



## **HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of the Children and Young People Committee held on**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 at 12 midday in the Henfield Hall**

**Present:** Cllr S Leader (Chairman), C Simmonds, D Jemmett, G Perry and E Goodyear.

**In attendance:** Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager – OM) and two representatives from Henfield Youth Club.

1 **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Cllr Jemmett declared an interest in item 8 as he is a member of the committee.

2 **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs F Ayres, A Willard and M Andrews.

3 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING 8<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025**

Approved. Signed and dated by the Chairman.

4 **MATTERS OUTSTANDING**

1. Basketball court repair

Works officers will repair the burned area of court when able.

2. Training rig instructions

These will be available from the manufacturer in spring 2026

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting.*

**OPEN FORUM**

The Youth Club gave detail on their twenty-six grant applications, nine of which were successful. They pointed out the importance and many benefits of the trips, activities and social and educational support that they are able to offer members. In addition, they also run market stalls, fairs, coffee mornings, jumble sales and street collections to raise funds. They are currently open four evenings a week, have ten staff and many volunteers. The manager has recently had her paid hours increased from fifteen to twenty – five per week. They also highlighted the support they receive from other organisations and private donors.

It was all agreed by show of hands to discuss item 8 straight after the open forum.

*The Chairman reconvened the meeting.*

5 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Cllr Leader reported that she attended the Youth Club coffee morning and has recently met with the primary headteacher who has now completed the Active Travel survey. She advised the headteacher to request funding from the Active Travel team towards bicycle racks. She has also met with Hurst Academy and advised how they might request allocation of some land adjacent to the school from the proposed Parsonage Farm development.

6 **PROJECTS**

1. Skate Park Improvements

A new draft design was circulated prior to the meeting, the commentary is still awaited. It was noted that the committee are not in a position to approve the design and therefore request quotations yet, but it is still hoped the project build will be able to start in spring when the weather improves.

2. Facilities at Parsonage Farm

It was noted that Wellbeck has agreed that the bike track on the Parsonage Farm development will be constructed and funded by the developer with an additional contribution towards future maintenance.

3. **Improvements to basketball court**

A report prepared by Cllr Andrews was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that it is likely to be several years before CIL funding is available in order to progress this project, but that some preliminary investigations are useful. It was also noted that there is not enough space in the current location to construct a full-sized basketball court and that the original intention was to provide a multi-use court for practice only.

7 **CONSIDER BUDGET FOR FORTHCOMING YEAR**

A draft budget drawn up by the clerk was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that there will be a lower than perhaps anticipated cost for preliminary work on the bike park. Following the discussion under item 8, it was suggested that an additional Youth Club budget line for £5000 is created in order to recognise the need for an ongoing commitment of funding, to give assurance to the Youth Club and demonstrate transparency. It was also agreed to request that the provision for Recreation and Skate Park reserves is increased to £7000. Subject to these two amendments, it was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Goodyear, **SECONDED** by Cllr Perry and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to approve the recommendation for the draft budget for the forthcoming year.

8 **CONSIDER REQUEST FOR FUNDING FROM HENFIELD YOUTH CLUB**

A funding request from the Youth Club for £5000 was circulated prior to the meeting. This is primarily to fund the seniors evening session which currently has 35 regular members from a diverse background, some of which have additional needs. The £2.50 per week paid by members does not cover the cost of staffing. The annual running cost of the Youth Club is £60,000. They receive £20,000 in income from the nursery. Without being able to raise the money needed, they would need to cut services. The committee acknowledged the importance of the service they provide. It was commented that Henfield are proud to still have a Youth Club and that the Council want to continue to support it. It was suggested that it might be more helpful for the Youth Club to have a commitment to regular funding from the council to give them some assurance that services can continue. It was suggested that a separate application with a business case is submitted for regular annual funding. Given that this funding request is needed from January, it was agreed that a pro rata amount of £1250 could be paid from the current Youth Projects budget on the basis that a separate funding request will be received for the period from April 2026. This will enable appropriate budgeting for the next financial year. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Simmonds, **SECONDED** by Cllr Perry and **VOTED FOUR IN FAVOUR WITH ONE ABSTENTION** to approve payment of £1250 for the period January to April 2026, to be taken from the Youth Projects budget.

9 **CLERK'S REPORT**

1. Financial update.

The committee are 58% through the year having spent 47% of their budget, however this does not include the £6650 design cost for the skate park.

2. Any further updates.

None.

10 **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

It was confirmed that the new member of parish administration staff will manage this committee going forward, however it is not a youth coordinator role. It was noted that the preference for the next piece of accessible equipment would be at Chessbrook. Cllr Leader asked that some painting work is carried out to improve the appearance of the play equipment at Deer Park. Horsham District Council, as the authority responsible, will be approached with this request.

11 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

14<sup>th</sup> January 2025 at midday.

**Meeting Closed at 1.10pm.**

