

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2025 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Cocks, Gilbert, Jaffay, Killick, Matthews, Rainbow, Scott, Summers, Taylor-Smith & Volkers

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs Evans, la Djoï & Waters

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Deputy Clerk & Amanda Sinclair. County Cllrs. Taylor & Coleman. District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas & 1 member of public

**C1/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

County Cllr. Taylor explained about the white paper re devolution. She reported that East Sussex County Council had an emergency meeting last week to discuss this issue. It was possible that the May elections could be cancelled. This has been proposed to Government, and this will be decided in the next few weeks.

County Cllr. Coleman reported that the minister to be written to, if felt appropriate was Tim McMahon. If East Sussex CC was accepted on the FastTrack basis, there would then be a consultation.

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas advised that conversations regarding waste between them and the Parish Council were ongoing.

There will be a meeting regarding sewage on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

**C2/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Evans(work), la Djoï(prior commitment) & Waters(ill health)

**C3/25 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED.

**C4/25 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

**C5/25 DELEGATED DECISIONS**

None

**C6/25 CHAIRS COMMENTS**

Cllr. Eichner reminded the Council that they were coming into their 3<sup>rd</sup> elected year. He said that although there had been a slow start, he could see when walking around the village, that there was starting to be a difference. People stopped him to talk about once a day – mostly positive comments. He wanted to pass this on to both Councillors and staff.

**C7/25 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

**C8/25 APPROVAL OF DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET**

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that this be approved, seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith and AGREED.

**C9/25 SETTING OF PRECEPT FOR 2025-26**

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that a precept of £ 670,000 be set for 2025-26. This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED

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**C10/25 TO CONSIDER AN URGENT REQUEST FROM A VILLAGE ORGANISATION**

After discussion, Cllr. Summers proposed that permission be granted for the erection of a sign on the junction of Station Road and Hartfield Road – also a sign stating that permission should be sought from the Parish Council for any other business signs to be displayed. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

The issue of reviewing Policies would be put on the Finance & Policy agenda

**C11/25 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Scott reminded members of the reflection Day on 26<sup>th</sup> January.

Cllr. Christie asked how the wellbeing initiative was progressing. Amanda Sinclair advised that she was working on a paper which would be submitted to Council when complete.

Cllr. Jaffay reminded members that the 3d model continuation event was on 7<sup>th</sup>,8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> March.

The meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

SIGNED: .....

DATE.....(Chairman)