

HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of Henfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd June 2026 at 7.00pm
in The Henfield Hall.**

Present: Cllrs E Goodyear (Chairman), J Jones, M Morgan, D Jemmett, A Willard, G Perry, R Kendall, D Grossmith and F Ayres.

In attendance: Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Deputy Clerk) and three members of the public representing Sustainable Henfield 2030 (SH2030).

MINUTES

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Received from Cllrs Shaw, Chandler, Andrews and Potts. Also, Cllr Noel – West Sussex County Council (WSSC)

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE AGM HELD ON 5th MAY 2026**

Approved. Signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

It was all agreed to discuss item 9 during Open Forum.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

6. **OPEN FORUM**

The Parish Energy Plan report and a summary from SH2030 was circulated prior to the meeting. The summary highlighted the background to the report and potential outcomes such as solar farms, heat pumps and wind turbines. It was felt that aiming for 30% rooftop solar adoption would be the most viable project to take forward initially, to include giving advice, information and support to residents. The next step is to form a working group and conduct a feasibility study; grant funding is likely to be available. SH2030 intend to set up a community benefit group as a legal entity, support is available from Community Energy Pathways. It was all agreed by show of hands that the Parish Council would support this project.

The three members of the public left the meeting at 7.24pm.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

7. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

A report from Cllr Noel was circulated prior to the meeting. The new session of West Sussex County Council is still in formation. The proportionality of the Council has resulted in a 'No Overall Control Council', with 23 LibDem, 23 Reform, 11 Conservative, 7 Green, 5 Labour and one Independent. The new Leader of the Council, Cllr Jay Mercer, from the LibDems, has formed a 'Rainbow Coalition' of Libs, Greens and Labour to form the largest party, but the balance on voting will be held by the sole Independent, Cllr Donna Johnson of Selsey Division who has been appointed Chair of the Council. The rest of the County governance structure will take shape as the new Committees have their first sittings over the next two months. Cllr Noel will be sitting on the Communities, Highways and Environment Scrutiny

Committee, as well as Planning and Rights of Way. Cllr Noel also remains a Horsham District Councillor and will be actively involved in local Government re-organisation.

8. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Perry thanked Cllr Potts for working in collaboration with her on The Slips appeal, he is currently at the hearing. With regards to the Local Plan, there may be up to seven additional smaller sites considered in Henfield. Cllr Perry reminded all that the deadline for the Community Governance Review is the 21st June. She also mentioned that she is helping residents with some safety and contractor issues.

9. **TO RECEIVE A REPORT ON THE PARISH ENERGY PLAN**

This matter was discussed and resolved in the Open Forum section.

10. **CO OPTION OF A PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Providing ten members of the electorate don't request an election, Council can proceed to co-option. The intention is to advertise in the September magazines and online with a view to co-option in the October meeting. It was felt appropriate to wait until September as the celebration of life for Cllr Simmonds is in August.

11. **MOTION: TO APPROVE THE PARISH ACTION PLAN**

A draft was circulated prior to the meeting and has been discussed at a prior finance meeting. This annual Action Plan is to replace the three-year business plan which came to an end in April. The strategic aims are broadly the same, but it includes more realistic and specific actions. It was **PROPOSED** by the Chairman, **SECONDED** by Cllr Jones and **VOTED ALL IN FAVOUR** to approve the Parish Action Plan.

12. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(A) **Finance, Risk & Change Governance**

Cllr Jones reported that the committee approved an increase to members allowances and the final payment of £10,000 to the Clarkes Mead Trust for the Scout Community Centre. A request to hold up to twelve commercial events per year on the Village Square has been submitted, once resolved the new lease will need to be signed at Full Council.

(a) Summary of £ 71,075.68 Expenditure from 1st May – 31st May 2026.
Noted by Council.

(b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Checks – May.
Cllr Perry selected the donation to the Football Club for gazebos.

(B) **Plans Advisory**

The Chairman reported on frustrations felt at the appeal being granted for the Croudace development. The planning inspector admitted that it was contrary to the Neighbourhood Plan, but overruled it and allowed the appeal.

(C) **Amenities & Open Spaces**

Cllr Morgan reported that the path construction at the leisure centre is now complete, there are some new planters on the village square and planting will be carried out in time for Garden and Arts.

(D) **Children & Young People**

Cllr Willard reported that a meeting is planned with the skate park designer, the street art wall is due to be replaced and repairs to the accessible roundabout were agreed due to safety concerns. There will be a site visit to consider improvements to the Chessbrook play area and a meeting is planned with Steyning Grammar School to discuss the Youth Forum.

(E) **Museum**

The museum are currently working on the Woodmancote Estate Map renovation project to be paid for by grant funding and a donation from the Friends of Henfield Museum. The upgraded CCTV system has now been installed. The committee also discussed the Year of the Village Centre and the potential to share the history of the high street shops by displaying photographs in the relevant premises. The curator will also consider a high street themed exhibition for the museum in the autumn.

(F) **Joint Commons**

Cllr Perry reported there will be representation and activities for children in the Tanyard for Garden and Arts weekend. A recent wildlife survey of Broadmere Common revealed Great Crested Newts in all the ponds. It was noted that the funfair may not visit Henfield again due to the high cost of cutting the grass in addition to the scheduled cuts.

To resolve, under the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, in accordance with Standing Orders s.3 (d) to exclude the press and public on the grounds that the confidential matters to be discussed under item 12 (G) below would be prejudicial in the public interest.

(G) **Local Government Reorganisation**

a) Community Governance Review.

Following discussion it was resolved to delegate the response to the Finance, Risk and Change Governance Committee.

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

Cllr Perry reported on an enjoyable SH2030 seed sowing session with the Rainbows at a community road verge near Fabians Way. The Chairman reminded all about the Electric Car Club anniversary celebration.

14. **PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES**

It is hoped more information may be available soon on the recent fire near the Common and there have been more reports on the use of catapults, including a window broken at a property near Batts Pond.

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

Cllr Ayres raised concerns regarding the closure of the George Hotel. This will be discussed further at the Plans Advisory Committee on Thursday.

16. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 7th July 2026.

Meeting Closed at 8.08pm.