



HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Amenities and Open Spaces Committee held on Wednesday 9th July 2025 at 10.00am at the Henfield Hall

Present: Cllrs M Morgan (Chairman), D Grossmith, R Kendall, G Perry, R Shaw, A Willard and E Goodyear.

In attendance: Mr P Samrah – (Henfield Cricket Club - HCC), Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager – OM) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator - PA).

MINUTES

1 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were none.

2 APOLOGIES

Were received from Cllrs D Jemmett and S Leader.

3 APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING 11th JUNE 2025

These were approved. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

4 MATTERS ARISING

1. To receive the report circulated with the agenda – The OM said that the pothole repair was now complete in Bishops Lane. The Chairman said that the flowerbeds still required restoring and said he would speak with the owners. Cllr Perry confirmed that HDC Compliance team have been asked to look into this.
2. Double yellow lines – The Chairman said that HDC had indicated that HDC had said that the lines were not on their land and therefore they would not be repainting and although the Chairman doubted this he felt that nothing further could be done

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The Chairman brought that forward discussion about the Cricket Club Car park to save Mr Samrah having to wait. Mr Samrah said that he had received conflicting advice about what was needed. Cllr Grossmith said that what was required was land recovered shingle (not crushed concrete) for the sub-base and that a Geotextile membrane was also needed to prevent the stone being pushed into the earth below. It was confirmed that one of the preferred quotes did not include the two manhole covers which were also needed.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Kendall **SECONDED** by Cllr Grossmith and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to agree to spend up to £10,000 towards the cost of this project, this being 75% of the final costs.

The Clerk questioned where the money would be found and it was likely to be Playing Field or Community Buildings Reserve.

Mr Samrah said that it was President's Day at HCC on Sunday and that everyone was welcome.

Mr Samrah left the meeting at 10.24am.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

5 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said that residents from North Mead had again written to say that there were problems with parking there. He was advised that Sanctuary Housing wanted to introduce parking permits which may lead to parking on other roads. He added that neither WSCC nor HDC could assist with this matter and Cllr Perry said that she was aware that Sanctuary Housing had suggested changing the middle green into parking but that nothing had come of that. It was felt that there was nothing more that could be done.

6 **HIGH STREET VIABILITY**

The Chairman said he was concerned that the High Street is looking run down especially with a number of vacant shops and premises. Cllr Goodyear added that one shop owner had written on Love Henfield on Facebook that the supermarket was undercutting prices of some items like coal and that this might have a significant effect on smaller businesses in the High Street. Cllr Willard said that Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) were looking at the High Street and that meetings were already planned with a number of the shops. Cllr Perry said that the relatively new businesses on the High Street were welcome.

Cllr Willard said that HCP hoped to run a campaign aimed at getting more residents to shop locally, possibly with advertising in BN5 Magazine, whose owners he had recently met. He said he and Cllr Leader were hoping to find a way forward with the businesses to improve the look of the High Street as well as ensuring their continued business.

In relation to the shop with falling down paper in the window Cllr Grossmith wondered if artwork in the window might be an improvement.

The Chairman also said that a number of businesses were using large A Boards outside their premises but it was agreed that nothing would be done about these until Cllr Willard had had a chance to speak with business owners.

7 **ACTIVE TRAVEL**

1. Footpath across Kings Field – The Chairman said that this had been discussed many times previously with many differing opinions. He added that WSCC had confirmed that Deer Park was classified as a private street which means unrestricted public access. Cllr Goodyear said that the school wanted this footpath to try and limit the traffic at the front of the school. The Chairman said that more information from the school would be very useful; the number of children who might use this entrance, how they would arrive at that point, whether by foot or in a car.

Cllr Perry said that Henfield FC had indicated that they would support this path, she added that she would not be in favour of tarmac. She also said that in good weather children could cycle on the grass to the side of the path rather than needing to be on the actual path. She wondered whether the school could purchase barrier matting to stop mud being taken into school. She said that she felt it would be a lot of money (estimated at £40,000) for the path with no guarantee that it would be used very much. Cllr Shaw said that during the Summer he saw many more people using the path and that when the additional 235 houses at Parsonage Farm were built it was likely that many more children would use the path. He wondered whether the developers could be persuaded to create this path. It was confirmed that a number of children use the Link Road to access school especially those attending a pre-school club at the Leisure Centre.

Cllr Willard said that there was a real danger of people being hit by a car when they stand outside the school and that by having the additional gate in the middle of the Kings Field fence would mean those waiting would be safely away from traffic. The Chairman said that it was hoped that there might be S106 money which could be used to fund the costs, but that without knowing how many people would use this new route there was no guarantee that there would be less people in front of the school. The OM said she could get a revised quote for the footpath, rather than a shared footpath, she added that the S106 money would only be available until 2027. Cllr Perry said that the running track inside the school could be a link for children to get into the school building from the Kings Field.

It was agreed that there was a lot more discussion needed and suggested that it might be helpful to have a meeting with the Head Teacher and Cllr Leader when she returned. The Chairman confirmed that AOS Committee would lead this project but with input from the Children and Young People Committee (CYP) Cllr Perry said that when she was involved with the recent School Bike Bus morning and afternoon users were very different in number. She added that the bike bus was to show parents the safe routes that could be used by cyclists, she felt that the exercise might be tried out once a term.

ACTION POINT: The OM to organise a meeting with Chairman, Cllr Leader and the Head Teacher to discuss this further.

2. Shared use path in Deer Park – The Chairman confirmed that this had come up from the Access Henfield Group. He added that Cllr Shaw had safety concerns if cyclists were encouraged to use this path and would require a lot of cutting back. Cllr Perry said she would share this with the Bike Bus group although she said that it had not been used on the trial Bike Bus.

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ACTION POINT: Cllr Perry agreed to share this with Access Henfield.

8 SEASON TICKETS FOR HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL CAR PARKS

Cllr Perry said that she had been approached again by at least three residents wanting a season ticket for parking in the Library car park. After much discussion it was agreed that these Season Tickets should be kept for business owners only for their staff and not offered to residents.

Cllr Perry said that HDC were considering re-instating the Disabled Parking Bay in the Library Car Park.

9 GRASS CUTTING

1. Manor Way and Borrer Bank – The Chairman confirmed that these areas had been cut by the Works Team (WT). Cllr Perry said she had always envisaged that the WT should use their own judgement about grass cutting on these areas to ensure road safety.
2. Brighton Road outside cricket pitch – The Chairman said that the WT had also cut the very long grass by the cricket pitch but had had to hire machinery to cope with the very long grass and that in future they would keep this grass cut regularly to prevent it getting so high.

10 STORAGE CONTAINER FOR WORKS OFFICERS

The Chairman reported on the alternative sites that he had identified on Council land and there was a general discussion on these. He had also approached the owners of local business parks to see if there were sites for renting without success. However one of these had recently changed hands and he would approach the new owner to see if there were any sites that might be available. He and Cllr Jemmett would also have further discussions with the Football Club.

ACTION POINT: The Chairman would liaise with Business Park owners.

11 CONSIDER PROPOSAL FROM HENFIELD TENNIS CLUB TO INSTALL PENTANQUE FACILITIES

After it was established exactly where the pitches would be located it was **PROPOSED** by the Chairman **SECONDED** by Cllr Kendall and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to support this project.

12 CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR CRICKET CLUB CAR PARK SURFACE

This was covered in the Open Forum.

13 CLERK'S REPORT

1. Financial update – The Clerk confirmed that 25% of the financial year had elapsed and that 29.9% of the budget had been spent. He said that the Leisure Centre Car Park lights were the main reason and that other than that the Committee would have been under budget.
He also said that the Cemetery has received over 50% of the budgeted income for the financial year.
The Chairman said that Cllr Andrews had made a great improvement to the rose arch with his clearing out of dead plants and weeds and said that in September this Committee would discuss the purchase of replacement roses.
2. Any further updates – There were none.

14 ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

There were none.

15 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

10th September 2025.

The Meeting closed at 11.40am.