

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 16th APRIL 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE ROSE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Davies, Farrar, Hill, Hindler, R Lewin, T Lewin, Melson, Miller, Moore, Pritchitt, Summers & Williams. (late arrival noted below)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. McKinney & Wogan

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, County Cllrs Whetstone & Galley, two members of the Forest Row Festival Committee, Cheryl Hawkins and Gem Anderson-Shadi from the Council Youth Service.

The Clerk made a brief statement about the state of health of the Council’s head groundsman, John Coomber.

C180/19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None – interventions from the Festival Committee and the Youth Service were deterred until later

C181/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Received and accepted from Cllrs McKinney due to family commitments and Cllr Wogan due to holiday. A message of thanks and good wishes to Council from Cllr McKinney was read.

C182/19 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2019 had been previously circulated. These were proposed for approval by Cllr T Lewin. Seconded by Cllr Moore. **AGREED** with one abstention.
- There were no objections to the deletion of the digital recording of the meeting held on 15th January 2019.

C183/19 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None

C184/19 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

Previously circulated.

APPROVED AND NOTED

C185/19

TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllr. Hill	C194/19	Personal	Trustee of the Village Hall as a hiring space
Cllrs Pritchitt & Williams	C194/19	Personal	Trustees of Sports Ground Association (also a hiring space)
Cllr T Lewin	C190/19	Personal	Car Hire Club administrator & member.
Cllr Josephson	C196/19	Personal	Owner of premises and business adjacent to the location of Forest Row Festival

Cllr R Lewin asked that the Clerk provide clarification at the first meeting of the new Council as to the precise circumstances in which a declaration of interest should be made.

C186/19 CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS

- The Chairman noted that Council was still in ‘purdah’, and should bear this in mind for the meeting.
- Members had visited the new VENUe building prior to the meeting. It was a most impressive building and particular thanks should go to the architect, project manager & main contractor.
- As this was the final meeting of this Council, she wished to thank all the Members for their participation. The current Council had represented the diversity of the Forest Row community.
- She also wished to thank the staff, especially the office staff, for ‘making things happen’. She proposed this as a formal vote of thanks, seconded by Cllr T Lewin, and **AGREED**

C187/19 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

- The Election. The 13 nominees will be deemed elected. We will need to proceed to co-option, which will be advertised in due course and, unless there are strong objections, will take place during the Annual Meeting of Council on 14th May
 - The FRSGA leases. We still await resolution of title issues by ESCC lawyers. The draft sub-lease to the Sports Ground Association has been sent to the Trustees. Their formal approval is also awaited.
 - Waste recycling. The 'WRAG' working group has had a half-day feasibility session with local waste consultants, and is actively considering its options.
 - Forest Row Energy. We will shortly be having a consultancy session in which we will be looking at maximising our battery usage and how we could make the Community Centre more energy-efficient.
 - GDPR. Increased security is now in place, and there have been no data breaches. Further refinements await a new website. Ratification of the privacy policy was invited.
- Proposed by Cllr Moore, seconded by Cllr Hill and AGREED

C188/19 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLORS

- County Cllr. Whetstone noted that the footbridge north of Ashurst Wood had now been repaired. On the financial front he wished to clarify that when Government spoke of putting large sums into local matters, ESCC only received an average of 1½% of the total.
- County Cllr Galley provided feedback from three review groups he had chaired: the school budget group concluded that survival depended on inter-school cooperation; the adult social care group was largely positive; the road repair group concluded that work should be planned by area not in different places at once.
- He also noted that the County Council was trying to find a way of remaining the Trustee of the Ashdown Forest without having to continue funding it.

C189/19 REPORT FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Moore noted that most District updates were now available on the free 'My Alerts' system. Cllr Galley added (in his District capacity) that there was currently a Government consultation on waste.

C190/19 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

- FINANCE & POLICY COMMITTEE – The written report previously circulated was NOTED
- PROPERTY & ASSETS COMMITTEE–. The written report previously circulated was NOTED
- AMENITIES & SERVICES COMMITTEE – The written report previously circulated was NOTED
- LOCALISM COMMITTEE – Cllr. T Lewin wished to add to his written report that he was now hopeful of resolving the insurance problem for the Car Club. NOTED
- PLANNING COMMITTEE – The written report previously circulated was NOTED

C191/19 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT THE COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT

The written report previously circulated was NOTED

C192/19 TO RECEIVE AND ADOPT REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr T Lewin noted for the Ashdown Forest Parish Liaison Committee that the Conservators were trying to create a charitable body to undertake fundraising as a part solution to financial issues.
- Cllr Summers noted for the Twinning Association that there was a planned visit to France, and that the 'Fun Day' was planned for 15th June. NOTED

C193/19 STANDING COMMITTEES

The Chairman proposed that the discussion should follow the question set out in the backing papers

1. Are we content to delegate business to Standing Committees?
Cllr Josephson proposed that we should (as at present). Seconded by Cllr Hill and AGREED
2. Do we wish to restrict or enlarge the powers of the Committees?
Cllr Josephson proposed that the existing status be maintained for the present but that Trevor Leggo from SSALC be invited to discuss this post-election. Seconded by Cllr Williams and AGREED

Two Members left the room for a comfort break. Cllr Hindler joined the meeting at 8:28 pm

3. Do we wish to maintain or alter the remit covered by any Committee?
Cllr Hill proposed this be reviewed at the next F&P meeting. Seconded by Cllr R Lewin and AGREED
Cllr T Lwin proposed renaming the Localism Committee 'Community Services'. Seconded by Cllr Hill and (subject to a deemed abstention by the two absent members) AGREED

4. Do we need to alter the number of such Committees?

It was felt (without resolution) that this should be dealt with at the same time as 3 above

The two absent Members returned to the meeting.

5. Do we wish to modify the composition of the Committees?

After some discussion, an initial proposal that composition should be 'flexible' was withdrawn.

Cllr R Lewin proposed increasing the Community Services Committee to 10. Seconded by Cllr Pritchitt and AGREED with two abstentions

Cllr T Lewin proposed that the composition of all other Committees remain unaltered. Seconded by Cllr Hill and AGREED with one abstention

6. Do we wish to alter the frequency of meetings?

Cllr T Lewin proposed there should be one more Community Services Committee meeting per year.

Seconded by Cllr Davies and AGREED with two abstentions

Cllr Pritchitt proposed that Amenities & Services should have four meetings per year. Seconded

by Cllr Hill and AGREED

[Question 7 was now of no effect]

C194/19 THE VENUE ON THE GREEN

There were four matters to be resolved on the briefing paper

1. Ratification of the draft business plan.

Cllr R Lewin proposed this be endorsed as a working draft, to be revisited at the July meeting of Council
Seconded by Cllr Hill and AGREED

2. Authorisation to the VIG-BIZ sub-group for expenditure on 'non-youth' equipment from the nominated reserve. Proposed by Cllr Josephson, seconded by Cllr Davies and AGREED

3. Authorisation to the VIG-BIZ to incur expenditure on furniture/equipment storage if required. Proposed by Cllr Josephson, seconded by Cllr Davies and AGREED

4. Authorisation to the Clerk to recruit a caretaker Proposed by Cllr Josephson, seconded by Cllr Hindler and AGREED

Several members expressed the hope that no sub-standard furniture would be accepted for the new building.

C195/19 THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

There was some discussion over the date and particularly the venue, but the following decisions were taken:

Cllr Josephson proposed the APM be held on 28th May. Seconded by Cllr T Lewin and AGREED

Cllr Hindler proposed that the Community Centre be used. Seconded by Cllr Davies and AGREED

The organisation would be undertaken by Cllr Moore assisted by Cllrs R Lewin & Summers.

C196/19 FOREST ROW FESTIVAL

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Adam Harman-Clarke from the Festival Committee to participate.

There was extensive discussion of the Event Management Plan and the proposals for running the Festival. The EMP was generally complimented, but questions were raised over: numbers, parking in sensitive locations, use of/ impact on the new VENUE building, siting of the bar, and the provision of alcohol, to which Mr Harman-Clarke provided answers on behalf of the organising committee. Cllr Josephson proposed that, subject to final agreement on the site layout & use of the VENUE building, the Festival be permitted the use of Foresters Green from Tuesday 17th until Mon 23rd October.

Seconded by Cllr Hindler and AGREED

Standing Orders were reinstated

C197/19 SKATE PARK

A proposal had been received for a new skate ramp in memory of a local young man who lost his life in a surfing accident in Australia

Cllr Josephson proposed that it be accepted in principle subject to agreement on specification & siting.

Seconded by Cllr Davies and AGREED

C198/19 YOUTH SERVICE POLICY

Standing Orders were suspended to allow Cheryl Hawkins, the Youth Work Supervisor, to participate

One set of comments had been received, but their maker was absent from the meeting. The Chairman asked whether Members wished to deal with the issue under those circumstances (and given the time). The general feeling of the meeting was that the Youth Service needed some months to 'bed in' at the new building before the 'Forward Plan' could be fully discussed. Cllr Hindler proposed that the original document be accepted as a working draft for the moment and be reviewed in about 6 months' time. Seconded by Cllr Hill and AGREED

C199/19 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None that had not already been circulated in Councillors' Reading

C200/19 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

- Cllr Summers wished consideration to be given to providing financial assistance to other youth groups in the village.
- Cllr Miller wanted the new Council to look seriously at a development plan.
- Cllr T Lewin wished to express particular thanks for their contribution to those Councillors who were retiring after this session and not standing again.
- He also wished the Council to consider in particular its behaviour towards new Members.

The meeting closed at 9.57 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)