

MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8th OCTOBER 2018 at 7pm IN THE ROSE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Farrar, Hill, T Lewin, R Lewin, Melson, Miller, Moore, Pritchitt, Williams & Wogan.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Hindler, McKinney, Summers.

IN ATTENDANCE: County Cllr Francis Whetstone, the Clerk

C102/18 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None. Cllr Whetstone stated he was there to observe only.

C103/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Hindler (away), McKinney (family commitments) and Cllr. Summers (prior engagement).

C104/18 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31st July 2018 and its digital transcript be dealt with at the next ordinary Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

C105/18 TO RESOLVE TO CONSIDER THE CLERK'S REPORT ON OUTSTANDING MATTERS AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Cllr. Josephson proposed that any matters arising be considered at the next ordinary Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

C106/18 TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE ON A PROPOSAL FOR A CONDITIONAL RE-OPENING OF THE FOREST ROW HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRE

Cllr Josephson outlined the issue for resolution for Council. She asked if Members had any questions of fact to be clarified. Members raised the following:

- Did we have statistics for the numbers opposed to closure? These were in the consultation analysis.
- What was the amount & status of the grant application? For a maximum of £20,000 & still pending.
- How long does a CIC/CIO take to set up? It could be done quickly by a specialist but would probably take under 30 days. The cost would depend on who did the work – perhaps £1500 total.
- Would a CIC or CIO be more appropriate? We could decide later, possibly a charitable 'vehicle'.

Cllr Josephson stressed the decision was an 'in principle' one whether to proceed and the outlines of it were contained in the briefing note paragraph 11 (a)-(f). There was a time constraint now the Tip was closed.

There was a lengthy and robust discussion, in which the following points were made:

Points in favour:

- The residents are up in arms about the closure and we would be failing in our duty if the Council did not make an effort to re-open the facility.
- The maximum financial exposure is not exorbitant, set against the degree of public support, provided we set a strict limit to our commitment.
- There are many points on which we cannot know how they will work out without actually trying them via a pilot scheme.
- There are many potential volunteers prepared to put their skills and time into the scheme.
- We could protect the Council by attaching 'loan covenants' to any financial underwriting

Points against:

- We have been rushed into this decision by the County's timetable and there are too many 'imponderables' to take a considered view.
- In view of our current (& likely future) commitments we should not put Council funds into this project.
- There were serious questions about whether the plan is viable: the legal position about Council 'underwriting' is still in doubt.

- The numbers predicted to pay at £2 per visit (and required to 'break even') are unrealistic in the longer term: we would need more than 75% of current take-up to break even on running costs.
- There were set-up costs as well as running costs to be considered.
- There was plenty of support at present but a risk it would melt away after an initial period.
- Implementing the scheme will require a huge amount of work, beyond the capacity of the present working group to handle.

Other points raised:

- To whom did the waste actually belong? Once in the skips, to the waste contractor (which raised the issue of the ownership of the items accepted 'outside' the skips).
- The status of the site manager: in the longer term we would need (though it might be technically difficult) to integrate community involvement into the re-use/recycling aspect of the operation.
- There were questions over whether we could incorporate some acceptance of business waste: It was unclear if the County would object, but this was a matter for a phase beyond any pilot scheme.
- Was there a 'plan B'? There was an embryonic plan, involving a more selective offer of waste acceptance, but this was not a matter to be decided now – it might fall to be considered if the current pilot was rejected or unsuccessful

Cllr Josephson proposed a vote:

"to approve in principle, and authorise the working group to progress, the facility re-opening scheme as set out in the briefing note paragraph 11 (a)-(f), with the words "with a financial limit to Council funds of £15,000" added to sub-para (e), and subject also to a further vote in Full Council before implementation.**

(It was expected that Council would reconvene on the issue by the end of October).

The proposal was seconded by Cllr Moore. A recorded vote was requested by Cllr Hill.

In favour: Cllrs Josephson, Davies, T Lewin, Melson, Miller, Moore, Pritchitt (7)

Against: Cllrs Farrar, Hill, R Lewin, Williams Wogan (5)

Proposal AGREED

Cllr Josephson proposed a second vote:

"that the 'WRAG' working group should henceforth consist of Cllrs Davies, Josephson, T Lewin, Miller, Moore and the Clerk, and that they should recruit such non-councillor members as may be willing and appropriate"

Seconded by Cllr Davies and AGREED with 2 against & 2 abstentions

C107/18 TO RESOLVE TO DEAL WITH ANY OUTSTANDING NOTICES, CORRESPONDENCE OR CONSULTATIONS AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING.

Cllr Josephson proposed that these be held over as proposed.

Seconded by Cllr Moore & AGREED

C108/18 TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Cllr Wogan asked that a review of the present Committee structure be placed on the Full Council agenda

Cllr R Lewin asked that the start time of Council/ Committee meetings be placed on the Full Council agenda

The meeting closed at 8:10pm.

SIGNED:
(Chairman)

DATE.....

**Text of para 11 (a)-(f) as amended

- Set up the necessary community organisation (and incur the cost of so doing);
- Through that 'community organisation', enter into an agreement with Veolia on the above basis, for a three-month pilot period, subject to terms acceptable in terms of the Council's exposure.
- Confirm with ESCC that the site will be made available on nominal rent terms, and that ESCC will accede to any variations of its contract with Veolia on cost-neutral terms.
- Take such steps as are necessary to organise & publicise the revised operation.
- Commit the Council to underwrite the financial commitment of the 'community organisation' to the extent necessary to sustain 3-months' operation, with a financial limit to Council funds of £15,000
- Determine criteria for evaluation of the pilot scheme and review thereafter.

