

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 29th APRIL 2025 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs. Jaffay (Vice Chair), Christie, Cocks, Evans, Gilbert, Killick, Matthews, Rainbow, Scott, Summers, Taylor-Smith, Volkers & Waters

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs la Djoï & Eichner (District Cllr Patterson-Vanegas also messaged to say she was unable to attend)

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk & Deputy Clerk. County Cllr. Taylor. District Cllr. Coleman & 1 member of public

Cllr. Jaffay chaired the meeting in Cllr Eichner's absence.

**C29/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**C30/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. la Djoï (ill health) & Eichner (work)

**C31/25 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

Minutes of the meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> February 2025 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Waters, seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED.

**C32/25 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW**

None

**C33/25 DELEGATED DECISIONS**

None

**C34/25 CHAIRS COMMENTS**

Cllr. Jaffay congratulated the Councillors and staff on all that had been achieved. Ella Atkins and Sally Cooling from the maintenance team were particularly thanked.

**C35/25 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

Speed Indication Signs – after discussion, Cllr. Christie proposed that the signs should initially be sited on the A22 in both directions and a list be made for future sitings. This was not seconded.

Cllr. Rainbow counter proposed that one be sited on A22 approaching Forest Row from the south and one on Hartfield Road close to the school towards Hartfield. A list of sites (for rotation at approximately 6 week intervals) to be compiled. This was seconded by Cllr. Volkers and AGREED.

**C36/25 ORAL REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

County Cllr. Taylor gave a report: She reported that due to the government reorganisation, there would be a mayoral authority for the whole of Sussex. East Sussex would become a Unitary authority to replace County and District Councils. There would be a consultation before September.

District Cllr. Coleman gave a report. She thought there was merit in parishes getting together for devolved services. She advised that Wealden DC would be trying to get its Local Plan through in the next 2 years.

There was a Ripple Effect meeting on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 6-8pm in the Community Centre.

The meeting Chair moved item 14 of the agenda to this point.

### **C37/25 GRANT APPLICATIONS**

A member of Forest Row Energy Co-operative Ltd spoke about their grant application and answered questions from the Council.

Cllr. Jaffay proposed that a grant of £ 1,966.00 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr. Evans

Cllr. Volker made a counter proposal that the decision be deferred until more detailed plans were received. There was no seconder for this proposal.

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that 50% of the requested grant be awarded now and the request reviewed in 6 months' time. This was seconded by Cllr. Matthews and AGREED.

Forest Row Festival – there was much discussion about this – Cllr. Summers proposed that this request be declined as it should be funded by the Festival. This was seconded by Cllr. Volkers and AGREED.

### **C38/25 ORAL REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS**

1. Finance & Policy Committee – Cllr. Gilbert referred to the contents of the minutes of the last meeting. He said that grants were available
2. Facilities Committee – Cllr. Gilbert said that projects should be progressed.
3. Community Services Committee – Cllr. Taylor-Smith reported that all services were working well but more volunteers were always needed.
4. Comms/Outreach Working Group – Cllr. Taylor-Smith reported that this group continues to meet regularly and were bringing projects to fruition.
5. The Green Working Group – Cllr. Taylor-Smith reported that a plan would be taken to Finance & Policy and then Full Council.
6. Community Centre refurbishment Working Group – Cllr. Taylor-Smith reported that Amanda Sinclair had ordered the new furniture, and the group needed to meet to discuss next steps.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith advised that RhymeTime was taking place in the Library but needed more support.

She also advised that Amanda Sinclair was looking into dementia services and was planning an event. The Youth group – Mel was doing extraordinary work.

The plans for the Gleeson Land were on hold until later in the year.

7. Resilience Plan Working Group – Cllr. Gilbert advised that the first meeting had been held. The group would meet once a month for 6 months. There would be a community facing plan and an action plan.
8. Christmas Event Working Group – Cllr. Evans advised that there had been a meeting. More volunteers were needed. She asked if any Parish Councillors could be free on Christmas Day for an hour to visit the Community Centre. She asked that they let either Cllrs. Evans or Taylor-Smith know.
9. The Shed Project Working Group – Cllr. Waters reported that there was another meeting shortly and an AGM in May. They were not yet fully independent.

### **C39/25 ORAL REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

1. Business Group – Cllr. Taylor-Smith said that the Easter egg hunt had been very successful. More businesses were joining the group.
2. Twinning Association – Cllr. Summers reported that there was a trip to France at the end of May.

### **C40/25 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT**

This was circulated and was NOTED. The first tranche of the precept had now been received

### **C41/25 FORMAL APPROVAL OF THE RESERVES BUDGET FOR 2025-26**

This had been previously circulated, and approved by Finance & Policy. Cllr. Killick proposed that this be ratified. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith and AGREED.

#### **C42/25 ARRANGEMENTS FOR VE DAY**

After discussion, it was AGREED that the appropriate flag would be raised on 8<sup>th</sup> May. A poster would be created to inform the Community of a gathering at the War Memorial at 7pm on 8<sup>th</sup> May. Councillors to meet at Oakwood Park earlier in the evening to light the lantern and then walk to the War Memorial.

#### **C43/25 THE CEMETERY CONSULTATION – NEXT STEPS**

The results of the consultation would be made public at the Annual Parish Meeting.

After much discussion, Cllr. Killick proposed that the Council respect the results of the consultation and close the cemetery to new burials/plot purchases once the remaining plots are sold. During this time and afterwards, to continue to seek alternative land. A memorial tree (including access) and extra plots in the centre wall line to be investigated. This was seconded by Cllr. Evans and AGREED.

#### **C44/25 REVIEW OF THE CONTENT & ALLOCATION OF REFLECTION DAY ACTION POINTS**

After discussion, Cllr. Jaffay proposed that this document be accepted, and actions be forwarded to relevant Committees or Working Groups for actions. This was seconded by Cllr. Matthews and AGREED with 1 abstention.

#### **C45/25 REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS**

Cllr. Jaffay had asked for this item to be put on the agenda. There was discussion and she asked for a show of hands to see if Council wanted the Standing Orders to be changed. The majority appeared to think not but Cllr. Scott suggested a meeting be arranged for further discussion to take place.

Cllr. Jaffay proposed that a meeting be held. She would suggest dates. This was seconded by Cllr. Scott and AGREED.

#### **C46/25 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE**

Cllr. Christie asked that a working group be formed to discuss a Masterplan – to go on a future Full Council agenda.

Cllr. Christie asked that the consideration of the 'Middle' project be put on a future Full Council meeting.

Cllr. Christie asked that consideration be given to another reflection day – future Full Council agenda.

The meeting closed at 9.57 pm.

SIGNED: .....

DATE.....(Chairman)