

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2022  
AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Hopkins, Pritchitt, Spackman, Summers, Tyler, Williams & Wogan

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. R Lewin, T Lewin, Moore, Waters & Withers

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk, Asst. Clerk. County Cllr. Taylor, District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas, Stuart Pilbrow, Kate Taylor-Smith & 2 members of public

**C128/22 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

Stuart Pilbrow spoke about his request for the Parish Council to remove the Asset of Community Value status on the old recycling site. He explained that his company wanted to borrow money with the site as security to enable the purchase of specialised equipment but banks would not lend while the ACV was in place.

Kate Taylor-Smith spoke about the Community trying to help those in need with regard to heating costs, food costs etc. FroCal had held a meeting and were looking to the Parish Council to help set up an infrastructure now so this was in place when needed.

She asked if the Parish Council would have access to government grants – Cllr. Josephson stated that grants do not find their way to the Parish Council. County Cllr. Taylor advised that there were grants available for local organisations and would send specific contact details. District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas advised that the Parish Council would have to apply for grants.

**C129/22 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. R Lewin (family), T Lewin (holiday), Moore (ill health), Waters (holiday) and Withers (ill health)

**C130/22 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> June 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and were AGREED as a true record.

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Spackman, seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED as a true record.

The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Pritchitt, seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED as a true record.

Cllr. Josephson asked that the digital transcripts of the above meetings be retained.

**C131/22 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

Cllr. Wogan asked that a report be requested from the Community Shop for the Community Services Committee meeting.

**C132/22 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS.**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

**C133/22 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

### **C134/22 CHAIRMANS COMMENTS**

Cllr. Josephson welcomed Cllr. Richard Tyler to Council.

She advised that she and Cllr. Wogan had attended an event in memory of Queen Elizabeth II on behalf of the Parish Council.

### **C135/22 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

The Clerks Report had been previously circulated and was NOTED. The following points were added:

- Dates for SLR meetings would be circulated very soon
- The complaint to East Sussex County Council was still under consideration by County
- The indoor maintenance person had resigned from his position
- The new receptionist starts 28<sup>th</sup> September
- The Conservation Officer had 'misgivings' about the replacement 'Crittall' windows. The Clerk would try to resolve these.

### **C136/22 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT – QUARTER 2**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

### **C137/22 PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

County Cllr. Taylor advised the following:

- The lead member had approved the Sports Ground lease and this would be dealt with as soon as possible.
- Complaints had been received from the Community on the 'patching' repairs on the A22 – this was being followed up.
- She would follow up on grants and give the Parish Council more information.

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas advised the following:

- The elected Members were writing a response to the new corporate plan 2023-2027.
- The local plan was being worked on – this has to be done by December 2023 so the draft will have to be published early 2023.
- The planning decision regarding the old Rydons building was being appealed. Wealden would fight the appeal.
- There had been a by-election at Maresfield and the Green party candidate had been elected.
- There are grants available to combat inactivity – the link would be sent to the Clerk.

Cllr. Wogan complained to both Principal Councillors that there had been no information on the death of the Queen. Also that drains were blocked all around the village and this needed to be chased up.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that agenda items 16 and 19 be dealt with ahead of item 14. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

### **C138/22 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

Amenities & Services: Cllr. Wogan reported the following:

- The outdoor maintenance team was working hard
- Trees needed to be monitored
- Ex Cllr Vivien Hill was to look at trees as a volunteer
- The trailer had been stolen and the status of the insurance claim was awaited
- Quotes were being obtained for the laying out of the new cemetery extension
- Renewal letters had been sent out for the allotments
- Mr Vic Simonis had donated horse manure for the use of the allotment holders
- Forest Row had won the gold award in the Cemetery of the Year 2022 awards
- Thanks to the staff and volunteers

NOTED

Property & Assets: Cllr. Williams reported that Vivien Hill was happy to be co-opted onto the P & A working group

NOTED

Planning Group: Cllr. Davies advised that all was going well and a letter of objection had been sent regarding the appeal for the old Rydons building. She was hoping to meet soon with the Head of Planning at Wealden for some points of clarification.

Community Services: Cllr. Hopkins said there was nothing to report.

NOTED

Finance & Policy: Cllr. Spackman reported that the budgets had not yet been set

NOTED.

### **C139/22 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr. Pritchitt advised that the minutes from the GP surgery committee would be circulated soon.

Former Cllr. Hill had submitted a report from the Ashdown Forest Liaison Committee

NOTED

### **C140/22 REPORT FROM COMMUNITY WARDEN**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

### **C141/22 TO RECEIVE FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS ON THE ACV STATUS OF THE FORMER FOREST ROW RECYCLING SITE AND DECIDE WHETHER THIS CONSTITUTES 'NEW INFORMATION'**

Following 'new information' from the new owner, Cllr. Summers proposed that the ACV status be lifted. This was seconded by Cllr. Hopkins and AGREED

### **C142/22 TO CONSIDER WHETHER & HOW THE COUNCIL MIGHT PROVIDE A 'WARMTH BANK' OVER THE COMING WINTER**

There was discussion on what could be done to help the Community and how it could be done.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that she arrange a meeting with other interested parties (churches, FroCal etc) and report to the next Community Services Committee meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

### **C143/22 TO REAFFIRM COUNCIL'S RESOLUTION TO SEEK APPROVAL OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR A PUBLIC WORKS LOAN FOR THE PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL CEMETERY LAND**

Cllr. Josephson proposed the following wording be submitted. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

*"At the Forest Row Parish Council meeting of 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022, it was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £ 100,000 over the borrowing term of 10 years for the purpose of acquiring additional land for use as a cemetery. The annual loan repayments will come to around £ 11,450.*

*It is also intended to increase the council tax precept for the purpose of the loan repayments by 2.7% which is the equivalent of £ 5.10 per year. This has been subject to a precept increase consultation."*

### **C144/22 TO DECIDE WHETHER TO FILL THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP VACANCY BY CO-OPTING A PREVIOUS CANDIDATE OR BY RE-ADVERTISEMENT**

Cllr. Hopkins proposed that Jason Eichner be invited to be co-opted onto the Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

### **C145/22 TO ASSIGN CLLR. TYLER TO CERTAIN COMMITTEES**

Cllr. Josephson proposed that Cllr. Tyler be a member and Vice-Chairman of Property & Assets Committee and therefore also be on Finance & Policy Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED

### **C146/22 TO RATIFY THE COUNCIL'S STANDING POLICIES AND RISK ASSESSMENTS AS DISCUSSED**

Cllr. Josephson proposed that she arrange a date for a discussion meeting of these items and advise. This was seconded by Cllr. Wogan and AGREED

### **C147/22 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE**

None.

**C148/22 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Wogan advised that the Christmas Tree Festival was taking place 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> December.

Cllr. Wogan asked if there were any plans for memorials for the Platinum Jubilee or the death of Queen Elizabeth.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.

SIGNED: .....

DATE.....(Chairman)