

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 18<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2022  
AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Hill, R Lewin, T Lewin, Miller, Pritchitt, Spackman, Summers, Williams & Wogan

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

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllr. Withers

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk & Asst. Clerk. District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas & County Cllr. Taylor

**C10/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:**

None

**C11/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. McNally (family), Cllr. Moore (family) & Cllr. Waters (family illness)

**C12/22 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Williams, seconded by Cllr. R Lewin AGREED with 1 abstention. These were signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

**C13/22 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

Cllr. Wogan commented that at the last meeting (Min No 127/21) she had not heard the Clerk's advice and had asked for the matter to come under confidential business to protect members of staff.

**C14/22 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS.**

This had previously circulated and was NOTED

**C15/22 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr. Davies	C23/22	Personal	Director of FrowReSource CIC

**C16/22 CHAIRMANS COMMENTS**

Cllr. Josephson advised that Cllr. McNally would be having an operation shortly and would not be active in Council business until Easter. The Council's good wishes were sent to him. This would be put on the next agenda for acceptance.

**C17/22 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

1. Clerk's absence
2. Pending leases
3. Forest Row Festival
4. Working groups

The report on the above matters formed part of the backing papers previously circulated and was NOTED

### **C18/22 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

### **C19/22 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

County Cllr. Taylor – reported that:

- The County Council turned down a proposal to ban the use of glyphosate.
- Signage had been requested to reduce speeding across the County.
- She had brought the poor condition of the A22 to Highways attention.
- The pavements were also in poor condition.
- She asked that any reports to Highways on-line were also advised to her, so she could follow up.

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas – reported that:

- The compilation of the Local Plan was continuing. There would be an 8-week consultation period starting early Spring.
- There was a Parish Planning Cluster meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm.
- There was a district wide consultation on an increase in Council Tax which closes on 29<sup>th</sup> January. The proposed increase was 2.5%.

Cllr. Hill asked District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas to look into getting the drains cleared on Lower Road along with investigating the standing water situation in that area. Also, bins being left for collection at the bottom of Annas Hill forcing pedestrians to walk in the road around them.

### **C20/22 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

Amenities & Services; Cllr. Wogan had submitted a report that had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Property & Assets: Cllr. Williams reported that the Working Group would meet again soon to discuss the works on the Community Centre. NOTED

Community Services: Cllr. T Lewin reported the following:

- More effort would be put into Speedwatch and 20's Plenty to try to reduce speed in the village
- Support would be given to the existing services – also ensure a smooth transition for the Repair Café to be an independent service backed by the Parish Council.
- Discuss new options with the Youth Service
- Calculation of the carbon emissions baseline would start shortly.
- The future of the EV charger was unclear at the present time, but options were being looked at.
- The Friends Shed project is ticking over and grants and sponsors were being investigated.

NOTED

Finance & Policy: Cllr. Spackman noted that there was nothing new to report at the present time.

NOTED

Planning: No report.

NOTED

### **C21/22 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. T Lewin reported with regard to the Ashdown Forest – the decision on car parking charges would be made soon.

### **C22/22 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY WARDEN**

The report from the Community Warden was circulated and NOTED.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that item 15 on the agenda be discussed at this point in the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED with 1 against.

**C23/22 TO CONSIDER & RESOLVE ON THE COUNCIL'S POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THE FUTURE OF THE FORMER HWRS**

There was much discussion over this point and Standing Orders were suspended for County Cllr. Taylor to answer questions.

A paper had been prepared by Cllr. R Lewin with options for the Parish Council to consider.

The following options put forward by the Clerk were considered and voted upon.

- a) Do nothing: accept the decision without any further action, formally disband WRAG, and move on to other projects. NO PROPOSER
- b) Hold fire until such time as the preferred bidder completes the purchase, then revert to option a. NO PROPOSER
- c) Hold fire until such time as the preferred deal falls through then re-bid, either without, or (as per one suggestion) with the road. NO PROPOSER  
Cllr. Summers proposed that we hold fire and if the preferred deal falls through, we decide if to re-bid.  
This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and voted on: For 2, Against 6, Abstained 3. REJECTED
- d) Challenge East Sussex to prove it conducted its assessment by the rules by way of a Freedom of Information application.  
This was proposed by Cllr. Miller, seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and voted on. For 9, Against 0, Abstained 2. AGREED
- e) Take qualified legal advice on the viability of a judicial review to use as a negotiating tool
- f) Take qualified legal advice on the viability of a judicial review, with the intention of pursuing it if the advice is favourable

Cllr. Josephson proposed that Council keeps e) and f) as possibilities dependant on the information obtained from the Freedom of Information request. This was seconded by Cllr. R Lewin and voted on.

For 8, Against 2, Abstained 1

AGREED

Cllr. Miller proposed that the Parish Council formally object to East Sussex County Council with regard to selling off a road in the village without any public consultation. This was seconded by Cllr. Davies and AGREED with 2 against.

Cllr. Davies read out a statement on behalf of FRowReSouce CIC.

- a) FRowReSource would like the Parish Council to find out if East Sussex County Councils decision was influenced by information given in their business plan.
- b) As there was a lot of support for recycling in the Parish, they were looking at other options including a charity shop.
- c) The Parish Council would be approached for support (possibly support with the rent for premises for at least 6 months).
- d) To urge East Sussex County Council to ask if residents of Forest Row could use the West Sussex County Council tip at East Grinstead.
- e) To ask East Sussex County Council if a skip could be placed in the car park on a monthly basis for bulky waste. NOTED

**C24/22 TO APPROVE THE REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2022-2023 & TO SET THE PRECEPT**

Cllr. Wogan proposed that the amount of £3,500 allocated to Community Services – Environmental Support be transferred to Property & Assets Committee budget – CC Enhancement.

This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and voted on.

For 5, Against 3, Abstained 3

AGREED

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the precept for 2022/2023 be set at £ 415,000 unchanged from last year. This was seconded by Cllr. Wogan and AGREED.

**C25/22 TO CONSIDER & RESOLVE ON THE COUNCIL’S INVOLVEMENT IN HM THE QUEEN’S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

This was discussed. Cllr. Hill suggested a London plane tree be planted where one had been removed. It was suggested that through social media, website and noticeboards, parishioners be asked for ideas and involvement. Cllr. Wogan would liaise with Sandra Aylen on this matter. It was advised that the Church was holding various events. Cllr. Pritchitt suggested a picnic, fancy dress parade etc on a Green.

**C26/22 TO RESOLVE ON THE ISSUE OF AN ANNUAL PARISH MEETING FOR 2022**

Cllr. Josephson proposed that an Annual Parish Meeting be planned for this year. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED. The Asst Clerk to set the date.

**C27/22 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**C28/22 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Summers asked that the role of Community Warden be discussed

Cllr. T Lewin asked the acquisition of a generator be discussed.

The meeting closed at 9.16 pm.

SIGNED: .....

DATE.....(Chairman)