

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

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Gilbert, Matthews, Rainbow, Scott, Summers,
Taylor-Smith, Volkers & Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllrs Cocks, Evans, Hugo, & Jaffay

NOT PRESENT: Cllr. la Djoï

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Deputy Clerk. District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas and 2 members of public

C91/24 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of public asked if the black fingerpost on the corner of Hartfield Road, A22 was going to be refurbished. Cllr. Eichner confirmed that it was.

C92/24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. Cocks (work), Evans (ill health), Hugo (work) & Jaffay (ill health).

C93/24 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of the meeting of 11th June 2024 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

**C94/24 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE
ITEMS BELOW**

None

C95/24 DELEGATED DECISIONS

None

C96/24 INTERVIEW OF CANDIDATES FOR CO-OPTION

Two candidates had applied for the co-option but one had withdrawn their application immediately prior to the meeting.

Ben Matthews was asked questions by the Council and then withdrew from the room while discussion took place.

Cllr. Eichner proposed that Ben Matthews be co-opted onto the Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Christie and AGREED.

Cllr. Matthews was informed, signed the acceptance of office and joined the meeting.

**C97/24 ALLOCATION OF NEW MEMBER TO COMMITTEES AND ANY CONSEQUENTIAL
ADJUSTMENTS TO COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Cllr. Taylor-Smith had expressed her wish to swap from Facilities Committee and join Community Services Committee.

Cllr. Matthews expressed his acceptance of the vacancies on Facilities Committee and Planning Group.

Cllr. Eichner proposed that these changes be made. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C98/24 CHAIRS COMMENTS

Cllr. Eichner said he was proud of the work this Council had done over the last year and was excited at the work to do.

C99/24 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

1. Insurances – NOTED
2. Hambro Hall & The Cube – NOTED

3. Medway Park – NOTED
4. Parking in Lewes Road – This was discussed and it was AGREED that new ‘no parking’ signs would be installed and residents allowed to install planters to discourage illegal parking.

C100/24 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C101/24 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas explained that with the Government proposed changes, it was not clear if the draft Local Plan would be affected. The changes were being looked at by Officers. She said that CIL money was being allocated to communities, the Council wants to engage with the Community, and it would be mainly for capital projects. Ideas should be sent to her.

C102/24 STANDING COMMITTEES

There was no report from Community Services as the next meeting was 6th August. Cllr. Gilbert gave a summary of decisions taken by the Finance & Policy Committee. He also explained that the Facilities Committee meeting had been helpful to focus where actions needed to be taken – and by whom.

C103/24 WORKING GROUPS

A report had been submitted and previously circulated from Cllr. Jaffay from Comms/Outreach group. NOTED

Cllr. Christie advised that a grant for £40,000 had been awarded to the Community Energy group. A feasibility study would begin in September and Community Engagement would be started.

Cllr. Taylor-Smith advised that there would be a meeting of the Christmas Event group in September.

Cllr. Gilbert advised that there would be a meeting of the Gleeson land group shortly following a ecological survey.

Cllr. Scott said that there had been a meeting of the Festival Corner group, and a pilot scheme was being considered. They were looking at options as to where the space might be. They were meeting again at the end of August.

C104/24 OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Taylor-Smith was attending a meeting on 31st July about East Sussex County Council highways issues.

C105/24 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Cllr. Eichner had asked for Councillors ideas of short-, mid- and long-term priorities. This had been distributed at the meeting and he asked the Council to consider this over the next few weeks and a paper would be prepared for a future meeting.

C106/24 COMBATTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

This was discussed. Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that a senior Police Officer be invited to attend a future Meet & Greet. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

C107/24 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

Cllr. Christie said he thought a strategic review should take place in the Autumn which could be in the form of a ‘retreat’ or a meeting of the Discovery Group. Cllr. Taylor-Smith agreed with him.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)