

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 26<sup>th</sup> MAY 2020 AT 7.30PM VIA ZOOM**

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

**APOLOGIES:** Cllrs. Davies & R Lewin

**NOT PRESENT:**

**IN ATTENDANCE:** The Clerk, Asst. Clerk, County & District Cllr. Galley and District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas. 1 member of public.

**C9/20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:** Peter Brinch spoke against the roll-out of 5G.

**C10/20 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Apologies were given and accepted from Cllr. Davies due to technical issues & Cllr. R Lewin due to personal circumstances.

**C11/20 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. McNally and signed as a true record.

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

The Minutes of the extra-ordinary meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Josephson, seconded by Cllr. McNally and signed as a true record.

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

**C12/20 CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING**

Cllr. Pritchitt asked if any progress had been made with the new website. The Clerk explained that there was a 'preferred candidate' and a control sample and costs would be brought to the next meeting.

Cllr. Pritchitt advised that she was sure that the Highfields Path was under the jurisdiction of East Sussex County Council. This was confirmed by Cllrs. Hill and Wogan.

**C13/20 TO NOTE & APPROVE LIST OF DELEGATED DECISIONS**

The Asst Clerk apologised for the omission of this and would ensure the relevant periods were covered by the next list.

**C14/20 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			

**C15/20 CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS**

- The Chairman thanked the Council staff for all their work during the 'lockdown', especially Sandra and Emma for Gages, who have been producing up to 30 meals some days. Also to thank the volunteer delivery drivers. She explained that this had been a lifeline for some people and the days had been increased to include a Monday.

**C16/20 TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**

- Financial year end & Audits. The year-end accounts had been completed remotely on 15<sup>th</sup> April. The internal auditor is due to sign them off on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Council will need to approve the Annual Return, for which the current plan is to hold a short extra-ordinary meeting in June. NOTED
- Outdoor Maintenance. These have continued as usual, with appropriate safeguards. We have negotiated with Maresfield Parish Council to hire out our maintenance crew to them for 2 days per month in summer on a paid but not-for-profit basis. NOTED

- Waste recycling action group. Progress has been disrupted by the coronavirus outbreak. However, the community consultation required for public works borrowing (to be overseen by AiRS) is virtually ready, and plans are in preparation for renovation works to the site. The working group is holding regular electronic meetings. NOTED
- Consultation with Forest Row Energy. There were various recommendations which the Property & Assets Committee will need to consider. NOTED
- Skate Park Extension/ Part-time additional warden/FRSGA lease. All these items are currently dormant during the pandemic. NOTED

#### **C17/20 REPORTS RECEIVED FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

- County Councillor Galley advised that the County had such well-developed community networks that everyone had been happy to help out during the pandemic. There was a Fire Service Consultation that ended mid-June. He also had a daily report on the Coronavirus statistics of the area – he would forward this to The Clerk.

Cllr. Moore joined the meeting at 8.04pm

- District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas advised that during the coronavirus outbreak, Wealden was giving grants to businesses. The new Local Plan was being worked on and there would be a lot more new development in the north of the district. Wealden would engage with Parish Councils.

#### **C18/20 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES**

- Community Services Committee – Cllr T Lewin reported that a Strategic Planning Group had been meeting (follow up to SPLIT) and a consultation document had been drawn up. It was proposed that this be circulated soon. There was also a Visioning Group in the village which covers similar ground – a report would be produced within a month and hopefully the 2 plans can wrap around each other. He reported that Gages (especially Emma and Sandra) had responded fantastically to the pandemic. Sue is looking into re-opening the market in June and the Medical Car Service is largely on hold for the time being. NOTED
- Amenities & Services Committee – Cllr. Wogan thanked all the staff for their work during the crisis and keeping the Parish Council working. She thanked the Maintenance Team for keeping the village looking smart during this time and explained that this important to the parishioners during this time. She thanked Janet for her continued work on the Allotments and Sue for her work on Burials. NOTED
- Planning Committee- Cllr. Moore thanked Carolyn and David for doing a great job with Planning. NOTED
- Property & Assets Committee – Cllr. Williams explained that any extra planned maintenance is on hold and he will produce a report in the next couple of weeks. Cllr. Wogan asked if the public toilets are re-opened. The Clerk advised that he had discussed this with the Caretakers and the toilets would be opened but this decision would be reviewed after one week. NOTED
- Finance & Policy Committee – Cllr. R Lewin had given his apologies. NOTED

#### **C19/20 TO NOTE COMMUNITY WARDEN'S REPORT**

A report from Chris Harrison had been previously circulated and was

NOTED

Cllr. T Lewin asked that the Community Warden should be thanked for his hard work on the recent fly tipping.

#### **C20/20 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

- Cllr Hill advised that The Village Hall had received financial help from the Government as their income was much reduced. NOTED

#### **C21/20 TO CONSIDER & RESOLVE ON A TENANT FOR THE OLD VENU BUILDING**

The Clerk advised that one of the potential tenants had pulled out of these negotiations due to the financial and other consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

Cllr. Josephson proposed that the Council accept On My Side as tenants of the old Venu building subject to satisfactory financial arrangements being agreed by the Chairs of Finance & Policy and Property & Assets and ratified by the proposed Full Council meeting in June. This was seconded by Cllr. T Lewin and AGREED.

#### **C22/20 TO CONSIDER WHETHER TO REVISIT THE '5G RESOLUTION' OF 26/11/19**

This was voted on –

6 No's

5 Yes's

1 abstention

Therefore, this resolution would NOT be revisited at the present time and the original decision stands.

**C23/20 TO CONSIDER & RATIFY IF APPROPRIATE THE AMENDED ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

This was discussed and Cllr. Josephson proposed that the environmental policy be accepted with 'village' changed to 'civil parish'. This was seconded by Cllr. Wogan and AGREED with 1 against.

**C24/20 NOTICES, CONSULTATIONS & CORRESPONDENCE**

None that had not already been circulated in Councillors' Reading

**C25/20 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE**

None

The meeting closed at 8.50 pm.

SIGNED: .....

DATE.....(Chairman)