

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 30th APRIL 2024 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner, Christie, Evans, Hugo, Jaffay, La Djoï, Lewin, Rainbow, Scott, Summers, Taylor-Smith & Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Cocks, Gilbert & Volkers

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Asst. Clerk. District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas, County Cllr. Galley, County Cllr Taylor, District Cllr. Coleman and 13 members of public

C45/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of public expressed her objections to the proposal of low-cost counselling – what about other services?

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas congratulated the Council on the 3D model event.

A member of public asked who owned Station Road, who was responsible for its upkeep? And was it affecting the Fire Service entry and exit?

It was believed that the upkeep of the road was still the responsibility of the owners of the former 'Tip'.

County Cllr. Galley said he was not aware of any problems with the Fire Service but would make further enquiries and liaise with County Cllr. Taylor about these issues.

C46/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Cocks (work), Gilbert (holiday) & Volkers (family)

C47/24 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Meeting of 20th February 2024. Cllr. Lewin proposed that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

C48/24 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Cllr. Lewin declared a personal interest in the Community Shed.

Cllr. Waters declared a personal interest in the Community Shed & the 'Back Field'.

Cllr. Jaffay declared a personal interest in the Community Orchard matter.

C49/24 DELEGATED DECISIONS

These had been previously circulated and were NOTED

C50/24 CHAIRS COMMENTS

Cllr. Eichner read out the Council's Vision Statement.

C51/24 REPORT ON THE 3D MODEL EVENT

Cllr. Jaffay reported that the event had been visited by around 500 people over its duration. A lot of data had been collected and this would be collated in the next couple of weeks.

Cllr. Scott thanked the Parish Council team including the maintenance team for erecting the old map, and the caretaking team for assisting in the clean up afterwards.

C52/24 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. Internal Audit – the report had now been received and circulated.

2. Annual Return – will be put for Councils formal approval on 21st May.
3. Annual Parish meeting – 14th May combined with Meet & Greet
4. Speedwatch Scheme – NOTED

C53/24 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

Cllr. Eichner proposed that the Principal Councillors give their reports at this point in the agenda. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

C54/24 PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

County Cllr. Taylor advised that repairs to the A22 towards East Grinstead were now planned for May/June. She had submitted a written report that had been circulated and NOTED.

District Cllr. Coleman congratulated the Council on the 3D model event. She spoke about the Local Plan – the consultation finishes on 10th May.

County Cllr. Galley reported that patching repairs were planned in the Grinstead Lane area in the next few months.

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas reported that Wealden DC had launched an on-line engagement hub. A food waste kerb collection was planned from 2026.

C55/24 FUTURE OF THE HAMBRO HALL

There was much discussion – whether the Hall should be leased to a commercial nursery or used as a community building to include the Community Shed.

Cllr. Lewin made the following points for the Community Shed:

- Space for equipment and meetings etc to start the project.
- Long term, he hoped that there would be a building near the skatepark.
- Members could help to do repairs on the building.
- They envisaged using the Hall for 18 months to 2 years while a new building was hopefully built and then the Hall could be put up for commercial use again.

Points made regarding a nursery included:

- Were the nursery places needed?
- People would travel from outside Forest Row to use the nursery.
- The nursery would be open from around 7am to 6pm for working parents – 51 weeks per year.
- It would possibly cater for 45 children with 14/15 staff over the hours.
- They would like to open in September.

Cllr. Christie proposed that the nursery be invited to take the lease. This was seconded by Cllr. Scott.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith counter proposed that the facts and figures be investigated further, and a decision be taken at an extra-ordinary meeting to be held shortly.

This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and agreed with 5 for, 4 against and 1 abstention.

Cllr. Evans proposed that items 11 and 12 on the agenda be swapped. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

C56/24 COUNCIL SPONSORSHIP OF A BENEFITS ‘SURGERY’

This matter had been considered by members of the Comms & Outreach working group and discussion had been had with the proposer, who had made written proposals contained in the backing papers.
Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed the Council offer a room once per month for 1 year with regular reports on uptake. This was seconded by Cllr. Hugo and AGREED with 1 abstention.

C57/24 LOW COST COUNSELLING SERVICE

This had been discussed at some length by members of the Comms & Outreach group and the proposal had been refined. The matter was discussed.
Cllr. Christie proposed that this be adopted for 1 year. This was seconded by Cllr. Evans and AGREED with 2 against and 3 abstentions.

C58/24 PERFORMANCE INSTALLATION PROPOSAL

Cllr. Jaffay reported that the Youth Forum had applied to the Forest Row Festival committee to have a trial of this project at this year’s Festival.

C59/24 THE FUTURE OF THE ‘BACK FIELD’

Cllr. Hugo commented that there were a few projects that could use the field – Children’s Forest School, We Grow, a community orchard.
Cllr. Eichner proposed that the Clerk liaise with the Waters family to move this forward. This was seconded by Cllr. Lewin and AGREED.

C60/24 COMMUNITY ORCHARD & OTHER FUNDING

Cllr. Jaffay advised that the deadline for funding for the planting of community orchards was 10th May.
Cllr. Lewin proposed that funding be applied for with the location to be confirmed. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith and AGREED with 2 abstentions.

C61/24 D-DAY COMMEMORATION

There was discussion about this matter. Cllr. Hugo proposed that a flag and lantern be purchased (ready for 6th June) and the British Legion be consulted about events etc. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

C62/24 FOREST ROW FESTIVAL CLARIFICATIONS

- 1. Clarification of timings for finishing had been requested.

Cllr. Hugo proposed the following:

Friday – Music finish 11.30pm	Clear by 12am
Saturday – music finish 11.30	Clear by 12am
Sunday – Music finish 10.30pm	Clear by 11pm.

This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

- 2. Anderida Practice – a proposal to use the Venue building had been received from Anderida during the Festival. 50% of the proceeds would be donated to the Festival Committee.

Cllr. Eichner proposed that permission be given, with a refundable deposit being taken. This was seconded by Cllr. Evans and AGREED.

C63/24 GARDEN COMPETITION

After discussion, Cllr. Lewin proposed that this go ahead (in principle) with the Community being asked to nominate entries and judge the competition. This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith and AGREED.

C64/24 STANDING COMMITTEES & PLANNING GROUP

Reports had been received and previously circulated. NOTED
Cllr. Hugo gave a verbal report for the Facilities Committee.

C65/24 WORKING GROUPS

Reports had been previously circulated and were NOTED.

Youth Forum - Alex J Waters reported that the launch party was on Saturday 4th May 12-5pm.

C66/24 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Lewin advised that the last meeting of the Ashdown Forest Liaison Group had been cancelled.

Cllr. Waters advised that the Forest Row Sports Ground Association would be holding their AGM soon.

C67/24 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

Cllr. Lewin asked that a Dark Skies Policy be investigated. And that the Speedwatch Scheme should be put on a future agenda.

Cllr. Christie commented that the Council had been in post for a year and congratulated them all.

The meeting closed at 10.00 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)