

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 25th JULY 2023 AT 7.30PM
IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner, Cocks, Evans, Gilbert, Harvey,
La Djoï, Lewin, Summers, Volkers, A J Waters & A M Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Christie, Hugo, Jaffay & Scott

NOT PRESENT: N/A

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Asst. Clerk. District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas, and 10 members of public

C91/23 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gill Kelly spoke about the scrap metal business at the end of Station Road. She wanted to know what the capital value was, was it leasehold or freehold, and what was the value to the community of Forest Row? The Clerk responded that the correct course of action would be to submit a Freedom of Information request to East Sussex County Council. She felt that this was an unsuitable business for Forest Row.

Neil Hart asked what had happened to the '20's Plenty' campaign. D Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas said that County Cllr. Taylor was following this up and Highways would look at which roads could be included, hopefully in September/October. He also thought the village was untidy and people had lost pride in the village.

C92/23 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Christie (holiday), Hugo (holiday), Jaffay (family) & Scott(holiday). County Cllr. Taylor and District Cllr. Coleman were unable to attend.

C93/23 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of 6th June 2023. Cllr. Lewin proposed that these be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. A.M Waters and AGREED. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcripts.

C94/23 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM THE LAST MEETINGS.

None

C95/23 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

None

C96/23 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW None.

C97/23 CHAIRS COMMENTS

Cllr. Eichner confirmed that he was still working on the newsletter – NOTED

Cllr. Eichner said that he would build a new Parish Council website free of charge, but would still need a web host and recommends Council employ a graphic designer

Cllr. Eichner proposed that the Parish Council move forward with the new website. This was seconded by Cllr. Volkers and AGREED.

Cllr. Eichner proposed that a working group be formed to move forward with the new website, consisting of Cllr. Cocks, Eichner, Harvey and la Djoï. This was seconded by Cllr. A J Waters and AGREED.

C98/23 TO NOTE CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. Meeting with Wealden waste managers – various subjects had been discussed including dog waste bins, emptying of litter bins and pavement cleaning. Further discussions would be necessary. Cllr. Lewin proposed that the possibility of stickers being put on the bins with the contact number on, be investigated. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.
2. Preliminary research on Gilham Bank – The Clerk advised that he was still looking into grant funding for this area. NOTED

C99/23 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C100/23 PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas reported that she was focusing on her ward and on lobbying central government. Her aim was to raise the profile of Forest Row at Wealden. She had walked round the village with the Clerk, Chair of Council and County Cllr. Taylor to raise points and problem areas.

District Cllr. Coleman's report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C101/23 STANDING COMMITTEES & PLANNING GROUP

Cllr. Summers – Planning Group – a report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Cllr. Lewin – Community Services – the market was going well. On September 9th, the skatepark was being painted and there would be a barbeque etc. There had been a successful cycle ride organised by the primary school. The Meet & Greets had proved very popular and these would continue every 2 months with an informal meeting in between.

Cllr. Gilbert – Finance & Policy – The asset register would need reviewing, the reserves budget allocation had been looked at. An emergency plan and neighbourhood plan were being investigated.

Cllr. Harvey – Facilities – no report.

C102/23 WORKING GROUPS

Comms – Cllr. Volkens gave a report. NOTED.

Discovery – Rebecca Dahele reported that the first meeting had been on 3rd July. This would be reported at the next Full Council meeting in August.

To&Frow – Kate Taylor-Smith added details to the report previously circulated.

C103/23 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Forest Row Energy Co-op – Two leading members of this group were moving away, and the continuance of the Cooperative was in doubt : it was hoped that a way forward would be found.

Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Group – there had been no meetings.

C104/23 COMMUNITY WARDEN

A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C105/23 TO RESOLVE ON THE PREMISES LEASE TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE

Cllr. A J Waters proposed that the lease be renewed for 7 years (with a 5 year break clause). This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

C106/23 TO NOTE THE PROPOSAL FOR A CHRISTMAS EVENT AND RESOLVE AS NECESSARY

Cllr. Evans had compiled a report that had been previously circulated. The Clerk confirmed that the office would look to provide money collection tins and office staff support.

C107/23 TO RESOLVE ON A REQUEST TO USE THE FORESTERS GREEN IN 2024

A request had been received for the use of the Foresters Green for an event in 2024. Supporting papers had been supplied to the Council.

Cllr. A J Waters proposed that this be allowed at the normal charges. This was seconded by Cllr. Ia Djoji and AGREED.

C108/23 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST FROM AN ANTI-PESTICIDE GROUP

Eliasz Netsah had organised an anti-pesticide group in the village and spoke of his concerns about the spraying of pesticide by the Golf Club and Forest Conservators. There was much discussion on this matter.

Cllr. Cocks proposed that the Parish Council request that signage be put up for a minimum of 4 weeks and that maps of the areas sprayed be made available after the spraying was complete. These could then be made public. This was seconded by Cllr. Evans and AGREED with two abstentions.

C109/23 TO CONSIDER A REQUEST TO SUPPORT A PARLIAMENTARY BILL.

Jim Hindle spoke about the Climate & Ecology Bill currently before Parliament – a report had been previously circulated.

Cllr. Eichner proposed that the Parish Council support the Community & Ecology bill. This would be posted on social media. Council would also write in support to Nus Ghani (MP) and inform Zero Hour (the organisers). This was seconded by Cllr. Lewin and AGREED.

CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the committee believes that the public and press should be excluded from the meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

Minute Nos: C110/23 – C113/23 are appended as confidential minutes

C114/23 TO FINALISE THE MATTER OF A COMPLAINT FROM 2022

In August 2022 a complaint had been made by a Councillor against a member of staff. It had been determined that the allegations were ill founded, and the procedure adopted was flawed. Council therefore resolved as follows:

“Council resolves that the complaint made by a Councillor against a staff member in or around August 2022 is now dismissed on the basis of no case to answer.”

This was proposed by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Ia Djoi and AGREED.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)

