

HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of Henfield Parish Council held on **Tuesday 6th October 2026**
at **7.00pm** in The Henfield Hall.

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

In attendance: Seven members of public, Cllr R Noel – West Sussex County Council (WSCC).
Ms A Donoghue - Chair of Henfield Community Partnership (HCP), Mr K Wright (Clerk) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator - PA).

MINUTES

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were none.

The Chairman stated that Sheila Nye a previous parish councillor had passed away in August. Cllr Morgan confirmed that Sheila was a councillor for 24 years during which she was chair of Planning, on Museum Committee and Financial Committee. She had volunteered in the Museum in recent years. He said that she wasn't afraid to say what she thought, she was very interested in the council even after she left. A minute's silence was observed for Sheila Nye.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Were received from Cllr R Kendall.

3. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1st SEPTEMBER 2026**

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

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

There were none.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

The Chairman adjourned the Meeting.

6. **OPEN FORUM**

None of the members of public wanted to speak.

The Chairman reconvened the Meeting.

With Council's consent the Chairman went straight to item 10 - the co-option of councillors.

7. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Noel reported

- There is pressure from local authorities for the government to finalised Local Government Reorganisation.
- Unlikely that the Unitary concept for West Sussex will be abandoned, as West Sussex already has two seats on the Strategic Authority Board, together with two from East Sussex and two from Brighton and Hove.
- District Councillors will confirm District Elections scheduled for May 2027.
- No longer an email address for Public Rights of Way (PROW) but through 'Make an Enquiry' or 'Report a Problem' on WSCC Website.
- WSCC is now trialling AI vision inspector on vehicles which scan the whole highway for faults and reports directly to Highways Offices.

- Parishes to be aware of the Oak Processionary Moth invasion this autumn, the caterpillars should not be touched.
- Paving on the south side of Church Street will be replaced with sandstone slabs along the whole of the conservation area paving,
- Dropped kerbs in the Parish will be decided after a meeting in Henfield shortly.
- Adult Services awaiting a meeting to discuss future funding with Henfield Haven

8. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Perry said that Small Dole would be united within Upper Beeding Parish Council with three new councillors subject to a HDC meeting the next day.

Cllr Potts said that:

- National Scheme of Delegation will be introduced at the end of October.
- Planning Committees would be reduced from 15 to 13 Councillors to look at larger and more significant developments and that smaller planning applications would be decided by an officer.
- Henfield's section of the Local Plan would be discussed on 21st October.
- Fee charged to Shaylers funfair would be reduced.

Cllr Perry said that

- HDC were working with Saxon Weald to create 22 homes including five family home.
- Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points in Wantley Hill had yet to be decided.
- HDC would be working with HPC on Parish Energy Plan PEP.
- Special Education Needs (SEND) day to be held on 31st October at Chanctonbury Leisure Centre.

Cllr Grossmith asked why charging points were being positioned in residential areas rather than in car parks or on the High Street. Cllr Jones said that the thinking behind the locations was to ensure that those people who could not have a charge point on their own land could find one nearby.

9. **ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE HENFIELD COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP**

The Chairman confirmed that HCP's report had already been circulated to all councillors.

Ms Donoghue asked for questions and the Chairman asked how the Volunteer Hub was working. Ms Donoghue said that there had been positive interest in the Volunteer Hub. She added that the Medical Centre had recently established a Patient Participation Group and had posted on the Hub and already received two volunteers. In response to Cllr Andrews question on successes, Ms Donoghue said that the Bump to Baby group had been very popular and applicable to all ages from new parents to retired midwives.

She said that HCP were working with Access Henfield, looking at dropped kerbs, accessibility of buildings.

She said that HCP welcomed residents coming to them with ideas and being able to assist with the projects proposed and that this included an indoor Curling Club for which HCP had been able to get a grant for equipment.

She informed the Council that Henfield Leisure Centre were holding a Winter Warm Up Week from 12th October for those 50+ years.

Ms Donoghue said that HCP had concerns over Community Building in the village and how HCP can help groups with funding, membership and the setting up of CIO.

Ms Donoghue encouraged anyone to come to a Trustees of Community Buildings Session being held in November.

10.

MOTION: TO CONSIDER CO OPTING TWO COUNCILLORS FROM THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

The Clerk read the Standing Order in relation to the co-option of councillors stressing that the successful candidate needed to receive an absolute majority from the councillors present which meant at least seven votes.

At the first vote Neil Duncanson was co-opted as a councillor.

The second vote was inconclusive.

At the third vote Ibsha Choudhury was co-opted as a councillor.

After signing their Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms, the two new Councillors joined the meeting.

Four people left meeting at 7.20pm.

Ms Donoghue left at the meeting at 7.45pm.

11.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

(A) Finance, Risk & Change Governance

Cllr Jones said that there had been no FRC Committee Meeting in September and the next one would be later in October. She asked that Committees start thinking about next year's Budgets.

- (a) Summary of £34,494.09 Expenditure from 1st September – 30th September 2026.

To be Noted by Council.

- (b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Checks – Cllr Grossmith selected Sandrajsltd Toilet Cleaning.

(B) Plans Advisory

Cllr Shaw said that the office had received details of an appeal over a gypsy traveller site at Pear Tree Farm and that written representations were required by 5th November.

(C) Amenities & Open Spaces

Cllr Morgan said that the next meeting was the following week. And that September's meeting had achieved a good deal.

(D) Children & Young People

Cllr Leader reported that inspection holes would be dug near the Skate Park with a view to seeing how it was constructed. It was also hoped that improvements could be made to Chessbrook green playing area.

(E) Museum

Cllr Potts said that there had not been a meeting since the last Parish Council Meeting and nothing to report.

(F) Joint Commons

Cllr Perry reported that there had been much discussion over the DMMO for a bridleway along Dagbrook Lane. She said that the barn at the Tanyard had been renovated. She was awaiting an update on the secondary hedge at the Tanyard. She added that improvements at Oreham Common had led to sightings of more butterflies there.

(G) Local Government Reorganisation

Cllr Jones reported that the committee had not met recently and was still waiting a decision on unitary authority. She confirmed that HDC's Around the District Meeting had been useful. It was also stated that the meeting with four officers from HDC last week had been very helpful and that at the next LGR Committee Horsham's Assets would need to be decided upon for possible transfer to Henfield. She added that although car parks are unlikely to transfer that HDC would be happy to consider ideas for improvement including the building of Solar panels.

12. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES**
Cllr Grossmith said that the new gym at the Leisure Centre was spectacular and that there would be official opening in due course.
Cllr Leader said that HCP were assisting with HDC's Get On-Line week. She added that High Street Survey had been distributed that QR codes were on the posters for further information. She said that the meeting planned for 13th October would not be going ahead on that date. Cllr Leader said that the next Coffee on Kerb is at Tipnoak on the corner of Nep Town Road on Saturday. She said that HCP are looking at preparing a welcome pack to give to new residents through Estate Agents.
Cllr Perry said that SH2030 were working with the school for the Cycling School Bus the following day. SH2030 were looking at a Waste Grant and hoping to work with school to help maintain their pond.
She added that they were looking at the Community Toilet Scheme with the council support. She thanked the council for putting up signs in the play areas. She added that they have received the ramps.
13. **PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES**
The Clerk said that there have been a couple of incidences of ball bearings being shot through windows and that the police were aware. Cllr Goodyear said that the hall had a number of problems with young people hanging around the Henfield Hall in the evenings, she asked that those using the Hall in the evening to call the caretaker when finished or wait until they arrive.
Cllr Morgan reported that there was further damage around the Skate Park.
14. **ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**
Cllr Willard confirmed that meeting planned for 13th October was no longer going ahead.
15. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
Tuesday 3rd November 2026.
- The Meeting Closed at 8.15pm.