

# Forest Row Parish Council

Clerk:  
Email:

Mr David O'Driscoll  
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(Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 2pm)



To: All members of FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL:  
Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Cocks, Evans,  
Gilbert, Harvey, Hugo, Jaffay, La Djoï, T Lewin,  
Scott, Summers, Volkers, A J Waters & A M Waters

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Dear Sir/Madam,  
Your attendance is required at a meeting of the  
FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL to be held on  
**TUESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023** in the Garden Room  
at the Community Centre at **7.30 PM**.

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Mr David O'Driscoll  
Clerk to Forest Row Parish Council

THE FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS AND REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC ON ANY RELEVANT TOPIC. MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO STAY AND ADD QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ON THE AGENDA ITEMS, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE CHAIR OF THE MEETING

## AGENDA

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING
  - 3.1. Minutes of the Meetings of Full Council held on 25<sup>th</sup> July & 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023
  - 3.2 To consider any objections to deletion of the digital transcripts of those meetings
4. CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM THE ABOVE MEETINGS
5. TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW
6. DELEGATED DECISIONS

### TO NOTE REPORTS

7. CHAIR'S COMMENTS (including update/required decisions on website/newsletter)
8. TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:
  - 8.1 Public library lease
  - 8.2 Crittall window developments
  - 8.3 Cemetery land developments
  - 8.4 Staff changes
  - 8.5 Forthcoming casual vacancy
  - 8.6 Community Christmas celebration
9. FINANCIAL REPORT
10. PRINCIPAL COUNCILS
11. STANDING COMMITTEES

12. WORKING GROUPS
13. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES (IF ANY)
14. COMMUNITY WARDEN

#### MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/DECISION

15. PRESCHOOL REQUEST
16. STREETLIGHT PROPOSAL
17. ACCESSIBILITY OF MEETINGS & MINUTES
18. POSSIBLE PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY HOUSING
19. PROPOSED YOUTH FORUM
20. REQUEST FOR OUTDOOR STAGING
21. COOPERATION WITH WILDHART RADIO
22. STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR CLIMATE & ECOLOGY BILL
23. AUTUMN/VOLUNTEER RECEPTION
24. SOCIOCRATIC METHOD

#### CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

*Pursuant to Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the committee believes that the public and press should be excluded from the meeting on the grounds of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.*

25. FORMAL RATIFICATION OF STAFF VARIATION TERMS
26. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

**FULL COUNCIL****BACKING PAPERS FOR MEETING 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023**

	<b>Description</b>	<b>Page nos</b>
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21	Communication Wildhart Radio	20
22	Statement re Climate & Ecology Bill	21
25	Confidential briefing note	C/1

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING FOR THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON 26<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023</b></p>
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1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
3. **RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS** 25<sup>th</sup> July & 16<sup>th</sup> August 2023
4. **CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETINGS**  
*ACTION: to discharge as appropriate*
5. **INTERESTS/ DISPENSATIONS** Members who have a financial interest in any of the items covered by this agenda may wish to declare a personal interest. However, occasional users of services or volunteers need not be concerned.  
*ACTION: to note*
6. **DELEGATED DECISIONS:** (as attached to backing papers)  
*ACTION: to note & approve*

**TO NOTE REPORTS**

7. **CHAIR'S COMMENTS**  
The Chair may also wish to update/ request confirmation votes on the website and/or newsletter.
8. **TO NOTE CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION**
  - 8.1 Public library lease. I am now awaiting a draft lease from East Sussex.
  - 8.2 Crittall window developments. I supplied an information dossier to the heritage consultant. His preliminary view is that we have as good a case as the village hall had for its very similar application, if not better, but he wants to make a site visit to confirm.
  - 8.3 Cemetery land developments. I have had a positive resumption of contact with the owner of the previously identified alternative site, but there are planning issues on which I am now seeking clarification from Wealden.
  - 8.4 Staff changes. Three to note (with personal details contained in confidential business):
    - 8.4.1 Following recent decisions of Council, the warden was offered a revised part-time role, but has decided against it, and will be leaving us at the end of September.
    - 8.4.2 Six candidates were interviewed for the kitchen assistant post agreed to and the successful candidate started on 13<sup>th</sup> September.
    - 8.4.3 An urgent decision was taken to engage an additional youth worker to replace staff shortages, and a suitable candidate is now working on a probationary basis.
  - 8.5 Forthcoming casual vacancy. One of our members will be stepping down as a councillor as from 6<sup>th</sup> October for personal reasons. This will trigger a 'casual vacancy', and the possibility of a by-election has to be offered. If this is not taken up, we will proceed to co-option.
  - 8.6 Community Christmas Celebration. Cllr Evans has asked me to announce that for logistical reasons, the venue for this has now changed from the village club to the Community Centre.

## **9. FINANCIAL REPORT**

A current printout is supplied with the papers. This is effectively the half-year, at which the outputs against forecast should be nominally 50%:

- For Finance & Policy, income is at 49.4% of forecast, and expenditure at 37.6%. A quick look at the right hand column will show where the slack is in the expenditure budget. Various adjustments may need to be made in the second half-year, and there remains the possibility of a staff pay increase for 2023-24 to be factored in.
- For Facilities, the combined figure from the two original committees shows income at 47% of forecast and expenditure at 56.5%. The income from the property side (57.4%) is currently subsidising the amenities side (21.2%) where cemetery income is particularly low. Property expenditure is slightly higher, reflecting in part the increases in non-domestic rates.
- For Community Services, income is running at 44.2% of forecast and expenditure at 46.3%. This looks positive, but conceals the fact that the effective privatisation of the market has come at a significant cost, currently offset by unspent cost codes elsewhere.

If there are any queries, it is helpful to raise them in advance, so the office can research replies.

## **10. PRINCIPAL COUNCILS**

County & District Councillors have been invited to attend. County Cllr Taylor has a prior commitment and County Cllr Galley is away on leave. District Cllr Coleman cannot attend but I have attached a generic report (slightly edited) which she gave to Danehill PC.

## **11. STANDING COMMITTEES & PLANNING GROUP**

Chairs of Committees have been invited to report. At the time of issue of this agenda, the only written report is from Community Services (attached).

## **12. WORKING GROUPS**

Reports have been invited from a representative of each of the groups. Community Outreach (formerly 'To & Frow') have submitted a written report which is attached.

## **13. REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Representatives may report on any items of relevance.

## **14. COMMUNITY WARDEN**

A report is attached to the backing papers.

**ACTION: to note reports** Please note that where written reports have been submitted in advance, they will normally be "taken as read", except where there are queries or clarifications

## **MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION/ DECISION**

## **15. REQUEST FROM PRESCHOOL**

We have a request from the preschool for a 'rent holiday'. They had a previous rent holiday for six months in mid-2017 when finances were particularly stretched, although an extension was declined. Their rent payment – currently £791.66/mth – has been full and consistent otherwise. I attach a redacted copy of their request which explains the background. We

have been generally sympathetic towards requests from the preschool as they provide a significant social value to the community, but it is for Council to decide.

**ACTION: to resolve as appropriate**

**16. STREETLIGHT PROPOSAL**

Facilities voted in June (resolution 87/23) to implement the “one-third LED replacement” proposal. The details of that proposal are now available and attached. The projected cost is £11,550 (ex VAT). Council is now requested to endorse that proposal. The recommendation is to finance this 50% from Community Infrastructure Levy and 50% from the streetlights maintenance budget. For Council to decide.

**ACTION: to resolve as appropriate**

**17. ACCESSIBILITY OF MEETINGS & MINUTES**

Representations have come from both a councillor and a resident that it would be helpful if some way or ways could be found to make either or both our meetings and minutes more accessible to the less able, for instance by some form of broadcasting of meetings for those who cannot attend personally or alternative-format(s) of the minutes. This is basically an opportunity to raise the issue and discuss possibilities rather than a definitive vote.

**ACTION: to resolve if required**

**18. POSSIBLE PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY HOUSING**

Finance & Policy voted in July (128/23) to set up a meeting between Council and *Action in Rural Sussex* on the issue of affordable housing in a rural setting. I made contact with AiRS shortly after and they are happy to come and address Council on the subject. It simply requires a day and a time (in what is admittedly a crowded schedule)

**ACTION: to resolve as appropriate**

**19. PROPOSED YOUTH FORUM**

Nothing has been received in advance, but an oral presentation on the topic may be given at the meeting.

**ACTION: to resolve if required**

**20. REQUEST FOR OUTDOOR STAGING**

A request has been made by a community member as to whether we could provide some permanent/semi-permanent staging as a youth performance and gathering space- the email request is attached. The suggested venue is not at present viable because the land does not belong to the Council and our licence over it has limitations on its use. But would Council wish to pursue this request further or defer it to a later date?

**ACTION: to resolve as appropriate**

**21. COOPERATION WITH WILDHART RADIO**

The local ‘Wildhart Radio’ approached us some time ago requesting a grant towards better quality equipment now that they are more established. This was deferred for the production of up-to-date accounts (and will return to the next F&P) but in the meantime they would value a dialogue about possible cooperation with the Council (see attached email).

**ACTION: to resolve as appropriate**

**22. SUPPORT FOR THE CLIMATE & ECOLOGY BILL**

Full Council voted in July (resolution C109/23) to lend its support to the Private Member's Climate & Ecology Bill. This is a suggested formal statement for support for ratification: the actions specified on page 2 have all been implemented.

***ACTION: to resolve as appropriate***

**23. AUTUMN/VOLUNTEER RECEPTION**

For about twenty years (as far as my research goes) until a few years ago, the Council held an Autumn Reception, which served one or both of two purposes: a thank-you event for the many volunteers who give their time for the community through Council services, and a public opportunity to hand out awards for the annual garden/ allotment competition. The garden competition fell by the wayside with the pandemic, and the reception has not been held since, nor has there been any appetite to revive it. Does this Council want to reinstate a similar event, or some alternative recognition of the volunteers? Warning: it is now a bit late for this year.

***ACTION: to resolve as appropriate***

**24. SOCIOCRATIC METHOD**

There have been a number of mentions since the May election of the sociocratic method of decision-making and its potential applicability to the Council's processes. There has also been an offer of training, but so far no decisions have been taken whether to take this issue forward. Given the significance of the issue and the length of this meeting's agenda, it is suggested that the topic be simply noted on this occasion and a proper discussion deferred, possibly to the projected retreat in November.

***ACTION: to resolve as appropriate***

[Item 25 A separate confidential briefing note is supplied to Members]

**26. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE**

Standard item

## **FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL**

### **ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY**

PERIOD - from: 19/07/2023 to: 18/09/2023

DECISION TAKEN	REASONS	OFFICERS NAME	DATE OF DECISION	COST
TREE WORKS	DANGEROUS TREES	Cllr. Eichner (approved under temporary scheme of delegation)	02/08/23	1100.00
DRAINAGE REPAIRS	URGENCY	Cllrs Gilbert & Harvey	24/08/23	643.00



## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/09/2023

Month No: 6

## Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>Finance &amp; Policy</b>							
<b>401 Finance &amp; Administration</b>							
4176 FI-Precept Received	223,000	446,000	223,000			50.0%	
4180 Misc Income	38	0	(38)			0.0%	
4181 FI-Wayleave Income	1	5	4			20.0%	
4182 FI-Devolved Services Income	368	1,450	1,083			25.3%	
4183 Community Warden Hire	0	10,000	10,000			0.0%	
4190 FI-Interest Received	3,225	1,500	(1,725)			215.0%	
<b>Finance &amp; Administration :- Income</b>	<b>226,632</b>	<b>458,955</b>	<b>232,323</b>			<b>49.4%</b>	<b>0</b>
4100 PENSION TOP UP	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4101 FI-Salaries	140,761	365,000	224,239		224,239	38.6%	
4102 FI-Payroll Outsource Costs	193	420	228		228	45.8%	
4103 FI-Contrib. to Library Salary	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4108 FI-Staff Training/Travel	50	1,000	950		950	5.0%	
4110 Community Warden Costs	320	500	180		180	64.0%	
4111 Forest Rate	31	25	(6)		(6)	122.4%	
4120 Postage	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4121 Telecommunications	2,561	7,700	5,139		5,139	33.3%	
4123 Stationery	162	600	438		438	27.0%	
4124 FI-Subscriptions	3,036	6,600	3,564		3,564	46.0%	
4125 FI-Insurance	10,528	10,000	(528)		(528)	105.3%	
4126 Printer/copier	2,003	4,000	1,998		1,998	50.1%	
4133 FI-Chairman's Fund	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4134 FI-Parish Meeting	0	50	50		50	0.0%	
4135 FI-Councillors Training/Travel	475	500	25		25	95.0%	
4136 Security Checks	71	150	79		79	47.6%	
4137 FI-Members Allowances	484	6,000	5,516		5,516	8.1%	
4151 FI - Bank Charges	600	1,800	1,200		1,200	33.3%	
4156 FI-Legal & professional fees	80	3,500	3,420		3,420	2.3%	
4157 FI-Audit & Financial Managemen	1,034	3,300	2,266		2,266	31.3%	
4158 FI-Van Lease	0	300	300		300	0.0%	
4160 Office Equipment	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
4165 FI-Election Fund	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
4166 Wayleaves	1	25	24		24	5.6%	
4169 Community Occasion	134	500	366		366	26.9%	
7101 PR- Advertising/Publicity	33	50	18		18	65.0%	
7102 PR-Website	720	750	30		30	96.0%	
7110 PR-Newsletter & Distribution	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
<b>Finance &amp; Administration :- Indirect Expenditure</b>	<b>163,275</b>	<b>426,770</b>	<b>263,495</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>263,495</b>	<b>38.3%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>63,357</b>	<b>32,185</b>	<b>(31,172)</b>				

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/09/2023

Month No: 6

## Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>403 Other Grants</b>							
4360 Other Grants	650	7,000	6,350		6,350	9.3%	
4361 FRGSA Subsidy	0	2,500	2,500		2,500	0.0%	
Other Grants :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>650</u>	<u>9,500</u>	<u>8,850</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,850</u>	<u>6.8%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>(650)</u>	<u>(9,500)</u>	<u>(8,850)</u>				
Finance & Policy :- Income	226,632	458,955	232,323			49.4%	
Expenditure	163,925	436,270	272,345	0	272,345	37.6%	
Grand Totals:- Income	226,632	458,955	232,323			49.4%	
Expenditure	163,925	436,270	272,345	0	272,345	37.6%	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>62,707</u>	<u>22,685</u>	<u>(40,022)</u>				
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>62,707</u>						

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/09/2023

Month No: 6

## Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b><u>Amenities &amp; Services</u></b>							
<b><u>101 Allotments</u></b>							
1180 Allotment Rents	642	1,750	1,108			36.7%	
Allotments :- Income	<u>642</u>	<u>1,750</u>	<u>1,108</u>			<u>36.7%</u>	<u>0</u>
1135 Allotments-Water & Upkeep	386	700	314		314	55.2%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>386</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>55.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>256</u>	<u>1,050</u>	<u>794</u>				
<b><u>102 Village Greens</u></b>							
1280 VG-Hire Income	0	750	750			0.0%	
Village Greens :- Income	<u>0</u>	<u>750</u>	<u>750</u>			<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
1236 Outdoor Maintenance	3,643	8,000	4,357		4,357	45.5%	
1237 Outdoor Planting	634	1,000	366		366	63.4%	
1239 VG-Utilities	263	100	(163)		(163)	263.3%	
Village Greens :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>4,541</u>	<u>9,100</u>	<u>4,559</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>4,559</u>	<u>49.9%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(4,541)</u>	<u>(8,350)</u>	<u>(3,809)</u>				
<b><u>104 Amenities General</u></b>							
1400 Amenities grants/donations	0	1,500	1,500			0.0%	
Amenities General :- Income	<u>0</u>	<u>1,500</u>	<u>1,500</u>			<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
1436 Skate & Play areas	3,134	1,500	(1,634)		(1,634)	208.9%	
1447 Dog Fouling	1,494	3,200	1,706		1,706	46.7%	
Amenities General :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>4,628</u>	<u>4,700</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>98.5%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(4,628)</u>	<u>(3,200)</u>	<u>1,428</u>				
<b><u>105 Outdoor Maintenance</u></b>							
1501 Outdoor Maintenance Equipment	75	1,705	1,630		1,630	4.4%	
Outdoor Maintenance :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>75</u>	<u>1,705</u>	<u>1,630</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1,630</u>	<u>4.4%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>(75)</u>	<u>(1,705)</u>	<u>(1,630)</u>				
<b><u>203 Street Lighting</u></b>							
2314 SL-Power	2,646	6,600	3,954		3,954	40.1%	
2336 Streetlights	3,284	8,250	4,966		4,966	39.8%	
Street Lighting :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>5,930</u>	<u>14,850</u>	<u>8,920</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>8,920</u>	<u>39.9%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<u>(5,930)</u>	<u>(14,850)</u>	<u>(8,920)</u>				



## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/09/2023

Month No: 6

## Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b><u>204 Road Safety</u></b>							
2436 RS-Road Safety	0	750	750		750	0.0%	
Road Safety :- Indirect Expenditure	0	750	750	0	750	0.0%	0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(750)</b>	<b>(750)</b>				
<b><u>601 Cemetery</u></b>							
6180 BU-Burial Fees	2,961	13,000	10,039			22.8%	
Cemetery :- Income	2,961	13,000	10,039			22.8%	0
6123 Cemetery Admin	256	330	74		74	77.6%	
6151 BU- Cemetery Rates	1,100	1,210	110		110	90.9%	
Cemetery :- Indirect Expenditure	1,356	1,540	184	0	184	88.1%	0
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>1,605</b>	<b>11,460</b>	<b>9,855</b>				
Amenities & Services :- Income	3,604	17,000	13,396			21.2%	
Expenditure	16,916	33,345	16,429	0	16,429	50.7%	
<b><u>Property &amp; Assets</u></b>							
<b><u>201 Bus Shelters</u></b>							
2136 BS-Bus Shelters	105	0	(105)		(105)	0.0%	
Bus Shelters :- Indirect Expenditure	105	0	(105)	0	(105)		0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(105)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>105</b>				
<b><u>205 Miscellaneous Assets</u></b>							
2551 Offsite Car Parks	150	0	(150)		(150)	0.0%	
7108 PR-Notice Boards	9	0	(9)		(9)	0.0%	
Miscellaneous Assets :- Indirect Expenditure	159	0	(159)	0	(159)		0
<b>Net Expenditure</b>	<b>(159)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>159</b>				
<b><u>301 Community Centre</u></b>							
3180 CC-Lettings	9,074	15,000	5,926			60.5%	
3181 CC-Equipment Hire	176	400	224			43.9%	
3182 CC-Rents	10,547	22,000	11,453			47.9%	
3185 MISC - incl books/copying)	150	400	250			37.5%	
3187 CC Drinks Machine Income	258	500	243			51.5%	
3189 Misc Property Refunds	3,083	0	(3,083)			0.0%	
4180 Misc Income	100	0	(100)			0.0%	
Community Centre :- Income	23,387	38,300	14,913			61.1%	0

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/09/2023

Month No: 6

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
3111 CC-Rates & Services	23,717	33,000	9,283		9,283	71.9%	
3116 CC-Upkeep/Cleaning	4,257	13,200	8,943		8,943	32.3%	
3127 CC - Drinks Machine	525	770	245		245	68.2%	
Community Centre :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>28,500</u>	<u>46,970</u>	<u>18,470</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18,470</u>	<u>60.7%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(5,113)</u>	<u>(8,670)</u>	<u>(3,557)</u>				
<u>303 Venue on the Green</u>							
3306 VOTG Income	897	4,000	3,103			22.4%	
Venue on the Green :- Income	<u>897</u>	<u>4,000</u>	<u>3,103</u>			<u>22.4%</u>	<u>0</u>
3304 Votg Non Youth Equip	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
3305 VOTG Running Costs	2,227	4,000	1,773		1,773	55.7%	
Venue on the Green :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>2,227</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>2,273</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,273</u>	<u>49.5%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(1,330)</u>	<u>(500)</u>	<u>830</u>				
Property & Assets :- Income	24,284	42,300	18,016			57.4%	
Expenditure	30,991	51,470	20,479	0	20,479	60.2%	
Grand Totals:- Income	27,887	59,300	31,413			47.0%	
Expenditure	47,907	84,815	36,908	0	36,908	56.5%	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(20,019)</u>	<u>(25,515)</u>	<u>(5,496)</u>				
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(20,019)</u>						

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/09/2023

Month No: 6

## Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>Localism &amp; Community Projects</b>							
<b>206 Community Transport</b>							
2678 Medical Car Scheme Income	131	300	169			43.8%	
4180 Misc Income	27	0	(27)			0.0%	
Community Transport :- Income	<b>158</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>142</b>			<b>52.7%</b>	<b>0</b>
2554 Wealdlink	255	1,000	745		745	25.5%	
2601 Voluntary Medical Car Service	0	200	200		200	0.0%	
Community Transport :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>255</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>945</b>	<b>21.2%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(97)</b>	<b>(900)</b>	<b>(803)</b>				
<b>207 Market</b>							
3184 CC-Market Income	3,428	9,000	5,572			38.1%	
Market :- Income	<b>3,428</b>	<b>9,000</b>	<b>5,572</b>			<b>38.1%</b>	<b>0</b>
3151 CC-Market expenditure	3,786	1,430	(2,356)		(2,356)	264.7%	
Market :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>3,786</b>	<b>1,430</b>	<b>(2,356)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(2,356)</b>	<b>264.7%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>(357)</b>	<b>7,570</b>	<b>7,927</b>				
<b>209 Localism &amp; Community Proj Misc</b>							
2905 Repair Cafe & Wellbeing Serv	0	2,000	2,000			0.0%	
Localism & Community Proj Misc :- Income	<b>0</b>	<b>2,000</b>	<b>2,000</b>			<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>
2603 Emergency Supplies	0	6,000	6,000		6,000	0.0%	
2700 Repair Cafe & Wellbeing	0	4,000	4,000		4,000	0.0%	
Localism & Community Proj Misc :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10,000</b>	<b>0.0%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>(8,000)</b>	<b>(8,000)</b>				
<b>304 Cafe</b>							
3480 Gages - Sales	10,691	20,000	9,309			53.5%	
Cafe :- Income	<b>10,691</b>	<b>20,000</b>	<b>9,309</b>			<b>53.5%</b>	<b>0</b>
3436 Gages-Purchase of Equipment	792	2,200	1,408		1,408	36.0%	
3460 Gages -Purchases Food etc	9,109	13,200	4,091		4,091	69.0%	
Cafe :- Indirect Expenditure	<b>9,901</b>	<b>15,400</b>	<b>5,499</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5,499</b>	<b>64.3%</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>790</b>	<b>4,600</b>	<b>3,810</b>				

## Detailed Income &amp; Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/09/2023

Month No: 6

## Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<b>306 Thursday Club</b>							
3680 TC-Subscriptions	117	400	283			29.2%	
Thursday Club :- Income	<u>117</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>283</u>			<u>29.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
3636 TC-Running Costs	163	1,100	937		937	14.8%	
Thursday Club :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>163</u>	<u>1,100</u>	<u>937</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>937</u>	<u>14.8%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(46)</u>	<u>(700)</u>	<u>(654)</u>				
<b>406 Youth Provision</b>							
4676 YP-Grants & Other Income	713	2,500	1,787			28.5%	
Youth Provision :- Income	<u>713</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>1,787</u>			<u>28.5%</u>	<u>0</u>
4603 YP - Dev costs & General Expen	1,015	3,500	2,485		2,485	29.0%	
Youth Provision :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>1,015</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>2,485</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,485</u>	<u>29.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(302)</u>	<u>(1,000)</u>	<u>(698)</u>				
Localism & Community Projects :- Income	15,107	34,200	19,093			44.2%	
Expenditure	15,119	32,630	17,511	0	17,511	46.3%	
Grand Totals:- Income	15,107	34,200	19,093			44.2%	
Expenditure	15,119	32,630	17,511	0	17,511	46.3%	
<b>Net Income over Expenditure</b>	<u>(12)</u>	<u>1,570</u>	<u>1,582</u>				
<b>Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve</b>	<u>(12)</u>						

## **Update from District Councillor Christina Coleman**

There is definitely a fresh feel to Wealden District Council under the new administration. We have recently launched “Let’s Talk Wealden” - <https://letstalk.wealden.gov.uk>. We are welcoming feedback, as there will always be areas that the website can improve on, but hopefully you will find it to be a useful resource that helps to de-mystify some of the work that takes place at Wealden District Council.

**We are progressing apace with the Local Plan.** The Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report consultation has now closed, and we are incorporating the feedback that the consultation generated. The next stage will be a draft Local Plan that will again go to wider consultation - we are going to put a big effort into getting significant community engagement on the draft Local Plan and we are really looking forward to hearing your views. It will be challenging to produce a Local Plan that will pass examination by the Planning Inspectorate and also meet the new administration's commitment to reflect concerns about inappropriate development and environmental issues. Such is the nature of our centrally controlled planning system, where Westminster dominates decision making - control that used to be in the hands of Local Authorities.

Further good news from the waste management team is that Hydrogenated Vegetable Oil has replaced diesel in all of Wealden District Council’s waste collection and street cleansing vehicles. The fuel is cleaner and reduces carbon emissions by up to 90% when compared with regular diesel, saving 1,800 tonnes of CO2 per year. The switch will also reduce other potentially harmful emissions including nitrous oxide, particulate matter and carbon monoxide, helping to make our air cleaner. This scheme has been in development for some time, but it is an innovation that we can all be proud of and hope that it inspires other fleets to follow suite.

Thank you,

Cllr. Christina Coleman



## Community Services – very short report for FC Sept 26<sup>th</sup>

- There has been a slowdown in community services activity for upwards of a year now. This is in part a legacy of the old council's reluctance to approve new ideas. But more importantly, the pause reflects a new desire to listen to the community before going ahead with measures already authorised but not yet tested against community wishes. So, don't mistake a lack of activity for a lack of ideas or ambition. Much revolves around the feedback we are getting in from the Outreach group and others. We're on the case.
- New directions under discussion include how best to protect our residents from extreme weather events resulting from climate change; helping residents improve their home insulation; actively monitoring the quality of the water in our rivers and streams, and reviving the initiatives of the befriending group and road safety. Even the Shed Project is beginning to get going.
- Among our familiar services, Gages is busy (despite expensive equipment replacements); the market is gaining momentum under its new manager, Emily, and youth services are set to blossom following a very positive engagement with the new intake of councillors. The well-attended skatepark painting session under street artist Julian Johnson has already been a highlight, and the planned youth forum hopes to extend the reach of the council's engagement to a new demographic.
- What else is on the cards? Lots of exciting things, but let's wait until we're clearer about where the real priorities of the community lie.

Tony Lewin: Sept 18<sup>th</sup> 2023

FRPC Community Outreach Group – Report  
15 September 2023

*Andi Jaffay on behalf of Portia Cocks, Angela Evans, Kate Taylor-Smith, Alex Walters (y), Zuzu la Djoï, Johnny Scratchley, Charlotte Harvey, Michelle Matthews, Jason Eichner*

The working group formally known as To&FRow has now been renamed, following the request at the last council meeting, in order for more simplicity for community members. The new name is Community Outreach Group.

Having set up a system to collect inputs from the office staff and completed the planned Summer part of the group's outreach strategy (visiting existing groups, Meet&Greet events and community postboxes), we are now onto the Autumn phase of our plans.

The Meet&Greets are very well attended and community have asked for regular events, so we have planned one every other month. This, as everything with Outreach, will be reviewed as we go along; each time asking for feedback from community and adjusting as needed, in order to maximise engagement.

Sarah Charlton - local community member and a professional in hosting listening circles – will trial out some roundtable discussion groups this Autumn. If these are popular and provide good inputs, we will expand them to larger numbers of people. If they are not popular, we will trial another method of community discussion.

A 3D community consultation model of the village is planned to be made, with several design-orientated community members leading workshops so that community groups can help to create sections of it. The model would then be brought to Meet&Greets, events and local groups, to find out what people want locally.

More community postboxes need to be made. The local school has been approached to find out if some of the classes would make one each.

For the Meet&Greets, promotion of the listening circles, 3D model and postboxes, Outreach need a small budget for materials. The exact amount is unknown at present but is estimated somewhere between £50-£200. We would like to have the go-ahead from full council to spend this amount.

# COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Since my last report in July. I have linked in with WDC, regarding a fly tipping incident that I witnessed on the CCTV in my office. I spoke with the Street Scene Officer who is dealing with this incident.

I reported a collapsed gully drain to ESCC Highways on the 6<sup>th</sup> July and someone turned out within 24hrs to barrier off the pathway. Friday 8<sup>th</sup> Sept, I recontacted Highways to see when they were going to repair the damage, only to be told that there was nothing on their system stating that neither of the water companies had been contacted to establish who was responsible to carry out the repair.

I have found it very frustrating trying to work with Highways & the water companies trying to get them to take responsibility for their actions and get these problems repaired.

I have given up with South East Water as I have contacted them on several occasions only to be told that the collapsed drain outside Ashdown Court on London Road, still hasn't been repaired. I spoke with one of their technicians about this drain to be told that he marked it up for repair on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of June and it still hasn't been repaired.

It has been very frustrating for me trying to resolve these issues.

I have visited several properties recently due to overgrown hedges causing access problems on the pathway in Freshfield Bank & Upper Close. These have now been rectified.

As it has been school holiday period, there has not been anything of note happening due to the quietness in the community with families away on holiday.

However, I can safely say that I have done over 500 miles of walking patrolling the area making sure that there was some form of visible presence seen in the area.

Chris Harrison  
19<sup>th</sup> September 2023

**David O'Driscoll**

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**From:** [REDACTED] <preschoolmanager@forestrowpreschool.com>  
**Sent:** 05 September 2023 11:28  
**To:** Chair Forest Row Community Pre-School; Treasurer Forest Row Community Pre-School; admin email; David O'Driscoll  
**Subject:** Pre-School Support

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

Unfortunately I am writing to you in a bit of desperation! Due to the still incredibly low funding rate and ever increasing minimum wage and other rising costs. Pre-School is struggling to remain viable for the quieter winter term this year.

As we have previously discussed, other settings are at a slight advantage to us due to their free use spaces or lower cost spaces.

We have put increases in where possible to try and mitigate this loss, but unfortunately as I am sure you are aware our parents are also struggling to make ends meet due to the current cost of living crisis. We are also attempting to support several disadvantaged children too, who would not be able to attend the setting without our assistance. We are not able to add charges to funded children which is the majority of our children due to our funding agreement with the county.

We are part of the campaign that is currently running to challenge the government to offer fairer funding to early years settings and to hopefully prevent us becoming another number in the over 6000 early years settings that have closed their doors permanently due to the funding gap in this year alone.

The setting is the only charity run pre-school that is accessible to all families within the village offering affordable care and key early intervention into supporting small children as well as providing spaces for those with additional needs.

As you know previously, yourself and the council have very kindly given the pre-school rent holidays in difficult times, we are asking if this may be possible again please?

This would help us maintain the setting until the busier terms in the new year and we would be planning to focus on fundraising and maximising our marketing strategies to support ourselves fully again and hopefully overcome the challenges we are facing as we did previously following the rent holiday in 2016.

I am happy to provide any further documentation you may require and can also attend parish council meetings to plead our case if needed.

Please could you offer me any advice on this?

It would be a real shame if the pre-school which has been open for over 50 years was to close and not be available for local families.

Kind Regards,

[REDACTED]  
**Pre-School Manager**

Office hours Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:00pm, Term Time only

Please be aware all communications sent from this email should be considered as confidential. Please contact the setting to see copies of the latest data protection and privacy notices.

If your query is related to finance, bookings or records please email [admin@forestrowpreschool.com](mailto:admin@forestrowpreschool.com)

**David O'Driscoll**

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**From:** [REDACTED]@streetlights.co.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 August 2023 10:23  
**To:** David O'Driscoll  
**Subject:** RE: Pole Bracket 9, Priory Road, Forest Row

Good morning [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email, we would recommend replacing the following 33 lights:-

Priory Road x 6, Lewes Road x 1, Hartfield Road x 6, Freshfield Bank x 15, Colchester Vale x 3, Blacklands Crescent x 2.

The only problem one is column 54 Hartfield Road, as this is currently a clock box top entry light and we are not 100% sure that there is enough of the bracket to cut back to make it side entry.

We will update you on this when we look at it in more detail.

The total cost for replacing the 33 lights would be £11,550 + Vat.

Please let me know if you would like to proceed and I'll make the necessary arrangements.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]  
**Streetlights**  
[REDACTED]

Dear Council Members,

Firstly, I would like to mention how grateful I am for your concern with the needs and welfare of this village, Forest Row, and Forest Row members.

I regret that I cannot be present to this meeting but I trust that my words will be heard despite this.

My proposal is for a permanent stage/ bandstand situated in the field behind the skatepark, aside from the football pitch.

My vision is of a simple wooden elevated platform. It is large enough to be supportive of outdoor live music (electronic or acoustic), or for public speaking, theatre, or simply a meet up spot for those of us who wish for a space to socialise and express ourselves, without the focus of alcohol or substance consumption.

I believe that this space could also encourage other numerous ways in which Forest Row's imagination and creativity could utilise it.

I have encountered many people in Forest Row, both young and old, and myself included, who experience multitudes of creative ideas. My hope is that, the physicalisation of a new area, free and outdoors, can be a space to share them and to experiment, in a freer and less structured and official environment.

I have near to one hundred signatures, mainly all from Forest Row's young people, and I can also assure you that nearly everybody who signed the petition was enthusiastic about the idea.

Thank you so much to each of you for your time and energy and I hope that my statement reaches you in good health.

Best wishes,

Amelie this

Wildhart

Here are some suggestions for working together. There would need to be the support from the council's end, maybe volunteers from the support group would like to initiate this. Its an opportunity for the council to revamp its public image. We are an open community platform and we have varied opinions, points of view represented. We are keen to broaden this out as we have worked with the people that have come towards us as much as we have invited people. A community news/dialogue/magazine show from the councils perspective- current issues etc. Would be welcome. It would be great to hear the voices from the council and continue the work we did with candidates at the local election. It means that they are still in the public eye, and you could consider as outreach along with the meet and greets.

I don't know if the council have thought about broadcasting their meet & greets or the public meetings. Another possibility.

I would also say a space for Wildhart in the Community Centre at a certain time in the week might facilitate an interesting programme ie repair cafe convo/ gages & the elderly--and other important things going on there.

We are stretched in our people power to cover this--it requires enthusiasm for one or 2 people who would like to do that representing the council and community issues.

My feeling is it would be mutually valuable--- and could include different sections of the community into the Radio. What we would offer is some tech support to get that started, a platform, some promotion, (we are structuring this at the moment), available content on mixcloud, and further exposure.

The campaign for the councillors was very much around progressive ideas, the relationship with the radio will need building in the eyes of the community. that perspective needs to be created. We are unique but we are no different to any other community radio who wishes to serve its community. We still need to go into further into this phase with your support. Our vision of being an oracle and platform for all different points of view in the community to freely dialogue and talk about the things that matter to us is a top priority. To listen to others and to share our disagreements as well as our common ground is high on our list of priorities. There may be very important practical and information that needs to be shared in the coming times, radio/podcast is an important medium.

Many of the councillors and supporters I spoke to recognise the value of Wildhart -and I do wonder what the questions are from the council around its relationship to us. We would be happy to talk that through as for me it's simply that we combine resources in this next phase of community growth & vision. It doesn't need to be a political question. It's about how collaboration can benefit the people in our community and that is a matter of creativity.

Warmest

 Wildhart Radio



## Statement of Support for the Climate and Ecology Bill

With this statement, Forest Row Parish Council confirms its support for the progress of the Climate and Ecology Bill currently making its way through Parliament, as introduced by Olivia Blake MP this May 2023, and promoted by Caroline Lucas MP and Lord Redesdale, among another 127 MPs and 40 peers. The Bill is supported by 235 Parish, District, Town and City Councils throughout the UK.

We believe the Bill represents a unique opportunity to act upon the climate and nature crises at the speed and with the level of rigorousness they require, as corroborated by 192 leading UK scientists, and in accordance with our share of the Global Carbon Budget, as set out by the International Panel on Climate Change.

The Climate & Ecology Bill seeks to address these crises by creating a whole-of-government approach to deliver a net zero and nature-positive future. It aims to align current UK environmental policy with the need to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030, which was the goal agreed to at COP15, via the *Kunming-Montreal Framework* (22 December 2022); and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in line with a fair share of the remaining global carbon budget to give the strongest chance of limiting global heating to 1.5C, which was the goal agreed to at COP21, via the *Paris Agreement* (12 December 2015).

By bridging the gap between the UK Government's current delivery, and what has been agreed at international levels, Britain has a chance to be a world leader on the environment; seizing the opportunities of the clean energy transition, including green jobs and reduced energy bills; and boosting the UK's food and energy security.

This council notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. A private member's bill, it was originally introduced to Parliament by Caroline Lucas, is supported by Sir David King and many other eminent scientists; environmental NGOs, such as The Wildlife Trusts and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank; and 30,000 members of the public.

We believe the public and moral mandate to act upon these crises is clear. The kind of co-ordinated effort that the CE Bill represents offers a real prospect of the tangible resolution of these most pressing issues of our times. We urge the support of all parties, councils and representatives in taking forward the true and timely potential of this legislation, whose chief propositions are outlined below.



+ + +

The Bill would require the UK Government to develop and deliver a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, requiring a plan that considers both together;



2. Reducing emissions in line with 1.5°C, ensure emissions are reduced rapidly, for the best chance of limiting warming to 1.5°C;
3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Ensuring that no-one is left behind, by providing for retraining for people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving people a say in finding a fair way forward through an independent and temporary *Climate & Nature Assembly*, representative of the UK population, an essential tool for bringing public opinion along with the unprecedented pace of change required.

This council therefore resolves to:

1. Support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents, and local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to Nusrat Ghani MP to inform them that this motion has been passed, urging them to sign up to support the CE Bill.
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing its support ([campaign@zerohour.uk](mailto:campaign@zerohour.uk)).