

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. Matthews (Chair), Gilbert, Killick, Rainbow,
Scott, Summers & AM Waters

Community Centre
Hartfield Road
Forest Row
East Sussex
RH18 5DZ

Your attendance is required at a meeting of
the EXTRA-ORDINARY FACILITIES
COMMITTEE to be held on **TUESDAY 18th**

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

NOVEMBER 2025 at 7.00pm

in the Garden Room of the Community
Centre

Date: 11th Nov 2025


Mr D O'Driscoll
Clerk to Forest Row Parish Council

A G E N D A

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/ DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR THIS MEETING
4. TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF:
 - 4.1 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 21ST OCTOBER 2025
 - 4.2 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING
 - 4.3 CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION
5. TO CONSIDER MAKING FINANCIAL PROVISION IN THE NOMINATED RESERVE BUDGET FOR THE FOLLOWING:
 - 5.1 ENHANCEMENT OF THE GREEN
 - 5.2 DEVELOPMENT OF THE SQUARE BY THE CUBE
 - 5.3 THE HILLSIDE TRIANGLE (aka 'THE MIDDLE')
6. TO APPROVE THE FACILITIES REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2026/2027
7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING TO THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF THE FACILITIES COMMITTEE DATED 18TH NOVEMBER 2025
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1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION** As per usual.
2. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** As per usual
3. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATION REQUESTS** If any of the Committee has a financial or personal interest in the substantive items under consideration.

4. POSTPONEMENT OF FORMAL ITEMS:

Records of previous meeting, review of actions and clerk's report should all be postponed to the next ordinary meeting of the Committee.

5. FINANCIAL PROVISION IN THE NOMINATED RESERVE BUDGET FOR DESIGNATED PROJECTS

When Committee met on 21st October to consider its draft revenue budget for 2026-2027, it became clear that there were certain project areas within the remit of the Facilities Committee where either costings of specific elements were not yet available, or the full scope of the project (and its financial requirements) was not yet clear, or both. Hence the expenditure could not be adequately factored into the revenue budget. The solution from would seem to be create one or more nominated reserves with a global estimate of costs for each project, and set aside appropriate sums in those reserves to cover the likely contingencies in the next financial year. Those projects are:

- 5.1. Enhancement of the Green, where there will be the costs of drainage & renovation of the access path to the VENUe (quote currently in preparation), plus the costs of hard landscaping, additional seating , possible re-siting of the adult gym equipment and other recreational installations.
- 5.2. Development of the Square by the Cube, where some of the project costs will be borne third party organisations, but there will certainly be costs on the Council of improved access, signage, potential surfacing, hard landscaping and additional CCTV.
- 5.3. The Hillside Triangle (aka the Middle) This project is still at an embryonic stage, and its final form would remain to be adopted by Council, but the working group may wish to propose a reserve sum against potential future costs.
- 5.4. Overall, I trust Committee will appreciate why my view is that the above matters should fall within reserves rather than revenue. At the same time, a note of caution is needed. It may look as though allocating a figure to a nominated reserve is not 'real money', since it is a

projection rather than an actual spend. However, the budget itself has to be funded, and every pound in the reserves budget comes eventually from the precept. Local government funding is, by common consent, in a critical state at present. With Local Government Reorganisation imminent, County & District Councils may be on death row, but it is likely that they will pitch their council tax demands to the capped limit of 5% for 2026-27, and central Government has agreed that the new pan-Sussex mayoralty will be able to levy a precept of its own for set-up and on-costs. In this climate we as a local council need to be seen to be prudent in our demands, and justify every percentage point of precept increase against those of other councils and general inflation.

- 6. TO APPROVE THE FACILITIES REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2026-2027** Following the discussion of the Committee budget on 21st October, Committee resolved to hold this 'single issue' extra meeting, but despite there being no major objections, did not actually approve the revenue budget as presented. Committee is now invited to do so.

7. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY COMMITTEE OR FULL COUNCIL