

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 12th JANUARY 2021 AT 7.30PM VIA ZOOM

PRESENT: Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Hill, R Lewin, T Lewin, McNally, Miller, Moore, Pritchitt, Spackman, Summers, Waters, Williams, Withers & Wogan

APOLOGIES: Cllr. Davies

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk & Asst. Clerk

C1/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None

C2/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Davies (family).

C3/21 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meetings held on 8th December & 15th December 2020 had not been issued. Cllr. Josephson apologised for her delay in approving these and proposed that adoption of these minutes be held over to the next scheduled Full Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED. The matter of deletion of the digital transcripts of the meetings of 8th & 15th December 2020 would also be held over until that time.

C4/21 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

To be similarly deferred

C5/21 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

None to approve.

C6/21 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

C7/21 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman wished everyone a happy and healthy New Year.

She asked for a recorded vote on the matters of the budget and the setting of the precept.

She had spoken to the Headmaster of the village primary school who had advised her that there was a lack of laptops available for home schooling. The Chairman asked if any Councillors had old laptops or tablets that could be donated to the school for distribution to the children who have not got one available. She asked that Councillors email her if they have any available.

The Chairman asked if the Parish Council should respond to the Wealden District Council Local Plan 'Direction of Travel'. It was agreed that Cllrs. Josephson and Moore would respond, and other Councillors would email them if they had anything to add.

Gages was still operating during the current lockdown, & delivering more meals than ever.

C8/21 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

- The current Covid restrictions The Community Centre was now closed to personal callers and covid-compliant hirers. Gages will continue to operate a home delivery/collection service Wednesday-

Friday. Staff are working from home where possible and a skeleton staff remains in the office. Essential maintenance work is continuing. The Community helpline is still in operation. NOTED

- Government 'Kickstart' scheme. We still await contact from the Chamber of Commerce to take this forward. NOTED
- Tenancy of the former 'Venu' building. The charity manager provided a summary of his proposals at the end of November which have been considered by the Chairmen of Finance and Property & the Clerk. Their overall content was acceptable, but there are a few points of difference which have been fed back to the charity for resolution. NOTED
- Suggestions for application of the legacy. Various suggestions had been received. Cllr. Josephson proposed that the matter of the application of the legacy be discussed at the next Full Council meeting (which would almost certainly be an extra-ordinary meeting when we had heard from the Secretary of State regarding permission to apply for a Public Works Loan). This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED with 1 against. NOTED
- Further on the recycling project The following matters are in hand:
 - A business plan for the Council's possible freehold ownership of the former recycling site is under discussion.
 - Factual enquiries are proceeding about legal issues attaching to the site.
 - Negotiations with East Sussex County Council property division have been initiated over the possibility of a Community Asset Transfer of the site at a discount.
 - The creation of a Community Interest Company is proceeding.

There was much discussion about this matter.

Cllr. Moore proposed that the meeting move onto the next item on the agenda as this matter was for information only and no decisions could be taken. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

C9/21 TO APPROVE THE REVENUE BUDGET AND SET THE PRECEPT FOR 2021-2022

Cllr. Josephson proposed the adoption of the revenue budget. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin:

FOR: Cllrs. Hill, Josephson, R Lewin, T Lewin, Miller, Moore, Waters, Withers & Williams

AGAINST: Cllr. Summers

ABSTAINED: Cllrs. McNally, Spackman & Wogan

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the precept for 2021-2022 be set at £ 415,000. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill:

FOR: Cllrs. Hill, Josephson, R. Lewin, T. Lewin, Miller, Moore, Waters & Williams

AGAINST: Cllrs. Summers & Wogan

ABSTAINED: Cllrs. McNally, Spackman & Withers

Cllr. Pritchitt was offline at the time of the above 2 votes.

RESOLVED

C10/21 TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS' & STAFF USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The Personnel Committee apologised that this Policy had not yet been sent to all Members for their consideration.

There was much discussion regarding this subject. Cllr. R Lewin proposed that this matter be deferred to a future Finance & Policy meeting to be held in the next month to allow members to make representations.

This was seconded by Cllr. Miller.

Cllr. Josephson put forward an amended proposal: That a Finance & Policy Committee meeting be held on the 26th January 2021 and the Social Media Policy be discussed then. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

C11/21 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C12/21 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

Cllr. T Lewin advised that the path between the 2 allotment sites was extremely muddy. He was advised that this came under the jurisdiction of ESCC Rights of Way.

Cllr. Summers asked that we look at how things are reported/chased up regarding roads, pavements, and Rights of Way.

Cllr. Williams commented that he would like to join the working group regarding the WRAG business plan. He would be advised of the next meeting date.

Cllr. R Lewin asked that we look into the apparent anomalies in local planning decisions.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)