of the silence to be publicised.</p>	<p>Clerk to the Council to ensure that the public are informed by way of a press release and item on the Council's website.</p> <p>Clerk to the Council</p>	

PART 8 – Letters of Condolence

Action required	Implemented by	Other Notes
As soon as practical, a letter of condolence will be drafted and circulated to the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk to the Council before dispatch	Clerk to the Council	

PART 9 – Public floral and other tributes

Action required	Implemented by	Other Notes
<p>A space by the War Memorial will be marked in a suitable manner for the placing of floral and other suitable tributes by members of the public.</p> <p>The location for the placing of tributes will be publicized.</p>	<p>Clerk to the Council to ensure that the public are informed by way of the Council's notice-boards, website and other social media</p>	<p>Tributes left elsewhere will not be disturbed unless causing a significant nuisance (in which case the Village Orderly will arrange their removal to the space by the War Memorial)</p>

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ANNEXE 1

Flying flags at half mast

Full details of the correct way to fly flags at half mast is given on the website of the Flag Institute (www.flaginstitute.org). It is important that the guidance given by the Flag Institute is adhered to strictly.

Half-mast means the flag is flown two-thirds of the way up the flagpole, with at least the height of the flag between the top of the flag and the top of the flagpole. Flags cannot be flown at half-mast on poles that are more than 45° from the vertical, but a mourning cravat can be used instead (see the Flag Institute's website for further details).

When a flag is to be flown at half-mast, it should first be raised all the way to the top of the mast, allowed to remain there for a second and then be lowered to the half-mast position. When it is being lowered from halfmast, it should again be raised to the top of the mast for a second before being fully lowered.

When a British national flag is at half-mast, other flags on the same stand of poles should also be at half-mast or should not be flown at all. Flags of foreign nations should not be flown, unless their country is also observing mourning.

ANNEXE 2

Statement to be issued by the Chairman of the Council on the announcement of the death of a senior national figure or other prominent figure

The statement should begin with a suitable expression of the sadness of the Authority on hearing the announcement. It might go on to state that flags will be flown at half mast. If it is an occasion when Books of Condolence will be opened, then reference could be made to that.

When a decision has been taken on the Chairman of the Council's programme of events and engagements it might be stated that events are being cancelled as a mark of respect or that they will begin with a period of silence.

If in doubt, do not rush out a statement which commits the Authority to action before that action has been discussed and has the necessary agreement from the Chairman of the Council and the Clerk to the Council.

ANNEXE 3

Those to be invited to be present at the Reading of the Proclamation on the accession of a new Sovereign and at the Public Observance of a Two Minute Silence

All Members of the Council, all employees of the Council and the heads of the village's schools.

NOTE:

The Proclamation will be read at County Hall by the High Sheriff. The Lord Lieutenant will present at that ceremony.

Adopted 20th December 2017

Water usage in the village

Committee is asked to consider further the actions identified by Cllr Gunston at the Southern Water seminar held in Brighton on 27th June.

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 readings

Customers 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