

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 23rd SEPTEMBER 2025 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Jaffay, Evans, Gilbert, Killick, la Djoï, Matthews, Rainbow, Scott, Summers & Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllr Volkers

NOT PRESENT:

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

C80/25 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

PCSO Mussell asked if the Council had any queries for him. The issues of speeding in the area and youths on e-scooters around the village were discussed.

C81/25 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were accepted from Cllr. Volkers (ill health)

C82/25 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of 29th July 2025 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Killick and
AGREED.

C83/25 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

None

C84/25 DELEGATED DECISIONS

A list had been previously circulated and was NOTED

C85/25 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

None

C86/25 CHAIRS COMMENTS

Cllr. Eichner advised that since the last meeting, the Council had been informed of the deaths of two community members. Gwen Pritchitt who had been a previous Clerk and Councillor and Mike Humphries – a previous Councillor and founding member of the Forest Row Sports Club Association. Condolences were sent to both families.

C87/25 CLERKS REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

The Clerk advised that Portia Cocks and Kate Taylor-Smith had resigned from Council. The Notices of Vacancy had been posted today and if there was to be a by-election, this would take place in December. As to the proposed informal meeting, Cllr. la Djoï asked for more details of the content of any such meeting, before she could commit to participation. Cllr. Christie advised that he would distribute an agenda.

C88/25 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILS

District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas reminded Councillors of the Community Fund and councillor ward budget scheme. She also spoke about the reorganisation of Council structures. Wealden District Council had a meeting on 24th September for further discussion.

County Cllr. Taylor advised that a mayoral election was planned for May 2026 but a delay to this date was going to be asked for.

A Wealden Town and Parish Conference was being held on 21st October and the Clerk advised that only 2 spaces were allocated per council, and he and the Chair would attend. There was discussion about this. Cllr. Gilbert proposed that there be further conversation on who should go and represent the Parish Council. This was seconded by Cllr. Jaffay and voted on with 5 for and 6 against. NOT CARRIED
Cllr. Gilbert proposed that an informal meeting be held to give the two representatives the topics they would like discussed. This was seconded by Cllr. Jaffay and AGREED.

County Cllr. Taylor said that a change of speed limit was needed near Plawhatch. The matter of paying for a speed survey would be taken to Community Services.

C89/25 FINANCIAL POSITION

A financial report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C90/25 REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

Facilities Committee – A report from Cllr Matthews had been previously circulated and was NOTED
There were no further reports.

C91/25 REPORTS FROM CURRENT ‘LIVE’ WORKING GROUPS

The Square working group – a report had been previously circulated and was NOTED.
The Green – Cllr. Rainbow advised that there would be weekly meetings being held until the next Facilities meeting.
Cllr. Christie proposed that the Masterplan working group be merged with the Resilience/Emergency plan working group. This was seconded by Cllr. Matthews and AGREED with 1 abstention.

C92/25 REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Waters advised that the Forest Row Sports Ground Association had recently held a meeting, and the minutes would be distributed shortly.

C93/25 TO FILL THE VACANCIES ON COMMITTEES

After discussion, Cllr. Eichner proposed that Cllr. Killick be on Community Services Committee and Personnel & Grievance Committee. This was seconded by Cllr. Summers and AGREED.

C94/25 PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS

Cllr. Eichner had previously circulated an amendment to Standing Orders.
Cllr. Summers proposed that these be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED.

C95/25 REQUEST TO APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE: AN EXTENSION TO THE HAMBRO HALL LEASE

Alistair Bailey gave a brief explanation of why On My Side needed a longer lease to enable them to apply for funding. Cllr. Killick proposed that this be done. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

C96/25 REQUEST TO APPROVE IN PRINCIPLE: LOCATION FOR SOIL FACTORY EQUIPMENT

Cllr. la Djoï suggested that the group that work in the Jubilee Garden be asked to join the Square working group as any plans could impact the garden.
Cllr. Gilbert proposed that a licence be offered to the Soil Factory for 1 year with an annual rent of £500 waived for the first year, when a review would take place. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters and AGREED.

C97/25 PROPOSAL FOR A POLICE VISIT

The Chief Constable of Sussex had offered to pay a personal visit to the parish.
Cllr. la Djoï proposed that this be accepted with a view to a public meeting being held at the Village Hall with a large advertising campaign. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

C98/25 PROPOSAL FOR AN ALTERNATIVE PAYROLL MANAGER

Cllr. Matthews proposed that this not be accepted and the Council remain with the current providers. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C99/25 URGENT REQUEST FOR AN EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR CABINET

Cllr. Killick proposed that the quote for an external cabinet be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C100/25 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

A separate confidential minute is attached.

C101/25 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

None

The meeting closed at 9.58pm

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)

