

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 27TH MARCH 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, Melson, Miller, Moore, Pritchitt, Summers, Williams & J Wogan.

APOLOGIES: District Cllr. Holloway

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Assistant Clerk, County Cllr. Whetstone, County Cllr. Roy Galley and Mr Colin Keen.

C30/18 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

Vivien Hill spoke as a member of public as a representative of Ashdown Forest Research Group. Cllr. Wogan had contacted her to see if their information could be used for an exhibition in the Church to commemorate the end of WW1. The Working Group would negotiate with the Research Group for which of the fallen would be featured. Any photocopying that required to be done, would be done by the Parish Council office.

Mr Keen expressed his disappointment that the matter of the Community Warden would be discussed under private session, so the public would not be aware of how a decision was reached. The Chairman explained that there would potentially be sensitive information discussed which it was why it was a confidential agenda item. Details would be issued in the minutes.

C31/18 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: District Cllr. Holloway due to illness.

C32/18 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th January 2018 had been previously circulated. These were proposed for approval by Cllr. Williams. This was seconded by Cllr Hill and AGREED.
- There were no objections to the deletion of the digital recording of the meeting held on 16th January 2018. These would accordingly be deleted.

C33/18 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr. Hill	C37/18.4	Personal	Member of Ashdown Forest Research Group – in talks with WW1 Working Group
Cllr. Wogan	C37/18.4	Personal	Member of Royal British Legion (WW1 Working Group)

C34/18 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS ARISING (not listed elsewhere on the Agenda)

- Venue on The Green – The implementation group met on 18th January. No substantive progress can be made until sufficient funds are available. Significant efforts are currently directed to fundraising. The Clerk advised that there are some major fundraising efforts being made at the present time. This would be an agenda item at the next Full Council meeting.

Cllr. Moore joined the meeting at 8.10pm.

- Sports Ground Lease – The head lease and sub lease were being vetted by a commercial property solicitor. Hopefully this would be finalised by the end of May.
- Forest Row Festival – The Clerk read out an e-mail from the Forest Row Festival Committee advising that after discussions, it had been decided that there would be no festival in 2018.
- GDPR – The Working Group were collecting data assisted by Sue Young. At a lot of data was now password protected and paper information had been shredded.

NOTED

C35/18 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

None to be noted.

C36/18 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- The Chairman thanked the office staff for all their work during the recent computer crash.
- Cllr. McKinney joined the meeting at 8.17pm.
- The Chairman highlighted the need for Councillors to be careful and check what is published in their name. In the recent Green Party quarterly update, Cllr. Tony Lewin had been named as 'Green Party Parish Councillor'. Cllr. Lewin apologised to Council but explained that he had not looked at the final proof before publication. Cllr. Josephson reiterated that if sending a piece for publication, always see the final copy.
Cllr. Moore suggested that Cllr. T Lewin should also check the Green Party website for any errors.
Cllr. Josephson restated that a lot of Parish Councillors were involved in trying to keep the Recycling Site open – obtaining signatures on petitions etc.
Cllr. R Lewin advised that any statement mentioning the Parish Council should be passed by The Clerk first.

Cllr. Hindler joined the meeting at 8.27pm.

C37/18 MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/RESOLUTION

1. Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting – The APM is scheduled for 10th May 2018. There was much discussion around this subject and various suggestions made.
Cllr. Summers proposed that there be a 7.30 for 8 start time. This was seconded by Cllr. Davies and AGREED.
Cllr. Josephson suggested that there be 2 reports on the Venue on The Green and the possible closure of the Recycling Facility. She suggested a Working Group be formed to work out details and tell other Councillors what needed doing.
Cllr. Josephson proposed that a working Group be formed of Cllrs. McKinney, Moore, Pritchitt and Summers.
This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

Cllr. Melson joined the meeting at 8.50pm.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that County Councillor Whetstone's report be brought forward to this point in the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.
There were no objections to Standing Orders being lifted.

2. Forest Row Recycling Centre: East Sussex County Council waste team had agreed to meet with the Parish Council for discussion. Outline ideas were needed to put forward for suggestion/consideration. The closure of the site would result in a saving of £ 56,000 to ESCC. This did not take into account the shop on site as any profit goes to the franchisee.
Cllr. Whetstone explained that this was out for consultation – along with the closure of the recycling site at Wadhurst. The Parish's petition against closure had been delivered and would be considered in the cabinet meeting when the result of the consultation would be seen. The Parish Council would have 5 minutes to talk to the County Council at that meeting. He explained that Forest Row and Wadhurst were the smallest sites in the County and that is why they had been targeted for closure.
Cllr Galley said that in his personal view the upheaval of the closures was not justified by the savings of approximately £ 100,000.
Cllr. Farrar proposed that a Working Group be set up that would meet with the Waste Team with suggestions to see if negotiation was possible, and to report back to Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Hindler and AGREED.
Cllr. Josephson proposed the Working Group be formed of Cllrs. Davies, R Lewin, T Lewin, Miller and Moore, along with the Clerk. Alan Potter be invited to join as a co-opted member.
This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.
3. Strategic Planning: At its last meeting, the Planning Committee discussed the possibility of embarking on a strategic planning initiative for the village.
Cllr. Josephson proposed that a Working Group be formed to look at all options. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED. With 1 abstention.
Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Working Group consist of Cllr. Hindler, T Lewin, Miller and the Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.
4. Commemoration of end of WW1: Cllr. Wogan advised that the Working Group had met again. Property & Assets Committee had approved the purchase of a bench – the Royal British Legion would be asked for a donation. This would be raised at their next meeting on 8th May. The Royal British Legion would run a tea tent at the Twinning Fun Day to raise funds.
Cllr. Josephson proposed that a 'Silent Soldier' be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED with 10 for, 1 against and 4 abstentions.

Cllr. Moore proposed that a Just Giving page be set up for anyone to contribute to. The cost to be underwritten by the Parish Council. Any surplus monies would be donated to the Royal British Legion. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED with 3 abstentions.

C38/18 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

This had been dealt with earlier in the agenda.

C39/18 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Holloway had given his apologies.

District Cllr. Moore gave a report on developments elsewhere in the County.

She advised that Universal Credit would be introduced to Forest Row on 6th June 2018. She asked the Office staff to be aware, as this was all computer based and people may come to the office for assistance. She drew attention to a short video on Wealden District Councils website detailing developments in well-being services in Herstmonceux.

C40/18 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE – Nothing to report. NOTED
- PROPERTY & ASSETS COMMITTEE– A report had been previously circulated. NOTED
- AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE – A report had been previously circulated. NOTED
- LOCALISM & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE – Cllr. T Lewin gave a verbal report of the meeting.
- PLANNING COMMITTEE –. A report had been previously circulated. NOTED
- COMMUNICATIONS WORKING GROUP – A report had been previously circulated. NOTED

C41/18 COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT

Chris Harrison's report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C42/18 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Sports Ground Association – Cllr. Pritchitt advised that a list of essential works had been drawn up and was being worked through. The car park was to be resurfaced. A recent Golf Day had raised £ 685 and the Football Club had received sponsorship from local business's. A large refund had been received from the Water Company.

C43/18 COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME

See Confidential Minute No. C48/18 attached.

C44/18 NOTICES

None received

C45/18 CONSULTATIONS

None

C46/18 CORRESPONDENCE

None

C47/18 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Cllr. Summers asked that the matter of the Ashdown Forest Conservators banning children from making bike jumps be discussed.

Cllr. Miller asked that the Facebook pages promoting the Car Club and Cycle Hire club be looked at.

Cllr. Wogan asked that the issue of a Tea Dance to commemorate the end of WW1 be discussed.

Cllr. Wogan asked that the future of the Youth Group be discussed.

The meeting closed at 10.30pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)

CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE NO. C48/18

C48/18 COMMUNITY WARDEN SCHEME

It was reported that Forest Row had adopted a Community Warden Scheme in July 2016 and the current employment contract expires on 10th June 2018.

Cllr. Hill proposed that the contract be extended for another year with the matter of hiring out to neighbouring Councils being pursued further. This was seconded by Cllr. Moore.

Cllr. Pritchitt made a counter proposal that the contract be extended by 6 months with the matter of hiring out to neighbouring Councils being pursued further. This was seconded by Cllr. Davies.
This was voted on with 5 for, 7 against and 3 abstaining. REJECTED

A vote was taken on Cllr. Hill's proposal. 6 for, 6 against and 3 abstaining.
The Chairman therefore had the casting vote and voted for the proposal. The proposal was AGREED.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Police be given a 6-month deadline for an evaluation to be issued. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.