

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 26th NOVEMBER 2019 AT 7.30PM IN THE ROSE ROOM OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Josephson (Chairman), Hill, R Lewin, T Lewin, McNally, Miller, Moore, Rosenboom, Summers, Williams, Withers & Wogan

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Pritchitt & Royall

NOT PRESENT: Cllr. Davies

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, Asst. Clerk, County & District Cllr. Galley and District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas. 3 members of public.

C261/19 PUBLIC QUESTIONS: Sally Beer, Oliver Perceval and Anna Donfrancesco spoke against the roll-out of 5G and its effect humans, wildlife and nature.

C262/19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were given and accepted from Cllr. Pritchitt & Royall due to holidays.

C263/19 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 17th September 2019 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. R Lewin seconded by Cllr. Williams and signed as a true record.

No objections were noted to deletion of the digital transcript of the above meeting.

C264/19 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING None.

C265/19 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C266/19 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

(The Clerk indicated that the minimal mention of the Sports Ground lease did not merit a declaration)

Name	Min. No.	Category of Interest	Reason
None			

Cllr. Moore joined the meeting at 7:50pm

C267/19 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

- The Chairman reported that the Autumn Reception had been well attended.
- The Remembrance Day Service had been well attended by the community.
- The Chairman had attended the Parish Conference with Cllr. Royall.
- The Chairman advised that she had been dismayed by the tone and discourteousness of recent e-mails between Councillors. She reminded Council that e-mails could be requested to be seen by the public and Councillors should act with respect.

C268/19 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

- Internal Audit. The internal auditor visited on 11th November. A copy of his report had been previously circulated. NOTED
- Waste recycling action group. An 'information session' was held on 19th October and a 'pop-up' recycling weekend on 2nd/3rd November, both based around the old 'Tip' site, and in partnership with several waste/recycling experts and a local licensed carrier, Samco Ltd. The event was a success and positive feedback was received from residents. The working group is now researching a business plan for a more permanent set-up with a management structure at arm's length from the Council. NOTED
- Additional part-time warden. A job advert will appear shortly. NOTED
- Website. We are actively looking for a new provider. NOTED
- FRGSA lease. This matter is still on-going. County Cllr. Galley offered to try to chase this matter up and the Clerk will email him with details. NOTED

- Policy matters. It was felt that three items – Youth Service Policy, Environmental Policy and Community Development Plan would be best considered in the New Year. NOTED

C269/19 REPORTS RECEIVED FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

- District Councillor. Patterson-Vanegas advised Members that Avril Price (Corporate Director – Community & Customer Services, Wealden District Council) had undertaken a ‘ward walk’ with Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas in late October. They had walked around the village and spoken to various residents.
She advised that Wealden District Council were working on a Climate Emergency Plan and a report would be produced in December.
The Full Council of Wealden District Council would take place on 27th November.
- County Councillor Galley advised that the County Council were working on a Climate Change draft plan with specific actions.
He explained that the reason drains and gulleys are not cleared very often was that Highways had £350m of work to do and only £40m in the budget.
Biffa took over the waste contract last July and after some initial teething problems, this seemed to be working well.
The Local Plan had been submitted for inspection, but a decision was not expected until after the General Election.
He advised that the County Council had been allocated an extra £21 million by Government so some planned savings may be reconsidered – mainly adult social care.
East Sussex County Council had no plans at the moment for any 5G infrastructure.

C270/19 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

- Finance & Policy Committee – Cllr. R Lewin advised that a review of salary scales had taken place at the last meeting and this would mean an increase in staff costs next year. The card payment system was now in place in the office and although charges were made, this provided a large benefit. New model financial regulations had been drawn up, and the Finance & Policy committee would review these in the New Year. NOTED
- Amenities & Services Committee – A report had been previously circulated and was NOTED
- Property & Assets Committee – A report had been circulated and was NOTED
- Community Services Committee – Cllr T Lewin reported that the Car Club was steady, the Repair Café had recently celebrated its 2nd birthday, the market was cancelled in November due to adverse weather conditions, the Community Fridge would now not open until January. There would be a Christmas Trail organised by the Business Group, on 7th December. NOTED
- Planning Committee – Cllr. Moore gave a brief oral report. NOTED
- Personnel Committee – No report NOTED

C271/19 TO NOTE COMMUNITY WARDEN’S REPORT

A report from Chris Harrison had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C272/19 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

- Cllr Hill noted that the next meeting of the Ashdown Forest liaison group was next week: A Deer Awareness leaflet had been produced. NOTED

C273/19 TO APPROVE LIST OF DIRECT DEBIT PAYMENTS

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the list of current Direct Debits be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. McNally and AGREED.

C274/19 TO CONSIDER COMMITTEE DECISION-MAKING QUORUM

After discussion, Cllr. Josephson proposed that the quora of Standing Committees be increased as follows:

Finance & Policy Committee:	5 members
Property & Assets Committee:	4 members
Amenities & Services Committee:	4 members
Community Services Committee:	4 members
Planning Committee:	unchanged at 3 members
Personnel Committee:	unchanged at 2 members

This was seconded by Cllr. Hill and AGREED with 1 abstention.

C275/19 TO CONSIDER THE LEGACY TO FRPC

The Parish Council had been bequeathed a sum of £ 10,000 for the benefit of the Community, of which £ 500 had been spent so far (new water bottle refilling station).

Cllr. Hill asked that the sum (when received) was given an income & expenditure code in the accounts system.

Cllr. Wogan asked members of the Amenities & Services Committee to think about any ideas for this to be spent on.

Cllr. Withers suggested an outdoor table tennis table or that the steps/pathway from the path to Highfields be improved. The Clerk was asked to investigate ownership of the path and obtain costings if appropriate.

AGREED

C276/19 TO CONSIDER THE COUNCIL’S RESPONSE TO 5G

There was robust discussion about this issue.

Cllr. R Lewin left the meeting at 9.08pm.

Cllr. Josephson proposed the following:

‘Forest Row Parish Council does not support the roll out of 5G until there is independent scientific research with regard to its safety’. This was seconded by Cllr. Miller.

Cllr. Rosenboom made the following counter-proposal:

‘Forest Row Parish Council will not take a stance on the rollout of 5G until there is independent scientific evidence as to its safety’. This was seconded by Cllr. McNally and voted on. 7 for, 2 against and 2 abstentions.

AGREED

The original proposal therefore lapsed.

C277/19 TO CONSIDER A PROPOSAL FOR AN ALL-MEMBER ‘DIGITAL REPOSITORY’

This was discussed, Cllr Miller explaining how it might work. Cllr. Josephson proposed the following:

‘Full Council notes this suggestion and leaves it to Working Groups to make a unanimous decision to adopt if they chose to.’

This was seconded by Cllr. Moore and AGREED with 2 abstentions.

C278/19 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE

None that had not already been circulated in Councillors’ Reading

C279/19 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

None

The meeting closed at 9.35 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)