



HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of Henfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 1st October 2024 at 7.00pm
in The Henfield Hall.**

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

In attendance: Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager) and two representatives from the Henfield Haven.

MINUTES

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs R Kendall, J Potts and D Jemmett. Apologies were also received from Cllr S Payne (West Sussex County Council - WSCC).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3rd SEPTEMBER 2024**

Approved. Signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman reported that she had attended a meeting with Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) and Community Transport Sussex (CTS) to discuss securing funding for the continuation of the Electric Car Club. All are keen for the scheme to continue and hope to build on its success, despite the setbacks caused by delays to installing charge points in the village.

The Chairman added that she intends to attend a meeting of each committee to discuss the Business Plan, which is due for review by March 2025. It was noted that any projects that require funding in the next financial year will need estimates of cost in order to be included in the budget.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The representatives from the Haven were invited to speak on their plans to celebrate their ten-year anniversary in November 2025. Chairman of Trustees, Digby Stephenson, explained that despite generous sponsorship, donations and various fundraising events, there is still a need to raise funds to keep the Haven open. Anne Dewdney, the wife of a long-term user of the Haven, explained that she intends to carry out ten months of fundraising activities, a new challenge each month which will include sit ups, circuit training, a half marathon, daily sea swimming, climbing Snowdon, a wing walk and an abseil as well as others. There is also a party planned to celebrate on the 8th November 2025. A web page and Just Giving page will be set up and it is hoped that, over the ten months, a £10,000 target can be achieved as well as raising awareness of dementia and the vital services for the village that the Haven day centre provides. This will be known as 'Challenge Annie' and a logo has been created. It has also been announced that if this target is achieved the sum will be matched by the husband of a former volunteer at the Haven who sadly passed away recently. The Council gave both a round of applause, all agreed it is a very worthy cause and expressed its full support for the challenge. The Chairman added that the Council would also be happy to assist with promotion.

The representatives left the meeting at 7.20pm.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

6. **HAVEN UPDATE AND “CHALLENGE ANNIE 2025”**

See discussion under Open Forum above.

7. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

No report was received from Cllr Payne. It was noted that the public meeting to discuss the changes to the route of the number 17 bus service for Partridge Green takes place tomorrow.

8. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Perry reported that the Horsham District Council (HDC) partnership with Sussex Wildlife Trust will continue and that there is a new economic policy proposal to support local development. She is also involved in the Fairspace project for young people and discussions with young people are taking place in local schools. On behalf of Cllr Potts, she added that work continues on the drainage issues for the Padel courts and that he is currently working on issues relating to Birchfield Nursery and plans at HDC to work with other Sussex authorities for more affordable housing in rural areas.

9. **MOTION: TO APPROVE & SIGN THE LEASE TO THE LEISURE CENTRE OF THE PADEL COURT AREA & DEED OF VARIATION TO THE TENNIS CLUB LEASE**

Cllr Morgan explained that the Deed of Variation is needed as the tennis club previously had a right of access over a small portion of the area to be used by the new Padel courts. The Leisure Centre has also been granted an amended lease on the same terms but for the additional area needed on the Kings Field for the courts. There has been no cost to the Council in arranging. It was **PROPOSED** by the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Grossmith and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to approve and sign the lease to the Leisure Centre and Deed of Variation to the tennis club.

10. **MOTION: TO APPROVE THE HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL INTERNAL CONTROLS**

A draft was circulated prior to the meeting. This version was discussed and approved at the recent Finance meeting. It was **PROPOSED** by the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to approve the Internal Controls.

11. **MOTION: TO APPROVE THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE SIGNAGE WORKING GROUP**

A draft was circulated prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that the group has met twice and is making good progress. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr May, **SECONDED** by Cllr Perry and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to approve the terms of reference for the signage working group.

12. **YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY UPDATE**

Cllr Perry reported that over the course of the year several walks, talks and events had taken place in Henfield, engaging residents of all ages. There have been over 3,900 entries on the iNaturalist app recording over 1,240 species with photographs that include grass snakes, hairy dragonflies and many reports of stag beetles, a species that is in decline but Henfield is famous for. Plant of the month for October is Sloe berries on Blackthorn, and there are upcoming talks on bees, beavers and dark skies. It is also hoped that young people can be involved in a wild daffodil planting project in October half term. There will be an exhibition and celebration of the year's achievements on the 9th December and she invited all to attend.

The Chairman added she would welcome suggestions for a theme for the following year.

Dementia, care and wellbeing were ideas suggested in order to tie in with the Haven anniversary.

This will be discussed further at the next Finance meeting.

13. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Cllr Jones reported that the committee had recently decided to change insurance provider in order to secure comparable cover for a lower cost. It has also agreed to cover the cost of the toilet hire for the BP Guild summer fair and a £5,000 donation from the youth projects budget towards running specific projects at the Youth Club. A spend of £2,675 from CIL reserve has been agreed to replace the three entrance signs to the village.

- (a) Summary of £28,327.83 Expenditure from 1st September to 30th September 2024.
Noted by Council.
- (b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Check – September.
Cllr Grossmith selected Rockstone International.
- (c) Budgets for 2025/26.
All committees were reminded to discuss budgets for 2025/26 at upcoming meetings.

(B) Plans Advisory

Cllr Shaw reported that in the last month there have been three meetings including one with Elivia Homes.

- (a) Neighbourhood Plan Update.

Cllr Shaw recently attended a workshop to discuss the future of neighbourhood plans. There is a meeting tomorrow with officers from HDC to discuss next steps to review the neighbourhood plan for Henfield. It was noted that if there is a need for another call for sites due to increased housing numbers, this would be a significant undertaking.

(C) Recreation & Open Spaces

Cllr Perry reported that there have been recent discussions on developing the trails project, improving links between sports clubs and a foraging query where a Brighton based business has been advised not to forage for commercial gain on public land in Henfield.

(D) Village Amenities

Cllr Morgan reminded Council of upcoming Remembrance events. The Poppy Cross event will take place on the 8th November, the main parade on the 10th November and a short service at the war memorial on the 11th November.

(E) Children & Young People

Cllr Leader reported that the new inclusive roundabout has been installed and that there is a skate park road trip taking place on Saturday to gather information on potential improvements.

(F) Museum

There has not been a meeting since the previous report. The Chairman added that the roving display case will return to the Hall to coincide with the 'Goodnight Mr Tom' production.

(G) Joint Commons

Cllr Perry reported that HDC rangers had organised a cut and collect on the Common which appears to have worked well. There are plans for hedge laying at the Tanyard which is hoped will address concerns that the area is untidy. There are slip catching cradle issues to discuss with the Cricket Club and it was noted that there are numerous whips around the causeway and edges of the Common including the roadside that require attention.

14. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Simmonds offered to report any policing issues at an upcoming meeting with the new Neighbourhood Policing Sargeant. Cllr Grossmith reported it is hoped that the drainage issues can be discharged for the Padel court application within six to eight weeks. In the meantime the roof has been delivered and is being stored off site. Cllr Leader reported that HCP has held its AGM where new Chairman Ann Donoghue was elected. New Vice Chair is Cllr Willard and Dawn Butcher is Secretary. HCP will be reviewing activities and terms of reference. Previous directors will continue to work on the market until the end of the year and the ongoing leisure centre mezzanine project. Cllr Perry reported that it is hoped that Henfield can be included in the One Planet Climate Mapping project. There is a workshop to discuss on 8th October.

15. **PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES**

The PCSO had visited the Parish Office today and had no concerns to raise. It was noted that it is still important to report minor incidents to the Police using the non-emergency number or online reporting, as it enables Sussex Police to analyse trends and allocate resources.

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

Cllr Grossmith confirmed that he has been in discussions with the Chairman of Shermanbury Parish Council, who has asked for support and contribution towards a potential real time remote signage to warn of flooding at Mock Bridge. It was noted that funding may be available from Rampion, particularly in light of the fact there is likely to be heavy traffic by their HGVs over Mock Bridge during the next construction phase of Rampion 2. There is also potential S106 traffic funding available. It was all agreed to pursue this further and to contact Shermanbury Parish Council to confirm support. This will be discussed further at the next Finance meeting in October.

Cllr Morgan expressed sadness that Henfield Lions Club has now ceased. Cllr Leader reported that the recent garage sale event had been well supported and attended. Cllr May reported that the Henfield Club continues to suffer financial difficulties and that their AGM is on the 15th October. The Chairman also reported that the Henfield Hall AGM is the 15th October.

17. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 5th November 2024.

Meeting Closed 8.07pm.