

Forest Row Parish Council

Clerk:
Email:

Mr David O'Driscoll
parishclerk@forestrow.gov.uk

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



To: All members of FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL:
Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Evans, Gilbert,
Jaffay, Killick, La Djoï, Lewis, Marshall, Matthews,
Rainbow, Scott, Summers, Volkers & A M Waters

Community Centre
Hartfield Road
Forest Row
East Sussex
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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 13th DECEMBER 2025 in the Garden Room
at the Community Centre at **7.30 PM**.

Date: 4th December 2025

Mr David O'Driscoll
Clerk to Forest Row Parish Council

THE FIRST FIFTEEN MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR QUESTIONS AND REMARKS FROM THE PUBLIC. 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. PRELIMINARIES

- 1.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- 1.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 1.3 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 9TH AND 16TH DECEMBER 2025
- 1.4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/DISPENSATION REQUESTS
- 1.5 DELEGATED DECISIONS
- 1.6 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM LAST MEETING

2. REPORTS TO NOTE

- 2.1 CHAIR'S COMMENTS
- 2.2 CLERK'S REPORT ON MATTERS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION
- 2.3 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT
- 2.4 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND ANY REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

3. MATTERS FOR DECISION

- 3.1 APPROVAL OF DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2026-27
- 3.2 SETTING OF PRECEPT
- 3.3 REVIEW OF A GRANT APPLICATION
- 3.4 THE STATUS OF THE HILLSIDE TRIANGLE/'MIDDLE' PROPOSAL

4. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

FULL COUNCIL

BACKING PAPERS FOR MEETING 13th JANUARY 2026

	Description	Page nos
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1.6	Review of actions from last meeting	4
2.3	Summary financial report	5-7
2.4	One committee and two 'nil' reports	8-10
3.1	Consolidated draft budget for 2026-27 & advice note	11-13
3.3	Progress report from FREC	14-15
3.4	Email & supporting papers re proposal	16-19

COUNCILLORS' BRIEFING FOR THE MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL ON 13th JANUARY 2026

1. PRELIMINARIES

- 1.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – none signified in advance
- 1.2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
- 1.3. RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 9th & 16th DECEMBER 2025
(This counts as a single meeting adjourned to the second date)
- 1.4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/ DISPENSATION REQUESTS - none foreseen
- 1.5 DELEGATED DECISIONS – none since the last meeting
- 1.6 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING – list attached: all discharged

2. REPORTS TO NOTE

- 2.1 CHAIR'S COMMENTS
- 2.2 CLERK'S REPORT

2.2.1 External HR support. There was some slippage in this due to the pressure of work on our advisers, but a draft questionnaire was sent before the Christmas break to Cllr Waters and myself as the liaison councillor and staff member. We both responded independently and the final version has now been delivered, For completion by 15th January.

2.2.2 New staff member. It was agreed that the office needed some extra back-up on 'Gages days' to cope with increasing activity on reception. Sarah Elliott was selected from an impressive shortlist of seven and has started as of 7th January, working Wednesdays to Fridays 10:00 am until 2:00 pm. Please introduce yourselves to her.

2.2.3 Santa's Grotto. Before Christmas slips away, it should be made a matter of record that we have received many appreciative comments about the Santa's Grotto which was set up in the Community Centre in the days before Christmas, with grateful recognition of the huge amount of work which went into its construction and performance.

- 2.3 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

A summary printout is provided showing the state of account at the end of month 9 (when nominal performance against forecast would be 75%). For Finance & Policy, almost all the income for the year is now in hand: the addition of the salaries for January to March will bring the expenditure nearly to 100% against budget. 'Place' is showing an income of 84.7%,

and with three months of hires to come will probably show a surplus at the year end; expenditure is marginally over budget, but many non-recurrent expenses are now paid for the year. 'People' has accumulated most of its income, but it is the only area where the expenditure, at 69%, is significantly below forecast, perhaps reflecting an underspend on community-based projects. Overall, the financial position is solid towards the year end.

2.4 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS, AND OUTSIDE BODIES

We recently decided that to speed up our meetings, all reports from Committees, working groups, and outside bodies would henceforth be in writing, to go out with the agendas, and taken as read unless there were queries. I sent round a reminder for this meeting on 23rd December. (Obviously, this cannot be absolutely rigid, as there may be legitimate reasons for oral reports on occasion, but perhaps in such cases the meeting should be asked to agree to an oral submission). Also, on this occasion there may well be nothing to report.

You will find with the backing papers any written reports as have been received in time in the office. Any late receipts will be handed round at the meeting.

ACTION: to note reports, subject to queries

3. MATTERS FOR DECISION

3.1 APPROVAL OF DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2026-27

The consolidated draft revenue budget was submitted for discussion at Full Council on 9th December last, together with an advice note setting out the rationale behind the figures. Copies of those documents are attached for ease of reference. The draft was provisionally approved unaltered, but with a vote of 8 in favour, 3 against and 3 abstentions. I have already commented on the somewhat anomalous nature of this vote, and if any Member feels they need to register their misgivings about the proposed budget, this is their opportunity to do so. However, barring any urgent arguments for changes, I would invite Council formally to adopt the budget as it stands.

ACTION: to resolve accordingly

3.2 SETTING THE PRECEPT

The precept (ie the Parish Council's share of the Council Tax) is effectively the sum required to make up the difference between the Council's financial needs for the coming year and the amount which it can raise through operational income. Therefore if the budget is approved, the precept that goes with it is automatic, it *cannot* be a different sum. It just requires a formal vote of Council to authorise its inclusion in the Council Tax bill.

ACTION: to resolve accordingly

3.3 REVIEW OF A GRANT ALLOCATION

On 29th April 2025, the Council made a grant allocation of £983 to Forest Row Energy Cooperative. This was half the amount requested, on the following basis:

"C37/25 GRANT APPLICATIONS A member of Forest Row Energy Co-operative Ltd spoke about their grant application. ... Cllr. Gilbert proposed that 50% of the requested grant be awarded now and the request reviewed in 6 months' time. This was seconded by Cllr. Matthews and AGREED"

We have received an interim report from FRECL (attached), detailing what they have done in the last six months and requesting that the other half of the grant now be paid to them.

ACTION: to resolve accordingly

3.4 THE STATUS OF THE HILLSIDE TRIANGLE/ 'MIDDLE' PROPOSAL

I am attaching to the backing papers a renewed request from Cllr Christie (with supporting paperwork) for specific funding in respect of the proposal for a remodelling and enhancement of the area behind the Peter Griffiths Hall – variously known as 'The Hillside Triangle' or 'The Middle'. This was last raised at the budget meeting of Full Council on 9th December last, but I pointed out that although there was a working group in existence, and there have been a number of discussions and presentations and the offer of a sculpture, this has never been formally adopted as a Council project. This ambiguity really does need to be resolved.

ACTION: to resolve accordingly

4. ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

**MEETING OF FULL COUNCIL
HELD ON 9th & 16th December 2025**

MIN. NO	DECISION	ACTION BY	PROGRESS <i>To go out with next agenda</i>
C130/25	Arrange induction course for Cllrs Lewis & Marshall	Clerk	In hand (course dates being fixed)
ditto	Invite unsuccessful co-option candidates to express interest in committee membership	Clerk	Done 10/12/2025
C132/25	Obtain 'control quote' for bus shelter refurb	Amanda	In hand (awaiting contractor reply)
C141/25	Change status of Spring Room - lock when not hired	Office	Done

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 06/01/2026

Month No: 10

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>Finance & Policy</u>						
Income	676,885	678,605	1,720			99.7%
Expenditure	402,594	525,440	122,846	0	122,846	76.6%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>274,290</u>	<u>153,165</u>	<u>(121,125)</u>			
Grand Totals:- Income	676,885	678,605	1,720			99.7%
Expenditure	402,594	525,440	122,846	0	122,846	76.6%
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>274,290</u>	<u>153,165</u>	<u>(121,125)</u>			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>274,290</u>	<u>153,165</u>	<u>(121,125)</u>			

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 06/01/2026

Month No: 10

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>Amenities & Services</u>						
Income	13,625	19,200	5,576			71.0%
Expenditure	42,434	58,550	16,116	0	16,116	72.5%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(28,809)</u>	<u>(39,350)</u>	<u>(10,541)</u>			
<u>Property & Assets</u>						
Income	37,200	40,800	3,600			91.2%
Expenditure	81,484	94,900	13,436	0	13,436	85.8%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(44,283)</u>	<u>(54,100)</u>	<u>(9,817)</u>			
Grand Totals:- Income	50,825	60,000	9,175			84.7%
Expenditure	123,898	153,450	29,552	0	29,552	80.7%
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(73,073)</u>	<u>(93,450)</u>	<u>(20,377)</u>			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(73,073)</u>	<u>(93,450)</u>	<u>(20,377)</u>			

Summary Income & Expenditure by Budget Heading 06/01/2026

Month No: 10

Committee Report

	Actual Year To Date	Current Annual Bud	Variance Annual Total	Committed Expenditure	Funds Available	% Spent
<u>Localism & Community Projects</u>						
Income	28,453	31,320	2,867			90.8%
Expenditure	30,078	43,450	13,372	0	13,372	69.2%
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(1,625)</u>	<u>(12,130)</u>	<u>(10,505)</u>			
Grand Totals:- Income	28,453	31,320	2,867			90.8%
Expenditure	30,078	43,450	13,372	0	13,372	69.2%
Net Income over Expenditure	<u>(1,625)</u>	<u>(12,130)</u>	<u>(10,505)</u>			
Movement to/(from) Gen Reserve	<u>(1,625)</u>	<u>(12,130)</u>	<u>(10,505)</u>			

People Committee report January 2026

Submitted by Chair, Councillor Rainbow

The Christmas Community Grotto was a great success, involving some of the younger members of the village, raising almost £500 from donations. This will go towards next year's event.

Youth Services. The possibility of drop in drugs advice was discussed with the Youth Supervisor at the VENUe. She questioned whether it would be sufficiently used.

Frow Friends Chair, Beth, reported that the service has experienced a great year, including utilising the PC grant to deliver 30 bags at Xmas. They also ran a mother and daughter group, support for a home education group, all managed by volunteers. They have also received a Lottery Grant of £4k. More volunteers are needed.

I am currently investigating with the Clerk potential future initiatives, following suggestions from a resident. These will be brought to Committee in due course.

David O'Driscoll

From: Ben Matthews
Sent: 07 January 2026 09:34
To: David O'Driscoll
Cc: Gybe Gilbert
Subject: Facilities committee report for Full Council

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi David,

The Facilities committee hasn't met since the last full council meeting, so nothing to report ahead of full council next week.

Many thanks,
Ben



Ben Matthews
Councillor

Forest Row Parish Council

b.matthews@forestrow.gov.uk
forestrow.gov.uk

Neither the F&P committee nor 'The Square' working group have met since last reporting to Full Council at the last meeting. So no updates at the moment.

Best wishes

Gybe

BUDGET 2026-27: CONSOLIDATED DRAFT : v.1 Committee adopts pre-Star Chamber

FINANCE & POLICY INCOME	TBC	notes
4176 Precept		
4180 Misc F&P income	0	none guaranteed
4181 Wayleaves	5	unchanged
4182 Devolved services income	1750	inflation uprate
4190 Interest received	7000	rate dependent
TOTAL F&P INCOME	8755	excl.precept & ringfenced carryover
		approx 102% of 2025-26 figure

FINANCE & POLICY EXPENDITURE		notes
4101 Salaries	465000	current year + 5%
4102 Payroll costs	1000	increased service
4103 Library salary	6500	unchanged
4108 Staff training & travel	1500	add in CILCA fee
4111 Forest rate	35	inflation uprate
4120 Postage	400	reduction in demand
4121 Telecommunications	9000	inflation uprate
4123 Stationery	650	inflation uprate
4124 Subscriptions	7000	inflation uprate
4125 Insurances	11500	inflation uprate
4126 Printer/copier		
4130 Waste reduction projects	5000	inflation v public use
4133 Chairmans Fun+F16:J34d	1000	projected allocation
4134 Parish meeting/ event	0	voted out
4135 Cllr training & travel	200	unchanged
4136 Security checks (DBS)	1000	unchanged
4137 Cllr allowances	150	unchanged
4151 Bank charges	7500	inflation increase
4156 Legal & professional fees	1800	unchanged
4157 Audit/financial mgt	3500	unchanged
4158 Van lease	5000	unchanged
4160 Office equipment	300	unchanged
4161 Office maintenance	500	unchanged
4165 Elections	500	unchanged
4166 Wayleaves	1000	poss by-election
4169 Community event	10	unchanged
7101 Advertising	1000	unchanged
7102 Website	500	general PR+banners
7110 Newsletter	250	servicing
4360 Grants made (incl FRSGA)	200	contingency
4362 Local artists fund	20000	increased emphasis
TOTAL F&P	1500	unchanged
	553495	

(approx 105% of 2025-26 budget figure)

PLACE* : INCOME		as per 2025-26 forecast	PLACE* : EXPENDITURE		notes
1180 Allotment rents	2500	predicted decline on current receipts	1135 Allotment upkeep	500	avge of previous 2 years
1280 VG hire	1350	unchanged	Village green utilities	0	obsolete code
1281 VG utilities	0	to reflect plot availability	1236 Outdoor maintenance	20000	to allow service expansion
6180 Burial fees	12000	guesstimate	1238 Street cleaning/litter	5000	to allow service expansion
1400 Am'ts grants & donations	1500	increased hire rates	1237 Outdoor planting	1250	to allow service expansion
3180 CC lettings	27500	as per 2025-26 forecast	1501 Outdoor equipment	2750	to allow service expansion
3181 CC equipment hire	850	end of rent-free periods	1436 Skate & play areas	5000	repairs & m'tce
3182 CC rents	25000	as per 2025-26 forecast	1447 Dog waste	4000	inflation uprate
3185 CC misc income	650	as per 2025-26 forecast	6123 Cemetery admin	500	inflation uprate
3187 CC drinks machine	500	as per 2025-26 forecast	6151 Cemetery rates	1750	inflation uprate
3188 CC grants & donations	0	none predicted	2314 Streetlights - power	6000	inflation uprate
3306 VotG income	3000	increased hire rates	2336 Streetlights	24000	unchanged
TOTAL FACILITIES INCOME	74850	(approx 125% of 2025-26 budget)	2136 Bus shelters	0	to allow service expansion
			1439 Benches	0	no budget allowance - to be
			1442 Litter bins	0	financed through CIL monies
			2551 Offsite car park	75	see above new code
			2553 Grit bins	0	postponed this budget year
			6139 War memorial	0	no budget allowance - to be
			7108 Noticeboards	0	financed through CIL monies
			3111 CC rates & services	80000	inflation uprate
			3127 Drinks machine	1600	inflation uprate
			3136 CC enhancement	20000	against decoration/repair
			3304 VotG non-youth equipment	500	unchanged
			3305 VotG running costs	4000	inflation uprate
			TOTAL FACILITIES EXPENDITURE	176925	

(approx 116% of 2025-26 figure)

PEOPLE* : INCOME		as per 2024-25 forecast	PEOPLE* : EXPENDITURE		
2678 Medical transport income	350	unchanged	2601 Medical car scheme	100	increased usage
3184 Market income	7500	nominal	2554 Wealdlink	1200	inflation uprate
2905 Service development income	500	price increases	3151 Market expenses	10000	incl. new equipment
3480 Gages sales	24000	unchanged	3460 Gages food	16000	inflation uprate
3680 Th.Club subscriptions	200	increased receipts	3436 Gages equipment	2000	unchanged
4676 Youth grants/subscriptions	1500	not guaranteed	3636 Thursday Club costs	1000	allowance for trips
4180 Misc.income	0		4603 Youth expenses	4000	service expansion
TOTAL C-S INCOME	34050	(= approx 109% of 2025-26 figure)	new: Youth forum	0	no call on fund (dormant)
			Emergency equipment	0	obsolete
			2436 Road safety	500	for traffic survey
			2710 Environmental support	1000	possible carbon audit
			2715 Community consultation	6000	potential PWLB consultation
			2700 New service support	4000	renamed from R/C & wellbeing
			NEW Supported counselling	5500	service expansion
			2720 Capital projects R&D	500	unchanged
			TOTAL C-S EXPENDITURE	51800	

approx 123% of 2025-26 figure

TOTAL INCOME (pre-precept): 117655
TOTAL EXPENDITURE: 782220

SHORTFALL for precept:

664565

ADVICE NOTE ON THE BUDGET 2026-27

The draft budget for 2026-2027 has now been through both the Committee stage and scrutiny by the Chairs of Council and Committees, and is submitted for consideration by Full Council.

The current year raised the precept from £650,000 to £670,000, a percentage increase of 3.08%. That included a sum of £50,000 towards the general reserve, as I felt a contingency of £200,000 against the Council's net liabilities of £620,00 was insufficient to comply with best practice for a relatively high spending parish. In the event, the overall budget ran a surplus by the year end which enabled us to make some helpful adjustments to the nominated reserves.

In revenue terms, the current year's budget was intended to be something of a 'steady state' exercise, covering inflationary increases in basic commodities, services and staff costs, while allowing several larger sums against infrastructure improvements. By and large that has been achieved, with overheads kept within general inflation, and important works done on the VENUE building, the Hambro Hall, and our streetlights, and much needed replacement furniture for the Community Centre. The current figures show that we have received most of our budgeted income for the year, and that overall expenditure is at forecast level, so we can expect to break even by the year end. The nominated reserves, however, are mainly intact.

For the revenue budget of 2026-27, I have followed substantially the same format, namely to have regard to predicted inflationary increases, while allowing for service expansion in several critical areas, principally involving care for the village open spaces, which have long been a cause of comment, but also for 'people-based activities' such as the youth service and the sponsored counselling initiative.

The net result is a predicted difference between operational income and expenditure of £664,565, which would therefore require a minimum precept of £665,000. However, Council is now embarking on several larger scale projects, again based around the village environment, some of which will involve infrastructure work as well as installations - much in the way that the new swings needed an access path as part of the project. We need to retain the existing nominated reserves against their original purposes, and keep an eye also on the possibility of asset acquisition as part of the local government reorganisation programme.

Detailed plans and costings have yet to be produced, but this promises to be an active year for such projects, and an additional £30,000 added into the reserves against 'open space development' would appear to be justified, since it is for the enhancement of the environment from which the whole community benefits.

This will result in a precept of £695,000, which I would advise strikes a fair balance between maintaining the existing assets and services in a responsible manner, while allowing for a justifiable investment of funds in community asset upgrades and enhancement. At the same time it represents only a 3.7% increase over the previous year, which percentage is positioned exactly between the two current official measures of national inflation.

DOD / Parish Clerk & RFO
4th December 2024

Forest Row Energy Cooperative

FRPC Grant Aid Progress Report May – September 2025

Introduction

This report sets out the progress made by the Forest Row Energy Cooperative (FRECL) from May to September 2025, following receipt of grant aid from Forest Row Parish Council (FRPC). The funding has enabled us to strengthen our organisational foundation so that we can provide reliable, practical support to local residents on renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Over this period we have prioritised two main areas: a full update of our website and the creation of a structured supplier vetting system. These steps are designed to ensure that future community engagement is supported by credible information and practical resources.

We invite the FRPC to review our progress to date with a view to releasing the second and final tranche of funding.

Key Achievements to Date

1. Building a Vetted Supplier Network

One of our main goals is to give residents access to reliable local suppliers. The grant has allowed us to research and vet 16 renewable energy providers within a 20-mile radius of Forest Row. Technologies covered include solar PV, heat pumps, and battery storage. The vetting process reviewed each company's certifications (MCS, NICEIC, Gas Safe), years in business, customer feedback, and overall standing.

This work has already supported local projects. For example, we are assisting the On My Side (OMS) Charity with its plans to improve energy efficiency at Hambro Hall. We have also introduced OMS to Mimms Davies MP and to Chantel Lass of Wealden District Council to strengthen their grant application. Proposals from three vetted suppliers are currently under review.

2. Enhancing Our Digital Presence

Improving access to clear, evidence-based information has been a major focus.

- **Website content:** We have expanded our online resources with practical guides, including an *Acronyms Guide* to explain industry terminology and detailed posts on solar, heat pumps, and biomass. Each provides a balanced assessment of benefits, limitations, and costs. Our vetted supplier list is now available to residents as a trusted reference.
- **Search visibility:** Website performance has improved significantly. Impressions rose from 13,000 to 22,200 in six months, while our average search position improved from 99+ to 64.8. Enquiries from households, businesses, and farms have increased accordingly.
- **Social media:** Profiles have been updated for consistency and used to direct people to our website. Our Facebook following now exceeds 500. Although engagement on posts is limited, traffic to our website and direct enquiries continue to grow.
- **Newsletter:** Our mailing list grew by more than 25 subscribers during this period, with a click-through rate consistently above 20%.

3. Strategic Networking and Partnerships

We have strengthened links with Lewes, Hastings, Croydon, and Crowborough councils, and have received support from OVESCO, Community Energy Pathways, and Energize Sussex Coast. These connections provide access to shared expertise and have allowed us to share our own work on local supplier assessment.

Next Six Months

We believe the progress made demonstrates the value of the Parish Council's support and hope that the second half of the grant will now be released.

In the next six months, in addition to continuing the foundational work above, we will expand our focus to:

- **Thermal camera programme:** Using the Parish Council's thermal imaging camera, we will launch a home energy efficiency programme to identify heat loss in local buildings, following the successful models used in Withyham and Lewes.
- **Community events:** We will run a series of sessions in local venues covering key topics including home energy efficiency, solar, battery storage, heat pumps, and future options for community-owned energy supply.

PROPOSAL FOR THE 'HILLSIDE TRIANGLE/'MIDDLE'

EMAIL FROM CLLR CHRISTIE (06-01-2026)

Please see below in respect of an update on current progress with The Middle project from Nic Pople, who will come in to the council meeting next week if appropriate with a new model of his design for the bus shelter to present and answer questions.

As an update for the council on this working group overall:

Thus far over the course of meetings and numerous site visits both individual and collective during the course of the Autumn, we envisage a potentially 3 step process which would entail Gertraud Goodwin's sculpture as a first step in between the 3 trees, then Nic's design for a new bus shelter, and then the remodelling of Hillside to enable a pedestrian area and moving the ungainly signage in front of the current bus stand.

At the end of last year, we put forward a request for £5K of funding for a feasibility study to develop this project, engaging the requisite architectural designs through Nic's office (his time kindly being given for free to the project), and consultancy time to establish feasibility and overall costs for each stage in respect of traffic, planning, water and licensing. Please see below for this application from the end of last year in the hope we can avail of the funds now to keep momentum developing this project.

With this at hand, we then propose to present a fully reasilsed project plan to the council for discussion and approval, ahead of developing the area as per our findings and consensus amongst us.

Many thanks and with kind regards

Benjamin Christie

The Middle Working Group
1930 Tuesday 7th October 2025
Garden Room, Community Centre
Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Benjamin Christie
Maureen Summers
Rebecca Rainbow
Nick Pople

Apologies:

Adam Scott
Gertraud Goodwin
Julia Julia
David O'Driscoll
Carolyn Coomber

The group met and spoke initially about their interests and motivations for being part of the project before reviewing the initial model that Nick Pople and his team have kindly created, and looking over some of the old photos of the area.

Discussions touched ideas for the layout of the area, the historic context of what was at this site, what is there now, and what might be in future. Considerations regarding the village hall / Peter Griffiths pathway, location of the bus stop and road signs, both by the Middle and entering the village were also discussed.

It was agreed that each member of the group would take the time to visit the Middle and spend some time there before our next meeting.

Next Meeting:

1930-2130
Community Centre
Tuesday 4th November

The Middle Working Group
1930 Tuesday 4th November 2025
Spring Room, Community Centre
Meeting Notes

Attendees:

Benjamin Christie
Adam Scott
Rebecca Rainbow
Nick Pople

Apologies:

Maureen Summers
Gertraud Goodwin
Julia Julia
David O'Driscoll
Carolyn Coomber

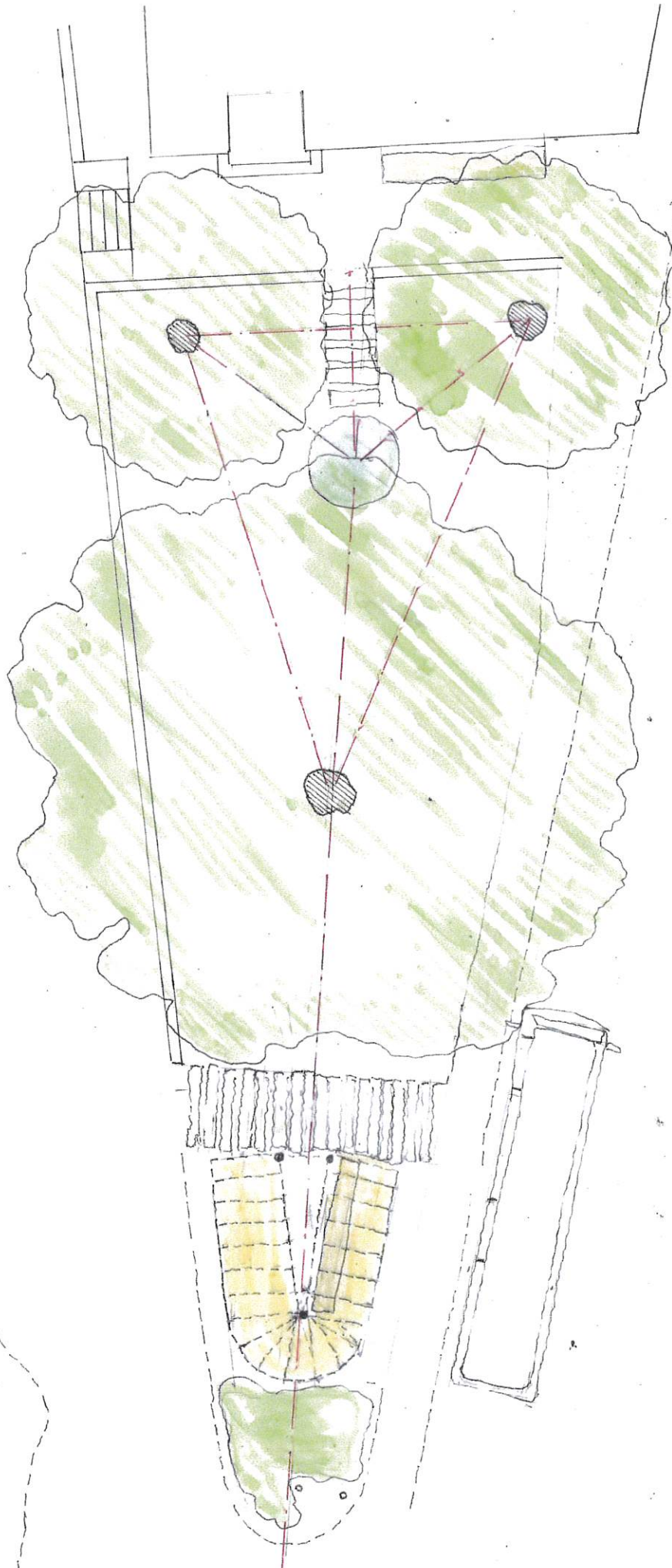
The group met and reviewed both Nick Pople's emerging plans for the bus shelter, and Adam Scott's sharing of a vision of the staged development of the area, to include the partial pedestrianisation of Hillside and the creation of a haven of peace and contemplation on the Peter Griffith's triangle – centring on a sculpture by Gertraud Goodwin.

The group agreed to request funding for a feasibility study to include consultancy covering the relevant highways, planning and water issues presented by the project, and the development of a tangible and actionable staged plan for the area.

It was agreed that Benjamin Christie will request this funding in writing from Finance & Policy Committee Chair Andrew Gilbert in the coming days and ahead of our next meeting in December.

Next Meeting:

1930-2130
Monday 8th December
Community Centre



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Do not scale from this drawing.
Contractor to take and check all dimensions on site before work commences.
Subcontractor to verify all dimensions on site before making a shop drawing or commencing manufacture.
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ARCHITECTS LTD
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THE TRIANGLE
for Forest Row Parish Council

Drawing: Plan as Proposed
Scale: 1:100 @ A3
Date: Nov 2025
Dwg No: 393 / 02