

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 17<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE ROSE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Hill, R Lewin, McNally, Miller, Pritchitt, Rosenboom, Summers, Withers & Wogan

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. T Lewin, Moore, Royall, Williams & Withers

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk and District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas.

**C242/19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** None

**C243/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were given and accepted from Cllr. Davies due to illness, Cllr. T Lewin & Royall (holiday) and Cllrs. Moore & Williams (family commitments).

**C244/19 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2019 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Rosenboom seconded by Cllr. McNally and signed as a true record.

No objections were noted to deletion of the digital transcript of the above meeting.

**C245/19 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING** None.

**C246/19 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

**C247/19 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

(The Clerk indicated that the minimal mention of the Sports Ground lease did not merit a declaration)

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

Cllr. Withers joined the meeting at 7:37pm

**C248/19 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

- The Chairman had been invited to attend this afternoon the official opening of the Wych Cross garden centre under its new owners Coolings. The company seems keen to develop community ties.
- The Chairman had been made aware that advice was being given to council staff to by-pass grievance and/or Code of Conduct procedures in case of serious complaints, because of the lack of sanctions, and to make use instead of employment law, including applications to Tribunal, with its powers of compensation.  
Cllr Hill noted that she and Cllr Moore had recently attended HR training, which had proved very helpful, and she was happy to forward on to Members the handouts received.

**C249/19 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

- External Audit. The external auditors raised a query over one of the items in the Governance Statement. This had been dealt with. The sign-off had now arrived.
- In-house training. A request was made to SSALC in early August, but a choice of dates was still awaited and was being chased.
- Waste recycling. Working group representatives met with County Council managers last week, and they were sympathetic to letting us have the old waste site free of charge to run a pilot scheme over three weekends in the next month or so. There are a number of practical problems to be resolved, principally that of licensing, but members are working on these issues. The work remains within the grant budget. Responses to the 'Tip survey' have been encouraging.
- Consultation with Forest Row Energy. A date has yet to be fixed, due to conflicting commitments.

- Skate park extension. This is still in the design stage, but Wealden Planning have indicated what will be acceptable. A fundraising event is planned for the end of this month.
- FRGSA lease. Nothing further to report.
- Items deferred to future agenda. It appeared that two items 'deferred to a future meeting' would be best considered in November: the drafting of a development plan and a review of the youth service policy. The first is currently under discussion in the Planning Committee, while the second is still evolving in the new VENUe. NOTED

#### **C250/19 REPORTS RECEIVED FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

- County Councillor. There was no attendance by a County Councillor. Cllr Galley's monthly written report had been circulated previously in Councillors Briefing.
- District Councillor. Patterson-Vanegas reminded Members that senior officers from Wealden would be doing a 'ward walk' with her in late October. If anyone wanted specific issues within District's remit raised on that occasion, she asked that they be forwarded to her via the Clerk.

#### **C251/19 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

(There were no written reports circulated in advance)

- Finance & Policy Committee – Cllr. R Lewin advised that nothing of note had happened since the last meeting. The October meeting of the Committee would be looking at the salary review within NJC 'spine points' which it had requested.
- Amenities & Services Committee – Cllr Wogan gave a conspectus of highlights from the minutes of the recent Amenities Committee meeting.
- Property & Assets Committee - There was nothing of note to report.
- Community Services Committee – Cllr Davies reported on behalf of Cllr T Lewin highlights from the minutes of the recent Committee meeting. A number of new initiatives were developing.
- Planning Committee – no report
- Personnel Committee – Two of the three members had attended training (as previously noted) and an initial meeting was planned before the end of September. NOTED

#### **C252/19 TO NOTE COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the warden had been absent for much of the period since the last Full Council, partly on sick leave, and partly on annual leave. There was insufficient for a full report on this occasion. Recruitment of a part-time assistant will be proceeding when the Crowborough Clerk returns from leave. NOTED

#### **C253/19 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

- Cllr Hill noted that the next meeting of the Ashdown Forest liaison group was next week: if anyone wanted issues raised could they please alert her in advance.
- Cllr R Lewin had attended the Festival Committee meeting last week. He commended their professional approach this year. He had suggested that they hold a face-to-face 'post-mortem' meeting with the Council within a short time after the Festival to highlight plus & minus points.
- Cllr Davies asked whether the 'Ashdown Surgery 'Patient Liaison Group' was addressing the serious problem about access to the surgery from the main road. This is in the hands of the NHS property division. NOTED

Cllr Miller joined the meeting at 8:26 pm

#### **C254/19 TO CONSIDER THE FORMAT OF THE AUTUMN RECEPTION**

There was prolonged discussion of this point. It was currently an amalgam of the garden competition prizegiving and a celebration of volunteers, perhaps it should be made into two occasions. Some wanted a celebration of non-Council volunteer activities (eg Scouts, Brownies). It was eventually decided that time was too short to vary this year's format, but it should be re-scheduled for discussion in good time for next year. Members were asked to nominate up to 4 persons each to receive an invitation (plus their candidate for Citizen of the Year) by the end of this week.

In view of the inconclusive nature of the discussion, no resolution was taken.

#### **C255/19 TO CONSIDER IN PRINCIPLE THE ISSUE OF PUBLIC WORKS BORROWING**

If the Council intended to undertake any capital projects in the future, this could not be funded out of reserves but would require Public Works Loan Board borrowing, subject to the regulation procedures. There was discussion over what projects might fall into this category, and what public consultation might be required.

Cllr Josephson proposed this be accepted in principle, seconded by Cllr McNally. A recorded vote was taken: In favour: Cllrs Josephson, McNally, Davies, Hill, Miller. Against: Cllr R Lewin. 5 abstentions.

CARRIED 5-1

**C256/19 TO CONSIDER THE APPLICATION OF A BEQUEST**

Various suggestions were aired as to how the bequest might be applied, but Cllr Hill proposed that Members be given time to think about this outside the meeting and submit their suggestions to the Clerk for consideration at the next meeting. Seconded by Cllr Roseboom and

AGREED

**C257/19 TO CONSIDER SECURITY MEASURES AT THE VENUE**

Despite an initial hope to dispense with them, it was now widely felt that security measures were required for the perimeter (particularly the rear) of the VENUE building. Cllr Josephson proposed:

- Firstly, that blinds be approved for the rear doors and the offer of CCTV be accepted. Seconded by Cllr Hill and
- Secondly, that the Clerk research (and cost) various different options for fencing, and refer the matter back to Property & Assets. Seconded by Cllr McNally and

AGREED with one abstention

AGREED

**C258/19 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO SUPPORT THE 'FOREST ROW WEAVE' PROJECT**

A backing paper had set out the project. Cllr Josephson proposed that it be supported. Seconded by Cllr Hill and

AGREED

**C259/19 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE**

None that had not already been circulated in Councillors' Reading

**C260/19 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

- Cllr Pritchitt: consideration of a protective barrier between the skate park and the access path to the VENUE
- Cllr Miller: an additional volunteer for the environmental policy working group.
- Cllr Rosenboom: consideration of the litter problem round the skatepark
- Cllr McNally: consideration of the retail occupation (& empty premises) in the village
- Cllr Withers: an improvement to the ('very stuffy') website
- Cllr Josephson: consideration of raising the quorum of 1/3 for decision-making Committees

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

SIGNED: .....

DATE.....(Chairman)