

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018 AT 8.00PM IN THE ROSE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Farrar, Hill, Hindler, R Lewin, T Lewin, McKinney, Miller, Moore, Pritchitt, Summers, Williams & J Wogan.

**APOLOGIES:** Cllr. Melson

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, County Cllr. Whetstone and 2 members of West Hoathly Parish Council.

**C08/18 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

Paul Brown, Chairman of Assets & Highways Committee, West Hoathly Parish Council spoke about the junction of Grinstead Lane, Sharpthorne Road and Plawhatch Lane at Tyes Cross. This was a dangerous junction that was the responsibility of East Sussex County Council – but the speed of the approaching eastbound traffic was the responsibility of West Sussex County Council. They would like to ask Forest Row Parish Council to consider working with them in the future. They had asked for a 40mph speed limit from Sharpthorne to the parish boundary, but been refused. There was an unofficial lay-by at the corner of Plawhatch Lane which made the sight lines of the junction difficult and there were kerbstones on the corner that had been broken for years.

Cllr. Claire Hilton of West Hoathly Parish Council explained that she often saw accidents on the junction and that there was a fatality a few years ago. They hoped that FRPC could help to get East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council to work together.

Cllr. Farrar suggested that representatives from West Hoathly Parish Council be invited to attend the next SLR meeting with East Sussex County Council on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 10am.

County Cllr. Whetstone suggested that they get a petition signed and lodge it with East Sussex County Council – it then had to be discussed at a Members' meeting. It could be signed by both residents of East Sussex and West Sussex.

**C09/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr. Melson due to work commitments.

**C10/18 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 had been previously circulated. These were proposed for approval (with minor amendments) by Cllr. Josephson. This was seconded by Cllr T Lewin and AGREED.
- The Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018 had been previously circulated. These were proposed for approval by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED with 1 abstention.
- There were no objections to the deletion of the digital recordings of the meetings held on 28<sup>th</sup> November 2017 or 8<sup>th</sup> January 2018. These would accordingly be deleted.

**C11/18 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

**C12/18 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING (not listed elsewhere on the Agenda)**

- Venue on The Green – A meeting of the ViG is scheduled for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2018.
- Sports Ground Lease – This had now been received and will require a sub-lease to the Sports Ground Association. Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Clerk check the lease, tidy if necessary and prepare the draft sub-lease for the next Full Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

- Forest Row Festival – The Annual Report had recently been circulated in Councillor’s Reading. The Festival Committee were in negotiations with Wealden Licensing Dept and will probably come to Council in March
- Forest Row Youth Services – There had been a meeting of the working group last week and they would meet again shortly. The idea had been put forward that a Youth representative would attend the meetings of Localism & Community Services.
- Neighbourhood & other planning – Contacts have been made within Wealden District Council and AiRS and it is hoped that a formal proposal may be put before the next meeting of Full Council.
- Digitisation of Agendas & Minutes – The originals should be returned at the end of this week – the Clerk plans to retain the digital versions and send the hard copy originals to the County Archive at The Keep. Cllr. Wogan requested that 2 digital copies be kept. This was AGREED.

NOTED

#### **C13/18 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS**

This had been previously circulated.

NOTED

#### **C14/18 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS**

The Chairman commented that she had nothing to add since the last meeting.

#### **C15/18 TO RESOLVE ON COUNCILLORS’ ALLOWANCES**

The official report of the Remuneration Panel had been previously circulated.

Cllr. R Lewin proposed that the Council should not pay Councillors’ Allowances and instead pay out of pocket expenses. There was no seconder for this.

Cllr. Wogan proposed that Councillors’ Allowances should be paid. This was seconded by Cllr. Moore and AGREED with 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Cllr. Pritchitt proposed that the Council should not adopt the recommended figure of £395, but stick to the current level payable in 2017-18. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED with 2 abstentions.

Cllr. Moore proposed the Chairman’s Allowance continue at the current rate. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED with 1 abstention.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Report from the County Councillor be taken at this point in the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

#### **C16/18 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR**

County Cllr. Whetstone advised that the budget had been set by East Sussex County Council and this had resulted in large cuts.

He was sorry to announce that County planned to close the Forest Row Waste Recycling Centre (the Dump). He advised that he was extremely unhappy about it and will not vote for it. He was asked what the Parish Council could do to try and reverse the decision. He advised that a formal letter could be sent from the Parish Council objecting to this decision and to write to the Leader of the County Council.

Cllr. Hindler suggested that a petition could be started and put in various places around the village.

Cllr. Pritchitt offered to compile a rota of people to hand out leaflets to people at the entrance to the dump.

Cllr. Moore offered to inform the press.

Cllr. Davies said she was willing to help.

Cllr. Miller and McKinney said that they would inform people by social media.

It was thought that the decision would be made at the East Sussex County Council meeting on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2018.

#### **C17/18 TO ADOPT THE BUDGET FOR 2018-2019**

Cllr. Hill proposed that the consolidated draft revenue budget be adopted, subject to an additional £ 2,000 in the salaries code.

This was seconded by Cllr. Moore and AGREED unanimously.

Cllr. Wogan proposed that no more should be added to the draft nominated reserves as presented. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED with 1 against.

### **C18/18 TO SET THE PARISH PRECEPT FOR 2018-2019**

Cllr. R Lewin proposed that the precept be set at £ 347,000 for 2018-2019. This was seconded by Cllr. Hindler. A recorded vote was requested.

Cllr. Davies	AGREED	Cllr. Farrar	AGAINST
Cllr. Hill	AGREED	Cllr. Hindler	AGREED
Cllr. Josephson	AGREED	Cllr. R Lewin	AGREED
Cllr. T Lewin	AGREED	Cllr. McKinney	AGREED
Cllr. Miller	AGREED	Cllr. Moore	AGREED
Cllr. Pritchitt	AGAINST	Cllr. Summers	AGREED
Cllr. Williams	AGREED	Cllr. Wogan	AGAINST

Cllr. Pritchitt asked if the Clerk (and the Chairman of Finance & Policy Committee, if possible) could compile an explanation for the Parishioners of why the precept had increased.

Cllr. Moore asked if the Clerk would also put an article in the Parish News explaining the same.

### **C19/18 GRINSTEAD LANE CROSSROADS**

The comments made within Public Questions by West Hoathly Parish Council were acknowledged.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that this matter be discussed at the next SLR meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED.

### **C20/18 TWINNING ASSOCIATION 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**

The Association had decided to present the French families visiting Forest Row in October with a small engraved wooden bowl to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Approximately 35 would be needed at a maximum cost of £ 10 each.

Cllr. Farrar proposed that the Parish Council fund the provision of a small commemorative bowl for visitors in October to a maximum of £ 350.00. This was seconded by Cllr. Summers and AGREED with 1 against and 2 abstentions.

### **C21/18 THE END OF WORLD WAR 1**

Cllr. Wogan, as the Council's British Legion representative, had provided details of a 'Silent Soldier' figure which was the Surrey tribute to mark the end of WW1.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that Cllrs. Farrar and Wogan take this matter further to bring back to Council. Any further suggestions should be made to them.

This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

### **C22/18 COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

Chris Harrison's report had been previously circulated and was NOTED. It was also NOTED that he had received his 'pass' certificate from the Community Safety Accreditation course he had recently undertaken.

### **C23/18 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR**

Cllr. Holloway had provided a report that had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

### **C24/18 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

- FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE – A report had been previously circulated. NOTED
- PROPERTY & ASSETS COMMITTEE– A report had been previously circulated.  
Cllr. Williams thanked the Clerk for organising the heating repair so quickly.  
Cllr. Wogan commented that the new bus shelter opposite Highgate Road looked very nice. NOTED
- AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE – Cllr Wogan said that the new member of outdoor maintenance staff was proving to be an excellent addition.  
She said that there had been complaints about the huge pile of black sacks of leaves at the allotments. She advised that compost bins would be constructed when the weather (and ground) was drier. The bags would then be emptied into them.  
Wildflower seeds had been scattered around the base of trees on the village greens. NOTED
- LOCALISM & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – Cllr. T Lewin suggested Gages be nominated for BBC Radio 4 Food awards.
- PLANNING COMMITTEE – Cllr. Hindler advised that there was nothing to report. NOTED

### **C25/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

A report on the Twinning Association from Cllr Farrar had previously been circulated and was NOTED  
Ashdown Forest Liaison Group – thanks had been received for the Parish Council contribution. NOTED

**C26/18 NOTICES**

None received

**C27/18 CONSULTATIONS**

There was an on-line Councillor consultation from NALC for personal completion.

NOTED

**C28/18 CORRESPONDENCE**

None

**C29/18 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

Cllr. T Lewin advised that the issue of hiring out mobility and disability aids be discussed at the next Localism & Community Services Committee meeting.

Cllr. Wogan advised that the British Legion was organising a talk about wartime battlefields, which members may like to attend. This was being held at Ashdown House School on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

The meeting closed at 9.55pm.

SIGNED: .....

DATE.....(Chairman)