

## MINUTES OF HENFIELD COMMONS JOINT COMMITTEE

10-00am on 30/09/24 at Henfield Club, Cagefoot Lane, Henfield.

**Members:** Cllrs. Gill Perry (chair), Roger Noel, Josh Potts, Andrea May  
Tony Baker, Eddie Colgate, John Willis (non-voting members)

**Officers:** Pete Crawford, Malin Andersson, Jake Everitt, Neal Matheson

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:** None

2. **APOLOGIES:** None

3. **CONFIRMATION OF VOTING MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

Members to seek additional nominees from Henfield Parish Council. However, it was noted that there are vacancies on the Parish Council, so it may be difficult to find representatives to sit on the committee

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 01/07/24:** Approved

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Julie Coultas, ex-member of the committee has sadly died. The Committee sends condolence to her family.

6. **MATTERS ARISING**

- Governance – -HPC still need to sign and return the MoU and ToR.  
**Gill to chase**
- Management responsibilities – Malin had a meeting with Dick, Parish Works officer and he is able to take on elements of strimming around Henfield Common and small woodland works and any 'emergency' tree works - where a branch or small tree has fallen across a path. Larger scale tree works to be referred to Neal M. Committee notes that the works officers have other responsibilities which may be more urgent.
- Easement – The easement fund currently stands at c. £28k. Minutes of the Committee from Feb 2004 (thanks to ex-member Mike Morgan for pin-pointing this) note that the Committee accepted the findings of HDC legal advice which stated:

*"The capital receipts derived from the grant of statutory easements in respect of the Henfield Commons be applied for the benefit of the Henfield Commons."*

The Committee agreed that the receipts of the easements should only be spent on the Common from which they were raised.

7. **OPEN FORUM:**

John W raised the fact that the small pond at Oreham has been neglected in the past few years. This was acknowledged, with Malin noting that a Henfield Conservation

Volunteer task to remove some of the reedmace was already planned. Oreham small pond - Due to remove some reedmace.

Similarly, a glade created by Dick and HCV 3 years ago is now closing in again with regrowth. **Malin / Neal to decide on future works**

## 8. TANYARD

- Hedges – The recent requests from neighbours regarding the hedges at Tanyard were discussed. It was agreed that the hedges to the south of Little Wyndham and 9 and 10 Chestnut End should be laid. It was noted that the hedgelayer wasn't available until December, but the committee accepted this. **Pete to confirm a Dec. start with said residents.**
- Complaints also received about brambles growing over 2-10 Chestnut End. Committee noted that scrub is valuable nesting bird habitat. **Pete to ensure grounds maintenance contractors maintain 3m wide strip between houses and scrub. Hedge maintenance around Tanyard to be added to contract.**
- Arts & Gardens event – Mowing of paths as in 2024 agreed by committee. Dick HPC works officer mowed it in 2024. Malin will request he repeats for 2025

## 9. HENFIELD COMMON

- Henfield Summer Fair – The committee had been asked whether it would support the re-instatement of the biennial Henfield Common Summer Fair, post- Covid, held on the Common for nearly 400 years. It would require a large area of the North Common to be mowed, but as the Fair was traditionally held in July, this would significantly impact on the wildlife value of the site. It was noted that the Meadow looked very good this year, with a profuse knapweed and scabious. The Committee welcomed the return of the Fair and understood the historic importance of the event but felt it should not conflict with the agreed management: either in early May following a spring cut, or better still after a late summer cut at the end of August, perhaps the August Bank Holiday, or early September.
- Causeway – The aging barriers are to be removed, and the route monitored for increased inappropriate use. Following a complaint from a resident, it was agreed that the ditches need to be cleared, perhaps one side a year and rotationally managed for scrub to prevent further encroachment. The management plan does suggest the removal of the various oak trees (as well as retention of the WWII hawthorn) along the Causeway, to aid water levels on the marsh and reedbed, but it is recognized that this would be controversial. **Officers to consider options and report back to the next meeting**
- Grass cutting – it was noted that there had been a successful cut and collect on the Common, but earlier in the year the western most Triangle of land had

got very over-grown. This had then been strimmed down, including the wildflower turf around Wyn's bench. Officers apologized for this unfortunate incident, due in part to the transition from HPC to HDC care.

**Malin to bring a mowing map to next meeting to confirm next year's programme**

- Promotion of management – it was proposed that we need to improve our communication with the wider population of Henfield and explain our 'vision' for the site. A guided walk was seen as the simplest approach, along with an article in BN5, perhaps to be a regular (quarterly?) feature. There was some discussion about social media messaging and the use of noticeboards.

**Gill to contact BN5 / Officers to propose a date for guided walk(s) and committee to consider best way forward for other interpretation**

## **10. BROADMARE COMMON**

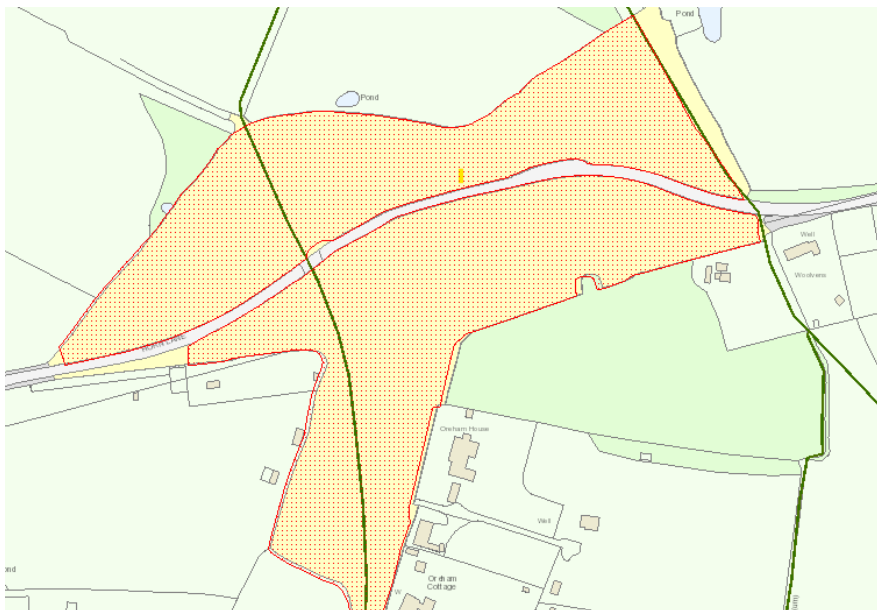
The Ash removal has been successful but this winter we will be coppicing willows, so information should be posted on-site and on-line.

**Malin to programme in dragonfly survey dates for 2025**

## **11. OREHAM COMMON**

WSCC Highways have requested some Ash removal next to the road, but there is some doubt as to the ownership – see map below. Yellow denotes HDC ownership, the dotted area is the Common land and red the Public rights of way. The areas of scrub need to be rotationally managed to encourage nightingales and other species

**Malin will (1) report the steps on the eastern footpath to WSCC ROW as they are in poor condition, (2) prepare scrub management maps.**



- 12. CORRESPONDENCE** - a complaint had been received about a piece of cricket club equipment that had been dragged into the woodland, probably by kids. **Gill will contact the club and ask them to remove / dispose of it.**

### 13. BUDGET/EXPENDITURE

An update on the current budget was requested – see below:

Code No.	10-1324-1001-60055					
Title:	Henfield Commons					
Budget:	<b>£19,780</b>					
<b>Misc. Income</b>						
Date	Name of Creditor	Journal Number	Details	Cost	Budget Remaining	Coded by
21/06/2024	Shaylors	765654	Circus venue hire	£500	£20,280	
Date	Name of Supplier	Order Number	Details	Cost	Budget Remaining	Coded by
14/05/2024	RJ Jochimsen Co	PO054940	Grass cutting	1125.00	£19,155.00	SG
14/05/2024	Grasstex	PO054956	Bund cutting (May)	250.00	£18,905.00	SG
11/06/2024	Amazon	CC	External hard drive	44.99	£18,860.01	JJE
16/08/2024	Grasstex	PO055452	Bund cutting (Aug)	250.00	£18,610.01	MA
26/09/2024	RJ Jochimsen	PO55603	Mowing	4600.00	£14,010.01	MA
					£14,010.01	
<b>Commitments</b>					£14,010.01	
	Frank wright		Hedgelaying Tanyard	4842.00	£9,168.01	
					£9,168.01	
					£9,168.01	
			<b>Total spent</b>	£ 11,111.99		
			<b>Budget remaining</b>	£ 8,668.01		

So there is £8668 not spent or committed yet, but Malin has various other works identified so we are confident that most of this budget will be spent before end of the financial year.

- 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – The footpath that runs from Henfield Common North, past Pigeon croft to Swains Farm has various potholes and after heavy rain, there is significant runoff. It was noted that Pigeoncroft have cleared the ditch outside their property, without permission. Officers were asked to consider whether any drainage works / path improvements were possible – with the easement monies as a possible source of funding.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS** – Mon 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec; Mon 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 All meetings to start at 10-00am and take place at the Henfield Club (tbc)