

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 24th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Cocks, Evans, Gilbert, Jaffay, la Djoï, Matthews, Rainbow, Summers, Taylor-Smith, Volkers & Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllr Scott

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Deputy Clerk. District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas and 3 members of public

C108/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chairman of Tablehurst Farm explained why the Farm was looking for a grant for a new piece of equipment.

A member of the Twinning Association said that they would like to put on a celebration for French visitors and were requesting a grant to enable this.

C109/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Scott (work).

C110/24 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of 30th July 2024 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and
AGREED.

C111/24 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Cllr. Cocks declared an interest in Min No. C116/24 as she works at the Farm

Cllr. Waters declared an interest in Min No C116/24 as his family leases land to the Farm

C112/24 DELEGATED DECISIONS

None

C113/24 CHAIRS COMMENTS

Cllr. Eichner said he enjoyed hearing from parishioners and had received 2 recently on the same subject – the state of the village. Whilst one had been pleasant the other had been less pleasant and he said that he found it fascinating how parishioners differed in their approach to Council.

He advised that the budget setting process would begin very shortly.

C114/24 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

The Clerk advised that he would like to bring a matter to the Council under Urgent Business Standing Order No. 3x. This was to consider a grant request from The Twinning Association which was required before the next Finance & Policy Committee meeting.

Cllr. Volkers proposed that this be considered under urgent business. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that this grant request be delegated to the Chair of Council and the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance & Policy Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED with 1 abstention.

The Clerks report was NOTED

C115/24 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that item 19 on the agenda (Tablehurst Farm Funding Request be considered at this point in the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr. Evans and AGREED

C116/24 TABLEHURST FARM FUNDING REQUEST

The Chair of Tablehurst Farm gave the Council some further information and answered questions. Cllr. Waters proposed that the Council give a grant of £1,000 as requested. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED with 1 against.

C117/24 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas explained she had nothing urgent to report and would submit a written report for circulation.

C118/24 STANDING COMMITTEES

There was no report from Facilities as there was no Chair currently. Cllr. Gilbert gave a summary of decisions taken by the Finance & Policy Committee. Cllr. Taylor-Smith gave a summary of decisions taken by the Community Services Committee.

C119/24 WORKING GROUPS

Cllr. Evans advised that there would be the first meeting of the Xmas Celebration this week. There was going to be a fundraising meal at Seasons on 1st November with all proceeds to go to the Xmas Community Celebration. Cllr. Volkers gave a brief report on the Comms/Outreach group. Cllr. Taylor-Smith said that a report of the last meeting of the Festival Corner group would be sent to all Councillors.

C120/24 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Christie reported that the Community Energy Group was meeting with climate energy dept of Wealden District Council this week and other meetings were planned with relevant companies. Cllr. Waters reported the Forest Row Sports Ground Association were looking for a new grounds maintenance team. They were also looking to implement a medical action plan for visitors. Cllr. Eichner advised that he had planned to attend National Association of Local Councils meetings for young councillors and also for LGBTQ councillors but both meetings had been cancelled.

C121/24 SHORT, MEDIUM & LONG TERM PRIORITIES PAPER

Cllr. Eichner has prepared a paper regarding this which was distributed to Councillors and considered. After much discussion, Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that the priorities paper be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED with 3 abstentions.

C122/24 WORKING GROUPS

After discussion, it was decided that the 3D model 'group' sat within the Comms/Outreach working group and did not need to be a separate working group. The Clerk had prepared an adjustment to Standing orders regarding working groups. Cllr. Eichner proposed that these amendments be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED with 1 abstention

C123/24 AN AUTUMN 'COUNCIL RETREAT'

This was discussed at length. Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that a daytime (reflective) meeting of four hours' duration be held for all Councillors and staff within the next 2 months (and then regularly 3 x per year) to be held in the Community Centre. Cllr. Jaffay to arrange initial themes and arrange the date. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C124/24 A COMMON EMAIL PLATFORM FOR FRPC

Cllr. Eichner spoke about this matter. Cllr. Waters proposed that gov.uk domain be adopted for emails if possible. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED

C125/24 THE SPACE BEHIND PETER GRIFFITS HALL

Cllr. Christie had some ideas for this space. It was agreed that this matter should be taken to Facilities Committee for discussion.

C126/24 SUPPORT FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

Cllr. Eichner explained his idea for a fund to support local artists to undertake projects on Council owned structures. This matter would be put on the appropriate agenda.

C127/24 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

None

The meeting closed at 9.52 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)