

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA ORDINARY MEETING OF FOREST ROW PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON 13th APRIL 2026 AT 7.30PM IN THE FRED BISHOP HALL OF THE COMMUNITY CENTRE

PRESENT: Cllrs. Eichner (Chairman), Evans, Gilbert, Killick, laDjoi, Lewis, Matthews, Rainbow, Scott, Volkers

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Christie, Jaffay, Marshall, Summers, Waters

NOT PRESENT:

IN ATTENDANCE: The Clerk, three representatives of the Forest Row Festival Committee, and one other member of the public.

C35/26 PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

In view of the single substantive agenda issue, the Festival Committee members were invited to participate in the general discussion. There were no other public questions.

C36/26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs. Christie & Marshall (family), Cllrs Jaffay & Waters (work), Cllr Summers (prebooked holiday)

C37/26 TO RESOLVE TO DEAL WITH THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 24th FEBRUARY 2026 AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Cllr. Eichner proposed the above resolution. This was seconded by Cllr. laDjoi and AGREED.

C38/26 TO RESOLVE TO POSTPONE CLARIFICATION OF ACTIONS FROM 24th FEBRUARY 2026 MEETINGS AT THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING

Cllr. Eichner proposed the above resolution. This was seconded by Cllr. Gilbert and AGREED.

C39/26 TO DECLARE ANY INTERESTS / DISPENSATION REQUESTS FOR THIS MEETING

None

C40/26 TO CONSIDER THE REQUEST FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE FOR USE OF THE FOOTBALL FIELD FOR THIS YEAR'S FOREST ROW FESTIVAL

Cllr Eichner welcomed the Committee members and thanked them for the extensive preparatory work they had done. There was a lengthy discussion arising from receipt by the Council of the Event Management Plan for the Festival, with ancillary documents. The following points were covered:

- The aim was not to increase footfall, but to use a bigger space for the same numbers.
- Particular attention had been given to public safety, in view of incidents in previous years
- Professional experts had been engaged for planning, noise management, security and H&S.
- The main target audience was families. Various changes in ticketing would be introduced this year, requiring an adult to accompany under 18's, and a postcode/ phone.no to be given on sale.
- The Festival would be held under an Event Licence, not a TENS, which would affect liquor licensing
- (They were asked about security and particularly off-site security). Extra security is being deployed this year with CCTV cameras covering all the location, and a closure order for Upper Close.
- Heras fencing will ring the entire site and is also proposed for Foresters Link & Station Road.
- Friday night has been recognised as a critical time, and is being 'down-programmed' accordingly. Volunteers will be in attendance and residents are being mailshotted. A noise management expert is being engaged with a hotline for complaints.
- Projected numbers are 2,500 maximum which is within official guidelines – there used to be 2,100 on the Green, and the enhanced security /CCTV should help with crowd control.
- They had done some market research on programming and would be doing more this year – they are already planning for next year. On site traders will be local and F/R retailers have been consulted. They have also made a conscious effort to involve local youth musicians.
- They answered a number of questions about off-site security, disaster planning and body searches, dispersal plans, liability insurance, and litter/waste disposal.

[Councillor Scott arrived late at 8:34 pm]

- In response to a number of questions about backstage security and general risk assessments, they responded that the EMP was a living document which was in course of being updated and would be shared with the Council

Cllr Eichner proposed that permission to use the field be granted subject to the Council being kept updated as to preparations, and documentation. Seconded by Cllr Matthews and AGREED, 9 for with 1 vote against. .

C41/26 TO NOTE ITEMS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION BY FULL COUNCIL OR REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE

None

The meeting closed at 9:00 pm.

SIGNED:

DATE.....(Chairman)