

HENFIELD COMMONS JOINT COMMITTEE

Minutes of a virtual meeting of the **Henfield Commons Joint Committee** held on **Wednesday 14th April 2021 via Zoom Conferencing at 7.00pm**

PRESENT:

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

IN ATTENDANCE:

Mrs P Grant (Clerk)
Dr. J Coultas

Before the commencement of the meeting those present held a one minute`s silence in respect for His Royal Highness the Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who had passed away on the 9th April 2021.

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

There were no Declarations

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 26th JANUARY 2021**

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

3. **APOLOGIES**

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

4. **CHAIRMAN`S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman had no Announcements.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

None

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

5. **MATTERS ARISING**

(a) **Henfield Common**

- (i) Discuss Henfield Oak:-
Proposed action
Report – R W Green
Fence design

The Chairman reminded Members that it was agreed at the last meeting to provide support of the lower limbs by a professional company and to have fencing around the tree to avoid the danger of falling branches and that we now had figures for these two proposals.

We have a quote from R W Green to have four sweet chestnut supports including rods, lintel etc to four lower limbs in the sum of £4414.00 plus VAT and £3490.00 from Richard Blower (Beechcroft Landscapes) to supply and construct a chestnut post and rail fence surrounding a possible fall area with warning signs provided by us.

Mr Morgan said this is an awful lot of money to have four lower limbs supported and asked if taking off 2 limbs would this affect the rest of the tree and the Chairman said it would affect the look of it.

Mr Simmonds said he could not support these quotes amounting to almost £8000 and felt spending it was not justified. Mr Potts supported this and the tree may have to be crown lifted and to wait and see how the branches would be supported. Mrs Goodyear thought we had a report that these branches were at risk and at a minimum we should put up some signs. The Chairman said the aerial survey indicated some branches showed signs of weakness but not a timescale.

Mr Morgan queried if we should get post and rail fencing and Ms Perry agreed we should have another look at this type of fencing together with signage although Mr Potts thought there was some disparity in fencing quotes. Dr Coultas mentioned she knows of a very good fencer who had installed her electric fencing who may give a better price. Mr Morgan suggested we meet on site and have another look and Mrs Goodyear would like to see more prices.

The Chairman said to sum up – we put up signs about falling branches on 2 x 4” posts, meet on site with the reports, a description/history of the oak and defer the quotes. Mr Hudson reminded the meeting we have a duty of care. The Clerk also reminded the meeting we have easement monies available which currently stand at £28,609, Mr Morgan said we could look into this.

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mrs Goodyear said a request had come from John Lawson`s Circus to attend the Common this May and the Chairman indicated we could reply saying attendance would be as per Covid regulations but parking may be a problem as the ground may be wet then.

Dr Coultas would like clarification regarding the proposed Denise Butlin bench and the position by the cricket pitch was agreed. She also indicated there was a tree across a horse trail used by riders and asked about the path from Furners Lane and its history and would like to see it relaid. The Chairman, once more mobile, will look at the fallen tree and Mr Morgan said the short piece of land is not our responsibility and did not think it was a designated footpath although Ms Perry said it was, with Mr Morgan indicating footpaths are the responsibility of West Sussex County Council.

Mr Colgate said the area around the Cricket Pavilion is being cut up and the Chairman thought this was always a path which they could use although Mr Colgate said there are horse trails which can be used. Ms Perry asked if this (Daisycroft) this subject could be raised with solicitor though Mr Morgan felt this was not easy.

Mr Colgate indicated a post had been removed on the causeway which had red/white tape on it and which was not well marked. The Chairman said the Works Officer has been out to investigate, and that he will attend once able to walk.

Mr Hudson had seen a letter from a resident regarding the bench for Wyn which she does not like but the Chairman has already talked to her.

7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

A date is to be arranged to meet on site on Henfield Common with hopefully the next Committee meeting being face to face.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm