

HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of Henfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 3rd June 2025
at 7.00pm in The Henfield Hall.**

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

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

MINUTES

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllr Jones.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL AGM HELD ON 6th MAY 2025**

Approved. Signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman commented that Mid Sussex District Council are taking the Planning Inspector to judicial review as their Local Plan was also rejected, for the same reasons as Horsham District Council's (HDC). Cllr Potts confirmed that HDC are still considering their options.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present at the time of the Open Forum section.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

6. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Payne sent her apologies and did not submit a report prior to the meeting.

7. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Further to the discussion under item 5, Cllr Potts added that HDC may decide to continue to lobby MPs but it is looking increasingly likely that the Local Plan may be withdrawn completely. He also reported that the new planning committee is now in place. It has fifteen members with fifteen in reserve. There will now be two meetings per month and increased site visits. Members cannot vote on applications within their own ward. Cllr Potts and Cllr Perry are both reserves. He reported that the Sussex North Offsetting Water Scheme (SNOWS) is now operating. This enables developers to purchase credits subject to capacity in order to offset water usage providing other measures can't be fully met on site. This option is not available to speculative developers so is only available for those sites on the Local Plan or Neighbourhood Plan. There are some concerns regarding enforcement, but this scheme should at least allow planned development to go ahead. Cllr Potts also mentioned that the application for 800 homes on the Horsham Golf and Fitness site is currently at an appeal hearing; the application was turned down last year.

Cllr Perry reported that she is hopeful for a more positive outcome on the issue of increased rental costs for the Guide Hut and that she is currently dealing with requests for car park season tickets for High Street residents. This issue will be discussed by the Amenities and

Open Spaces Committee in July. She also highlighted the importance of collaborating and communicating with other Parishes and West Sussex County Council (WSCC) with regards to Rampion 2, particularly in respect of the traffic management.

Cllr Grossmith joined the meeting at 7.20pm.

8. **MOTION: TO AMEND STANDING ORDER 4 (E) TO ALLOW THE VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE AMENITIES AND OPEN SPACES COMMITTEE TO BECOME A VOTING MEMBER OF THE FINANCE, RISK & CHANGE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

The Chairman briefly explained that, as two committees have merged into one with a very large remit, that it would be advisable to have an additional member on the Finance Committee. This would also allow representation if the Chairman of the new committee is absent for any reason. It was **PROPOSED** by the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Morgan and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to make the above amendment to the Standing Orders.

9. **TO REVIEW THE DECLARATION FOR RIVER RECOVERY**

This had been discussed at the Finance, Risk and Change Governance Committee (FRC), who recommended that the Parish Council confirm that they support the aims of the declaration. Cllr Perry commented that the declaration states the importance of rivers and that the declaration will promote sustainable practise and good water saving measures. It was all agreed to support the contents as the River Adur is important to Henfield but not to sign the declaration.

10. **FEEDBACK FROM MEETING WITH WEST SUSSEX HIGHWAYS**

Notes from the meeting were circulated prior to the meeting. Several ongoing issues were discussed at a meeting with WSCC Highways last week including the poor standard of repairs to footpaths on Church Street. It was confirmed that the tarmac patches are temporary repairs and that, as it is a conservation area, the stone slabs will be replaced when recycled slabs become available. Cllr Grossmith offered to donate some spare York stone slabs that he has. WSCC Highways also confirmed that they will look again at potential improvements to the zig zag area outside One Stop.

11. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(A) Finance, Risk & Change Governance

Cllr Morgan invited questions on the recent minutes.

(a) Summary of £25,498.66 Expenditure from 1st May – 31st May 2025.
Noted by Council.

(b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Checks – May.
Cllr Simmonds selected Premier Managed Technologies.

(B) Plans Advisory

Cllr Shaw commented that the committee intend to commence work on reviewing the Neighbourhood Plan, as there is no Local Plan for the Horsham District. It was noted that there is likely to be a need for legal advice and consultancy. There is a reserve set aside to cover the cost of any fees.

A member of the public joined the meeting at 7.35pm.

(C) Amenities & Open Spaces

Cllr Morgan invited questions on minutes and added that there is a cemetery inspection tomorrow. He reported that a meeting has taken place with the Active Travel team from WSCC who have suggested improvements directly outside the front entrance to the primary school. No work will take place before 2027. WSCC also advised that as the Parish Council own the land, they would be best placed to arrange the improvements to the footpath surface along the edge of the Kings Field from Deer Park. WSCC

continue to investigate the whereabouts of the remainder of the S106 transport funding.

(D) Children & Young People

Cllr Leader reported that the pre-planning advice from HDC was discussed and it was confirmed by FRC that planning permission will not be needed for improvements to the skate park, although Cllr Potts is checking on a few details.

(E) Museum

Cllr Potts reported that the scanning for the digitisation project is now complete and initial results look very high quality. The oral history project continues and Councillors were encouraged to publicise.

(F) Joint Commons

Cllr Perry reported that further clarity is needed on voting rights for Parish Council members. The Tanyard barn has been cleared and the gate will shortly be repaired. Good feedback has been received on the lizard perches on Henfield Common North. Devolution will be a standing item on the agenda going forward and there will also be a new Clerk for the committee.

12. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr Jemmett reported on the success of the Chill Out night at the Youth Club. It is making a significant difference to young people that have additional needs. He thanked Cllr Ayres for her and her husband's support. Cllr Simmonds reported that he had attended a rural policing meeting, there are no particular concerns for Henfield. Cllr Perry reported that SH2030 are supporting a school bus bike initiative due to take place on the 18th June. Twenty three families from the primary school have signed up to take part. Access Henfield has compiled a comprehensive report into dropped kerbs and WSCC seem keen to take the project forward. Cllr Leader reported on a successful wellbeing event run by Henfield Community Partnership as well as Coffee on the Kerb which continues at various locations every second Saturday. Cllr Simmonds advised that free training is available for mobility scooter users. Cllr Shaw thanked all Councillors on behalf of the Haven for the support shown to the Challenge Annie fundraiser. Over £10,000 has been raised so far.

13. PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES

The Clerk reported that there has been a recent plain clothes licence check by Police Cadets on five Henfield outlets that serve alcohol. All five venues passed as they asked for ID.

14. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

Cllr Ayres asked whether any support could be given to the High Street shops that appear to be struggling and are looking run down. It was noted that the Parish Council has little in the way of leverage but continue to keep the High Street free of weeds and looking attractive with planters and baskets. Cllr Leader offered to raise this issue with the Community Partnership as they have good contacts and links with local businesses. It was also noted that HDC economic development team have a range of support, grants and training on offer that might be helpful.

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 1st July 2025.

Meeting Closed at 8.06pm.