

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd JULY 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE ROSE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Hill, R Lewin, McNally, Miller, Pritchitt, Rosenboom, Royall, Summers & Wogan

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Davies, T Lewin, Moore, Williams & Withers

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Asst. Clerk, County Cllr. Whetstone and District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas.

C222/19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

None

C223/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were given and accepted from Cllr. Davies due to illness, Cllr. T Lewin due to work and Cllrs. Moore, Withers and Williams due to family commitments.

C224/19 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- The Minutes of the meeting held on 16th April 2019 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson seconded by Cllr. Hill and signed as a true record.
- The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 14th May 2019 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Summers seconded by Cllr. McNally and signed as a true record.
- The Minutes of the meeting held on 21st May 2019 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. R Lewin seconded by Cllr. Rosenboom and signed as a true record.
- To consider any objections to deletion of the digital transcripts of the above meetings. No objections were noted.

Cllr Josephson proposed that County Cllr. Whetstone should give his report at this stage of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED.

C225/19 REPORT FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR

Cllr. Whetstone reported that the County Council would soon be entering their budget setting phase and that more cuts would have to be made. ESCC is withdrawing its funding from Ashdown Forest and the Conservators are in dispute with them as to the lawfulness of this decision.

Cllr. Hill explained that the Ashdown Forest website provided clarification of these figures.

Cllr. Miller joined the meeting at 7.43pm.

C226/19 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

None.

C227/19 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C228/19 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
Cllrs Pritchitt & Wogan		Personal	Trustees of Sports Ground Association
Cllr. Pritchitt		Personal	Volunteer at the FRow Friends in the Afternoon

C229/19 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- The Chairman reported that confirmation had been received from East Sussex Highways that the previously planned roadworks on the A22 would not take place this year. The bridge repair in Priory Road would still be taking place in August. The petitions and impact statements from the village businesses were being retained 'just in case'.

- The Repair Café held last Saturday was a huge success. A few people came to the café just to enjoy the company. The plan was to try and bring young people in to learn simple repairs and this was being discussed.

C230/19 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

- External Audit – Papers have been submitted to the external auditors and the accounts have been advertised for public inspection.
- New Councillor Training – All new Councillors have now attended the SSALC induction course.
- VENUE on the Green – The 'grand opening' took place successfully on 22nd June. The youth are now in residence and the list is open for non-youth hiring. Planning consent for the external lighting & games area is still awaited. The building has won an award for 'innovative design' and has a national nomination for timber construction. The VIG-BIZ will meet to review progress after a bedding-in period. Cllr. Wogan had visited the Youth Group and the idea fencing off the back of the building had been suggested. This would be looked into.
- Waste Recycling Group – This now consists of 15 members, 6 Councillors, 8 non-Councillors and the Clerk. Feasibility advice has been taken, a licensed waste carrier partner has been identified, and several members have carried out fact-finding trips to successful schemes elsewhere. It is hoped that a short pilot scheme will take in place in September, subject to ESCC agreement.
- FRSGA Lease – This is still awaited.
- Forest Row Energy Cooperative consultation – This should be arranged soon.
- Proposed Skate Park Extension – The Clerk had attended a pre-application meeting with WDC Planning dept. Fundraising was still going ahead.
- Forest Row Business Group – This had been discussed at Finance & Policy and the situation regarding staff involvement and outgoings would be monitored.

NOTED

C231/19 REPORTS RECEIVED FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

County Councillor. Whetstone had given his report earlier in the meeting.

District Councillor. Patterson-Vanegas gave a detailed report of her activities since her election in May. She had attended training sessions which she had found very informative. She was on two committees – Planning Committee North and Overview & Scrutiny. 'Ward walks' would be taking place where someone from Wealden District Council would walk the ward. This would take place in Forest Row on 30th October 2019.

C232/19 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Amenities & Services Committee – A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED. Cllr. Wogan advised that she, along with Cllr. Summers and Janet Lamprell had judged the Best Kept Garden competition.

Community Services Committee – A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED. The Chair advised that insurance for the Car Club had been sourced and thanks should be given to Richard Pike for all his hard work.

Finance & Policy Committee – Cllr. R Lewin advised that nothing of note had happened since the last meeting.

Property & Assets Committee – Cllr. Hill advised that nothing of note had happened since the last meeting.

Planning Committee – no report

Personnel Committee – The Clerk reminded Council that this is now a standing committee and training has been arranged.

NOTED

C233/19 TO NOTE COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was

NOTED

C234/19 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr R Lewin had submitted a report on the High Weald AONB meeting. This had been previously circulated and was NOTED
- Cllr. Pritchitt reported on the Ashdown Forest Health Centre Patient Participation Group – a questionnaire on user satisfaction would be given out in September.
- Cllr. Josephson reported on behalf of the Village Hall Management Committee – they were in the process of replacing the boiler.

NOTED

C235/19 TO CLARIFY MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

At the 16th April meeting, Council adopted a proposal to increase the membership of the Community Services Committee to 10. Unfortunately, when the Committees were constituted at the Annual Meeting on 14th May this was overlooked, and when 10 members put themselves forward, Cllr. Wogan withdrew and 9 were appointed.

Cllr. Wogan confirmed that she still wanted to join the Community Services Committee.

Cllr Pritchitt expressed her disappointment that she had not been voted onto the Community Services Committee and the Chairman said that her name had not been put forward.

C236/19 TO CONSIDER REFRESHER TRAINING FOR ALL COUNCILLORS

The Clerk would arrange a date for this via a Doodle poll – this would be after September.

C237/19 TO FINALISE DECISIONS FOR THE FOREST ROW FESTIVAL

This issue was raised at the 16th April meeting and Council resolved 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 Monday 23rd September.*

From his attendance at the Festival Committee meetings, Cllr. R Lewin was satisfied with the arrangements, so the Clerk had agreed on a delegated basis to the use of the Green.

There was discussion on the use of the VENUe. Cllr. R Lewin proposed that the Committee be allowed to use the new building up to 10pm for the limited uses they had proposed (First Aid area, lost & found spot for children and admin space). This was seconded by Cllr. Miller and AGREED with 6 votes for and 4 against.

C238/19 TO FINALISE A DATE FOR THE AIR AMBULANCE PRESENTATION

This was discussed and Cllr. Josephson proposed that she will find a suitable date in the VENUe. This was seconded by Cllr. McNally and AGREED.

C239/19 TO RESOLVE ON THE ADOPTION OF FUTURE PROJECTS

The following future projects had been put forward at the meeting of 21st May 2019. Comments were made on each suggestion.

- Upcycling alongside the household waste site – *to be considered by the WRAG working group*
- A charity shop with funds towards a specific project – *this could be considered either by the WRAG working group or the Community Services Committee*
- A project on how to hear people’s voices – *this could be considered by Community Services Committee*
- Healthy soil and climate – *this was deferred until Cllr. Withers (who put this proposal forward) was present.*
- A day centre for the elderly – *this would be considered alongside the use of the old Venu building by Property & Assets committee*
- Replacement slide on Foresters Green bank – *this could be considered by Amenities & Services Committee*
- Planting incorporated into the children’s play area to stop pollution from the road – *this could be considered by Amenities & Services Committee – Cllr. Royall to submit plans.*
- Review of the carbon footprint of the Community Centre - *being dealt with by Property & Assets Committee*
- Consideration of the vision of the parishioners of Forest Row – *to be dealt with by Community Services Committee*
- Parking – *this could be considered by Full Council. This was noted this would entail a large investment.*
- Community photo project (Forest Row calendar) – *this could be considered by Community Services Committee.*
- Demolition & rebuild of the rear part of the Community Centre – *this could be considered by Property & Assets Committee. Noted that this would entail a large investment.*
- Renovation of fingerposts – *being considered by Amenities & Services Committee*
- Sculpture trail through village – *as Ashdown Gallery has closed, it was assumed that this would not be going ahead.*
- Planting of free trees being given away by Woodland Trust on Foresters Green – *being dealt with by Amenities & Services Committee.*
- Affordable housing (Community Land Trust) - *this could be considered by Planning Committee & Full Council. It was noted that this would entail a large investment.*

C240/19 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None that had not already been circulated in Councillors' Reading

C241/19 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

- Cllr. Wogan asked that the Autumn Reception be discussed at the next meeting.
- Councillors were reminded that photos and short biographies for the website should be submitted..

The meeting closed at 9.32 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)