

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Evans, Gilbert, Jaffay, Matthews, Rainbow, Summers, Taylor-Smith, Volkens & Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Cocks & la Djo

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Deputy Clerk. County Cllrs. Taylor, Coleman & Galley and 3 members of public

C128/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public asked what was happening about the parking on the land outside Lantern House. She was told that this was in hand and that the pothole repairs would be done shortly.

C129/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Cocks and la Djo (prior commitments)

C130/24 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of 24th September 2024 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C131/24 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Cllr. Eichner declared a personal interest in Min No. C134/24 as a friend of the applicant for co-option.

C132/24 DELEGATED DECISIONS

None

C133/24 URGENT BUSINESS

The Clerk asked for a resolution to be taken at this point in the agenda as urgent business to seal the lease with East Sussex Libraries. Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed this, seconded by Cllr. Summers and AGREED. The lease was sealed and signed.

C134/24 CO-OPTION OF A NEW MEMBER OF COUNCIL

Alice Killick spoke and answered questions from the Council. She then left the room. Alice Killick was unanimously voted to be co-opted onto the Council. (Cllr. Eichner did not vote). Cllr. Killick signed the acceptance of office and joined the meeting. She would fill the vacancies on Facilities Committee and Finance & Policy Committee.

C135/24 CHAIRS COMMENTS

Cllr. Eichner reminded the Council that they were coming into their 3rd elected year. He was pleased with their achievements but said that things could always be improved. He asked that all working groups give a report for Full Council meetings – this would be arranged by Cllr. Jaffay. The Clerk was asked to issue a list of the current working groups.

C136/24 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. The interim internal audit – NOTED
2. SLR Meetings – Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that the Parish Council restart these meetings. This was seconded by Cllr. Summers and AGREED.
3. New staff – NOTED

C137/24 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C138/24 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

County Cllr. Taylor explained that some of the SLR meetings were done on line and she would see if she could help arrange a meeting in January. In the County Council budget, there would be cuts to services – mainly adult social care. There would be more devolution of services in the future.

County Cllr. Galley said that the SLR meetings were very useful. The financial position of the County would not be known until after Christmas.

County Cllr. Coleman thanked the Parish Council for the grant to the Ripple Effect project (Friends of the River Medway). The Upper Medway Internal Drainage Board were trying to set up a meeting with the parish Council which could be useful regarding flooding issues.

C139/24 STANDING COMMITTEES

Reports had been previously circulated and were NOTED.

C140/24 WORKING GROUPS

Reports had been previously circulated and were NOTED>

Cllr. Waters reported that the Shed project working group had met recently and grant funding had been applied for. The Cube would be available for their occupation from 1st January 2025.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith reported that Festival Corner would like to run a pilot scheme to find a suitable site and get ideas.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith reported that with regard to the Gleeson land working group, the Council would engage with the residents of Medway Drive in January. Conversations were on going with the 2 CICS interested in the use of the land.

The Community Centre refurbishment group had met but nothing to report.

C141/24 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Waters reported the Forest Row Sports Ground Association had submitted a grant application to the parish council to assist with the ground upkeep.

Cllr. Eichner advised that he had attended an ESALC & WSALC conference recently. There was a budget crisis across all Government levels.

C142/24 CONSIDERATION OF THE CONSOLIDATED DRAFT BUDGET

This was discussed and NOTED.

C143/24 USE OF FORESTERS' GREEN (AND VENUe) FOR THE 2025 FESTIVAL

This matter was discussed.

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that the Festival be given permission to use Foresters Green from 10-16 June 2025. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that the Festival be given permission to use the VENUe from 12-15 June 2025. This was seconded by Cllr. Matthews and AGREED.

C144/24 COMMUNITY ORCHARD SITING

The site was discussed and Cllr. Eichner proposed that the suggested site be adopted, and a working group be set up to manage the finer details (under Facilities Committee) comprising of Cllrs. Jaffay, Matthews, Rainbow & Volkens. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED with 1 against.

C145/24 APPROVAL OF QUOTE FOR FORESTERS' GREEN TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

Quotes had been obtained. Cllr. Scott proposed that the quote for £ 1,250.00 (plus VAT) be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and agreed.

C146/24 PROJECT FOR THE SPACE BEHIND THE VILLAGE HALL

This potential project was discussed. Cllr. Christie proposed that a topographical survey be obtained up to a ceiling of £800. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C147/24 THE LITTER COLLECTION AND STREET SWEEPING PROJECT

There was much discussion on this matter. Although acknowledging that the Clerk had spent many months in discussion about this, Cllr. Eichner proposed that the Clerk be asked to send a letter to Wealden District Council, East Sussex County Council and street cleaning representatives – signed by all Councillors, expressing their frustration that the job is not being done to a satisfactory level. If no response by the next Facilities meeting on 21st January, Facilities Committee be given permission to move ahead with this project. This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED.

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that the Council move ahead with accepting a trial of 5 dual bins for 1 year. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED with 1 abstention and 1 against.

C148/24 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

Cllr. Christie advised that there was a meeting with the new owner of the Weirwood Sailing Club who was interested in community engagement – this would take place on 4th February at 7.30pm.

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)