

## **HENFIELD COMMONS JOINT COMMITTEE AGENDA**

Notice of a meeting of the **Henfield Commons Joint Committee** to be held at **10-00am on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2026 in the Committee Room at Henfield Hall**

**Members:** Cllrs. Gill Perry (chair), Josh Potts  
Tony Baker, John Willis (non-voting members)

**Officers:** Pete Crawford, Emily Gibbons-Filippini (minutes)

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:** None
2. **APOLOGIES:** Roger Noel, Jake Everitt, Neal Matheson, Malin Andersson, Mark Andrews.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 06/03/2026**  
Minutes approved without change.
4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**  
The committee expresses their grateful thanks to Chris Simmonds for all of his contributions over the years.
5. **MATTERS ARISING:**  
Weald to Waves will provide a bio-box for insect monitoring activities at the Garden and Arts Festival, and MA will assist with pond-dipping activities. GP will show Amy from Weald to Waves the Tanyard, orchard, and road verges to demonstrate nature corridor progress in Henfield. Tara Dawson cannot attend the event.

PC says the bowling green development was rejected, but it is expected to be resubmitted. The development is large enough to be raised to Local Flood Management at County level.

**PC to ask Amy to check on the application status of the development**

**PC and EGF to speak to NM and Andy Bush about protecting the Hollands Lane hazel coppices**

**PC to speak to Sam in Finance about making a note about road maintenance against the easement money budget code.**

6. **OPEN FORUM /CORRESPONDENCE** – Opportunity for members of the public to speak

PC summarises correspondence with Andrea May regarding Spanish bluebells: native bluebells prefer shaded and high-moisture areas like woodlands, whereas Spanish and hybrid bluebells prefer sunnier, drier locations. The main threat to native bluebells is the loss of woodland habitat. TB and JW note they have removed some hybrid bluebells, but do not see many and do not receive complaints about them.

JP reports that Shaylers may not return to Henfield Common due to charges, but his research suggests Horsham District charges are reasonable. PC explains that cut and collect fees and charges are agreed with the contractor as part of the overall annual budget, and there is a venue hire fee for a commercial enterprise on HDC land. GP notes that aligning the fair with the scheduled August/September cut would avoid charges. PC suggests two options: Shayler pays the charges, or the parish covers some of the cost.

**JP to follow up with Shaylers and feed back.**

GP notes there was a recent fire at Wicketts due to arson.

## 7. **TANYARD:**

GP suggests applying for Local Wildlife Site designation, which is recognised as a protected designation in planning.

### **Pete to discuss LWS designation with JE**

PC summarises MA's notes about the Tanyard:

Paths are being prepared for Garden and Arts Festival with volunteers to collect arisings on 8<sup>th</sup> June, new post & rail fencing is installed, yellow rattle seeding from last autumn was successful, cherry laurels have been removed, tree works have received consent and are scheduled for the end of August, grubbing out the secondary hedge has received consent, and the floating island vegetation is well established.

GP raises a concern about the hedge gap on Cagefoot Lane. PC says the fence will be replaced soon and whip planting will commence in autumn.

GP queries the value of grubbing out the secondary hedge by the Tanyard. JW mentions the narrow path causes difficulty for prams. PC explains the hedge is currently scrub and may be laid in the future. One hedge must be removed for this, most likely the outer hedge to enable widening of the footpath.

TB raises potential objections from the birding group and GP confirms a date will be required in advance. PC explains hedging of differing ages benefits birds. GP mentions involving the Public Rights of Way team and being careful of the ditch between the two hedges. PC notes MA spoke to the Scouts about two years ago about applying to the Community Climate Fund to enable hedge-laying.

GP says a local resident donated woodland trust whips to the conservation volunteers who added them into the Tanyard hedgerow.

GP notes that there have been incidents of catapult use against wildlife in the Tanyard and at buildings around the village.

JW queries funding for the barn roof and GP confirms it has been allocated to next year's budget.

## 8. **HENFIELD COMMON –** including Henfield Common North / Horse riding / Shaylers Fun Fair

PC summarises MA's notes about Henfield Common:

MA queries what information should be added to the website regarding horses, confirms she will add chains with locks to horse barriers, and mentions she has received no feedback on the fair so assumes all went well. MA raises change of use of land to the north of the common and health and safety concerns regarding the recent digging of the access road for utilities.

GP explains the horse barrier is being deliberately loosened and the falling pole caused a recent injury. GP suggests the barrier is replaced with something up to standard and more aesthetic.

GP notes the byelaws state no riding on the common and MA has installed no horse-riding signs. PC suggests the website could reflect this and refer to the existing route with a map. JP suggests the addition of a QR code on the signs to link to this webpage.

GP explains recent ownership changes of property at Henfield Common North. There are concerns across the village about the land next to The Haven being used for a car business. A gate has been installed which crosses the Common, but Planning have advised there was no permission for change of use. The right of access across Henfield Common North and the Common itself was for Dykes and did not apply to additional land bought by the previous owner after access was granted. Legal have corresponded about lack of right of access with Mr Scadding-Hunt's solicitor, but the gateway is still in use.

**PC to speak to Legal about next steps regarding access.**

GP notes the new owners of the derelict cottage will be undertaking renovations. However, trucks recently got stuck after the footpath at the top of the common was dug up. GP says MA assisted in calling the Rights of Way team out to resolve this. Furthermore, planning permission was granted to the previous owner in 2023 for three years only.

GP says Henfield Parish Council Amenity and Open Spaces Committee would like to remove the rotting post on the edge of the Common and reinstate the existing soil.

The Committee thank Mike Morgan for reviewing two decades' of Henfield Commons Joint Committee meeting minutes for information relating to Henfield Common North.

#### **9. BROADMARE COMMON:**

PC summarises MA's notes about Broadmare Common:

Four Cetti's Warblers recorded for the first time, Great Crested Newts present in four out of six ponds, bench replaced in front of Black Pond by conservation volunteers, and non-native invasive species by Pond House Pond removed.

PC confirms the wildlife surveys show a healthy list of species across the village, reflecting a good value of habitat.

TB notes that Reed Warblers have been recorded in Henfield Common reed beds again.

#### **10. OREHAM COMMON:**

MA's notes state the orchid count is upcoming.

#### **11. BUDGET/EXPENDITURE - see table overleaf**

PC confirms there was an underspend of only £1,000 last year. This year, there is approximately £18,000 still to spend. The money spent so far has been on surveying materials.

TB suggests replacing the horse barrier with a combination of gates which can be opened for truck and machinery access, and a kissing gate. GP notes the kissing gate should be wide enough to accommodate buggies and mobility scooters. PC puts forward three options: a height barrier, a low barrier for a permissive path for horses, or the gate and kissing gate combination.

JW proposes painting the existing gate a dull green and implementing a lock to secure the pole and prevent further accidents. GP suggests a sign at the top to maintain its visibility in this case.

**PC to discuss barrier options with MA.**

#### **12. LOCAL GOVT REORGANISATION:**

PC confirms there has been no significant progress on LGR since the last HCJC meeting, but we should know the shape of the unitary the week before Parliament rises in July.

#### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS?**

None.

PC thanks JW and TB for their contributions, in light of National Volunteers Week.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS** 4<sup>th</sup> Sept '26

All meetings are held in the Committee Room at Henfield Hall and start at 10-00am.

