

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 8<sup>th</sup> 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

**PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

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

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

**RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Minutes of the meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> 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			

**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.

**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

**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

**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.

