

## **HENFIELD COMMONS JOINT COMMITTEE**

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the **Henfield Commons Joint Committee** held on **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020 via Zoom Conferencing at 7.00pm**

### **PRESENT:**

Mr A Sharp (Chairman)	Mr M Morgan
Mr J Potts	Mrs E Goodyear
Mr C Simmonds	Mr E Colgate
Mrs G Perry	
Mr P Hudson	

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mrs P Grant  
Mr J Willis  
Two members of the public

*The meeting was recorded*

Item    Description

#### 1.    **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

There were no Members Interests.

#### 2.    **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 5<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2020**

These were agreed by the meeting and will be signed by the Chairman at a later date.

#### 3.    **APOLOGIES**

Mr R Noel, Mr D Nye, Mr P Crawford (Horsham District Council)

#### 4.    **CHAIRMAN`S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no Announcements.

*The Chairman and adjourned the meeting.*

### **OPEN FORUM**

The members of the public will discuss matters under Agenda items

*The Chairman reconvened the meeting.*

#### 5.    **MATTERS ARISING**

##### (a)    **Oreham Common**

The Chairman had nothing specific to say apart from the south pond was so dry it could be walked on and there is a small amount of goats rue by the gate.

(b) Broadmare Common

(i) Ponds

The Chairman said all ponds are dry and very very low and Mr Willis indicated he had spoken to a resident who said his nearby pond was dry earlier than normal

Mr Hudson again said willows are still there and we should tackle them and the Chairman said they will be cut back when the verges are trimmed. Mr Morgan said we should do clearance work over a couple of years and Mr Willis said now is the right time to do this together with dealing with the reeds.

(c) Henfield Common

(i) Horse Trail

The Chairman had previously circulated a proposed map showing where a horse trail should go which may require removal of trees together with barriers and signs. Members commented that some riders ignore the signs and take them down and concern was expressed regarding riding horses over the ground when it is wet churning it up particularly at the narrow point near the Cricket Pavilion. A member of the public who is a horse rider and a member of two horse riding groups acknowledged that some riders do not follow the rules and said a barrier would be acceptable. Mr Simmonds suggested a trial period be started particularly through the winter and Mr Hudson also suggested the member of the public put her points to us in writing. Mr Morgan was concerned regarding the cost of barrier, and signs and possible tree surgery. Ms Perry said we should encourage people to ride according to the right signs, Mr Potts agreed with this and for more trails as there are more riders now but appreciated the problem. Mr Colgate indicated that there were problems with mud where the path crosses the causeway.

Mr Morgan proposed the Works Officer, Mr Nye, clear a path through the north wood and put up signs and asked the member of the public to bring this to the attention of other riders, although the Works Officer may in the future use a chipper which we could use. This proposal was seconded by Mr Potts and agreed by the meeting.

(ii) Arun's commemorative bench

Mr Agarwal had expressed his disappointment with the commemorative bench's installation but it was agreed the Works Officer would firstly remove the seat and then give another skim of concrete over the existing slab and then replace the seat. Mr Agarwal was concerned regarding adding more cement to existing concrete

and Mr Simmonds said this should be fine and Mr Agarwal was happy with this.

(iii) Condition of seat – southside, by Headmasters House

The Chairman said there is a seat on the southside of the Common on the path leading to the Headmaster`s House which is in a poor condition with broken planks and queried its position which may have been placed there when there was a bus stop , which had then been moved further up. Ms Perry said that there is a plaque on it dedicated to the Henfield Ambulance Club and as the bus stop is now near Mill Drive which has no seat maybe it could be moved although Mrs Goodyear said if it is in a poor condition this could be a problem to the public and Mr Simmonds suggested removing it, storing it and making a decision about it at a later date. Mr Hudson said he would like to know its history and Mr Morgan said the Museum Curator would know this.

(iv) Request to hold funfair in August

A request had been received from Showtime Amusements (Mr Shayler) to attend the Common in August and hold a funfair, arriving on the 10<sup>th</sup> August, departing on the 17<sup>th</sup> and opening on Friday, Saturday and Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup>15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. Mrs Goodyear said a risk assessment should be prepared and the Clerk indicated she was in possession of one and would let Mrs Goodyear have it before a decision is made. Mr Hudson said holding the funfair would cheer people up and it should be held subject to an acceptable risk assessment and this was agreed by the meeting.

Mr Willis said the Works Officer had cleared the cherry laurel and there was a wonderful display of foxgloves and an excellent display of different orchids and the cut beside the reed bed there was ragged robin and marsh orchids.

Ms Perry said a request had been received via the Open Spaces Committee to hold barbecues on the Memorial Field although Mr Morgan reminded the Committee that this is banned under the Bye Laws and asked the Clerk to circulate these to Members

(d) Tanyard

(i) Chestnut End –assorted problems

The Chairman outlined various problems – the dumping of vegetation, height of the hedge, poisoned trees etc. Mr Simmonds said we should take a photograph of the dumped vegetation. The Chairman added that the north pond is extremely overgrown with bramble covering the apple tree which may need to be removed. Mr Simmonds felt this area could be used as an area

for wildlife although Mr Morgan was concerned about the state of it and we should cut it back a little. The Chairman thought it would be a good idea to show the newer members of the Committee around the Tanyard.

Mr Willis asked regarding the grass cutting as the yellow rattle has been very good and had seen an orchid. The grass cutting will be carried out early Autumn. Mr Hudson asked after the Jubilee Oak and was told it was doing well.

6. **FIXED POINT RECORDING**

Mrs Goodyear said the photographer has been isolating and that she had uploaded onto the Parish Council website details of the Commons.

7. **HENFIELD CONSERVATION GROUP**

The Chairman said nothing is being done at the moment due to the Coronavirus but once all back there is a lot of work to be carried out, Mrs Goodyear did say the Sussex Wildlife Trust Volunteers had now returned.

Mr Willis had applied for funding to Horsham District Council and passed information to the Chairman but that he had mislaid it and Mr Willis will resend it to his phone.

8. **POSITION OF UPKEEP OF PRIVATE ROADS ON COMMONS**

A request had been received by residents to help with the upkeep funding but this is not acceptable to us but that one resident had improved part of the road but not others and it was decided to leave this issue for now.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

10. **FINANCE**

(i) **Clerk`s salary whilst isolating**

The Clerk had expressed her concern that she should not invoice for the first quarter as she was in isolation and shielding and had not done a lot of work, however, it was agreed by the meeting that she should invoice Horsham District Council in full.

(ii) **Financial Position**

Unfortunately the Clerk was not able to speak to the committee via her laptop and would have said our budget of \$15,780 is unchanged. The Chairman asked that she provide financial details to Members.

11. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Morgan said the new Manager, taking over from Evan Giles, is Pete Crawford who only started the week before lockdown and once settled in the Chairman will invite him to visit the Commons and of course he will be sent Agendas and Minutes and wished to express his thanks to Lynda Cheesemen of Parks Services for her valued contribution and help to the Committee over many years.

Mr Hudson had seen a copy of a book about Tottington Wood which was very good and perhaps we could do something similar

12. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 8.15pm.