MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 29th JULY 2025 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Cocks, Jaffay, Evans, Gilbert, Killick, Rainbow, Scott, Summers, Taylor-Smith, & Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllrs la Djoi, Matthews & Volkers

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk & deputy Clerk. District Cllr Patterson-Vanegas. PCSO Mussell and 4 members of public

C61/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- A member of the public spoke about the agenda item of a possible project on the Peter Griffits green. She felt that the space worked well as it was.
- A member of the public asked how the 'Ways of Working' was going. There was much discussion about this subject.
- PCSO Mussell was asked about various issues in the village.
  - Parking – He could print off some flyers and put on vehicles if they were parked irresponsibly asking them to park in a safer manner.
  - He tried to visit the village as much as possible, but he also covers Hartfield, Danehill and Fletching as well as being on call for the rest of Wealden.
  - He was asked about the situation of youths on electric bikes and scooters. He said it was hard to catch them – need CCTV footage and identity.
  - The Police are trying to crack down on shoplifting and general anti-social behaviour.
  - He stressed the importance of reporting every incident, so the Police are aware.

Cllr. Eichner proposed that item 4.3 on the agenda was discussed at this point in the meeting.
This was seconded by Cllr. Scott and AGREED

C62/25 DEVELOPMENT OF THE 'PETER GRIFFITS GREEN'

Nick Pople showed a model of the area and his ideas for it – along with some historic photos showing a fountain that he felt could be reinstated.
Cllr. Christie proposed that a working group be formed to discuss this project further. This was seconded by Cllr. Jaffay and AGREED,
Cllr. Eichner proposed that this working group consist of Cllr. Christie, Rainbow, Scott and Summers together with a member of the office team. This was seconded by Cllr. Scott and AGREED.

C63/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were accepted from Cllrs. la Djoi (ill health), Matthews (holiday) & Volkers (holiday)

C64/25 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2025 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED.

C65/25 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

Cllr. Taylor-Smith declared a personal interest in item 4.2 of the agenda as she intended to join the group applying for a grant.
Cllr. Jaffay declared a personal interest in item 3.1 of the agenda as a member of We Grow

C66/25 DELEGATED DECISIONS
None

C67/25 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS
This had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C68/25 CHAIRS COMMENTS
None

C69/25 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION
This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C70/25 ORAL REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS
District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas reported that Wealden District Council had launched a new infrastructure fund of £2 million. Any interested organisations should email to register their interest.

She (as a ward Councillor) had been given £ 10,000 each year for 3 years to give to small organisations in the Parish. She asked that people contact her for more information.

She also reported that she had been on the River Medway pilgrimage last week.

C71/25 FINANCIAL POSITION
A financial report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C72/25 ORAL REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES & WORKING GROUPS

1. Community Services Committee – Cllr. Taylor-Smith gave a brief report of the highlights of the last meeting.
2. Facilities Committee – In Cllr Matthews absence, Cllr. Gilbert gave a brief report of the highlights of the last meeting.
3. Finance & Policy Committee –Cllr. Gilbert gave a brief report of the last meeting.
4. Gleeson land Working Group – Cllr. Gilbert reported that he had attended a meeting at the site. Quotes were being obtained for the clearance of the site. The residents of Medway Drive would be kept informed of the plans.
5. Emergency Plan Working Group – Cllr Gilbert reported that there would be a further meeting in September.

C73/25 ORAL REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES
None

It was noted that there was a vacancy on WEALDAC. It was felt that there should be a Councillor to represent Forest Row. Cllr. Killick volunteered for this. If unable to attend, another member of the Devolution & LGR working group would be asked to do so.

C74/25 WORKING GROUPS REQUIRING DECISIONS

1. **APPROVAL & ToR FOR A WORKING GROUP FOR 'THE SQUARE' –** Cllr. Gilbert reported that there had been 2 meetings so far with 5 interested parties. He proposed that a working group be established. This was seconded by Cllr. Scott and AGREED. Cllr. Gilbert proposed that this consist of Cllrs. Gilbert, Scott and Waters (along with representatives of other interested parties). This was seconded by Cllr. Taylor-Smith and AGREED.
2. **ANY OTHER LIVE WORKING GROUP REQUIRING A DECISION**
None

C75/25 RATIFICATION OF THE INSURANCE EXPENDITURE
The details had been previously circulated. Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that this be ratified. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C76/25 GRANT APPLICATIONS

1. Action against Abuse – Cllr. Taylor-Smith proposed that a grant of £ 488 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr. Christie and AGREED.
2. Forest Row Threads – Cllr. Killick proposed that a grant of £400 be held by the Parish Council for this purpose and payments made on production of receipts. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED (Cllr. Taylor-Smith did not vote)

C77/25 TIMETABLE AND CONTENT OF A 'MASTERPLAN'

After discussion, Cllr. Eichner proposed that a working group consisting of Cllrs. Christie, Eichner, Killick, Rainbow & Scott and a member of public known to Councillors be formed. This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED with 1 against.

C78/25 ANOTHER 'DAY OF REFLECTION'

This was discussed and Cllr. Eichner proposed that a reflection day be held with dates and potential costs to be decided. This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED with 1 against.

C79/25 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

- Cllr Killick asked for the issue of social housing provision to be considered
- Cllr. Evans suggested a meeting to discuss 'ways of working'.
- Cllrs. Christie & Scott asked that a meeting be held to discuss improved communication generally.

The meeting closed at 10pm

SIGNED: …………………………………………….. DATE…..………………………………(Chairman)