

Forest Row Parish Council

Clerk: Mr D O'Driscoll
Email: parishclerk@forestrow.gov.uk

(Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9am to 4pm)



To: All members of FACILITIES COMMITTEE:
Cllrs. Hugo (Chair), Cocks, Gilbert, Rainbow,
Scott, Summers, Taylor-Smith & AM Waters

Community Centre
Hartfield Road
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5DZ

Your attendance is required at a meeting of
the FACILITIES COMMITTEE to be held on
TUESDAY 25th JUNE 2024 at 7.30pm
in the Garden Room of the Community
Centre

Tel: 01342 822661
Fax: 01342 825739
Email: info@forestrow.gov.uk
Website: www.forestrow.gov.uk

Date: 20 June, 2024


D O'Driscoll

A G E N D A

0. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR OF THIS COMMITTEE
1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 5th FEBRUARY 2024
4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/ DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR THIS MEETING

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

5. CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION:
 - 5.1. 'The state of the village'
 - 5.2. Public library lease renewal
 - 5.3. Gilham Bank
6. FINANCIAL REPORT
7. ALLOTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT
8. BURIAL CLERK'S REPORT

ONE-OFF DECISIONS

9. Commemorative picture in the Rose Room
10. Location of the Queen Elizabeth memorial bench
11. Renewal of fencing on the 'barber's corner'
12. Replacement grit bin
13. Tree planting Park Crescent
14. Access path to the VENUe
15. Potholes on Council land
16. Children's grave at the cemetery

MEDIUM TERM POLICY ISSUES FOR DECISION

17. Priorities for Community Centre refurbishment
18. The Crittall windows
19. Repairs to Hambro Hall
20. CCTV repairs and extension
21. New bus shelter
22. The Gleeson land
23. Signage policy

TAKING FORWARD MAJOR PROJECTS

- 24. Play equipment at Foresters' & Rush Green
- 25. The cemetery land issue
- 26. Enhanced litter collection and street cleaning
- 27. Projects from the village model event

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

- 28. Choice of experts for this Committee

29. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

FACILITIES COMMITTEE

BACKING PAPERS FOR MEETING ON 25th JUNE 2024

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COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING TO THE MEETING OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE DATED 25th JUNE 2024

0. The first item must be the election of the Chair & Vice-chair for the year (S/O 4(a)(ix))

1-4. FORMAL ITEMS. As per usual.

REPORTS.

5. CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

5.1 'The state of the village'. We continue to receive complaints about this, particularly the cemetery and the village pavements. Sadly, the tone often verges on the abusive, and the complainants seem oblivious to the prolonged bad weather or the pressure of competing claims on our resources. We are doing our best, and taking positive steps to improve things. But it reinforces the fact that our routine work needs to go on alongside new projects.

5.2 Public library lease renewal. The renewed lease is still in draft, but the text is substantially the same as before and the current lease continues meanwhile.

5.3 Gilham Bank. This was mentioned by a member of the public at the last meeting. Since then, Amanda has made a renewed application to the 'Lund' grant fund, and we await the outcome.

ACTION: to note

6. FINANCIAL REPORT

A current printout is attached (still under the two previous headings of Amenities and Property). Half-way through month 3, one would expect performance against forecast to be around the 21% level. The consolidated totals show income running at 22.5%, which is acceptable. Expenditure is at 37.7%, which is not so good, but we have paid 100% of the annual rates on the Community Centre, VENUE and the cemetery, while the whole bill for the Crittall windows has been settled from the revenue cost code, and will in due course be offset by a transfer from nominated reserves.

ACTION: to note

7. ALLOTMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

Attached. Committee's attention is drawn to one particularly troublesome plot.

ACTION: to note

8. BURIAL CLERK'S REPORT

At the time of writing, the Burials Clerk is away on leave, but it is proposed to produce a report for distribution before the meeting. Cemetery matters also appear later in the agenda at items 16 & 25.

ACTION: to note

ONE OFF DECISIONS

9. Commemorative picture in the Rose Room. Many of the current councillors & staff will remember Val Osbon-Saul, who frequented the Community Centre on a regular basis until she passed away earlier this year. It has been suggested that one of her artworks could be hung

in the Rose Room as a memento of the many art classes she gave there, and her family generously donated one to the Council during the sale of her work. Does Committee agree?

ACTION: to resolve accordingly

10. Location of the Queen Elizabeth bench. Committee agreed in January to the purchase of a memorial bench for the late Queen Elizabeth II. Where would Committee like this placed?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
11. Renewal of fencing on the 'barber's corner'. A wire fence was previously placed across the corner of the Green adjacent to the barber's, to prevent the ground being trampled down by people taking a shortcut, but was broken down. It has been proposed that permanent post & rail fence be placed there, otherwise that part of the Green will eventually be lost.
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
12. Replacement grit bin. A resident has asked if a grit bin could be placed on the corner of Highfields. We currently have about 18 across the village, and they cost ± £150 each ex VAT.
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
13. Tree planting Park Crescent. The piece of grass between Park Crescent and Hartfield Road, actually belongs to East Sussex, but we tend it. It has often been churned up by inappropriate parking. One of the residents has asked if we could plant some trees to enhance the appearance of the area and inhibit the anti-social parking. We would have to have regard to the exigencies of mowing the grass at that location.
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
14. Access path to the VENUE. Committee will be aware of the complaint that the alternative access path which was approved pre-pandemic was never actioned. Two reasons: the danger from 'flying skateboarders' on the existing path never materialised; and we ran out of budget. Does Committee wish to reinstate the project?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
15. Potholes on Council land. We own a couple of pieces of land which are tarmacked: the bottom section of Ashdown Road, the access road to the Mews, and the access to the properties on the western side of Lewes Road between *Thai Time & Lantern House*. All of these have potholes of varying degree of severity. In an ideal world we would repair them (and have been asked to do so). Does Committee wish to incur this expense?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
16. Children's grave at the cemetery. There is a section of our cemetery which is basically a mass grave for children and young people who were victims of either smallpox or typhoid in the late 1800's. A request has been received to mark this with a suitable plaque (see attached correspondence). If Committee wishes to do this, it needs to further consider whether it is appropriate that this should include what amounts to an advertisement for one firm of funeral directors, or whether it should be in the name of the Council.
ACTION: to resolve accordingly

MEDIUM TERM POLICY ISSUES FOR DECISION

17. Priorities for Community Centre refurbishment. We have recently upgraded the fire alarm and protection systems, fixed the automatic entrance door and upgraded the intruder alarm. Don and I have taken a tour of the building and identified various areas for refurbishment work Committee to indicate what they believe are the most important priorities .
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
18. The Crittall windows. The main repair work on these is now complete. We have to decide, in the context of no.17 above, whether we are going to progress to the next stage of secondary glazing and/or thermal film over the glass. (Renewal of the blinds belongs under 17).
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
19. Repairs to Hambro Hall. We have received the condition survey. it contains a list of repair and upgrade works, categorised in four degrees: essential/ necessary/ important/ desirable). Many of these will be undertaken by the new tenants under at their cost with a rent-free period in compensation, but there are some minor repairs which by rights we should deal with. A meeting such as this is not the place to decide which is which. Is Committee content to delegate this task to the Clerk in consultation with the Chairs of Finance & Facilities ?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
20. CCTV repairs and extension. The VENUE CCTV would benefit from some upgrading so that it can be viewed remotely, also an additional camera over the MUGA area. The village CCTV could be wirelessly extended over Newlands Place. I await quotes on all these items. Which does Committee feel are required, and does it wish to set a ceiling price?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
21. New bus shelter. Does Committee wish to proceed with the project of a new bus shelter at Foresters' Green on the westbound side of Hartfield Road. If so, this will require groundworks as well as the shelter itself. How does Committee wish to proceed?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
22. The Gleeson land. There was recently a meeting about the Gleeson land, involving various interested parties. The notes of that meeting are attached. Southern Water has been approached for a map of its pipework. But in the meantime, Amanda Sinclair's application for community orchard funding (this piece of land was chosen as best meeting the required criteria) has been successful. Does Committee wish to implement that part of the proposal for the land?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
23. Signage policy The offending signs at the corner of Station & Hartfield Roads were either reclaimed by their owners or removed to store. We need a revised signage policy – the current summary one is attached. What terms would Committee wish to include? The issue of cautionary signage for the play areas was raised in the last meeting's agenda but not deal with. Is Committee agreeable to confide this task to Don Isted?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly

TAKING FORWARD MAJOR PROJECTS

24. Play equipment at Foresters' & Rush Green. This was deferred at the last meeting "to the next financial year." There have been requests for an accessible equipment item to be installed at the children's playpark, and for a second basketball hoop in the games area at Foresters' Green. Both of these could be accommodated in the new play areas revenue budget of £18,000. But we need to decide how these single installations would be integrated with an overall renewal of the playpark – for which some borrowing may be required, and if it is decided to proceed, what form each item should take.
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
25. The cemetery land issue. The steadily reducing available space in our cemetery is becoming more pressing by the month. As decided by Council, I raised the issue in separate articles in both *Parish News* and *Forest Row Local* (texts attached), but had no response of any kind. Does Committee now wish to proceed to a community consultation? If so, in what format? If not, what is the next action proposed?
ACTION: to resolve accordingly
26. Enhanced litter collection and street cleaning. This remains a commitment on the part of the Council, but difficulties persist. It depends partly on a redeployment of the maintenance crew to allow for the increased work involved. It depends also on the purchase of additional equipment, although this has been allowed for in the budget. It finally depends on reaching an accord with the District Council, which despite its evident failure to discharge its duties, is resolutely set against devolving the service to the Parish or making any contribution to its operation (latest email attached). Committee needs to decide how to proceed: we could 'go it alone' for the sake of the residents, but that lays the Council open to the charge of double taxation, since District is already charging us for the 'service'.
ACTION: to consider and decide accordingly
27. Potential projects from the village model event. The event produced a large volume of suggestions and proposals, which Amanda is triaging as far as possible by Committee. Leaving aside those which are outside our remit or even practical possibility, each Committee will have to see which they may be disposed to adopt as working projects. That exercise is clearly beyond the scope of this agenda. so Committee needs to choose when and how to deal with this task.
ACTION: to consider and decide accordingly
28. Choice of experts for this Committee
A separate briefing note is provided for this confidential item
29. **TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL**

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/06/2024

Month No: 3

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
<u>Amenities & Services</u>							
<u>101 Allotments</u>							
1180 Allotment Rents	119	2,000	1,881			5.9%	
Allotments :- Income	<u>119</u>	<u>2,000</u>	<u>1,881</u>			<u>5.9%</u>	<u>0</u>
1135 Allotments-Water & Upkeep	263	700	437		437	37.6%	
Allotments :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>263</u>	<u>700</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>437</u>	<u>37.6%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(144)</u>	<u>1,300</u>	<u>1,444</u>				
<u>102 Village Greens</u>							
1280 VG-Hire Income	0	750	750			0.0%	
3188 Grants & Donations	0	100	100			0.0%	
Village Greens :- Income	<u>0</u>	<u>850</u>	<u>850</u>			<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
1236 Outdoor Maintenance	1,129	20,000	18,871		18,871	5.6%	
1237 Outdoor Planting	609	1,000	391		391	60.9%	
1238 Street Cleaning / Litter	0	12,000	12,000		12,000	0.0%	
1239 VG-Utilities	0	400	400		400	0.0%	
Village Greens :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>1,738</u>	<u>33,400</u>	<u>31,662</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>31,662</u>	<u>5.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(1,738)</u>	<u>(32,550)</u>	<u>(30,812)</u>				
<u>104 Amenities General</u>							
1400 Amenities grants/donations	0	1,000	1,000			0.0%	
Amenities General :- Income	<u>0</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>1,000</u>			<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
1436 Skate & Play areas	0	18,000	18,000		18,000	0.0%	
1447 Dog Fouling	0	3,500	3,500		3,500	0.0%	
Amenities General :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>21,500</u>	<u>21,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>21,500</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>(20,500)</u>	<u>(20,500)</u>				
<u>105 Outdoor Maintenance</u>							
1501 Outdoor Maintenance Equipment	332	2,500	2,168		2,168	13.3%	
Outdoor Maintenance :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>332</u>	<u>2,500</u>	<u>2,168</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,168</u>	<u>13.3%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(332)</u>	<u>(2,500)</u>	<u>(2,168)</u>				

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/06/2024

Month No: 3

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
203 Street Lighting							
2314 SL-Power	864	6,600	5,736		5,736	13.1%	
2336 Streetlights	2,290	20,000	17,710		17,710	11.5%	
Street Lighting :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>3,154</u>	<u>26,600</u>	<u>23,446</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>23,446</u>	<u>11.9%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>(3,154)</u>	<u>(26,600)</u>	<u>(23,446)</u>				
204 Road Safety							
2436 RS-Road Safety	0	1,500	1,500		1,500	0.0%	
2440 Shed Project	0	2,000	2,000		2,000	0.0%	
Road Safety :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3,500</u>	<u>0.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Expenditure	<u>0</u>	<u>(3,500)</u>	<u>(3,500)</u>				
601 Cemetery							
6180 BU-Burial Fees	1,392	18,000	16,608			7.7%	
Cemetery :- Income	<u>1,392</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>16,608</u>			<u>7.7%</u>	<u>0</u>
6123 Cemetery Admin	412	350	(62)		(62)	117.7%	
6151 BU- Cemetery Rates	1,364	1,200	(164)		(164)	113.6%	
Cemetery :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>1,776</u>	<u>1,550</u>	<u>(226)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>(226)</u>	<u>114.6%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(384)</u>	<u>16,450</u>	<u>16,834</u>				
Amenities & Services :- Income	<u>1,510</u>	<u>21,850</u>	<u>20,340</u>			<u>6.9%</u>	
Expenditure	<u>7,263</u>	<u>89,750</u>	<u>82,487</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>82,487</u>	<u>8.1%</u>	
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(5,752)</u>						
Property & Assets							
301 Community Centre							
3180 CC-Lettings	5,165	20,000	14,835			25.8%	
3181 CC-Equipment Hire	562	400	(162)			140.6%	
3182 CC-Rents	3,285	22,000	18,715			14.9%	
3185 MISC - incl books/copying)	71	400	329			17.8%	
3187 CC Drinks Machine Income	60	600	540			10.0%	
3189 Misc Property Refunds	4,382	0	(4,382)			0.0%	
Community Centre :- Income	<u>13,526</u>	<u>43,400</u>	<u>29,874</u>			<u>31.2%</u>	<u>0</u>
3111 CC-Rates & Services	15,175	65,000	49,825		49,825	23.3%	
3116 CC-Upkeep/Cleaning	17,035	0	(17,035)		(17,035)	0.0%	

Detailed Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 18/06/2024

Month No: 3

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent	Transfer to/from EMR
3127 CC - Drinks Machine	434	1,000	566		566	43.4%	
3136 CC-Enhancement	19,902	5,000	(14,902)		(14,902)	398.0%	
Community Centre :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>52,546</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>18,454</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>18,454</u>	<u>74.0%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(39,021)</u>	<u>(27,600)</u>	<u>11,421</u>				
<u>303 Venue on the Green</u>							
3306 VOTG Income	174	2,200	2,026			7.9%	
Venue on the Green :- Income	<u>174</u>	<u>2,200</u>	<u>2,026</u>			<u>7.9%</u>	<u>0</u>
3304 Votg Non Youth Equip	0	500	500		500	0.0%	
3305 VOTG Running Costs	2,449	4,000	1,551		1,551	61.2%	
Venue on the Green :- Indirect Expenditure	<u>2,449</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>2,051</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2,051</u>	<u>54.4%</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(2,276)</u>	<u>(2,300)</u>	<u>(24)</u>				
Property & Assets :- Income	13,699	45,600	31,901			30.0%	
Expenditure	54,996	75,500	20,504	0	20,504	72.8%	
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(41,297)</u>						
Grand Totals:- Income	15,210	67,450	52,240			22.5%	
Expenditure	62,259	165,250	102,991	0	102,991	37.7%	
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(47,049)</u>	<u>(97,800)</u>	<u>(50,751)</u>				
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(47,049)</u>						

Facilities Committee Meeting - Tuesday 25th June 2024

Allotments Waiting List

- Nobody on the waiting list inside the Parish.
- 4 people on the waiting list outside the Parish.

Raised Beds Waiting List

- Nobody on the waiting list.

Removal of Rubbish

- Will contact Chris (Clearance Company) - to arrange the removal of rubbish from 2 plots which has been delayed due to bad weather.

Site Inspection

- A site inspection was carried out on Monday 3rd June and several letters sent out to people who have not worked their plots. On a quick site inspection today (Tuesday 18th June) some plot holders have made a start. Another site inspection will take place at the beginning of July with Cllr. Summers.

Plot 35

- Taken over in June 2022 and hardly any work has taken place during this time. Communication between the plot holder and myself has got nowhere. There are 3 compost bins on the plot for people to drop of their compost which started with good intentions and has slowly stopped. I have had several complaints from the plot holder next door due to the overgrown weeds spreading and the unkept path and edges of plot 35 and he has mentioned giving us his plot. It has become a very shady plot over time due to a very large tree nearby and I would like to take the plot back and turn it back to grass.

<https://www.davidogilvie.com/queens-memorial-bench-seat>



Queen's Memorial Bench Seat

Our Queen's Memorial Seat design is made from 6mm thick laser cut steel then crafted by hand and made into a bench seat on our OE frame at the standard length of 1800mm.

This design also has a galvanized and painted steel backing panel fitted with anti tamper bolts which is to eliminate any finger or heads traps but it also provides a better visual impact.

Facilities Committee 25/06/2024
Agenda item 16

From: Ballard & Shortall, Forest Row <ballard.shortall.forestrow@cpjfield.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, May 30, 2024 3:24 PM
Subject: RE: Mass Grave

It is great that hopefully these babies and children will be at last recognised.

As I have had no joy from the local historians, but some elderly residents have been helpful, I have today decided to 'go detective' myself.

I have uncovered that it was indeed an epidemic that took these babies and children but not smallpox but typhoid. It hit this area in the late 1800s which as you can see from the attached there was an increase in deaths around this time and if you look at the names of the people who died, they are not just babies but children up to the age of 15. Some such as the Mitchell family lost four children in 1880 ranging from one and a half years to 15 years.

I hope that the Parish Council agree that these families need to be recognised and that we, Ballard & Shortall part of CPJ Field Funeral Directors are very happy to provide a plaque, a tree or bush and the seeds for a beautiful wild flower meadow in the very bleak area where, we believe, these children are now resting.

If anyone else, can shed any light to this, I would be extremely grateful and I am happy to attend the meeting if I am allowed. If so could you please let me know the time on the 25th June.

Many thanks and fingers crossed.

Kind regards

Donna
Ballard & Shortall, Forest Row

Facilities Committee 25/06/2024

Agenda item 17

Community Centre : required works

Location	Works	Category
Entrance	Emergency lighting	
Corridor	Redecoration	
Kitchen lobby	Repaint cupboard	
Rose Room	Repaint / clean out cupboards	
Store	Tidy & dispose of unused items	
Spring Room	Repaint and replace blind	
Fred Bishop Hall	Refit plaque / repaint/ blinds /'soften'	
Rear Corridor	Floor repair	
Exterior	Air vents/ paint railings/ loose roof tiles	

OUR REF:

ASK FOR: **Chantal Lass on (Insert Number)**

DATE: 14 June 2024

YOUR REF: Wealden Community Orchards Grant
Programme



**Funded by
UK Government**

**CORONATION
LIVING HERITAGE
FUND**

Dear David O'Driscoll,

Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme Decision

Thank you Forest Row Parish Council for your application to the Wealden Community Orchard Grants Programme, which is funded through the Nature for Climate Fund: Coronation Living Heritage Fund.

Wealden District Council is pleased to confirm that your organisation has been provisionally awarded the sum of £3,500 (Three thousand five hundred pounds) towards the cost of your community orchard project. Additionally, you'll receive an equal share of the remaining unallocated fund, which amounts to £205.24. This allocation is intended to cover ancillary costs such as community events, resulting in a total award of £3705.24 (Three thousand seven hundred and five pounds and twenty-four pence). The award is subject to **[provision of the further information required by the Council as set out in the bullet points below and (following receipt of that information from you)]** a Grant Funding Agreement being signed and returned on behalf of your organisation.

- ***Evidence showing that three quotations or estimates have been requested/obtained***
- ***Using the quotes to inform and update your Projected Costs table and resubmit this***
- ***Evidence of land ownership as a Parish Council***
- ***Clarify how many trees are proposed***
- ***Clarify what size the procured trees will be***
- ***Please state at least three members on your organisation's governing body or board of directors***

Please note works and delivery of the project cannot be undertaken until the Grant Funding Agreement has been signed and returned on behalf of your organisation. Please note this is your provisional offer letter and not your Grant Funding Agreement.

Subject to the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement, the Grant will be paid as follows:

- i) 75% of the Grant amount determined shall be paid upon receipt by the Council of the signed Grant Funding Agreement and within 10 working days of receiving an invoice; and
- ii) 25% of the Grant amount determined shall be paid upon completion of the project and receipt by the Council of satisfactory proof of completion (this shall include, without limitation, receipts, proof of purchase and photographic evidence of completion of project).

Projects must be completed and funds must be spent by no later than 1st March 2025.

In order to prepare the Grant Funding Agreement for signing, we require confirmation of your organisation's bank details, (this information will be included in the Grant Funding Agreement). Therefore, please can I ask you to complete Page 3 of this letter and return to us via sustainability@wealden.gov.uk at your earliest convenience.

Please note that any delay in providing this information will delay the issuing of the Grant Funding Agreement and may affect when you will receive the Grant.

The Grant Funding Agreement will include terms and conditions to ensure the Grant award and project delivery meets Wealden District Council's requirements and the Nature for Climate Fund: Coronation Living Heritage Fund terms and conditions.

If you have any queries or want to discuss further, please contact us by email on sustainability@wealden.gov.uk.

Yours Sincerely,
Chantal Lass
Climate Change Team,
Wealden District Council



FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL VILLAGE GREEN SIGNAGE POLICY

1. There is to be no signage by established businesses on village greens unless permission has been sought and granted from the Parish Council. If signage appears, the Clerk to write to the business explaining the policy and to state that if permission has not been granted by two weeks from writing, the signage will be removed to the Parish Council offices. [The signage allowed is a standard A frame].

A maximum of 7 A frames should be allowed in one area at any one time and they are left at the business's own risk. This to be reviewed if the area appears to be overcrowded.

2. Village Green hirers – to abide by the conditions on the back of the hiring form.

3. Temporary Events - there is to be no signage on the ornamental margin of Park Crescent, the triangle at the bottom of Wall Hill, the green at the rear of the Peter Griffiths Hall (with the exception of signs for the market which is a Parish Council event). If any appears, it is to be removed by the Parish Council staff and taken to the offices. Clerk to write to the organisation concerned. No signage at all is permitted on the war memorial green. [Temporary events are village events only].

4. Newlands Place - No signage allowed without permission from the Parish Council. The foot/wheelway to be kept clear. Any tables and chairs must be placed with a minimum of 1 metre of clear foot/wheelway. No banners, notices etc are allowed on the railings.

5. Footway at the rear of Peter Griffiths Hall not to be obstructed.

6. Council to check the position annually in May to confirm permission.

Policy due for review:
May 2023

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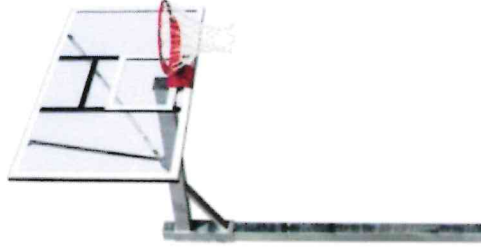
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I want to talk this month about our cemetery. It is a beautiful and peaceful place, much valued by the community, and has won awards for several years running in the national Cemetery of the Year competition.

In 2009, after protracted negotiation, the Council bought an adjoining piece of land to create an extension to the original burial ground. But little by little, this is filling up, and within three years and quite possibly less, the cemetery will be full.

At that point what do we do? Burials and interments of ashes will continue for a while in plots that have been purchased in advance, but there will be no more free space. Our options are limited as follows:

1. We close the cemetery. We will of course continue to tend the ground, but no more spaces will remain to be used or purchased, and residents will have to look elsewhere.
2. We find and purchase nearby land for an annexe. A suitable site was identified nearly ten years ago, but one of the co-owners lives abroad and has resolutely refused to consider any sale, even at a premium.
3. We find and purchase suitable land elsewhere in the village. 'Suitable' means reasonably level ground, not hemmed in by housing and not adjacent to a watercourse, and with good highway access. This search has gone on now for several years. One early site was identified, but the landowners have declined to negotiate. Another site was then found: the landowner was happy to discuss the proposal, but the Planning Authority have raised practically insuperable objections.
4. We develop the existing space, either by way of a continental style 'burial wall', or by starting to re-use the oldest graves - the latter plan, however, would require (costly) Government approval.
5. The last possibility is to apply for compulsory purchase. Superficially attractive, but there are major drawbacks. Ultimately, the price of the land is the District Valuer's decision, over which one has no control. Secondly, the applicant pays the costs of all parties. And thirdly, there is no guarantee of success: a council elsewhere spent £100,000, only to be turned down at the last hurdle. Hardly a realistic use of public money.

So does the village want its cemetery or not? And if it does, how can we assure its future? There will eventually have to be a formal community consultation, but it is already time for you to help the Council think it through.

DOD
Parish Clerk
12/03/2024

THE FUTURE OF FOREST ROW CEMETERY

Cemeteries do not usually attract much community attention. We may all have to attend a funeral from time to time, but otherwise it is not something we think about very much.

Forest Row cemetery is a good example. It is a beautiful and peaceful place, much valued by the community. It has won awards for several years running in the national Cemetery of the Year competition, and we perhaps tend to take it for granted. But now we have a problem of space.

In 2009, after protracted negotiation, the Council bought an adjoining piece of land to create an extension to the original burial ground. But little by little, this is filling up, and within three years and quite possibly less, the cemetery will be full.

At that point what do we do? Burials and interments of ashes will continue for a while in plots that have been purchased in advance, but there will be no more free space. Our options are limited, as follows:

1. We try to find and purchase adjacent land for an annexe. A suitable site was identified nearly ten years ago, but one of the co-owners lives abroad and has resolutely refused to consider any sale, even at a premium.
2. We could apply for compulsory purchase of that site. Superficially attractive, but there are major drawbacks. It is an expensive process, sometimes costing more than the value of the land itself, and there is no guarantee of success: a council elsewhere spent £100,000, only to be turned down at the last hurdle.
3. We could try to find and purchase suitable land elsewhere in the village. 'Suitable' means reasonably level ground, not hemmed in by housing and not next to a watercourse, and with good highway access. After a long search, another possible site was identified: the landowner was happy to discuss the proposal, but the Planning Authority have raised objections which are practically insuperable.
4. Failing that we could try to develop the existing space, by way of a continental style 'burial wall', or by starting to re-use the oldest graves - the latter plan, however, would require (costly) Government approval.
5. If all else fails, we will have no option but to close the cemetery. We will of course continue to tend the ground, but no more new spaces will remain, and residents will have to look elsewhere.

So the basic question is: does the village want an open cemetery or not? And if it does, how can we assure its future? There will eventually have to be a formal community consultation, but the parish council would already like to hear your views and suggestions.

Facilities Committee 25/06/2024

Agenda item 26

Excerpt from email from Wealden DC to District Cllr Patterson-Vanegas

From: ()

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2024 5:23:28 PM

To: Patricia Patterson-Vanegas <cllr.Patricia.Patterson-Vanegas@wealden.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Waste collection conversation with Forest Row parish council

Good Afternoon

Thank you for your email, and the subsequent one, and to David for drafting the document.

When we last spoke about street cleansing my recollection is that one of the items we agreed was for David to produce a list of roads or locations he considered the street cleansing to be insufficient. This was to allow us to challenge Biffa over those locations give them the opportunity to correct the issues. Please can I kindly ask if David has provided such a list to you that you can share with me?

I will of course be happy to continue the conversation regarding street cleansing services and performance although I should advise that I think it unlikely WDC will devolve or delegate its statutory responsibility for litter collection and street cleansing. This service is integral to the waste collection and street cleansing contract and may not be withdrawn in part from the contractor without incurring potentially significant penalties. I appreciate this would not be the outcome you and the Parish Council are seeking but it would not be right for me to provide any expectation that I do not believe would be deliverable.

I understand this is not positive news but I remain committed to finding a solution to improve any shortfall in street cleansing performance and will be happy to meet with you again to discuss how we can achieve that together. If you can let me have some tentative dates and times to meet in July I will ask Brigitte to cross check with my availability and we can get something in place. In the meantime you may also wish to engage with Cllr Owen-Williams as well on this issue as the portfolio holder for waste collections and street cleansing.

I very much hope that whilst delivering street cleansing services through the Parish Council may not be the outcome, we can find a way forward to make improvements where needed.

Kind regards,

Head of Waste, Assets and Crematorium
Wealden District Council