

Councillor Reports March Council Meeting 2024

District Councillors

D. Cllr Lury

I come to Full Council tonight hotfoot from a proper drenching at a site visit early this morning! February has been a busy month culminating in three meetings - The Special Council to agree the budget, The Arun Flood Group held at our own Bersted Community Centre and a Business Forum discussing flooding on the 29th February. At the Special Council meeting the budget passed unopposed, although next year will see more savings needing to be identified as we reduce our reliance on diminishing reserves. The Arun Flood Group was very well chaired and was a success despite the auditory problems presented by the venue which impacted heavily on the sizeable audience.

On Tuesday 5 March I attended a briefing on Cleansing contracts where the government's 'Simpler Recycling' reforms were explained with the introduction of weekly collections of food waste which will be required from 01 April 2026. As it happens, the new Combined Cleansing Services' Contract has to commence on the 1st February 2026 with proposed weekly food collections and fortnightly residual and recycling collections with decisions to be made regarding provision of 180 or 240 litre capacity bins.

On the 6th March I chaired a Special Planning Policy meeting where we agreed minor amendments to the Direction of Travel Document as part of reviewing The Local Plan.

D. Cllr Yeates

Bersted:

Thurs 11th Feb – Infrastructure. Representatives from the EA but lost the ADC and S Water 'regulars' due to half-term. We do definitely need to get them all in the room together!

Tues 20th Feb – Personnel.

Tues 27th Feb – Finance & GP

Wed 28th Feb – Lidsey Rife cluster group

Tues 5th Mar – Planning

Wed 6th Mar – Operation Watershed (looking at bank reinforcements for part of Shripney)

Arun:

Wed 21st Feb - Full Council – special meeting to agree the 2024/25 budget

Mon 26th Feb – Arun Flood Forum. First meeting to explore issues and concerns with Southern Water. Felt 2 hours was not long enough for the format chosen – ie no priority to actual forum members with questions from the floor taking a lot of time. I have no objection to this but I did want the chance to discuss one issue further. I had put in 10 written questions in advance but had new questions following their presentation from S Water. We just needed more time, having brought a sizeable number of people together which is difficult to achieve and, therefore, pretty rare. Shame not to make the most of the opportunity.

Thur 29th Feb – Constitution Working Party

Tues 30th Feb - Planning Policy – Martin and I had already worked on corrections and amendments but this special meeting was to agree any other final changes prior to the document being put out for public consultation.

Parish Councillors

Cllr Van Koolbergen

MARCH REPORT:-

- reviewed F&GP agenda 12/2/24

- attended full council 12/2/24

- attended personnel meeting 19/2/24

- chaired F&GP meeting 27/2/24

- reviewed and checked F&GP minutes ready for circulation

