Forest Row Parish Council

Clerk: Mr David O'Driscoll
Email: parishclerk@forestrow.gov.uk

(Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)

To: All members of FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL:
    Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Farrar, Hill,
    Hindler, R Lewin, T Lewin, McKinney, Melson,
    Miller, Moore, Pritchitt, Summers, Williams, and J
    Wogan

Community Centre
Hartfield Road
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5DZ
Tel: 01342 822661
Fax: 01342 825739
Email: info@forestrow.gov.uk
Website: www.forestrow.gov.uk

Dear Sir/Madam,
On the instructions of the Chairman of the Council, your
attendance is required at an EXTRA-ORDINARY meeting of
the FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL to be held on
TUESDAY 8th JANUARY 2019 in the Rose Room of the
Community Centre at **7.00PM**.

Date: 02 January 2019

Mr David O'Driscoll
Clerk to Forest Row Parish Council

THE FIRST TEN MINUTES WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR RELEVANT QUESTIONS AND REMARKS
FROM THE PUBLIC – IF ANY. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO STAY AND
OBSERVE THE REST OF THE MEETING

AGENDA

1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. TO RESOLVE TO DEAL WITH ANY MINUTES AND TRANSCRIPT OF THE MEETING HELD
    ON 11TH DECEMBER 2018 AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

4. TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATIONS PERTAINING TO THE
    FOLLOWING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

5. TO RESOLVE TO CONSIDER ANY MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION AT THE
    NEXT ORDINARY MEETING.

6. THE REVIEWED DRAFT BUDGET FOR 2019-2020
    6.1 To consider comments on or requests for clarification of the draft revenue budget
    6.2 To consider comments on or requests for clarification of the draft reserves budget.
    6.3 To make any proposals for further revision of the draft revenue budget

7. TO RESOLVE TO DEAL WITH ANY OUTSTANDING NOTICES, CORRESPONDENCE OR
    CONSULTATIONS AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING.

8. TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO
    COMMITTEE.

3,5 &7. RECORDS OF MEETING OF 11th DECEMBER 2018 / MATTERS NOT REQUIRING DECISION

The purpose of this EGM is to give an opportunity for discussion of the draft budget and proposed precept figure before their formal adoption. It is therefore proposed to defer items of ordinary business to the next Ordinary Meeting.

ACTION: to resolve accordingly

6. THE REVIEWED BUDGET FOR 2019-2020

Following the similar procedure last year, the Chair of Finance was very keen that all Members should, following the inter-departmental review, have an opportunity to comment on the draft budget in a meeting of Full Council. The following papers were sent to all Members on 27th December:

1. Draft consolidated revenue budget for 2019-2020 (post-scrutiny)
2. Summary budget comparison sheet
3. Final draft reserve budget for 2019-2020: general/ nominated
4. Final note on the budget & precept (dated 21/12/2018)

You may wish to read no.4 first, since it sets out the procedure we have followed and explains the rationale behind the departmental drafts. I concede that none of this is particularly simple, but the Council is a relatively complex organisation with an annual turnover in the region of £500,000, and the budget necessarily reflects that. Also, I would ask Members to take account of the fact that the final draft has been through a rigorous process of scrutiny, and no decisions have been taken lightly. I am grateful to all those who have contributed their input.

In my respectful view the choice is between a precept of £352,000, or (my recommendation) of £360,000, to allow a contingency against the cost of picking up principal council services – I have explicitly mentioned the public library service, but waste disposal and grass cutting are equally potential candidates.

Please note this is a 'comment & query' session. The final draft budget will be put before Council for adoption at the next ordinary meeting on 15th January, at which point the precept for 2019-2020 will also be set.

ACTION: to consider draft budget (comments & queries as appropriate)