



**ANNUAL HENFIELD PARISH MEETING
HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD MARCH 2020 AT 7.30pm
IN THE HENFIELD HALL**

Present: Cllrs M Eastwood (Chairman), E Goodyear, A Rickard, R Kendall, M Morgan, C Simmonds, R Shaw, D Jemmett, A Sharp, N Farrell, J Jones, G Perry, J Potts and A Donoghue.

Apologies: Cllr N Stevens.

In attendance: Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Administrator), Cllr L Barnard (West Sussex County Council-WSCC) and approximately 130 members of the public.

MINUTES

1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN OF HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman welcomed the members of the public and summarised the agenda for the evening. Councillors then introduced themselves and the Committees they sit on. The Chairman reviewed last year's meeting by mentioning the presentations from Connector Plus, the Commons' Management Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan, all of which are going well and making progress. He then summarised the issues that had been raised by residents last year and the progress made for each. These included:

- **Speeding**
Community Speed Watch is now underway. However, no lollipop person has come forward. The Parish Council are still looking into portable speed indicator devices.
- **The closure of Banks and loss of ATMs**
Cllr Morgan is discussing bringing back some banking services with Barclays. They have a stand at the meeting and are welcoming feedback from residents.
- **Praise for work to footpaths and for keeping the village tidy**
Works Officers have continued this important work. The Chairman gave continued thanks to them and the litter pickers.
- **Pot Holes**
He explained that WSCC continues to struggle to find the money and resources. He asked residents to continue to report them on the WSCC website or the "Love West Sussex" app.
- **Henfield Hall roof.**
The Parish Council are hopeful that just under £25,000 of S106 developer funds has been secured to replace the roof. A similar amount is also being pursued for the Leisure Centre to replace the floor in their main hall.

The Chairman went on to explain what else the Parish Council has been working on. This included:

- **The relocation of the south bound bus stop from Budgens**
WSSC are due to move the stop in April. In the meantime the bus companies have asked their drivers to consider where they park in relation to traffic islands to allow cars to pass them safely.
- **Henfield Trails**
Two trails are expected to launch in the next 3 months. Displays were available with the information.
- **Being a Parish Councillor**
Enough people came forward to fill all 15 Parish Councillor positions, when many other Parish Councils have struggled to do so.
- **The Refurbishment of the Public Toilets**
Thanks to the efforts of Cllr Morgan, the funding has been received and work is now complete.
- **Signage to the new link road at the Wantley roundabout**
This is still being pursued and progress is being made.

The Chairman then gave some other highlights of achievements throughout the year and some plans for the future, which included:

- **Henfield in the Horsham Year of Culture**
Events included Radio 4 Any Questions with Jonathan Dimbleby, the Then & Now Exhibition comparing Henfield at work in 1900 to the present day, The Showcase Tour, the St George's Day English Evening, Summer of Love and Abba Chique. The annual Gardens & Arts Festival continued to attract visitors as did Stargazing at Sussex Prairies. The Museum also supplied items for the Heritage of Horsham 100 Objects project. With funds left over, the Parish Council were able to finance the Toad in the Hole Tree Sculpture at the Leisure Centre and planting to revitalise the Borrer Bank.
- **In the Village**
The Haven complete its cafe extension and the Leisure Centre Link Road project was completed. An electric vehicle charging point, a covered bicycle rack, and new training floodlights for the football club were installed. The Remembrance Parade and Services were very well attended and supported. Following the departure of Barclays, the Parish Council have taken a lease on the "village square" outside the launderette and the Hawthorn vets and hope to improve it. The Library has been refurbished and the Parish Council ensured that the Library, Medical Centre and St Peter's School all benefitted from developer funds to improve their services.
- **Climate Emergency**
This was declared by the Parish Council and they have supported the launch of Sustainable Henfield 2030.
- **Henfield Parish Council Website**

This has now launched and will be brighter, easier to navigate and more useful for everyone.

- **Works Officers**

They have carried out sterling work throughout the year and have a new van, equipment and uniforms. Unfortunately, there was a theft of some of their equipment, but this was covered by insurers so they are fully equipped and along with the litter pickers keep the village and the countryside neat and tidy.

- **Plans for the Future**

These include a new Scout Hut, Cricket Pavilion extension, to replace the Leisure Centre sports hall floor and to resurface and put new floodlights on the two oldest tennis courts at the tennis club. A new Community Pavilion for the football club has been designed which is hoped will also include a base for the Henfield Shedders and workshop to share with the Council Works Officers. The Parish Council also aim to open the cemetery extension this year. On 10/11th March, with help from some WSCC volunteers, the stile near The Bull will be replaced and set back from the road. A new railed bridge will be installed to enable residents to cross the stream.

The Chairman went on to thank staff members, as well as the Parish, District and County Councillors. He also commented that with one month to go, the Parish Council are on track to come in just inside our budget and next year the Precept will increase to £257,548, an increase of 7.9% for a Band D property. He also highlighted that there are two important anniversaries to celebrate this year. The Henfield Club celebrates its Centenary Year and St Peter's Church celebrates its 1,250th birthday in June 2020. He also thanked Councillors and Staff for organising the meeting, to everyone presenting, those who put forward the displays including Henfield Museum and to the Ladybirds for all of their help with the catering. Finally, he thanked everyone attending for their support throughout the year.

2. PRESENTATION OF ROYAL BRITISH LEGION LONG SERVICE POPPY APPEAL AWARDS TO HENFIELD RESIDENTS

Cllr Morgan introduced himself and confirmed that over £140, 000 has been raised by local volunteers. He awarded Daphne Staley for 15 years' service, Chris Burton for 20 years, Carol Elliot for 35 years, Polly Bearman for 35 years and Pam Cole for 50 years. He asked residents to continue supporting the appeal and asked for any new volunteers to contact him.

3. SIGNING BY CHAIRMAN OF MINUTES OF 2019 MEETING

Approved, to be signed by the Chairman.

4. COMMUNITY SPEEDWATCH AND LOCAL POLICING ISSUES

Sergeant Ollie Pullen and Sergeant Erica Baxter from the Prevention team in Horsham were in attendance to talk about changes in policing in light of recent cuts to budgets. Sgt Pullen confirmed that from recent precept increases they are now recruiting more PCSOs as well as a number of new police officers in Sussex. Sgt Pullen confirmed investment is now growing in rural areas. He also mentioned the

new PCSO Alice Moore who has been more present in the village recently. He confirmed that he hopes that police visibility in the village should continue to improve and asked that the members of the public continue to report online and on phone line 101. Sgt Baxter confirmed that Sussex Police now has a rural policy and that she deals specifically with environment, heritage and agriculture. She also mentioned the Police Property Act Fund. The money raised from this is allocated to Community groups and can be up to £500 for a specific item. Examples include Community Speedwatch cameras and sensory lights for a toddler group. Any suggestions for items can be passed on to PCSO Alice Moore. Steve O'Connell from the Sussex Safer Road Partnership explained that meetings take place regularly and that Community Speedwatch is working well. He asked for any volunteers to contact Chris Broadley in order to join the team in Henfield. He explained that if devices are triggered, initially a letter is sent to drivers from Operation Crackdown automatically. This is linked county-wide. A second letter can be sent and a third would then be issued as an Operation Crackdown referral. The driver's other details such as insurance, tax and MOT will then be checked. Warnings and fines can be issued and vehicles seized. He confirmed that 93% of drivers don't reoffend after the second letter. The Chairman then thanked Mr Broadley and the Community Speedwatch Team and repeated the request for volunteers.

5. SUSTAINABLE HENFIELD 2030

Tony Baker introduced Sustainable Henfield as a recent group that are now running twelve projects, motivated by the need to fight climate change. There is an additional recycling scheme and several homes have extra boxes on their driveways taking items not taken in normal collections. Around 600 trees have been planted as well as planting on the Borrer Bank for pollinators. They will also have a repair café on the 18th of April. He also mentioned the Plastic Free Henfield campaign. Discussion is currently taking place with local businesses. There will also be a litter picking day on the 4th of April. Vas Siantonas explained that the group is wanting to encourage people to take responsibility for themselves in respect of reducing carbon emissions. He commented that 40% of carbon emissions come from households. He recommended switching to a green energy supplier and reducing consumption of meat and dairy. He also mentioned electric cars, home insulation and replacement of old boilers with heat pumps and photo-voltaic cells. He noted the government have launched a fund in order to advise people at a reduced cost of £75 and the group will be working with the Brighton and Hove Energy Services Co-op (BHESCO) in promoting this initiative. He also mentioned the Reusable Heat Incentive which is available to help fund improvements. The group are also looking at larger Community Buildings and possible ways of reducing carbon emissions. BHESCO are also looking at funding these larger projects and there may be an opportunity for residents to invest at a 5% return.

6. THE HORSHAM DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN

The Chairman summarised the local plan and noted the deadline for comments is the 30th of March. He showed a map highlighting the nine proposed strategic sites and confirmed that Horsham District Council (HDC) will likely approve two or three sites. He asked all residents to use the opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan and to spread the word among friends and neighbours. He commented that 17 parish

councils are objecting to the proposed Mayfield development, particularly in terms of transport. He then mentioned the smaller sites that are proposed in the current Neighbourhood Plan. This originally consisted of 270 homes, although there has now been an uplift of a further 100. The four additional sites being proposed by HDC are in Furners Lane, Sandgate nurseries, Highdown Nursery in Small Dole and a site on the Shoreham road in Small Dole. The Chairman then explained the registration process and how to comment online, also mentioning that letters to HDC are acceptable. He went on to report the vandalism to the banners recently erected and the threats he has received to him and his family from individuals claiming to work for Mayfield, which he has reported to the police. He reiterated that he and the Parish Council will not be intimidated. He asked for help from local residents and confirmed that banners will be replaced. He also asked members of the public to ensure that they report any incidents they witness to the Parish Office and the police.

Geoff Ziedler, from Locals Against Mayfield Building Sprawl (LAMBS), confirmed they have had great support from local MPs and that their biggest concern is the pressure on individuals. They raised £30,000 last year for reports on flooding, transport and landscape, all of which have been provided to HDC. LAMBS are working closely with the Inter-Parish Group. He noted that no evidence has yet been provided by Mayfield. There is another public meeting organised by LAMBS which will be attended by MPs from Mid Sussex and Arundel and South Downs on the 17th of March at 7pm.

7. OPEN FORUM (For Henfield Residents to raise issues and concerns affecting Henfield Parish)

A member of the public asked if it is correct that Mayfield gave HDC £100k to consider the site. The Chairman confirmed in fact it was £150,000 in order to enter into a pre-planning agreement. This is a legitimate part of the planning process. The same member of the public then asked how much money do LAMBS need? Mr Ziedler responded by stating approximately £5,000 and will be confirmed at the next public meeting, as they wish to be totally transparent. The same member of the public then asked what the police are doing considering recent intimidation, particularly in light of harassment suffered by MPs during Brexit. The Chairman confirmed he has reported incidents to the police and has a reference. He urged all to be vigilant and take photographs of offenders if possible.

A member of the public asked about hydrological reports commissioned by LAMBS, whether enough money was spent and whether LAMBS were satisfied with the outcome. Mr Ziedler confirmed that the Interparish Group has also carried out separate work, but he could not remember the exact amount spent. He also welcomed assistance from anyone with expert knowledge. The Chairman stated that the HDC planning report considers the Mayfield development risk of flooding as neutral and 'can be mitigated'. The Chairman commented that it is important to also consider downstream and upstream, not just the site itself.

A member of the public asked whether the access path to the Downlink from Staples Barn could be refurbished. Cllr Perry, Chairman of Open Spaces, asked for further information to be sent to her so that the matter could be considered by the Committee.

Steve Bailey from the Campaign to Protect Rural Henfield (CPRH) commented that he fully supports LAMBS but with regards to the smaller sites, wanted to notify that other sites are also being progressed by developers and that Fairfax are applying again for Sandy Lane. He commented that it is important not to lose sight of these by focusing on Mayfield. The Chairman noted he was made aware of the situation with Sandy Lane today and that the Council's position on this site is clear and the same as before. Houses are wanted but only where appropriate.

The Chairman then invited Mr Ray Osgood to speak on the Neighbourhood Plan. Mr Osgood reported that it is now at the stage now where an examiner can be appointed and a legal agreement has been drawn up to be signed this week. Once the examiner has been appointed, HDC can release the Regulation 16 consultation to the examiner, who will then make a judgement on whether comments can be submitted in writing or there will need to be a public hearing. Once this process is complete the examiner may still reject the plan, go out for further consultation or recommend alterations. The plan will then go to referendum. Mr Osgood confirmed it is very important to have a Neighbourhood Plan in place to defend against unwanted development.

Arun Agarwal reported that last year's musical evening for St George's day raised over £2,000 for St Barnabas hospice so he is running the event again this year on the 25th of April. There is a Palm Court Café theme with music, Morris dancers and a ploughman's supper. Posters will be up in the village and tickets available from Village Care.

A member of the public asked whether the village will be having white speed gates. Cllr Jones, Chairman of the Village Centre Committee, responded that it had been given careful consideration by the Committee and that there was no great conviction that these gates slow people down and that there are also issues with maintenance. It was resolved that there was not enough justification in spending approximately £3,000 on them.

A member of the public asked whether the new hall roof will have solar panels. The Chairman said hopefully but that funding has not yet been awarded. Mr Siantonas noted that Sustainable Henfield 2030 are working on this.

A member of the public asked whether everyone present had received a promotional flyer from Mayfield. The response was mostly not. The same member of the public had written to Mayfield and enclosed a stamped addressed envelope for an acknowledgement but had not received a response.

Emma Osman from BN5 magazine encouraged everyone to have their say and noted that all individuals within a household can make a separate comment on the Local

Plan. The Chairman noted organisations can also comment, as can people living in other areas such as Mid Sussex, who are also likely to be affected.

Finally, the Chairman thanked all again for attending, all Councillors and staff and the Ladybirds for refreshments, and reminded everyone to have their say on the Local Plan. Mr Osgood then also thanked all Councillors, including District and County for all of their hard work.

8. APPROVE DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S PARISH MEETING

Tuesday the 2nd of March 2021

Meeting Closed at 9.09pm.