

## **HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting of Henfield Parish Council  
held on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at 7.00pm in The Henfield Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs E Goodyear (Chairman), J Jones, M Morgan, R Shaw, R Kendall, D Jemmett, C Simmonds, A May, G Perry, S Leader, D Grossmith, F Ayres and J Potts.

**In attendance:** Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager) and three members of the public.

### **MINUTES**

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Willard and Cllr Sarah Payne - West Sussex County Council (WSCC).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM HELD 7<sup>th</sup> MAY 2024**

Approved. Signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

a) Councillor Training Sessions

A workshop has been booked for the 13<sup>th</sup> of August. It will cover roles and responsibilities and will be run by the CEO of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils, Trevor Leggo. All were encouraged to attend and to confirm with the Clerk.

b) D-Day Commemorations

This Thursday there will be two services to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Cllrs are asked to attend the War Memorial at 11am for a short service and again at 8.45pm, followed by the beacon lighting on the Rothery Field at 9.15pm. A commemorative flag will also be raised at the Henfield Hall at 9am.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting.*

### **OPEN FORUM**

A local ecologist explained, further to her email to all Councillors, that she was disappointed to see that local twittens and Pinchnose Green had recently been cut back as they are considered important habitat for vulnerable species of wildlife. She also added that grass cuttings should be collected. The Chairman responded that these were valid points and that the Parish Council is looking to improve verge management but that the Parish Council have an obligation to keep footpaths, twittens and bridleways open for public use. The Parish Council may need to consider increasing future budgets in order to purchase more specialist equipment. She also added that a lot of the cutting back mentioned had not been carried out by the Parish Council as it is not their land.

### **Cllr Grossmith joined the meeting at 7.08pm.**

The ecologist added that the heritage of Pinchnose Green also needs to be considered. She also offered to assist the verge management working group and suggested a habitat management and monitoring scheme. Cllr Ayres commented that she feels public attitudes to green spaces are gradually changing and Cllr Morgan added that there are a mixture of views and a balanced approach needs to be taken.

### **Cllr Leader joined the meeting at 7.10pm.**

A local resident requested a Community Road Verge at Wantley. She feels this will mitigate traffic and improve the entrance to the village. She also added that she would like to see a wildflower meadow on the other side of the road. Cllr Perry responded that an application can be put WSCC highways if Full Council agree. This will be discussed in full at the next meeting. Cllr Shaw commented that visibility for road users needs to be considered and Cllr Morgan added that any potential new road layout at the Parsonage Farm development will also be a factor.

*The Chairman reconvened the meeting.*

6. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Payne was not in attendance and no report was received.

7. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Perry reported that Horsham District Council (HDC) has recently had its AGM where Cllrs were elected to various committees. She and Cllr Potts have been elected to Planning South and she has also been elected to the Climate Action and Waste and Environmental Health committees. Cllr Perry also reported that a solar farm located on Camelia Botnar Land has been given approval by HDC. Cllr Potts reported that the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance have been amalgamated from eight into four. He added that as HDC are now in purdah due to the general election on the 4<sup>th</sup> July, not many decisions will be taken, however statutory duties such as planning decisions will continue.

8. **CONSIDER THE PARISH COUNCIL RESPONSE TO HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL'S DRAFT GREENSPACE STRATEGY 2024-29**

A draft response was circulated prior to the meeting. The response had been considered by each individual committee. The Chairman thanked Cllr Perry for preparing the collated draft response. Cllr Perry added that most responses from other Parish Councils had been similar, although some had requested more nature recovery and creation. She also added that the strategy will apply to all HDC owned land with the exception of one golf club. It was all agreed by show of hands to submit the proposed draft response to HDC.

**Action Point: The Clerk to submit the Parish Council response to the HDC Greenspace Strategy.**

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(A) **Finance, Risk & Change Governance (FRC)**

Cllr Jones reported that a quote has been received for installation of drivers in the cemetery lights. This will be considered by the Village Amenities committee at their next meeting. A letter was received on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May from Charity Bank advising the that one year ethical fixed term investment is maturing. Unfortunately the letter was received too late to include on this agenda, and the deadline for response (being 13<sup>th</sup> June) is sooner than the next FRC meeting. The Clerk explained that there are three options; to take another one year fixed at 4.51%, a three year fixed at 4.06% or have the money returned to the Parish Council. If no action is taken by the deadline the money will be transferred into a 40 day notice account. The Clerk suggested that the one year fixed option is chosen in time to meet the deadline of 13<sup>th</sup> June as there is a 14 day cancellation period. This allows FRC to discuss the options at their next meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June and cancel if they wish. It was all agreed by show of hands to take this approach.

**Action Point: The Clerk to advise Charity Bank to transfer the current investment to the one year ethical fixed term product paying 4.51% interest and to also include this item for discussion and decision on the agenda for the next FRC meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June.**

- (a) Summary of £43,014.43 Expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> May – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024.  
Noted by Council. This included payment of £20,000 to the Scout Community Building.
- (b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Check – May.  
Cllr Simmonds selected Bolt World, barrel nuts.

Cllr May asked for an update on the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). Cllr Jones explained again that the application deadline was the 31<sup>st</sup> May and that the committee would be considering the applications received at their next meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> June. The committee are also aware that there are other potential applications likely to be received at a later date.

**(B) Plans Advisory**

Cllr Shaw reported that the committee did not meet last month due to a lack of planning applications to consider. There will be a meeting this Thursday.

Cllr Grossmith reported that he has had a discussion with the Chair of Shermanbury Parish Council, which has concerns regarding the accessibility and service access for Rampion 2, particularly as it has come to light more recently that there will be trenching along the A281 to Partridge Green. There is likely to be significant heavy goods traffic using the routes potentially through Cowfold and West Grinstead as well as through Henfield. The official consultation period has now ended. This committee had resolved not to respond as the cabling route does not go through Henfield and the accessibility information was not clear at that time. The committee will keep the situation under review.

**(C) Recreation & Open Spaces**

Cllr Perry reported that the committee had discussed the HDC Greenspace Strategy at length and plans were continuing for the Walk for Malcolm event in July. The committee are also considering a long term project to improve signage at the playing fields.

**(D) Village Amenities**

Cllr Morgan reported that the new bench is in place in the Village Square and thanked the local blacksmith Brian Hazeldene. A commemorative plaque for the late Queen Elizabeth II plaque will also be installed. The committee are also considering new entrance signs for the village and will be discussing dog waste. Cllr Perry added that there has been very positive feedback on the new bench.

**(E) Children & Young People**

Cllr Leader reported that the committee will be forming a skate park working group which it is hoped will include some users. The funding for the project is now in place.

**(F) Museum**

Cllr Potts invited any questions on recent minutes.

**(G) Joint Commons**

Cllr Perry reported that recent digging on the Common has been reported to HDC and will be discussed at the next meeting. She also reported that the triangle on the Common has not been cut recently due to a hiatus between HDC contractors and she is hoping that the works officers may be able to assist.

**10. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Grossmith reported that the Leisure Centre is on track to deliver the Padel tennis courts following some discussion on rights of car park access and minor design issues. The funding is now in place. There is some concern that as a football pitch will need to rotate to accommodate the court one of the goals will be alongside the Link Road, causing some safety concerns if children were to run across to retrieve a ball. Consideration may need to be given to some netting to prevent this.

Cllr Leader reported that the quotes for the mezzanine project at the leisure centre have been higher than expected and there is likely to be a shortfall in funding. The Chairman commented that the Leisure Centre has been sent the application details to apply to go on the IDP but have not yet responded. Cllr Morgan asked whether there is a demand or need for this facility. Cllr Leader responded that the decision to go ahead with the project has already been taken by HDC.

Cllr Perry reported that SH2030 are planning an event on the Tanyard for the Garden and Arts weekend and encouraged all to attend.

Cllr Jemmett reported that the Youth Club had benefitted hugely from the grant from the Parish Council which has enabled them to recruit two new members of staff. They have seen dramatic improvements, are now open much more often and have increased membership and attendees. Cllr Ayres added that there do not seem to be as many young people gathering in the high street bus shelter.

11. **PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES**

Nothing to report.

12. **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

None.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2024.

**Meeting Closed at 8.14pm.**