

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 30th MARCH 2021 AT 7.30PM VIA ZOOM

- PRESENT:** Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Hill, R Lewin, T Lewin, McNally, Miller, Pritchitt, Spackman, Summers, Waters, Williams & Wogan
- APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Davies & Moore. District Cllr. Patricia Patterson-Vanegas
- NOT PRESENT:** Cllr. Withers
- IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk & Asst. Clerk. County & District Cllr. Galley, one member of public.

C13/21 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None

C14/21 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr. Davies (ill health), Cllr. Moore (family) and District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas (ill health)

C15/21 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th December 2020 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. Hill and would be signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th December 2020 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and would be signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2021 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and would be signed as a true record. There were no objections to the deletion of the digital transcript of that meeting.

C16/21 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None

C17/21 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS.

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C18/21 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

| Name | Min. No. | Category of Interest | Reason |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------|--|
| Cllr. Pritchitt | C23/21 | Personal | Volunteer at High Five Club – storage at the VENUe |

C19/21 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman brought up (as urgent business) the date & format of the Annual Meeting of Council. There was discussion regarding this, noting that the Government had declined to renew the emergency legislation beyond 7th May but that several Members were reluctant at present to attend face-to-face meetings.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the meeting be held face to face, with individual participation by Zoom, depending on the state of coronavirus at that time but with a decision to be made by 4th May. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED.

C20/21 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. Re-opening the Community Centre
2. Government Kickstart scheme
3. Tenancy of the former 'Venu' building – a formal document had now been received which would form the basis of the lease
4. Further on the re-cycling project
5. The skatepark extension
6. Financial year end & audit

The report on the above matters formed part of the backing papers previously circulated and was NOTED

C21/21 TO NOTE REPORTS

1. County & District Councillors: County & District Cllr. Galley reported that the County Council was winding down a little up to the election on 6th May. Their financial situation was sound. They had agreed a grant for £ 75,000 to Ashdown Forest Conservators. Cllr. Whetstone had attended his last meeting before retiring. Wealden District Council had launched a campaign to help businesses re-open. A climate change action report had been circulated.
2. Chairman of Committees.
Amenities & Services; Cllr. Wogan's report had been previously circulated and was NOTED. Cllr. Wogan advised that the hanging baskets had been ordered for the village.
Property & Assets: Cllr. Williams report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.
Community Services: Cllr. T Lewin thanked the staff for continuing with the market and the office administration. He looked forward to the return of the Repair Café and progress with other initiatives.
Finance & Policy: Cllr. R Lewin advised that Property & Assets had taken the largest loss due to the pandemic as Parish Councils could not apply for grants to supplement lost income on hire facilities.
Planning: Cllr. McNally reported that the SHEELA report was ongoing.
3. Representatives on Outside Bodies: Cllr. T Lewin reported regarding the Conservators of Ashdown Forest. There had been a large Zoom meeting with the CEO of Ashdown Forest and £ 273,000 was needed to fulfil their commitments. The grant from East Sussex County Council was very welcome.
4. The Community Warden: The report from the Community Warden had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C22/21 SUBSTANTIVE MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

1. The Annual Parish Meeting: This was discussed and Cllr. Josephson proposed that the question of whether or how the meeting could be held be reviewed at the Annual Meeting of Council or the following Full Council meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Pritchitt and AGREED with 1 against.
2. The legacy – The Asst. Clerk advised that only £ 3,750 of the advised £ 10,000 had been received and £500 had been spent. Cllr. Josephson proposed that any decisions be deferred until more is known regarding the timescale of payments. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED. Cllr. Wogan requested that costings be obtained for the possible projects to be discussed.
3. Membership of the County Association: Cllr. R Lewin gave a resume of what had been happening with the County Associations. There was discussion on this matter. Cllr. R Lewin proposed that the Council continue to subscribe to ESALC and the Clerk to clarify the services available during the next year. This was seconded by Cllr. Williams and AGREED.

C23/21 MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS REFERRED FOR DECISION

1. The path to the VENUE: There was much discussion regarding this matter. Cllr. Josephson proposed that the office be asked to write to Wealden District Council asking them to advise us on the disabled access path. This was seconded by Cllr. Wogan and AGREED with 2 against.
2. External storage at the VENUE: The principle of external storage had been approved in principle by Property & Assets Committee. To be funded by the High Five Club. Suggestions for suitable cabinets had been previously circulated. Cllr. Hill proposed that Council agree to the medium size storage

container to be installed after the security fencing is erected. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

3. Memorial plaque at the skatepark: This matter was deferred to the next Property & Assets Committee meeting.

C24/21 TO CONSIDER A STAFF MATTER

Due to lack of time for considered discussion, Cllr. Pritchitt proposed that an extra-ordinary meeting be held as soon as possible for this matter. This was seconded by Cllr. Summers and AGREED with 1 against.

C25/21 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None.

C26/21 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

The meeting closed at 9.30 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)