

MINUTES OF THE JOINT EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL AND THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 15TH MARCH 2022 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Spackman (Chairman of Finance & Policy) Davies, Hill, Hopkins, R Lewin, T Lewin, Moore, Pritchitt, Summers, Waters, Williams & Wogan

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. McNally & Withers

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk & Asst. Clerk. five representatives of FrowResource including District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas

The Chairman welcomed Mr Tudor Hopkins as a new Councillor, filling the casual vacancy. He signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

C41/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None

C42/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs. McNally (ill health) & Withers (ill health)

C43/22 TO RESOLVE TO DEAL WITH THE MINUTES & TRANSCRIPTS OF THE MEETINGS HELD ON 11TH & 18TH JANUARY 2022 AND 1ST MARCH 2022 AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Cllr. Josephson proposed the above resolution. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

C44/22 TO RESOLVE TO POSTPONE CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM THOSE PREVIOUS MEETINGS AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Cllr. Josephson proposed the above resolution. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

C45/22 TO CONSIDER & APPROVE RECORDS OF THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14TH DECEMBER 2021

1. Cllr. Spackman proposed that the minutes of 14th December 2021 be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED
2. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting

C46/22 CLARIFICATION OF (NON-CONFIDENTIAL) ACTIONS FROM THE FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING ON 14TH DECEMBER 2021.

None

C47/22 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

Cllr. Davies declared a personal interest as a member of the FrowResource CIC. Cllr. Hopkins declared a personal interest as the partner of a member of FrowResource CIC.

Cllrs. Pritchitt, Williams & Wogan declared an interest as Trustees of the Forest Row Sports Ground Association (mentioned in Clerk's report).

C48/22 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman asked that when Councillors sent e-mails to 'all' – they check that all Councillors are included as there had been a few omissions recently.

The Chairman asked the Clerk how much the Parish Council would pay for a 'non-election' as Cllr. Hopkins was the only candidate and therefore an election was unnecessary. The Clerk advised that there would be a small administration fee payable.

The Chairman said that she wanted to raise an urgent proposal regarding the situation in the Ukraine. Cllrs. Wogan and Pritchitt objected as the item was not on the agenda. The Clerk referred to Standing Order 3(x) which permits the Chairman to introduce urgent matters,

Cllr. Josephson proposed that she be allowed to this urgent business. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED with 9 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Parish Council establish a coordinating committee to help Ukrainians coming to Forest Row. This to be ratified with terms of reference at the next appropriate Full Council meeting. This should start as soon as possible to help with lines of communications and support etc.

This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED – 10 for, 3 abstentions.

C49/22 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. End of Year accounting arrangements – The Clerk appraised the Council of the dates of the year end closedown and the internal audit report for the end of the financial year.
2. Lease of the former Venu building – the lease was now complete and signed off. The lease for the Sports Ground Association was still pending.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that items 13,14,18 & 19 on the agenda should be discussed at this point. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

C50/22 TO CONSIDER & RESOLVE ON AN APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM FROWRESOURCE

Cllr. Josephson suspended Standing Orders to allow the group to answer questions from the Council. There was much discussion over this matter. Standing Orders were reinstated.

It was NOTED that Cllrs. Davies and Hopkins would not be voting on the items regarding FrowResource.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Parish Council would welcome a charity shop in the village. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED

Cllr. Spackman proposed that the matters of the legacy from Anna Bendall, a grant and a loan be voted on separately. This was seconded by Cllr. Moore and AGREED with 1 abstention.

Cllr. Spackman proposed that £7385 be given to FrowResource from Anna Bendall's legacy. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin but later withdrawn.

Cllr. Moore counter proposed that £ 8500 be given from the legacy. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin.

Cllr. Pritchitt counter proposed that £ 5000 be given from the legacy. These was no seconder for this.

Cllr. Wogan counter proposed that £ 8000 be given from the legacy. This was seconded by Cllr. Spackman and AGREED with 8 for, 2 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Council should vote as to whether monies in addition to the legacy should be given/granted to FrowResource. This was seconded by Cllr. Spackman and REJECTED with 4 for, 6 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr. Moore proposed that a loan of £ 12000 be made to FrowResource on a performance-related basis. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin.

Cllr. R Lewin counter proposed we offer an interest free loan, performance related over 4 years of £9,000. This was seconded by Cllr. Prichitt and REJECTED with 3 for, 4 against and 4 abstentions.

Cllr. Moores proposal was voted on and REJECTED with 4 for, 5 against and 2 abstentions.

Cllr. Moore counter proposed a loan of £ 10,000. This was seconded by Cllr. Summers and REJECTED with 5 for and 6 against.

Cllr. Josephson counter proposed a loan of £ 9,500 be offered. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED with 6 for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

There was a consensus that the terms of the loan should be decided by a sub-committee of the Finance & Policy Committee.

C51/22 TO CONSIDER AND RESOLVE ON RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S VAN

Cllr. T Lewin advised that this matter was no longer as urgent, and he recommended that the Council search for a used electric van.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Council keep the current van and when the loan to FRowResource is paid back, a new one be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr. Moore and AGREED with 1 against and 1 abstention.

C52/22 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the above be dealt with at the next ordinary meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Summers and AGREED.

C53/22 TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Cllr Wogan asked that any Platinum Jubilee celebrations should be discussed.

Cllr. Wogan asked that the matter of a request from Frow Friends be considered.

Cllr. Moore left the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned for 5 minutes for a comfort break.

Cllrs, Hopkins, Pritchitt and Summers observed the rest of the meeting as Members of the public.

C54/22 FINANCIAL REPORT to month 11.

This had been circulated in advance and was NOTED.

C55/22 LIST OF PAYMENTS

The List of Payments had been circulated in advance and was **APPROVED**.

Unity Trust from 1 st Dec 2021 to 8 th March 2022	£ 121,786.75
Pockit Card – David O’Driscoll 1 st Dec 2021 to 8 th March 2022	£ 352.92
Pockit Card – Carolyn Coomber 1 st Dec 2021 to 8 th March 2022	£ 1,858.04
Pockit Card – Gages 1 st Dec 2021 to 8 th March 2022	£ 2,778.77
Pockit Card – Youth 1 st Dec 2021 to 8 th March 2022	<u>£ 758.08</u>
TOTAL	£ 127,534.56

C56/22 BANK RECONCILIATION & COUNCIL INVESTMENTS

The bank reconciliation and Council investments as at 28th February 2022 had been previously circulated and were NOTED.

C57/22 TO CONSIDER A GRANT APPLICATION FROM ASHURST WOOD SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

Cllr. Hill proposed that a grant be given of £ 250. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams.

Cllr. T Lewin proposed that a grant be given of £ 125. There was no seconder for this proposal.

Cllr. Hill’s proposal was voted on and AGREED with 1 against.

C58/22 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM THE REPAIR CAFE

The Repair Café had requested a waiver of hire fees for the balance of this calendar year, or alternatively, a long-term discount. Their financial projections had been previously circulated.

Cllr. Hill proposed that no hire charges be made for the rest of the calendar year. This was seconded by Cllr. Davies.

Cllr. Wogan counter proposed that we should offer 9 months at a 50% discount. There was no seconder for this.

Cllr. Spackman counter proposed that they be told to apply for a £ 750 grant. There was no seconder for this.

Cllr. R Lewin counter proposed that the Parish Council support the Repair Café request until the end of 2023. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin.

Cllr. Josephson counter proposed that the Parish Council allow the Repair Café free room hire for the remainder of 2022 and review in September. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED with 1 abstention.

All non-members of Finance & Policy left the meeting (for consideration of confidential business).

C59/22 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Minute numbers C60, 61, C62, C63 are attached as Confidential minutes

The meeting closed at 9.44 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)

