

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 5th APRIL 2022
AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Hill, Hopkins, R Lewin, T Lewin, Spackman, Williams & Withers

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. McNally, Moore, Pritchitt, Summers, Waters & Wogan

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk & Asst. Clerk. County Cllr. Taylor, District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas and 1 member of public

C64/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None

Cllr. Josephson informed Council that Ninette Sapir, a tenant for many years, had sadly passed away. Cllr. T Lewin, a friend of hers for many years, also added his respects.

C65/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. McNally (ill health), Moore (holiday), Pritchitt (ill health), Summers (holiday), Waters (work) and Wogan (ill health).

C66/22 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council meeting held on 11th January 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. T Lewin, seconded by Cllr. Williams and were signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18th January 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Hill, seconded by Cllr. Williams and were signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

The minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council meeting held on 1st March 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. T Lewin, seconded by Cllr. Williams and were signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

The minutes of the Extra-ordinary Council meeting held on 15th March 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. T Lewin, seconded by Cllr. Williams and were signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

C67/22 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None

C68/22 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS.

This had previously been circulated and was NOTED

C69/22 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

C70/22 CHAIRMANS COMMENTS

Aside from the business of the meeting

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Annual Parish Meeting should now go ahead on 26th May 2022. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED. This would be held in the Community Centre and notices would be sent out prior to the event.

Cllrs. Davies & Withers joined the meeting at 7.35pm

C71/22 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

The Clerks Report had been previously circulated.

1. Pending Leases – Following the death of Ninette Sapir, the issue of the lease of the Consulting Room would be discussed at a later date.
FRSGA – the current licence runs out on 1st January 2023. The Clerk would be looking for reimbursement of wasted costs over the last 4 years. Cllr. Josephson proposed that this matter be referred to the Local Government Ombudsman and repayment of wasted costs be sought. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED.
2. Freedom of Information request – this was filed with East Sussex County Council on 28th January. The deadline for a response was extended to 25th March but had not been complied with. and more time had been asked for.
Cllr. Josephson suspended Standing Orders to ask County Cllr. Taylor to comment. She advised that the sale of the Tip site had gone through although there were still papers to sign. Standing Orders were reinstated. Cllr. Davies advised that FrowResource was meeting with the new owner of the Tip site tomorrow.

C72/22 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

The close of year bank reconciliation was distributed to Councillors. The Clerk explained the figures and advised that after the year-end accounts closedown, there should be a surplus of around £22,000. NOTED

C73/22 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

County Cllr. Taylor – reported that:

- She advised that she had made a complaint regarding the handling of the lease to the Sports Ground Association. She agrees that the Parish Council should expect reimbursement of costs and refer to the Ombudsman.
- Refugees – a report would go to Cabinet next week. They are waiting for government guidance including information on funds.
- Road repairs – She had received confirmation that some work would be done on the A22 starting 4th July, but details had not been confirmed yet.
- Road Safety - the matter of supporting the '20's Plenty' campaign had been voted down by County. The process for Parishes applying for match funding had been simplified.
- There have been 2 reports recently from the IPCC with good information on mitigation measures.
- Bus Plans – she had mentioned bus routes in the Forest Row area and also specific routes.

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas – reported that:

- Planning – she was waiting for information re building less new houses in the Parish. There had been a few more areas added to the SHELAA.
- Bob Standley was standing down as Leader of Wealden District Council from May 2022.
- She had passed on a query regarding a possible rat infestation on Council land.
- Wealden had no policy in place yet on Ukrainian refugees and was working with East Sussex County Council.
- Police – there had been an increase in burglaries in Forest Row. Police were visiting at night.

C74/22 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Property & Assets: Cllr. Williams thanked the staff for their work. The next meeting was 12th April. NOTED
Community Services: Cllr. T Lewin advised that there was not much to report. The market was doing well. The Parish had agreed to join the 20's Plenty speed campaign. Volunteers were needed for the Speedwatch campaign. There would be a stall at the June market for the 20's Plenty & Speedwatch campaigns to hopefully get more volunteers.

His aim for the next year was to have the Parish Council fully and enthusiastically backing Community Services. Cllr. Josephson responded that concrete goals were needed. Cllr. T Lewin said that this could only be achieved if the position of Community Development Officer was reinstated. NOTED

Amenities & Services: Cllr. Wogan had produced a report that had been previously circulated and NOTED

Finance & Policy: Cllr. Spackman thanked the Clerk and Asst Clerk for their good housekeeping. NOTED

Planning: Cllr. Davies advised that the agents for development at Ashdown House School wanted to contact the Group prior to plans being submitted to Wealden. NOTED

C75/22 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Hill reported that the Ashdown Forest Liaison Group had their next meeting on 20th April. NOTED

C76/22 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY WARDEN

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C77/22 TO CONSIDER & RESOLVE ON DEALING WITH URGENT BUSINESS

The Clerk had sought legal advice on the best way forward on this matter after being challenged at an earlier meeting. A summary of that legal advice had been contained in the Clerk's briefing note. It was acknowledged that there should be some mechanism for 'urgent business' to be considered. Cllr. R Lewin proposed that the Council keep Standing Order 3(x) but amend as suggested in the Clerks briefing note. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

C78/22 TO FORMALLY DISBAND THE 'WRAG' WORKING GROUP

Cllr. Josephson thanked Cllr. Davies as the Council representative and the Clerk for their input and hard work that they had put into this group. The Clerk also thanked Cllr. R Lewin and former Cllr. Miller for their work in the early days of the group.

Cllr. Moore had requested an account of the grant monies. The Clerk advised that a grant of £ 13,888 had been received from Locality of which £ 9,974 had been spent and the balance of £ 3,914 had been refunded back to the funders.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the WRAG working group be disbanded with grateful thanks to past and present members. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

C79/22 TO CONSIDER & RESOLVE ON HM THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

This was discussed and noted that the pre-school wanted to hold a picnic on Foresters Green. The office was advising them on the necessary permissions and licences. Cllr. Josephson advised that the Business Group were happy to provide and deck the village with bunting. They were also hoping to get wandering minstrels/ musicians. The Parish Council would help publicise the pre-school event and encourage the public to join in with the celebrations. The Business Group would work with the office to help. Cllr. R Lewin asked that the Community Centre have bunting too.

NOTED

C80/22 TO REVIEW & RESOLVE IF REQUIRED ON PROVISION FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES

A meeting had been held of Cllr. Josephson, The Clerk, Sue Young and Sandra Aylen to see how the Council could help most. A report from Sue Young had been previously circulated and was NOTED. Cllr. Josephson advised that the Business Group would be using donations received to help purchase school uniforms for the children. The Council would provide back up and expertise for administrative tasks and utilise space if requested.

Cllr. Withers left the meeting at 8.40pm

The Clerk advised that there had been a complaint from a Councillor that a proper sub-committee had not been formed. He advised that it was clear that a Working Group had been formed and had accomplished all that had been talked about.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the format of the Working Group be acknowledged to give any help that Council can offer to refugees. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

C81/22 TO CONSIDER & RESOLVE ON A REQUEST FROM THE FOREST ROW FESTIVAL

There was much discussion on this matter. Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Council give permission for the use of Foresters Green provided a Health & Safety Officer is nominated, all necessary licences are obtained and that music and bar finish at 22.00 on the Sunday evening.

Cllr. R Lewin counter-proposed that the Council give permission for the use of Foresters Green provided a Health & Safety Officer is nominated, all necessary licences are obtained and that the music finishes at 22.00 and the bar closes at 22.30 on the Sunday evening. This was seconded by Cllr. Hopkins and AGREED.

C82/22 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C83/22 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Cllr. T Lewin asked that the issue of the CCLA investment in fossil fuels be revisited.

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)