

HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of Henfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 7th July 2026 at 7.00pm in The Henfield Hall

Present: Cllrs E Goodyear (Chairman), J Jones, G Perry, S Leader, F Ayres, M Chandler, M Morgan, D Jemmett, R Kendall, R Shaw, D Grossmith and J Potts.

In attendance: Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Deputy Clerk), Cllr R Noel (West Sussex County Council – WSCC) and Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner K Bourne OBE (KB).

MINUTES

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs M Andrews and A Willard.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 2nd JUNE 2026**

It was all agreed to replace the word allocated with considered in item 8.

Approved. Signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman announced the resignation of the Parish Administrator, Belinda Samrah. She thanked her for all of her hard work and mentioned that she has offered to stay in post to assist with training a replacement.

a) Councillor Responses

The Chairman reminded all Councillors of the importance of replying to emails promptly and reading committee papers.

b) Website Update

A very experienced specialist contractor has been appointed. The new website should be well laid out and much easier to navigate.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

6. **OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public present at the meeting.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

7. **PRESENTATION FROM THE SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER, KATY BOURNE OBE**

KB handed out copies of last year's annual report which is also available online. She praised the hard work and commitment to Henfield of PCSO Graeme Foster; Council agreed that he is invaluable and would like to see him supported with additional colleagues or perhaps increased powers. KB suggested writing to the Chief Constable to request this. KB then described the Pegasus Partnership, with major retailers committing funding to work together to tackle shoplifting by sharing intelligence across areas. KB also described a small pilot scheme being trialled by Sussex Police to GPS tag prolific repeat shoplifters. The Rural Crime team continue to tackle fly tipping and consideration is being given to installation of surveillance cameras. There may be possible legislation to ban ghost numberplates. The increase in catapult related crimes was discussed, and it was noted how important it is to

report to the Police to allow sufficient resources to be allocated. KB recommended using 101 to report as it is easier than the online system and now has a much-reduced waiting time to be connected. KB spoke briefly on local government reorganisation, a decision on the Unitary Authorities is expected next week. Funding for Sussex Police and Fire and Rescue will be ringfenced.

KB left the meeting at 7.52pm.

8. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Noel reported that he is dealing with various disputes in regard to roads, footpaths, ditches and gullies and confirmed that WSCC will not support unadopted roads. He also reported on anti-social behaviour at libraries and the difficulties experienced by trading standards. He also reported that the anaerobic digester facility is proving very effective and there has been a decrease in waste to landfill. There is work ongoing to support schools that are struggling with overheating on hot days, and he is also investigating issues relating to streetlighting that may not be bright enough and switching off too early. It was confirmed that there have been no reports of this nature to the Parish Office.

9. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

a) Toilet Availability in Henfield High Street for Disabled People

Cllr Perry confirmed that Horsham District Council (HDC) will support the first year of the scheme but that the Parish Council may need to consider future funding. She hopes that this scheme will also come together with plans to introduce adult changing facilities.

Cllr Perry reported on the 2023 – 2040 Local Plan where there is likely to be policy change to reflect the ending of water neutrality and changes to the duty to cooperate. Current housing numbers suggest a further 696 homes above the numbers agreed in the Neighbourhood Plan, 55 at Sandgate Nursery, 191 at Croudace and 450 at Taylor Wimpey. She added that the Inspector is expecting Henfield to take coastal allocation due to its proximity to the coast and it has been queried why tier two settlements appear to be treated the same when some like Henfield don't have a railway station, proximity to major roads or substantive public transport. It was noted that the flood risk in Henfield is considered lower and there is less issue with proximity to the South Downs National Park. The scoping consultation for the 2045 Local Plan is now open until the end of July; this includes a call for sites. Cllr Perry added that she is also working to assist with saving some trees in Fawn Rise that are suffering in the hot weather. Cllr Potts reported that he is working with Henfield Football Club on a non-prejudicial requirement for an all-weather pitch and continues to push for more support for the Leisure Centre.

10. **MOTION: TO APPROVE THE VILLAGE SQUARE LEASE**

The new lease makes provision for an increase in commercial events from six to twelve. The rent will remain the same at £200 per year for the first five years then increasing to £300 per year until 2033. It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Morgan, **SECONDED** by the Chairman and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to approve the lease to the Village Square.

11. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(A) Finance, Risk & Change Governance

Cllr Jones invited questions on recent minutes.

- (a) Summary of £44,399.13 Expenditure from 1st June to 30th June 2026.
Noted by Council.
- (b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Checks – June.
Cllr Grossmith selected Aubergine.

(B) Plans Advisory

Cllr Shaw reported that AiRS will be attending the next meeting and there will be a chance to ask questions about community led housing in particular with reference to social

housing, management companies and adoption. He continues to progress the Neighbourhood Plan review to protect the Council's 25% CIL contribution.

(C) Amenities & Open Spaces

Cllr Morgan reported that as there were no agenda items requiring decision, the committee conducted a cemetery inspection instead of the regular meeting.

(D) Children & Young People

Cllr Leader reported that the skate park working group have received advise from a civil engineer and the committee is looking at disabled play equipment following a recent visit to Horsham Park.

(E) Museum

Cllr Potts reported that the new CCTV has been installed.

(F) Joint Commons

Cllr Perry reported that the committee still requires an additional representative from Council. The committee continue to discuss the rental and grass cutting cost for the Common and are considering applying for the Tanyard to be designated a local wildlife site. A stretch of hedgerow in the Tanyard will be modified from a double to single row.

(G) Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Jones reported that the meeting was cancelled as there was no further information to consider. It is hoped a meeting can take place with HDC soon to discuss community asset transfer.

12. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Grossmith reported that the new gym equipment at the Leisure Centre will be arriving soon and there should be a smooth transition without the gym needing to close. The HDC Chair and CEO will be invited to the opening.

The Chairman and the Clerk will be meeting with the Medical Centre on Friday morning to discuss issues relating to the pharmacy in the High Street.

13. **PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES**

The PCSO is being kept up to date with reports of catapult damage and the importance of reporting to the Police either online or via 101 was emphasised. It is hoped that non-emergency contact can be made with the Fire Service regarding the report of arson at the Kings Field play area. The Clerk will enquire with the PCSO as to whether there will be a replacement Rural Crime Officer for this area.

14. **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

None.

15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 1st September 2026.

Meeting Closed at 8.49pm.