



**HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**  
**COMMITTEE**

**Meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation  
Committee on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2026 at 10am in the Henfield Hall.**

**Present:** Cllrs E Goodyear (Chairman), R Kendall, M Morgan, G Perry and R Shaw.

**In attendance:** Mr K Wright (Clerk) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator - PA).

**MINUTES**

**1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were none.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Were received from Cllrs Jones, Grossmith and Willard.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

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

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting.*

**OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting.*

**5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman said that she had attended an HDC Consultation with Parishes Meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February where the Leader of HDC had said that Governance Review needed to take place soon and that it was felt that this would be better carried out by current HDC staff rather than leaving to new Unitary Authority and possibly unfamiliar staff and officers. Cllr Perry said that she was grateful for the feedback she had received from councillors in relation to the Governance Review and re-iterated that HDC are open to suggestions from parishes and she had heard of possible merging of some smaller parishes. It was confirmed that the last review had been in 2013. There was some discussion over number of councillors in relation to number of residents within a parish although Henfield had had 15 councillors for many years, merging of parishes and the names of councils. Cllr Perry added that there would be further details in March and she thought that matters would be finalised in September. The Chairman asked that this was added to the agendas for Full Council and asked Cllr Perry to keep this Committee updated of developments.

**ACTION POINT:** The Clerk would ensure that this was added to the Full Council Agenda for next month's meeting and Cllr Perry agreed to keep this committee updated of progress.

**6. REPORT ON MEETING WITH OTHER PARISHES ON CAR PARKS**

1 Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January with Mr P Anderson (HDC) on 26<sup>th</sup> January – The Chairman confirmed that the meetings had been very helpful and positive. She said that Mr Anderson had been pleased to talk with the group who made up most of the larger parishes in the district and he outlined the process, starting with expressions of interest being submitted by councils, he added that HDC would respond and at that point councils would need to submit a business case. He had said that he thought it likely that money generating assets might be transferred along with areas where there were costs involved. The Chairman said that all the parishes had said their interest in car parks was to maintain control over the charges, their maintenance and hopefully to maintain of the parking disc for six parish car parks.

The Chairman said that Mr Anderson team would decide verges and playgrounds but that car parks would be decided at cabinet level. It was agreed that there were still very many variables and until they were finalised some decisions would be delayed. The Chairman suggested that there may be seven years of disarray even after a unitary authority was established.

**7. REPORT ON INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM HDC (ASSETS IN HENFIELD PARISH)**

1 Updated Schedule of Assets at HDC prepared by Cllr M Morgan – Cllr Morgan confirmed that he had land registry documents for most of the HDC land but that he may need more information as matter progressed.

- 2 S106 funding for Deer Park - response from HDC –Cllr Morgan said that HDC had said that there was money from both Phase 1 and Phase 2 of Deer Park Development, but it was unclear how much. He added that within those areas described as green spaces the cost of maintaining the trees is unknown but could be very high.
- 3 Local elections set for May 2027, “shadow year” before new Unitary Authority in 2028. It was confirmed that WSCC elections as well as Horsham Town elections would be held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026, with Mayoral elections in 2028.

#### **8. NEWS FROM WIDER AREA**

- 1 WSCC - Next steps for budget and new combined authority agreed by Cabinet – This was noted.
- 2 NALC - Peers call for stronger scrutiny and support for parish and town councils – This was noted.
- 3 WSCC - Parliamentary milestone - Sussex and Brighton move closer to devolution – This was noted.
- 4 HDC - Unlocking local assets: strategy and process training for 2026/27 – This was noted
- 5 WSCC - West Sussex County Council Statement on Election Deferral Decision – This was noted.

#### **9. CORRESPONDENCE**

- 1 Henfield Guide Hut Lease – Cllr Morgan confirmed that assets could be transferred to organisations other than councils but would normally expect to sell at the market rate. Cllr Perry confirmed that the land belonged to HDC but that the hut had been built by and was maintained by the guides. The Guides were trying to negotiate a new lease with HDC but that there had been some queries. Cllr Perry agreed to follow up with Ms Williams and indicate a willingness from the Council to assist with the matter if necessary.

**ACTION POINT:** Cllr Perry agreed to liaise with Ms Williams and Guides and keep this committee updated.

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

There were none.

#### **11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

Meeting Closed at 10.52am.