

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 20<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2021 VIA ZOOM AT 7.30PM.**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. T Lewin (Chairman), Josephson, Davies, R Lewin, Miller, Moore, Waters. Williams and Wogan

**APOLOGIES:** none

**NOT PRESENT:** Cllr Withers

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk, Sara Smart (Community Development Officer), Cllr Pritchitt as a member of the public.

**104/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Cllr Pritchitt wished to comment on the 'Grow in Forest Row' proposal. She did not think Council flowerbeds should be used for this purpose, nor that people should eat produce from beds immediately adjacent to roads.

**105/21 APOLOGIES**

None

**106/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr Josephson	120/21	Personal	Trustee of Ashdown Hub

**107/21 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2021**

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. T Lewin. Cllr Wogan objected that the expression in minute no.32/21 "He was continuing to support the campaign" was not accurate, it should say: "The Council supported this campaign". The Clerk said this was not his recollection of what was said, but the digital recording was still available to check, and the minutes could be amended as necessary from the digital transcript.

The minutes were therefore proposed by Cllr T Lewin for acceptance *subject to any required amendment*, seconded by Cllr Williams and **AGREED**

There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of the meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> February, following scrutiny of the above intervention and any following amendment of the written record.

**108/21 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

Cllr Wogan asked if there had been any further progress on the upgrading of the EV charging unit. Cllr T Lewin confirmed that Sue Young had noted that there was at present nothing further to report.

**109/21 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

Carbon Footprint audit. Committee had resolved on 9<sup>th</sup> February to defer this issue until the pandemic had 'stabilised'. This will clearly not be the case until at least June.

Utility usage. Committee resolved on 9<sup>th</sup> February to defer this issue also until the pandemic had 'stabilised'.

'Crossover' projects. There are now a number of groups in Forest Row which are in a broad sense undertaking community services - for instance, *Frocal* and *Ashdown Hub*. It is arguable that in some respects they are covering areas where the Parish Council should have taken responsibility, but where it has been slow to act, and the 'needs gap' has been filled by private initiative.

Be that as it may, it is important for the Council to work in partnership with these organisations, to provide reciprocal support for the benefit of the community and avoid duplication of effort. This forms an important part of the current remit of our Community Development Officer, and it is important that the Council maintains a single point of contact, again to maximise cooperation and avoid mixed messages. Sara Smart reports regularly on her efforts in this area.

It is therefore appropriate – necessary, in fact – that external initiatives with which we are engaging are brought to the attention of this Committee, to try and maintain an integrated overview and determine what our proper input should be. On the other hand, it is inevitable that some of this work will involve other areas of the Council's

responsibility – its land or other services. For instance, the recent request by traders to make use of village green land for outdoor dining, or the proposal for a weekly food market. There are therefore likely to be a number – possibly an increasing number - of initiatives which qualify as ‘crossover’ projects with implications for more than one Committee. It is important under our present structure to respect these crossover points and allow the appropriate Committee(s) to have their say. However, the overriding objective is to serve the community’s needs, not the internal workings of the Council. It is therefore also critical that matters are dealt with expeditiously and cooperatively between Committees, with single issue extra-ordinary meetings being used if necessary to move matters forward.

Cllr Wogan objected to the notion of ‘crossover’ projects: proposals should go before the Committee into whose remit they fell. Cllr T Lewin responded that there were matters which overlapped the remits of more than one Committee: perhaps a joint meeting could be held in an appropriate case.

#### **110/21 FINANCIAL REPORT TO YEAR END 20210-21**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Cllr T Lewin asked where the grant from Wealden had been recorded and Cllr. Wogan asked how much it was for. The Clerk responded that it had been recorded under ‘miscellaneous income’ and was for £500.

#### **111/21 FOREST ROW MARKET**

A report from Sue Young had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Cllr Wogan queried what would happen if there was adverse weather and the car park was already in use. Cllr T Lewin responded that the market manager would make suitable adjustments.

#### **112/21 VOLUNTARY MEDICAL CAR SERVICE**

A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

#### **113/21 HEARING AID SERVICE**

A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

#### **114/21 EV CHARGING UNIT**

A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

#### **115/21 COMMUNITY HELPLINE**

A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Cllr Wogan queried if the helpline was still active. Sara Smart confirmed it was but was little used at present.

#### **116/21 GAGES COMMUNITY LUNCHES**

A report from Sandra Aylen had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Cllr T Lewin wished to express the Council’s thanks to all the staff involved in the extra Tuesday sessions, particularly the volunteer cook, and this was reiterated by Cllr. Wogan.

#### **117/21 THURSDAY CLUB**

A report from Sandra Aylen had been previously circulated and was NOTED. Sara Smart confirmed there are currently about 25 active members.

#### **118/21 REPAIR CAFÉ**

A report from Sara Smart had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Sara Smart confirmed that refreshments would not be available for visitors at the May event but should be restored for June.

#### **119/21 FOREST ROW BUSINESS GROUP**

A report from Sara Smart had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Volunteers will be needed to help with the ‘Mayday Trail’. Cllrs T Lewin & Josephson put themselves forward.

#### **120/21 YOUTH SERVICE**

A report from Mel Mesher had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Cllr Josephson gave details about the ‘Ashdown Hub’ social prescribing project mentioned in the report.

**121/21 SERVICE DEVELOPMENT**

A report from Sara Smart had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

The 'Shed project'. Sara Smart gave an update. Cllr Wogan said this was an obvious 'crossover' project. A group of councillors had been looking at the Jubilee Garden and had formulated 'options' for the use of the sheds there. Sara responded that the planning had now moved on and the land behind the groundsman's shed was now the favoured site. Cllr Waters said Mid-Sussex Timber could advise on/ supply suitable materials.

The 'allotment project'. Cllr Wogan said she considered this also counted as a crossover issue.

Dementia Friendly training. Cllr T Lewin informed the meeting he had done this and could recommend it.

**122/21 THE COMMUNITY SERVICE ASPECT OF THE 'GROW IN FOREST ROW' PROPOSAL**

The paper supplied by Ffion Thomas was noted. Cllr R Lewin said in his view this was wholly a matter for Amenities & Services. After some semantic discussion Cllr T Lewin proposed: that we support this proposal and pass it on to Amenities & Services for approval (the word 'final' being deleted from the wording by consent). Seconded by Cllr Miller and AGREED with 6 votes in favour, 3 against.

**123/21 A PROPOSAL FOR A 'YOUTH SCULPTURE PROJECT'**

Cllr. T Lewin said this was simply 'floating the idea' in principle.

Cllr Wogan wanted to know where it would be sited. Cllr T Lewin responded that this was as yet undecided, but it would need a public space. There was an ensuing discussion of the merits of the project. Cllr T Lewin proposed that he would take the idea forward for further elaboration. Cllrs Waters & R Lewin also indicated their wish to be involved. No vote was considered necessary at this point.

**124/21 CORRESPONDENCE**

Cllr. T Lewin mentioned a letter received querying the Council's use of pesticides.

**125/21 ITEMS FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY THIS COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL**

Cllr Moore asked for consideration of inclusion of housebound former members of the Thursday Club in gift distribution.

Cllr T Lewin asked for streetlights to be considered.

Cllr R Lewin asked for a statement of pesticide use to be put on the website.

Cllr T Lewin wanted further consideration of the use of Greens by local businesses.

The meeting closed at 8:35 pm.

Signed.....

Date.....

Chairman