KINGSTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES: of the Meeting of Council held on 17 September, 2026 commencing at 8.01pm in Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall, Vermont Drive, East Preston.

PRESENT: Cllrs Randall (Chairman for the meeting), Buckenham, Hall and Marr
Val Knight (Clerk).

95/26 **Election of Chairman for the Meeting** – In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of Council, Cllr Randall was elected to Chair the meeting.

96/26 **Welcome and Safety Procedures** – The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained safety procedures.

97/26 **Apologies for Absence –** Cllrs Andrew, Masson and Wetherell. County Cllr Elkins.

98/26 **Urgent Matters Arising** since the preparation of this Agenda - none.

99/26 **Declarations and Dispensations of Interests** – Further to declarations held in the Register of Members Interests, in the interest of openness, Cllr Hall declared membership of Kingston Gorse Estate and Cllr Randall declared membership of West Kingston Residents Association and that he is on the Board of the Association.

100/26 **Public Opportunity** – No members of the public were present.

101/26 **Minutes** - Council approved Minutes of the Meetings held on 16 July, 2026 (circulated). The minutes were signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

102/26 **Matters Arising from the Minutes** – None

103/26 **Planning Committee** – Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July, 2026. A committee meeting had been held earlier in the evening, and the proceedings were noted and recommendations agreed.

104/26 **Finance and General Purposes Committee** – Council noted the minutes of the meeting held on 16 July, 2026. A committee meeting had been held earlier in the evening, and the proceedings were noted and recommendations agreed.

105/26 **Policing** – Cllr Buckenham reported on policing statistics for East Preston and Kingston. PCSO Raju had sent the following report on incidents from 1 august- 13 September, 2026:

- Vehicle crimes - 2
- Neighbour dispute - 1(Dispute between neighbours over noise and building work)
- There were a few domestic related incidents but nothing concerning to wider public.

106/26 **West Sussex County Council:**

a. **Report of County Councillor –** County Cllr Elkins had sent his apologies due to a prior commitment.

b. **Highways and Footpaths:**

i. The Clerk advised that County Cllr Elkins would pursue with County their refusal to repair/replace bollards in Kingston Lane between Newcote Farm and Elm Avenue.

ii. It was noted that Martin Diprose has been appointed the contractor to clean and tidy around the Village Gateway sign at £80 per visit. Two other quotes had been received for £90 and £140 per visit.

iii. **Speed limit assessments in Kingston Lane** – Quotes for carrying out rumble strip speed assessments at 2 points along Kingston Lane were considered. Three companies were contacted for quotes and only two responded: Obtrada Limited £608 plus VAT and Road Data Services £975 plus VAT. It was agreed to accept the quote from Obtrada as the surveys would provide useful data. Clerk to progress.

iv. **Grass Cutting** - It was noted that County is not carrying out the final year end verge cut due to the hot weather having affected the grass growth. The clerk asked for Members to let her know if any areas do need a cut, with photos, and that can be reported to County

107/26 **Arun District Council Report of District Councillors:** No District Cllrs in attendance.

108/26 **Devolution –** Council noted that the Government is currently reviewing the devolution proposals, but the election of a Mayor in 2028 is to go ahead as will Local elections in 2027.

109/26 **Dr Beccy Cooper MP –** Re the Roundstone Crossing, Cllr Randall advised that:
- the date of the next meeting with Network Rail is still awaited
- County Cllr Deborah Urquhart hopes to raise the time that gates are down with the Sussex and Brighton Strategic Authority as a representative of West Sussex County Council.

Members then discussed the 'mindthegates.uk' website and agreed that the information on times the gates are open and closed is very useful. It was agreed that Network Rail (via these meetings with Beccy Cooper) be asked to publish the same or similar data on a digital display at the crossing. The Clerk suggested that info on 'mindthegates.uk' be included in the next newsletter that would be circulated in October.

110/26 **Arun District Association of Local Councils (ADALC) –** Deferred as no recent meeting to report on.

111/26 **Report on Planning Matters –** Council noted that only 2 ADALC Councils have responded with their concerns regarding the NPPF and neither offered to assist with funding a planning consultant's letter to MPs (estimated cost £1500). It was agreed that:
- the Clerk would go back to ADALC to express disappointment that only 2 Councils have responded with NPPF specific policy concerns
- Council should consider drawing up is own comments
- Council would need to consider whether to proceed if there is no financial support from other Councils.

112/26 **South Strand Community Toilets –** Cllr Buckenham advised that a recent addition is that the signage for men and women is also in braille.

113/26 **Climate Change -** Cllr Buckenham had proposed this agenda item and raised the question 'Is this Council prepared for the predicted El Niño and future higher temperatures?' The spoke of the need to look at the dangers of wild fires and what precautions can be taken, coastal erosion, flooding and drains, and whether culverts are up to taking heavy rainfalls.
So that Climate Change could be explored further it was agreed to designate it as a topic for Council's Environment Working Group (all members of Council may participate) to research and make recommendations to Council via the Planning Committee on how and what actions can be taken. It was also agreed that the particular concerns Cllr Buckenham had spoken about should be referred to the Environment Working Group.

114/26 **Next scheduled meeting** is Thursday, 19 November, 2026. Agenda confirming details of the meetings are published 3 days before this on our website https://kingston-wsx-pc.gov.uk/

115/26 **Exclusion of the Public and Press** - Pursuant to Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, it was resolved that Members of the Public and the Press be excluded from the Meeting because of the confidential nature of the next item of business to be transacted.

116/26 **Recruitment of new Clerk** – It was noted that the Clerk would be liaising with WSALC (West Sussex Association of Local Councils) to refine and agree details of the process.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

Chairman: ..... Date: .....