



EAST PRESTON PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES: of the Proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of East Preston Parish Council held on Monday, 3rd December 2018 at the East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston at 19:00.

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

ALSO: Clerk to the Council, Simon Cross

County Councillor Roger Elkins

District Councillors Ricky Bower and Terry Chapman (both until 19:50)

Four members of the public

ABSENT: Councillor Christine Bowman

* * * * *

The following abbreviations may appear in these Minutes:

ADC – Arun District Council;
BTP – British Transport Police;
JEAAC – Joint Eastern Arun Area Committee;
NHS – National Health Service;

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

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The meeting opened at 19:00.

906/18 INTRODUCTIONS

Cllr Toney welcomed those present, led a round of introductions and explained some items of meeting protocol.

907/18 FORMER COUNCILLOR, CLIVE MALTBY

Cllr Toney read the following statement:

“Before this evening’s meeting continues, may I ask you all to join me in one minute’s silence in memory of former councillor, Clive Maltby, who sadly died on 8th November after a lengthy period of ill health.

“Clive joined the council in May 2007 and provided a great mix of entertainment, thought-provoking comment and controversy until ill health forced him to resign in February 2012.

“Clive was a second-generation local politician, his father having served in Worthing for many years.

“Politically, Clive took a turn at belonging to several national parties, most recently the English Democrats and UKIP. To have died so close to Brexit may be seen as particularly cruel.

“During his time on the council he continued to run his independent travel company. The Clerk can remember a conversation with Clive during which he said he was going to start specialising in cheap stag weekends to Prague.

“As a councillor, Clive was strong on not wasting public money, on making sure decisions had been well thought-out and on appreciating council officers. Finally, Clive was also responsible for bringing former councillor Carol Ellis on to the council.

“Please join me now in a minute’s silence in memory of Clive; please feel free to stand or remain sitting as you prefer.”

This was followed by one minute’s silence.

908/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology and a reason for absence had been received and were accepted from Cllr Bowman (unavailable).

An apology had been received from Mr [REDACTED] and Mrs [REDACTED].

909/18 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

No declarations were made.

910/18 PUBLIC SESSION

Agenda Item 10, Matters from previous Full Council meetings – [REDACTED] read the following statement to the meeting:

“Although Cllr McElroy declares a personal interest, why is he still allowed to debate this issue forcibly and lengthily in public and in Council, while we are restricted to Question Time? This is surely undemocratic and places the public at a disadvantage.

“We have all heard of “lies, damned lies and statistics” and the statistics are not compelling in this case. We appreciate electronically recorded footfalls cannot be disputed, but a breakdown of this figure may be revealing. The contradiction of the time span was to show how even more meaningless this figure was.

“The Collage is all about community spirit and atmosphere and in the Miller Barn it can be discussed and admired by large and small groups of people in a leisurely manner with an opportunity to show it off to visitors.

“First hand comments indicate it has been sorely missed by the many people that use and visit the Hall. There is no denying that there are many, although it is noticeable that these numbers were not mentioned.

“The petitions were undeniably revealing with a strong appeal from the President of the WI. The [Collage Reinstatement Campaign] CRC has three spokesmen, not members, which are incalculable.

“Far from being in a dark corner, the Collage was positioned in the Miller Barn directly across from the entrance at head height in good light and could not be missed. It is shown to advantage on a large plain wall. Just as an example a newcomer to the village recently paid a visit to the Library did not even notice it.

“The Collage belongs to the village and should rest in village property where it was intended to be.”

Agenda Item 10, Matters from previous Full Council meetings – [REDACTED] addressed the meeting on the same topic. The discussion about the location of the Millennium Wall-hanging has gone on for a very long time, during which time tensions have risen and this situation need not have arisen. The Millennium Wall-hanging is a village asset. Members of the Collage Reinstatement Campaign (CRC) have previously shown there is support for the wall-hanging to be returned to the Village Hall. [REDACTED] suggested there be combined talks in the new year between the Parish Council, the Village Hall Foundation and the Collage Reinstatement Campaign, with a view to finding a way to return the wall-hanging to the Village

Hall for the benefit of the village. As a regular user of East Preston Library, [REDACTED] is well aware the electronic counter cannot discriminate between genuine users of the library and the postman dropping in the post. The time has come to avoid continued debate.

911/18 COUNCILLOR RESPONSES

Cllr Gander responded to [REDACTED] comment about Personal Interests. Cllr Gander said she had chosen not to enter into the debate about the Millennium Wall-hanging having declared a Personal Interest. It was not a question of her not being allowed to speak. Cllr Gale confirmed that had been her decision too.

912/18 WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL (WSCC)

County Cllr Elkins started by mentioning a couple of public consultations currently taking place, one on the conversion of libraries into community hubs and one on the Adults Services Vision Strategy which is looking at the provision of Adults Services in an increasingly pressurised environment. In twenty years' time, the number of people in the county over the age of 65 will increase by 100,000. The County Council wants to keep people as active and engaged as possible. The Strategy was looking at how voluntary and community groups can assist. Cllr Gander said this council was trying hard to work as part of the NHS Local Community Network in addressing some of the more social needs to local residents.

The Abbeyfield Ferring Society, part of the National Abbeyfield Society, had set up a Dementia Care Group, aiming to cover the Littlehampton to Worthing area. The Society hoped to get a minibus to enable it to collect and return customers and also for use on outings and shopping trips.

Gatwick Airport was consulting on its Gatwick 3 Master Plan which would see a current emergency runway put into regular use. Closing date for this consultation is 10th January.

913/18 ARUN DISTRICT COUNCIL (ADC)

(Throughout this Minute, Cllr Chapman refers to District Cllr T Chapman not Parish Cllr A Chapman.)

District Cllr Chapman addressed the meeting from the following report:

REPORT TO EPPC MONDAY 3RD DECEMBER 2018

1 I congratulate the Parish Council on the Fireworks and Christmas lights. Thanks are due to all who planned and delivered the "Spirit of Christmas to the village."

2 Following my report at the last Full Council meeting on "disengaged youths" in the village I have met with Georgina Bouhet head of the Arun anti-social behaviour team. This team is embedded with Sussex police and deals with all aspects of anti-social behaviour in Arun District.

I will continue to liaise with her on matters affecting East Preston and the Parish Council might be minded to invite her to give a presentation at a future meeting so that Councillors can be better briefed on current issues.

One casualty of the present situation is that the Tuesday evening Youth Club sessions have had to be abandoned due lack of attendance from the age group, fifteen to eighteen years olds for which they were specifically intended.

3 On the issue of the closure of the South Strand public conveniences; a well attended meeting was held on Saturday 1st December. The meeting included attendance by the Chairmen of East Preston and Kingston and a Councillor from each parish. Also attending were beach chalet owners and representatives of Angmering on Sea and West Kingston residents associations.

The meeting was constructive and it was agreed that a Registered Community Benefit Society would be established under the rules of the Financial Conduct Authority as would a Management Committee to hold money, contracts and Lease. Membership would comprise representatives of the beach chalet owners, Parish Councils, residents associations and other village bodies. There will be a further meeting in January to finalise the details of this body.

In the meantime I will be working on expected costs for day to day maintenance and dilapidations and hence establishing the extent of required funding and the source of those funds.

4 Cases arising from the Civilian Military partnership so far this year in Arun have been, 1 employability, 4 housing, 1 housing repair, 1 disabled facilities, 1 funeral costs, 2 mobility and 2 multiple needs. Liaison with Arun District Council, Royal British Legion, SSAFA and other service charities has been excellent.

SSALC agreed at our last CMP Board meeting that they would take responsibility for liaison with Parish Councils in matters of local interest.

This is to be welcomed and as a Council you have been proactive and undertaken the appropriate training so it won't stop me briefing you directly on local matters.

5 I think that is probably enough for tonight and if members have questions then I will answer through the Chairman.

Cllr Chapman added the ADC Overview Select Committee was meeting at the same time as this meeting to consider the Arun Strategy on Homelessness. Cllr Chapman described homelessness as "a hugely corrosive condition for anybody." There was currently an "alarmingly high level of homelessness" in Arun. ADC continued to work on increasing the number of council properties available, but the problem was great.

In response to a question, Cllr Chapman said he was still in correspondence with the Chairman of the VHF, Mr Melser, on the matter of excessive cleaning charges within the hire contract.

Cllr Chapman ended by wishing everyone present a happy Christmas and thanking them for their contribution to the village over the past year.

The Clerk read the following email he had received, "Dear Simon. I don't think I can get to the meeting but will if I can but is it possible to submit a comment? I'd like to thank Cllr Terry Chapman in particular and the EP Parish Council for listening to the concerns about the proposed closure of the South Strand toilets and for working to salvaging the situation. Regards, June Phillips". Cllr Chapman thanked the Clerk and Mrs Phillips for her comments.

([REDACTED] left the meeting at this point.)

District Cllr Bower said, looking at the wider Arun picture, there was a strange leaflet circulating attempt to promote a response to the A27 Consultation Highways England would need to take into consideration. The further, non-statutory Highways England consultation on the A27 was to be launched in Spring 2019.

Cllr Elkins responded he had attended a Highways England A27 forum with representatives from affected town and parish councils. The meeting seemed to have been to ensure the right people and councils were involved and a further meeting would be held. As already stated, the further consultation exercise will be launched in Spring 2019 with a preferred route announcement due in Summer 2019.

The ADC Development Control Committee had passed the Angmering Planning Application which included provision for a school, now known as Mayflower Park School. It was now the responsibility of WSCC to bring this to fruition.

In response to a question about the topic of "pedestrian safety" as a justification for not implementing a westbound slip-road into the village at the junction of the A259 and A280, Cllr Chapman expressed his concern the implementation of a pedestrian crossing at the north-eastern end of Old Worthing Road would push parking both closer to the junction with the A259 and closer to the Roundstone Level Crossing. This would introduce even greater safety hazards than were already in place. Cllr Chapman said it was impossible to challenge this part of the proposal until the details of proposed parking restrictions were known but pressure should be maintained on WSCC to justify further its decision not to provide a westbound slip-road.

Finally, the Clerk advised the meeting the council's tax base for the year was increasing from 2761 to 2797.

(District Cllrs Bower and Chapman left the meeting at the conclusion of this item.)

914/18 MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2018

The draft Minutes had been circulated on 7th November asking for comments by 19th November.

1261 The Council **RESOLVED** the Chairman could sign the Minutes as a true record of the meeting held on 5th November.

915/18 UPDATE ON MATTERS IN THE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

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

Monthly Update Report

- 1. Introduction**
- 2. Minute 802/18 – British Transport Police**
- 3. Minute 811/18 – Personnel Committee**
- 4. Minute 812/18 – Audit & Governance Committee – boundary review**
- 5. Minute 814/18 – Personnel Committee – Standing Order 13b**

1. Introduction

This is the report covering items discussed during Full Council meetings up to and including the meeting held on 5th November 2018.

2. Minute 802/18 – British Transport Police

I emailed PC James the morning after the meeting and thanked him for having come along. He replied on 7th November, “Thanks Simon. Yes, although there is not much I can do about the layout and signage at or near the crossing, or the driving behaviours not associated with the crossing, I did at least understand where the concerns were coming from and the difficulties faced with negotiating that crossing. I’m not sure what else I can really bring to future meetings other than stats and figures of offenders I’ve caught. I’m happy to help where I can so please let me know if you require my assistance.”

Additionally, Cllr Elkins has spoken to WSCC officer, Rob Torrance, who has confirmed he is happy to meet with a couple of East Preston Parish Councillors to discuss further signage options at the Roundstone Level Crossing.

3. Minute 811/18 – Personnel Committee

Andy Beams started work as Locum Assistant Clerk on 1st November, with his first working day being 5th November. He spent his first morning, reading through the Minutes of the last year, concentrating on Full Council and Amenities Committee Minutes. At the end of that, he made two observations; firstly, the council is a very busy council, achieving a lot for this size of village and secondly, some projects take a long time to come to fruition. However, with Andy’s expertise on board for a while, we can push on successfully with some of those same projects.

At the time of writing, there have been over 60 applicants for the Assistant Clerk role.

4. Minute 812/18 – Audit & Governance Committee – boundary review

I have been in touch with my Angmering counterpart, Katie Herr, and we have a provisional date next week for an initial, informal meeting between Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the two councils. Katie and I will attend too.

5. Minute 814/18 – Personnel Committee – Standing Order 13b

Perhaps the wording needs to be, “Excluding the Audit & Governance Committee, which is populated separately, councillors may sit on a maximum of four committees simultaneously.”

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th October 2018

Nothing was added.

916/18 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Accounts for November 2018 had been distributed to Members in advance of the meeting.

- 1262** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the outstanding Purchase Orders report for 2018/19, value £17,189.16 (excl. VAT).
- 1263** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the Supplier Non BACS Invoices Paid report for November 2018, totalling £8,645.41 (incl. VAT).
- 1264** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the Supplier BACS Invoices Paid report for November 2018 totalling £13,057.94 (incl. VAT).
- 1265** The council **RESOLVED** to approve the List of Sales Receipts & Bank Receipts by Bank report, showing £278,841.34 (incl. VAT) for the financial year ending 31st March 2019.

The council NOTED the paper Bank Reconciliations to 14th November 2018.

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

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

917/18 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: Amenities and Finance & General Purposes on 19th November, Community Engagement on the 26th November and Planning & Licensing on 12th and 26th November.

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th November 2018

Amenities Committee

The committee met on 19th November and primarily discussed the public toilets refurbishment, Sea Road beach access and Lashmar Road recreation ground.

With only one tender quotation received still for the toilet refurbishment, this following the splitting of the building works from the fitting out works, the committee agreed to investigate any other contractors willing to tender in order to obtain comparative prices.

The beach access will be progressed through the County Council Rights of Way Officer and registration of the route on the definitive map.

Solar lighting was agreed for the MUGA at Lashmar Road, with three quotes being obtained before deciding which company to order the lights from.

Members were content that the committee budget remained on track for the current year, and next year's provisional budget has been updated.

Concerns were raised about the ongoing poor mobile phone coverage, and contact is to be

Community Engagement Committee

The committee met on the evening of 26th November and the draft Minutes were circulated this morning.

Some of the matters considered by the committee were:

The success of the **East Preston Christmas Celebrations** event. A full debriefing will take place at an extra committee meeting on Monday, 17th December and a decision on whether or not to hold the event again next year will be taken by the Major Events Committee. The library service has already said it is unable to attend on 17th December but would be very happy to be involved in the event next year.

The **Keep East Preston Tidy (KEPT)** group was represented and the committee agreed to support the group's attempts to keep East Preston tidier than it is currently. Initially this would be litter-picking but over time the group hoped to get involved in more education. The group's first event is likely to be a Spring Clean in March.

The committee agreed to run **Beach Cleans** on 14th April and 29th September next year.

The committee agreed to run half-day **playschemes** on 19th February and 6th August next year. Bee-Fit has been approached to run the events.

The committee agreed the **Website Working Party** could be closed as the website is up and running happily.

To tie in with **Silver Sunday 2019**, the committee would like to run a Posh Club event on 6th October. This would fall under the Major Events committee.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

3rd December 2018

Finance & General Purposes Committee

The committee held its scheduled quarterly meeting on 19th November.

The committee continued consideration of its own budgets and will meet again in December to consider the overall budget for the council for 2019/20 and to agree a budget and precept to recommend to Full Council in January.

The committee agreed to release £10,000 to East Preston Youth Club to top up its reserves. In turn, the Youth Club Committee has located a volunteer fundraiser to work for it for the first six months of the new year.

The committee agreed a £500 grant to Arun Basic Essential Transport which is working to make up for some of the hole left by the disbandment of SAMI Transport / Arun Co-ordinated Community Transport. The grant is dependant upon ABET providing free-of-charge minibus support to the Our Lady, Star of the Sea Christmas Day Lunch if needed.

The committee considered a funding request from Arun & Chichester Citizens Advice to provide a regular outreach service in the village over the next two financial years. I have arranged for Luca Badioli of Citizens Advice to attend the next committee meeting to answer any questions the committee has about the proposal before any money is included in next year's budget.

The committee noted the first year's income from the Village Green car-park is just under £2,100 against approximate annual expenditure there of £1,600. This finance is all controlled within the Amenities Committee.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th November 2018

As Chairman of the Amenities Committee respectively, Cllr McElroy said he and the Locum Assistant Clerk, Andy Beams, had agreed on the purchase of solar lights for the Multi-Use Games Area at Lashmar Rec. These had been ordered and would be installed as soon as possible.

The council had received an application for a carol-singing event on the Village Green later in the month. This was from the vicar of St Mary the Virgin, and was a properly-completed form together with the standard £300 damage deposit cheque. There were a couple of questions which needed to be answered but he personally had no concerns about the event.

Chairman of the Audit & Governance Committee, Cllr Mathias said the committee was due to meet on 10th December.

Cllr Linton, as Chairman of the Community Engagement Committee, said the committee had had an initial review of the successful East Preston Christmas Celebrations event, but a full debrief was scheduled for 17th December to which all councillors were invited. In response to a concern raised by a member of the public, via a councillor, Cllr Linton said all marshals present had been given maps they could use to redirect any traffic not familiar with the area.

Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Cllr Shah, reported the Village Green car-park appeared to be being successful in its objective of paying for itself. This was not the sole objective of charging for use of the car-park. Cllr Shah had carried out a review of the council's Financial Regulations to incorporate the council's online banking methodology. This review had helped highlight the interest rate on one of the council's bank accounts had dropped dramatically, so he and Mrs Khoo were looking at replacement bank accounts to minimise the council's loss of (interest) income.

As Chairman of the Major Events Committee, Cllr Linton said the committee was always likely to be busy. Meetings were held bi-monthly, alternating with the Community Engagement Committee meetings. Councillors not on either committee were welcome to come along to any meeting of either committee.

Cllr Gander, Chairman of the Personnel Committee, reported she, Cllrs Toney and Gale and the Clerk, had spent nearly four hours shortlisting the seventy-plus Assistant Clerk candidates down to five interviewees. Four were being seen on the 4th December and one on the 5th.

Cllr Mathias, Chairman of the Planning & Licensing Committee, simply wanted to mention a Planning Application for a lovely standalone bungalow in Hillview Crescent, objected to by the council and the Preservation Society, had been passed by ADC and this would result in a greatly visually-unimproved property.

918/18 REPORTS FROM PARISH COUNCIL WORKING PARTIES

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

Working Parties

Neither the Leases Working Party nor the Website Working Party has met since the last meeting.

The new lease to the Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club is caught in a legal complication and we are waiting for our solicitor and the club's solicitor to work through this. The complication relates to the land's status as an Asset of Community Value. We are awaiting the latest update from our solicitors.

At its meeting on 26th November, the Community Engagement Committee agreed to disband the Website Working Party with immediate effect.

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

27th November 2018

Cllr Mathias reported the Leases Working Party was still waiting for news about the Angmering-on-Sea Lawn Tennis Club lease.

Cllr Wilkinson confirmed the Website Working Party had been closed down by the Community Engagement Committee, reported above. Mrs Chaffe had been provided with a number of photographs which may be suitable for providing a rolling front screen.

919/18 WARREN RECREATION GROUND

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

Warren Recreation Ground

Council is asked to consider the following letter received whilst I was on leave:

14th November 2018.

Mr. S. Cross,
Clerk to the Council,
East Preston Parish Council,
122, Sea Road,
East Preston,
West Sussex,
BN16 1NN.

For the attention of all Councillors/Trustees.

Dear Mr. Cross,

Re: The Warren Recreation Ground.

Thank you for your letter of the 30th August 2018 regarding the playing of cricket on the Warren Recreation Ground.

Having considered the response from the Council's cricket club representatives, we as the neighbours of the Warren Recreation Ground cannot be other than dismayed by such a cursory dismissal of our concerns as detailed in my letter of 26th July 2018. It appears that the 'duty of care' obligations expected by The Charity Commission are being ignored and this surely cannot be in the best interests of the Council/Trusteeship. Therefore, we respectfully request that for the benefit of the new councilors that they be made fully aware of the many incidents that have taken place in the past and understand their obligations and responsibilities should they as trustees be faced with a claim in Negligence for allowing an actionable nuisance to take place over a long period of time.

To assist the Council in its deliberations a Legal Update by The League Cricket Conference of 2016 should prove helpful. A Copy is attached. It will then be clear that the Trusteeship has indeed allowed a situation to exist that is actionable in Negligence due to 'the direct interference with the use and enjoyment of land owned by neighbouring residents'. Importantly, the Trusteeship can be shown to have been advised on numerous occasions of the dangers of league cricket being played on such a small ground.

RoSPA Report of 11/12/2007.

'That a larger ground is sought for the senior cricket teams to reduce the risk of injuries due to ball strikes'.

RoSPA Report of 28/04/2011.

'The ground is of suitable dimensions for a village cricket game and training sessions but not big enough to play county cricket'.

RoSPA Report 03/12/2013.

Referring to Residents of Sea Road and Sea Lane.

'It is HIGHLY LIKELY that balls will land on these properties, with the resultant risk of injury to residents who are in their gardens at the time'.

By ignoring the advice given by RoSPA the Trusteeship also leaves itself open to action from the general public and users of the playground and car park.

RoSPA Report 18/04/2007.

'The open area on the eastern boundary, adjacent to the Village Hall, car park and play area is open to ball strikes. It is therefore recommended that a new ball-stop fence is installed in this area. A minimum height of approximately 18 metres should be considered'. (Not done).

RoSPA Report 03/12/2013.

Playground users. High Risk of Injury.

Install tile catcher to north side of Village Hall roof. Add ball-stop fence. (Still not done).

The new members of the Council might find helpful the guidance given in a letter from The National Association of Local Councils to the then Secretary, Christine Swann of The Sussex Associations of Local Councils of 30/07/2003.

'It is the responsibility of a landowner to use his land only in a way that does not prevent the reasonable enjoyment by his neighbours of their own land. This rule applies to local authorities who own land to the same extent as private land owners'.
'Where activities on neighbouring land affects a landowner's enjoyment of his own property he can claim damages and an injunction for the civil wrong of nuisance'.
'Equally the council cannot escape liability by claiming a lack of resources or lack of an alternative site'.
A copy of the letter is attached.

Whilst it is appreciated that the Council appears to have brought to an end the Cricket Club's unauthorized arrangement which allowed clubs without a home ground to use the WRG, it has in general been reluctant to express disapproval of the Club's refusal to adhere to the terms of the Licence. The bias of previous years when councilors/trustees were also members of the Cricket Club still seems to influence decision making, as can be seen in the brief dismissal of our claim that the Club was in breach of sections 5 and 20 of the Licence.

We look forward to the Council/Trusteeship addressing our concerns before the start of play in 2019.

Yours sincerely,

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th November 2018

In response to a question, the Clerk reported cricket had been played on the now Warren Recreation Ground since 1860.

added cricket was more akin to rounders in 1860 as all bowling was underarm. The game started to change when overarm bowling was introduced in 1864.

The meeting AGREED the letter should be considered by the Audit & Governance Committee. That committee would very likely invite the Cricket Club to discussions.

920/18 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, Arun Clerks' Networking Lunch, 6th November**
- 5. East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 7th November**
- 6. Unveiling of blue plaque honouring Edith Ayrton and Israel Zangwill, 17th November**
- 7. Feedback from those attending the unveiling of the blue plaque, 17th November**
- 8. Feedback from the East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 24th November**
- 9. Social Media**
- 10. MailChimp stats**
- 11. A selection of things we have been asked since the last meeting**
- 12. Recent bouquets and complaints**
- 13. Leave**
- 14. December meetings and events**

1. Introduction

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

2. Police matters

No direct or indirect contact with Sussex Police since the last meeting.

3. Freedom of Information / Data Protection requests

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

4. SLCC Sussex, Arun Clerks' Networking Lunch, 6th November

Andy and I attended this third informal meeting of Arun District Clerks, now also open to Chichester District Clerks. The meeting was again held in Bersted, and was chaired by Bersted's Clerk, Debbie Holcombe.

We got there rather early and had to leave earlier than others, but were there for an hour of meeting proper. There were thirteen town and parish clerks and officers present.

West Wittering PC asked other councils for information on electronic banking. Most councils represented were able to contribute to this discussion.

Bersted PC wanted to talk about Community Land Trusts. As Clerks from both Angmering PC and Ferring PC had said they would attend the December meeting, the topic was deferred until then.

Bosham PC wanted to discuss the ethics around the Chichester Local Plan. Apparently Chichester DC has been talking to a number of town and parish councils consecutively but telling them all the information they were discussing was confidential and not for public consumption. There was some debate as to whether or not this stance could be justified. Andy and I left before any conclusion had been reached.

5. East Preston Business Community Business Breakfast, 7th November

Cllr Linton and I attended a good but well-attended meeting at *Grub and gumption*.

Thirteen local businesses were represented, Hares of Sussex for the first time. After the initial round of introductions, the meeting was addressed by guest speakers, Fr Andrew Perry and Malcolm McLelland representing the Friends of St Mary the Virgin. Andrew explained the Grade I listed church is the only Grade I Listed Building in the village and is at least 868 years old. With that comes a lot of responsibility and a lot of maintenance which has to be done using particular skills and craftsmen to match in with the existing fabric of the building. Malcolm explained the Friends of St Mary's is gearing up to launch a direct appeal to villagers for only the second time. Malcolm explained some of the options for how businesses can support the appeal both financially and with skills. A lively debate ensued lasting for most of the meeting and involving pretty much everyone there.

Cllr Linton reminded the meeting of the imminent Christmas Celebrations event and asked for volunteers to help at specific times. One volunteer came forward to help set up the Village Hall.

There was some concern about the spraying of dog mess with luminous paint. I explained the council did this, with a few community volunteers, to highlight the problem and to try and shame irresponsible dog owners into clearing up after their dogs. Those concerned felt happier knowing the council was behind this, although it remains possible some residents are doing this independently.

Thanks to Lottie and Piers for use of *Grub and gumption*.

6. Unveiling of blue plaque honouring Edith Ayrton and Israel Zangwill, 17th November

Together with Cllrs Linton and Duff, I attended the unveiling of the village first blue plaque. The plaque has been installed on Far End, Sea Lane in honour of Edith Ayrton and her husband Israel Zangwill. The plaque was physically installed by DART Ltd., and our thanks to them for doing so free-of-charge.

Prior to the unveiling itself, the council hosted a small reception for people who have helped get the plaque in place, including:

Shirley Zangwill – daughter-in-law of Edith Ayrton and Israel Zangwill

Amy and Simon Comins – current owners of Far End

Felicity Myer and her son Nigel – previous owners of Far

David Sawers and Sioned Vos – East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society

Sue Belton – The Worthing Society

Roddie MacLeod – East Preston resident who remembers having tea with Edith Ayrton at the beginning of the Second World War

Irene Cockroft – author with in-depth knowledge of women's suffrage in Britain

Jessica and Tanya Smart – relatives of friends of the Zangwills

Kevin Page – expert on local women's suffrage

Valerie Sharp – after meeting Kevin Page, Valerie came to the council to suggest the blue plaque

The reception lasted for about three-quarters of an hour, before the party walked round to Far End. There, Cllr Linton made a speech before Mrs Zangwill unveiled the plaque and made a speech of her own. The Littlehampton Gazette had sent a photographer and published the following article on 22nd November:



Former councillor and current member of the East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society, Margaret Gilbert, knows of other properties in the village which may be worthy of a blue plaque. Mrs Gilbert will compile a list for the council's consideration.

Meri-Jane Rochelson, a Professor Emerita of English at Florida International University and biographer of Edith and Israel emailed on 25th November, "This past week we celebrated a major American holiday, Thanksgiving, and four generations of the family were at my house. So it is only this morning that I've had a chance to see every one of the photographs, as well as the video and the article in the Littlehampton Gazette. Many thanks to all of you for sharing with me all these wonderful mementos of the celebration, and I, too, have been greatly moved by each and every one. Roddie McLeod, who as a child had tea with Edith Ayrton Zangwill, is a treasure; Shirley, as always, represented the family with dignity, beauty, and grace; and it was a thrill to see Patty and Caroline and all the American Zangwills represented so wonderfully in the newspaper. I, too, look forward to visiting Far End and this beautiful, inspiring blue plaque one day."

I have registered the plaque on a website, openplaques.org. This seems to be as close to an international database of heritage plaques as possible.

7. Feedback from people attending the unveiling of blue plaque honouring Edith Ayrton and Israel Zangwill, 17th November

Shirley Zangwill, daughter-in-law of Edith Ayrton and Israel Zangwill, "Thank you so much for asking me to unveil the Blue Plaque to honour Edith and Israel Zangwill. It was a fantastic occasion for me and I enjoyed every minute of it, meeting so many lovely and interesting people. Such a wonderful day, thank you once again."

Amy and Simon Comins, current owners of Far End, "Thanks for sending through the photos, yesterday went really well. Thank you for all the organisation that has gone into this, much appreciated."

Graham Lewis, East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society, "An excellent event this afternoon."

Sue Belton, Chairman of The Worthing Society (which lent the council its blue curtains), "Thank you for your hospitality yesterday and very many congratulations for organising such a moving event. I really found the occasion very inspirational and enjoyed meeting everyone. It was a beautiful location and we were so lucky with the weather as well! if you would like us to feature the event on our website please let me know."

Valerie Sharp, who first approached the council with the idea for the plaque, "Thank you so much for inviting me on Saturday. It was such a lovely "do" How wonderful to have a Daughter in law to unveil the plaque. So many incredibly appropriate people were there with different memories. The couple who are the current owners were lovely and so thrilled to be such an important part of the village. Well done to you and to East Preston Council. It was just a delightful special event."

Roddie MacLeod, village resident who remembers having tea with Edith Ayrton in Far End at the beginning of the Second World War, "Very many thanks for your kind invitation to "Operation Blue Plaque" and introduction to the Zangwill family. After nearly eighty years ... it was interesting and certainly the Zangwill local tribute was due. Well done – and thank you – Shalom."

Ian and Barbara Gordon, local residents, "thanks to the Parish Council for the wonderful blue plaque. The words are so apt. We were so pleased to meet Shirley Zangwill and hope she will be able to visit us again and perhaps give us a talk next year."

8. Feedback from East Preston Christmas Celebrations, 24th November

"Loved the event in spite of the weather"

"Really great photos capturing a lovely day! X"

"A good day apart from the rain."

"It was a great time. Thank you."

"A great community!"

"Thank you to all the people who visited the Chestnut Tree House stall, we raised over £200! Great village atmosphere as always xx"

"Had a fantastic day, even the rain didn't couldn't put a dampener in it. Thank you to everyone."

"So sorry about the weather, but a good event that takes such a lot of hard work to organise. Well done."

"Well done all of you"

"It's our first year as East Prestoners & the whole family had a great time (kids 6 & 3). Wonderful atmosphere & so well organised. Christmas has officially started!"

"Well done! Weather was not kind but we had so much fun and specially dancing with the kids ♥♥♥"

"Had a great time and our friends from Surrey really enjoyed the day, thanks to all those contributors who give their time to give us a good time."

"It was brilliant, really enjoyed it despite the weather."

"I went with a friend and I thought it was great. Well done EP looking forward to next year!!"

"Another Fantastically organised event in the village 🙌 thanks to everyone! Would not live anywhere else EP rules"

"I hope the PC have received some positive comments, despite the weather not being on your side! The PC's hard work and time spent in all the preparations ensuring everyone has a safe and enjoyable time should be acknowledged. Well done everyone involved."

From East Preston Library, "Have just checked our 'footfall' for the above and from midday we had 417 people in!"

"We enjoyed the Fayre - bought some Xmas prezzies and sampled some excellent Baileys fudge - not to mention G&G's mulled wine and praline brownies!!"

"Well done to all those who were involved in today's Christmas celebrations- it was really lovely. The weather was not ideal but it could have been a lot worse"

"First and most importantly, thanks for all the efforts to make the Christmas Event happen. This feedback is intended to assist future such events and is not a criticism. There is some issues on the Angmering-on-Sea Estate with the Road Closures. I have come to the conclusion that your advance advertising is more than adequate but we have a small number of residents who appear too grand to believe your notices apply to them and a larger group (which I am slowly joining) who have reached an age where remembering what will happen on the day is a challenge! You can't help the former (and may not want to) but the later would be very grateful if, on the day, 'Road Closed Ahead' with a diversion arrow could be erected at the last through road junction BEFORE the physical closure. In my case that would be a notice at the junction of Willowhayne Avenue and Westfield Road with diversion pointing towards South Strand which then allows exit via Seaview Ave and Sea Lane. I am sure that there are other locations where similar reminders would prevent backing and turning at the barriers, once seen and the problem remembered!. Realise every notice costs and needs manpower to erect and collect after the event but the notices themselves would be reusable. Perhaps you could consider when the council has a wash-up?"

"Enjoyed the Christmas event, despite the awful weather, lots to see and do. But found it a bit odd that the choir sang their carols and dispersed before Father Christmas and the rest of the parade arrived at the Green ! Thanks to warden at end of Manor Road for letting David get out in his car to take friend to visit her hubby, who had been rushed into Worthing hospital in the middle of Friday night. And big thanks to everyone who organized it, and those who stood in the cold and wet, to make it interesting for the rest of us !"

"Despite the weather we really enjoyed being apart of the celebrations."

There has been one negative comment so far, and that was a lengthy email about the price of attractions on offer.

9. **Social media**

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

- Reminder of resurfacing work at the junction of Sea Road and Fairlands – 2,246 people
- * Winner of the Best Dressed Window Competition, Something for the Weekend – 1,491
- Poster for Schools' Christmas Fayre – 1,018
- * carol singing and fireworks post - 900
- * start of East Preston Christmas Celebrations day post - 737
- Link to Littlehampton Gazette article about the unveiling of the blue plaque – 728
- Found bicycle – 700
- * end of East Preston Christmas Celebrations day post - 678
- Found Christmas rubber duck – 653
- Lost rubber severed foot – 630 (found at the Football Club)

- * post promoting the Best Dressed Window Competition - 612
- * reprint of map and timetable – 611
- * post announcing arrival of Autumn 2018 Newsletter - 555
- Found house key – 539
- Poster for a Children in Need bake sale - 534

† Food & Drink Festival page

▲ East Preston Business Community page

* East Preston Christmas Celebrations page

(posts up to and including 26th November)

The number of people currently like the council on Facebook is 1,160, an increase of twelve over last report (I suspect something was wrong with last month's figure).

No posts placed on Nextdoor.

10. **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 – 1st November – sent to 774, opened by 502 to date (64.9%)

Parish Council news – 8th November – sent to 775, opened by 498 to date (64.3%)

Parish Council news – 22nd November – sent to 776, opened by 506 to date (65.2%)

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

"I'm wondering who was the jobsworth who decided that a meeting of the council should take place on Bonfire Night 2018 !!!!! That's not a family-friendly decision !!" (That would probably be me as Full Council meetings are always on the first working Monday of the month and nobody has ever questioned whether that is always the most appropriate day. The same occurred in 2007 and 2012 and nobody questioned it then.)

"Do you know a potter, lives near Cooper-Adams." (No, but we have traced her.)

"Do you know how the new houses on the site of Tudor Lodge will be numbered once they have been built?"

The Chairman of Angmering Parish Council praised and photographed the Council Office Christmas window display saying, "That's what we should be doing."

"Can you recommend a window cleaner?" (No, but I can direct you to the Businesses page on the East Preston Village website where there are some window cleaners listed.)

"Should estate agents have their boards tied to the roadsign at the northern end of Copse View?" (I contacted ADC who strongly said, no boards should be attached to their roadsigns. ADC contractors came out and removed the boards soon after.)

12. **Recent bouquets and complaints**

(In addition to anything reported above)

From a resident of Normandy Drive, "Thanks for the newsletter and info about the Village Christmas celebration day - really clear and helpful. I'm so looking forward to it. How super it is to have all these lovely events on our doorstep!! Thank you all again for all your hard work - always so much appreciated."

13. **Leave**

The Council Office will close for Christmas at midday on Thursday, 20th December – on Friday 21st the office would not be open anyway. The Council Office will re-open officially on Wednesday, 2nd January.

14. **December Meetings and Events**

This list may be incomplete and is subject to change.

1 st	South Strand toilets meeting (11:00, Conservative Hall)
3 rd	Full Council (19:00, East Preston Infant School)
4 th	Arun Clerks' Networking Lunch (12:00, Bersted) (AB only)
5 th	Business Breakfast (08:00, The Seahorse Café)
10 th	Finance & General Purposes Committee (14:00, Council Office)
	Planning & Licensing Committee (18:00, East Preston Infant School)
12 th	Arun District Association of Local Councils (tbc)
20 th	Council Office closes for Christmas at midday, reopens on 2 nd January
21 st	Baytree Club Christmas Lunch (12:00, Village Hall) (ST and EL only)
28 th	Planning & Licensing Committee (10:00, Council Office) (tbc)

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

Simon Cross – **Clerk to the Council**

26th November 2018

The Chairman thanked the Clerk for his comprehensive report.

921/18 **EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS**

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

Other meetings and events – Part 1

Council is asked to note the following reports:

Eastern Parishes 2018 meeting, 13th November

Council Office, East Preston

An informal meeting of the Chairs of East Preston, Kingston and Angmering was held on Tuesday 13th November 2018. In attendance were Geraldine Walker and Roger Wetherell Kingston Chair and Vice Chair respectively, John Oldfield Chair of Angmering and Steve Toney and Elizabeth Linton Chair and Vice Chair of East Preston respectively. Ferring Parish Council sent apologies.

All those present agreed they would like to be a dementia friendly council and Steve will speak to Tim Wilkins from WSCC and ask him to contact Simon Cross Clerk of East Preston Parish Council with a view to setting up a joint parishes meeting.

Those present agreed to share their emergency plans so that the content could possibly be standardised. The same would apply with a Business Continuity plan.

There was a discussion on boundary changes.

It was suggested that Rustington, Ferring, Clapham, Patching and Findon should be invited to attend future meetings and that only one representative per parish, ideally the Chair or Vice, should attend. [Clerk's note: Rustington was invited and Cllr Jamie Bennett had said he would attend.]

It was suggested the next meeting should be before JEAAC and 7th February 2019, time and venue to be arranged, was suggested.

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

18th November 2018

Unveiling of blue plaque, 17th November

The Clockhouse and Far End, Sea Lane, East Preston

On Saturday 17th September 2018 the first blue plaque in East Preston was unveiled at Far End, Sea Lane.

Shirley Zangwill, the widow of Oliver, Edith and Israel's son, travelled from Cambridge to do the honours.

A small reception of drinks and sandwiches was held in The Clockhouse and amongst the others present were Shirley's son, Jeremy and his wife Dakia, Roddie MacLeod (who remembers having tea with Edith) and the owners of Far End, Amy and Simon Comins. Others present included Kevin Page of the Votes for All Women Centenary Group; Kevin curated an exhibition at the Look & Sea Centre earlier in the year on the subject of notable local campaigners for women's suffrage – Kevin donated a framed memento of the event to the council and to the current householders. Kevin had liaised with East Preston resident, Valerie Sharp at the Look & Sea Centre, and it was Valerie who first floated the idea of a plaque to the council and who also made the first contact with Mr and Mrs Comins. David Sawers and Sioned Vos represented the East Preston & Kingston Preservation Society, and had given valuable advice on the design and wording of the plaque. Leading authority on women's suffrage, author Irene Cockcroft and her husband were present as were Jessica and Tanya Smart whose relatives had been friends with the Zangwills. Felicity Myer and her son Nigel attended, having lived in Far End from 1968 for about twenty years. The curtains for the event were loaned by The Worthing Society – Chairman Susan Belton was present.

The assembled group walked to Far End and Shirley unveiled the plaque in the presence of about thirty people including Nicholas Beck of the Sussex Jewish Outreach Group. It was a truly historic moment for the village.

The following is the main part of the speech I delivered outside the house:

“Edith Ayrton met Israel Zangwill in 1893 as a result of her stepmother sending Edith's early stories to published writer Israel for comments. Edith married the women's rights supporter, Israel, in 1903 and had three children, a son Ayrton, then Margaret and finally Oliver who was born in Littlehampton. Edith's novel *Barbarous Babe* was published in 1904 followed by 6 further books some of which could have been written here at Far End. In 1912 Edith helped form the Jewish League for Women's Suffrage which was open to both male and female members. It was the only Jewish women's suffrage organisation in England dedicated to attaining votes for British women and equal religious and communal rights for women within the Jewish community.

“Israel Zangwill was born in London in a family of Jewish Immigrants from the Russian Empire. He excelled at school and eventually became a teacher whilst studying for his degree at the University of London, earning a BA with triple honours in 1884. Israel gained renown as a humorist, a writer of serious fiction and a playwright in the years from 1888 to 1926. He wrote 5 Ghetto books the last of which “*Ghetto Comedies*” was published in 1907 and could feasibly have been completed here in East Preston. Further books followed including *The Melting Pot*, the play of this novel was performed on Broadway, popularising a now familiar phrase.

“Together Edith and Israel played an active part in women's suffrage, campaigned for a Jewish Homeland and endorsed feminism and pacifism. They were a brilliant couple in their literary work and their active idealism for a better world.

“The Parish Council would like to thank Shirley Zangwill, the widow of Oliver, Edith and Israel's son, for coming here to unveil East Preston's first blue plaque and also for her donation towards the cost of the plaque. Also here is Shirley's son Jeremy with his wife Dakia and welcome to Roddy McCloud who remembers having tea with Edith at the beginning of WW2. We would also like to thank Nicholas Beck Chair of Sussex Jewish Outreach Group for coming here today. None of this would have been possible without the consent of the current owners of Far End Amy and Simon Comins. Thank you very much and also to those of you who have attended today.”

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

18th November 2018

Remembrance Sunday, 11th November

East Preston and Littlehampton

Well, after a busy day at the Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 11th November laying the Parish Council's Wreath, in the evening I was invited to represent the Parish Council for the Lighting of the Beacon at Banjo Road Littlehampton.

The evening started at 6pm with a musical repo from the 7th Littlehampton Scout band which lasted for about 20 minutes. During this time, the heavens opened and we all had an early shower.

After this display, local Littlehampton Scout and Cub troupes then read out the names of the fallen from Littlehampton, I believe there were 236 who gave all for the country.

The Vicar then gave a prayer and Kohima epitaph, followed by the last post given by the buglers.

After, we had a further musical display until it was time to light a very soggy beacon. After a few attempts The Mayor, Billy Blanchard Cooper managed to get the beacon alight. This was one of a thousand being lit around the country, all at 7pm, to commemorate the 100 year ending of World War 1 on this evening.

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

27th November 2018

Bay Tree Club 30th Anniversary Lunch, 23rd November

East Preston & Kingston Village Hall

Liz and I were invited to attend the 30th Anniversary of the Bay Tree Club lunches being formed. Well, we got there for 12.30 and almost missed our lunch. Apparently, we were supposed to be in attendance at 12.00!! A slight timing mishap.

Anyway, we were treated to a lovely roast chicken dinner and all the trimmings, followed by profiteroles and cream (lovely) and seconds. There was indeed a glass of wine with the dinner and coffee/tea on offer after the meal.

Our compliments to Julie the chef for serving about 60 meals. (Looking forward to the next one!)

We both had a great time having a good old natter about anything to our new-found, top-table friends. It was a real pleasure to be invited and many thanks to Carol Feasey and all her team for a great lunch.

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

27th November 2018

East Preston Christmas Celebrations – handing over the trophy for the Best Dressed Window competition, 24th November

It was a joy to present the trophy for the best-decorated shop front to Something for the Weekend. Judging had been carried out on Friday evening by Cllrs Toney and Duff, the latter assisted by her son Jude, and Blake and Richard Britton-Daniels, owners of Just Because... and the 2017 competition winners.

There was a total look of surprise from Kelly Manchee, the owner of the shop, who confessed that this was the first year she had entered. Their window front is quite delightful and, I suggest, you go and look at it whilst you can. The start of another memorable East Preston Christmas Celebrations.

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

27th November 2018

Arun Youth Aqua Centre Annual General Meeting, 24th November

Marjorie Bridger Hall, East Preston

After a very busy day at the East Preston Christmas Celebrations, I attended the Arun Youth Aqua Centre (AYAC) A.G.M. at the invitation of the Chairman of AYAC, Mr R Elliman. The Chairman of Rustington Parish Council, Cllr Jamie Bennett, also attended, but the Deputy Mayor from Littlehampton, Cllr Tracey Baker, sent apologies as she was unwell.

Various club representatives spoke about how it is getting harder to encourage juniors to join these clubs and how to retain the members that they have already. The club at the moment is managing to keep its head above water. During the evening we had a slide show highlighting personal achievements gained by club members and how the new storage facilities were coming on.

We were there to present trophies, awards and certificates which had been gained during the past 12 months of water activities on the high sea and in the lake.

After the formalities we mingled with the award winners and their families whilst having some refreshments.

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

27th November 2018

922/18 RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND EVENTS

The Chairman reported the Arun Youth Aqua Centre had a problem in retaining both youth to take part and adults to oversee the organisation of the club. If anyone was willing to spare some time, they could do worse than considering volunteering at the club.

923/18 NEW ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING (7TH JANUARY 2019)

Responding to a question about how the council allocates representatives to external bodies, the Clerk said the council had not been allocated nominated representatives to most organisations for the past few years, but had been sending the most appropriate person to a particular meeting. (Full Council, 1st June 2015, Minute 377/15, Resolution 0904) There was possibly scope for the Audit & Governance Committee to review and revise this.

The meeting concluded at 20:10

Chairman: *Councillor Steve Toney*
Councillor Steve Toney

Date: **7th January 2019**

END