

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13th JANUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Gilbert, Killick, Lewis, Marshall, Matthews, Rainbow, Scott & Summers

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Evans, La Djoï, Volkers & Waters

NOT PRESENT: Cllr. Jaffay

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk & Deputy Clerk. 3 members of the public

C01/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Two members of the public spoke on the matter of the Hillside Triangle/Middle proposal. These included the following points:

- Any sculpture installation should be careful of the tree roots. The sculpture would be prone to degradation by bird droppings, algae and dirt from traffic pollution,
- Surprise that an area of this size needed an expensive feasibility study
- The current bus shelter could do with updating but fits all needs.
- The site is within the Conservation area
- It was unlikely that Highways would agree to either pedestrianisation of Hillside or re-siting of traffic signage
- It is not a peaceful area.

Cllr. Matthews proposed that item 3.4 (The status of the Hillside Triangle/'Middle' proposal) be discussed after the preliminaries on the Agenda. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

C02/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were reported and accepted from Cllrs. Evans (family), la Djoï (illness), Volkers (family) & Waters (family)

C03/26 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 9TH AND 16TH DECEMBER 2025

Minutes of the meeting of 9th and 16th December 2025 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Killick and
AGREED.

C04/26 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

None.

C05/26 DELEGATED DECISIONS None

C06/26 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Noted

C07/26 THE STATUS OF THE HILLSIDE TRIANGLE/'MIDDLE' PROPOSAL

There was much discussion on this proposal and a presentation from Nick Pople with input from the member of public present. A representation from The Reverend Jamie Gater had been received and was circulated.

Cllr. Scott proposed the 'Middle' working group divide up the matters discussed into strategic priorities across the village and bring back to Council with step by step proposals for further investigation. This was seconded by Cllr. Eichner and AGREED.

The Clerk to reply to the vicar.

C08/26 CHAIRS COMMENTS

The Chair spoke about water security (in view of the water outage in the village for the last 5 days), and that there was a need for conversation about resilience and emergency planning be split off from the Masterplan working group.

He gave a vote of thanks for all the work that had been done over the weekend regarding the water outage and commented that it was good to see everybody working together when needed.

C09/26 CLERK'S COMMENTS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C10/26 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C11/26 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND ANY REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Reports had been previously circulated and were NOTED.

Cllr. Killick advised that she had received many positive comments regarding the Grotto.

C12/26 APPROVAL OF DRAFT REVENUE BUDGET FOR 2026-2027

This had been previously circulated.

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that this be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED with 1 against.

C13/26 SETTING OF PRECEPT

Cllr. Eichner proposed that a precept of £ 695,000 be set (as set out in papers previously circulated). This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED with 1 against.

C14/26 REVIEW OF A GRANT APPLICATION

A grant had been awarded in April 2025 to Forest Row Energy Cooperative for 50% of the amount requested.

A request had now been received for the other 50% of £983.00.

Cllr. Gilbert proposed that this matter be deferred to the next F & P meeting and the applicant be invited to attend, to explain further the proposed future plans. This was seconded by Cllr. Matthews and AGREED.

C15/26 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

Cllr. Scott suggested that Council representatives meet with the Festival Committee to discuss plans for 2026.

Cllr. Matthews asked that a Masterplan working group meeting be arranged.

Cllr. Christie suggested that the former Emergency planning/ Resilience working group be separated out from the Masterplan group. This would be included in the F & P agenda.

The meeting closed at 8.55pm

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)