

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE GARDEN ROOM AT THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chair), Christie, Gilbert, Killick, Jaffay, la Djoï, Lewis, Marshall, Matthews, Rainbow, Summers and Waters

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Evans, Scott & Volkers

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Deputy Clerk & Assistant Clerk. County Cllr. Taylor & 1 member of the public

C16/26 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

Cllr. Eichner proposed that item agenda item 3.1 be discussed after the Preliminaries.
This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED.

C17/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Apologies were reported and accepted from Cllrs. Evans (family), Scott family) & Volkers (family)

C18/26 RECORDS OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 13TH JANUARY 2026

Minutes of the meeting of 13th January 2026 were proposed for acceptance by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and
AGREED.

C19/26 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS OR REQUEST DISPENSATION PERTAINING TO THE ITEMS BELOW

None.

C20/26 REVIEW OF ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Noted

Cllr. Eichner proposed that agenda item 2.4 the report from County Cllr. Taylor be discussed at this point.
This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED,

C21/26 REPORT FROM COUNTY CLLR. TAYLOR

County Cllr. Taylor reported that she had been on a walk around the village and reported 17 drains that needed clearance. These had not yet been done so she will follow this up. She had been advised that there was only one jetting machine in the County.

East Sussex County Council would have to borrow £70 million for running costs following the budget. There should be more news about the local government reorganization by mid-March. There would be a unitary election in 2027.

C22/26 GRANT APPLICATION FROM FOREST ROW ENERGY CO-OPERATIVE

There was much discussion about this, and questions were answered by a representative of the co-operative. Cllr. Gilbert proposed that the second tranche of this application for £ 983.00 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr. Christie and AGREED with 2 abstentions.

C23/26 CHAIRS COMMENTS

The Chair thanked the Council for their work and said that he thought healthy debates made for better decisions.

C24/26 CLERK'S COMMENTS NOT REQUIRING A DECISION

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED. Cllr. Waters reported that a Personnel & Grievance committee meeting had been held regarding the HR report from CHRGS- the report would be circulated to all Councillors and senior staff tomorrow.

C25/26 SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This had been previously circulated and was NOTED.

C26/26 REPORTS FROM PRINCIPAL COUNCILLORS

Written reports had been received and previously circulated.

NOTED

C27/26 TO NOTE REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES, WORKING GROUPS AND ANY REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Reports had been previously circulated and were NOTED.

Cllr. Lewis reported that the request to the British Heart Foundation for a defibrillator at Hammerwood Village Hall had been declined. As agreed at the Place meeting on 20th January 2025, this would now be purchased by FRPC with a plaque stating this.

C28/26 TO ASSIGN ANOTHER MEMBER AS A REPRESENTATIVE ON FRSGA

This was discussed and deferred to a future meeting.

C29/26 PLACE COMMITTEE – ANTI-CLIMB PAINT AT VENUE

This was discussed. It was reported that anti-climb paint had been applied to the building but the youths climbing on the roof were using other means of access. The erection of 'At your own risk' signs would be checked with our H & S consultants. This matter would be put on the next Place Committee meeting agenda for further discussion.

C30/26 GRANT APPLICATIONS

- The Kindness Cooperation CIC – This was discussed and Cllr. Matthews proposed that this be deferred until the next Finance & Policy Committee meeting when a representative would be invited to attend and answer questions. This was seconded by Cllr. la Djoï and AGREED with 2 abstentions
- Frow Friends – Cllr. Eichner proposed that the requested grant of £ 1010.00 be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED.

C31/26 FORMATION OF EMERGENCY PLAN WORKING GROUP

Cllr. Eichner proposed that the Emergency Plan and Resilience working group be formed with Cllr. Killick as Chair. This was seconded by Cllr. Waters seconded and AGREED with 1 abstention.

Cllr. Eichner proposed that the membership of the group should be: Cllrs. Matthews, Christie, Rainbow, Marshall, Eichner, District Cllr. Patterson-Vanegas, County Cllr. Taylor and a member of staff. The group (disaster & resilience working group) that had attended the last Finance & Policy committee meeting would be invited also. (Monika Koncz, Alistair MacKenzie & Anne- Marie Brody).

This was seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED with 1 abstention.

C32/26 TO SET DATE OF PARISH MEETING

The Deputy Clerk was asked to compile a Doodle Poll to help set a date for this meeting.

C33/26 TO CONFIRM STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR CLLRS LEWIS AND MARSHALL

Cllr. Lewis expressed his wish to be a member of People Committee and Place Committee.

Cllr. Marshall expressed her wish to be a member of People Committee.

The above was proposed by Cllr. Eichner, seconded by Cllr. Killick and AGREED.

C34/26 ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR COMMITTEE

The meeting closed at 9.05pm

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)