# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 5th JULY 2022

# AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Hill, R Lewin, T Lewin, Pritchitt, Spackman,

Summers, Williams & Wogan

**APOLOGIES:**  Cllrs. Hopkins, Moore & Waters

**NOT PRESENT:**  Cllr: Withers

**IN ATTENDANCE:**  The Clerk, Asst. Clerk. County Cllr. Taylor, County & District Cllr. Galley. Mr Keen and Mr Gareth Anthony

**C103/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**:

Mr Keen commented on what he perceived as the bad state of the village. Mr Anthony complained about the pile of rubbish (following the floods) in the allotments. Cllr. Wogan explained that it was planned to put a skip there for one day but this had been delayed until the waste collectors strike was finished. He also made comments about the planning process which were noted.

**C104/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Hopkins (ill health), Moore (ill health) and Waters (work).

# C105/22 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 10th May 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and were AGREED as a true record.

There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

The minutes pf the Council meeting held on 17th May 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED as a true record.

There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

# C106/22 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

Cllr. Wogan asked what had happened regarding the Business Group photo competition. Cllr. Josephson explained that this had taken place and winners have been picked. These would be announced shortly, and the short-listed postcards and birthday calendar would then be printed.

**C107/22 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS.**

This had been previously circulated. It was NOTED that Cllr. Spackman approved the grant to the Forest Row Festival (not Cllr. R Lewin) This would be discussed at the next Finance & Policy meeting. It was also NOTED that Cllr. T Lewin had approved the purchase of a new mixer/blender verbally.

# C108/22 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Min. No.** | **Category of Interest** | **Reason** |
| None |  |  |  |

Cllr. R Lewin proposed that item 11 on the agenda (Principal Council reports) be taken before the co-option of a new member. This was seconded by Cllr. Wogan and AGREED with 2 against and 1 abstention.

**C109/22 PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

County Cllr. Taylor had submitted a report which is appended to these minutes. She added that she had applied for funding for the 20’s Plenty campaign from East Sussex County Council and this had been refused.

County Cllr. Taylor read out a brief report from District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas:

* Cllr Anne Newton was the new leader of Wealden District Council
* The waste collections should be back to normal by mid-July.
* Forest Row was second in the district for re-homing Ukrainian refugees.

County/District Cllr. Galley confirmed that the work on the A22 was patching rather than resurfacing and he was happy to report that the bin strike was over.

**C110/22 TO INTERVIEW AND CO-OPT A NEW MEMBER TO COUNCIL**

Of the original 3 candidates, 1 had withdrawn their application and 1 was unable to attend this meeting due to illness.

Mr Jason Eichner was interviewed by the Council. He then left the room.

Cllr. Williams proposed that an extra-ordinary meeting be held in the next 2 weeks to enable the other candidate to be interviewed. This was seconded by Cllr. Davies and AGREED with 2 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that a decision be made at the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED with 1 abstention.

**C111/22 CHAIRMANS COMMENTS**

None

# C112/22 TO NOTE CLERK’S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

The Clerks Report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

**C113/22 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

# C114/22 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

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

Property & Assets: Cllr. Williams had submitted a report that had been previously circulated. NOTED

Community Services: Cllr. T Lewin had submitted a report that had been previously circulated. NOTED

He advised that he was looking into a ‘public living room’ scheme where people could meet and chat informally.

Cllr. Davies said that she supported the employment of a Community Development Officer.

Finance & Policy: Cllr. R Lewin had submitted a report that had been previously circulated. NOTED.

Planning: Cllr. Davies advised that there was nothing to report other than the fact that she was very concerned about the situation regarding neighbour notifications of planning applications.

**C115/22 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. Summers advised that the Twinning Association Fete had been cancelled this year.

**C116/22 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY WARDEN**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

**C117/22 TO RATIFY THE COUNCIL’S STANDING POLICIES AND RISK ASSESSMENTS AS DISCUSSED**

Cllr. Josephson proposed Council’s acceptance of the new Scheme of Delegation for 2022/23. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

Cllr. Josephson proposed Council’s acceptance of the new Standing Orders for 2022/23, subject to a further amendment to S/O 20 indicated by the Clerk. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

Cllr. Josephson proposed Council’s acceptance of the new Financial Regulations and Authority to Spend for 2022/23. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and AGREED.

**C118/22 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

# C119/22 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Cllr. Josephson advised that there would be an extra-ordinary Council meeting on Monday 18th July at 7.30 to decide on the co-option of a new Councillor.

Cllr. Spackman asked if a report could be asked for from the Community Shop. It was noted that this had been asked for on a six-monthly basis but if it were possible, a report now would be useful and informative.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

SIGNED: …………………………………………….. DATE…..………………………………(Chairman)

Report from County Cllr. Georgia Taylor:

* ***Road Safety:*** I have submitted a list of road safety issues in our division to Ian Johnson. There were some funds put aside for road safety (from the community match scheme underspend). He tells me that there is only one or two of the requests that might be funded, and I am yet to hear what they are, if there are any at all. I will update you once I hear. For Forest Row I asked for the 20mph speed limit for the main roads in the village, and also for a reduction in speed limit on Plawhatch lane.
* ***Road condition:*** The A22 is due to be repaired, though this is going to be large patching rather than a full re-surface. Priory Road is to be closed for several weeks during July – September to replace old gas pipes. Something to be aware of.
* ***Road SLR meetings:*** Each parish is now organising SLR meetings. Please can we get one for Forest Row. I think that Kiera, the new Highways customer services person, has been trying to get in touch with you.
* ***Forest Row Sports Association:*** the lease with ESCC/Ashdown Forest is due to be finalised by September/October. There are a couple of no-objection ads out to the public for a couple of weeks. If there are no objections, then the proposal for the lease goes for approval to the next Lead Member for Resources and Climate meeting, which is on the 20th September. I am told that the lease can be quickly prepared after approval but it will still take a few weeks. The lease is to be with the Sports Ground Association and be very similar to the existing licence.
* ***Station Road***: I have asked the Estates Team to ensure that the purchaser of Station Road is aware that they cannot ask local businesses or residents for funds to pay for the road upkeep. There are still some outstanding questions about the process.
* ***Social Care:*** I am aware that retirement housing in the county is under-occupied and also, in some villages, suffers from poor management. I have been asking questions about this to officers in ESCC and I am hoping to ask for some research. Patricia has also spoken to the District Council about this, so I hope that there might be some collaboration between the councils. The changes in social care that are coming up will put extra pressure on the council services and there will be a need to recruit more trained personnel. However, there has been a long standing problem with recruiting people to work in the social care sector. This is a particular issue for the more rural areas, where housing is expensive and those working in health and social care cannot afford to live, nor travel. It occurs to me that empty retirement housing might be offered to younger people working in the social care sector. It would be useful to know what your views are on this in the village.
* ***The ESCC Full Council meeting*** is taking place on the 12th July. Each political group has the opportunity to make a speech to outline priorities for the year ahead. If there is anything you would like me to highlight, that is relevant to the whole county, please do let me know. We are likely to highlight climate action, resilience and adaptation, new models for social care, waste reduction, nature and ecosystems support, localisation and active travel / public transport.
* There will be road works in Forest Row during July – A22 and also Priory Road – so be aware that it might affect traffic coming through Hartfield, or affect people trying to get through Forest Row.
* ***Ukraine visitor hosts*** should now be getting their payments from Wealden District Council. 3VA are no longer involved.