

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON 4th APRIL 2023 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Waters (Vice Chairman), Davies, Eichner, T Lewin,
Spackman, Summers, Williams & Wogan

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. R Lewin, Josephson, Moore, Pritchitt & Tyler

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Asst. Clerk. County Cllr. Taylor, County & District Cllr. Galley, District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas and 3 members of public

C34/23 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None.

C35/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. R Lewin (holiday), Josephson (ill health), Moore (ill health), Pritchitt (ill health) and Tyler (work).

C36/23 TO RESOLVE TO DEAL WITH THE MINUTES & TRANSCRIPTS OF THE MEETINGS OF 10TH & 17TH JANUARY 2023

These were proposed by Cllr. T Lewin, seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

C37/23 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM THE LAST ORDINARY MEETING

None

C38/23 TO NOTE AND APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

None

C39/23 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

C40/23 CHAIRMANS COMMENTS

Cllr. Waters thanked the staff and Councillors for their hard work during the last term.

C41/23 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

Market – Cllr. T Lewin would give a report

Election – the nominations would be announced on Wednesday 5th April

End of Year – it appears (before the end of year audit) that Council has ended the year with a modest surplus which will enable the reserves to be kept healthy. The End of Year closedown will take place on 12th April.

Cemetery extension – an email had been received from the co-owner in America.

NOTED

C42/23 PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

County Cllr. Taylor reported the following:

- A22 road surface – County had agreed that this was a poor standard of work and the contractors will have to make good. She will chase this up.
- A new Highways contractor starts on 1st May.
- Station Road is very bad but the new tip owner is responsible for its upkeep.
- Cllr. T Lewin reported that Lower Road was also very bad again.

County & District Cllr. Galley reported:

- He was trying to arrange a meeting of all representatives – Highways and drainage which were inter-related.
- There was money to review safety on all A and B roads.
- There was a consultation re the future of Uckfield Leisure Centre.

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas had submitted a report that had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C43/23 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Finance & Policy – Cllr. Spackman thanked the Clerk & Asst. Clerk for their work. The FRowResource loan had been paid in full. Grants had been made to the Citizens Advice Bureau and Forest Row Festival.

Community Services – Cllr. T Lewin said that it had been a disappointing year with the service provision reduced and less in the budget. The market had been successful and the response to the new market manager was very positive. The market had been fairly well attended considering the bad weather.

Property & Assets – Cllr. Williams reported that the issue of the Crittall windows was still ongoing and thanked the staff & Council for their work over the last 4 years.

Amenities & Services – Cllr. Wogan gave a report:

- The budget had balanced.
- Grants for the work on Gilham Bank were still being sought.
- Another outdoor maintenance person had been taken on
- Ms Vivien Hill had agreed to keep an eye on trees and report anything amiss in addition to the tree warden.
- The best kept garden competition had been discontinued but the best kept allotment competition continues.

C44/23 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. T Lewin advised he had not been advised of any recent meeting of the Ashdown Forest Liaison group.

Cllr. T Lewin advised that he was also on the Parish Cluster group but no meetings had been held recently.

C45/23 THE ROLE OF THE COMMUNITY WARDEN

Cllr. Waters read out a report from the Personnel & Grievance Committee with recommendations for the next Council to consider. He advised that no final decision should be taken at this time.

Cllr. Wogan proposed that this item should be taken under confidential business. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams.

The Clerk advised that this was not necessary.

A vote was taken and AGREED. Members of public left the room.

There was discussion and the report was NOTED.

C46/23 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C47/23 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Cllr. T Lewin said that the appointment of a Community Development Officer was vital.

Cllr. Williams said that more money should be spent on the Community Centre and outdoor maintenance.

Cllr. Spackman said that the status of grants to the Sports Ground Association should be clarified.

Cllr. Wogan said that more money should be spent on outdoor maintenance as this was more important than a Community Development Officer. She also said that a memorial for the late Queen should be decided upon and that it was regrettable that nothing had been arranged to commemorate the Coronation.

Cllr. Davies said that a group should be formed to put more pressure on County regarding the state of the roads.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)