



## **HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

### **Meeting of Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021 at 12:30 pm in the Garden Room at the Henfield Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs G Perry, R Kendall, N Farrell, D Jemmett, A Rickard and A Sharp.

**In Attendance:** Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager), Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator) Mr C Thorns (Henfield Cricket Club (HCC)) and two members of the public.

#### **MINUTES**

##### **1. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**

Cllr Kendall **PROPOSED** Cllr Perry for the Chairman of the Committee, this was **SECONDED** by Cllr Sharp and **AGREED BY ALL**. Cllr Perry said she was happy to accept.

##### **2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Cllr Jemmett declared an interest in item 9 as he is a Committee Member of Henfield Cricket Club (HCC). He signed the Register of Members Interests.

##### **3. APOLOGIES**

Were received from Cllr M Eastwood and Mr J Willis.

##### **4. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**

The Chairman asked if anyone had any nominations for the Vice Chairman, Cllr Jemmett **PROPOSED** Cllr Kendall, this was **SECONDED** by Cllr Farrell and **AGREED BY ALL**. The Chairman thanked Cllr Kendall.

##### **5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 13<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2021**

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

##### **6. MATTERS ARISING**

- 1 Link Road Lights repaired – This was noted.
- 2 LED lights fitted in Rothery Pavilion –This was noted.

##### **OPEN FORUM**

One of the members of the public said that he was concerned about cycling in the Sandpit as he was aware that there was no suitable access route. He was also concerned that an ambulance would have difficulty getting there in case of an accident.

He also wanted to state that access to the Common from the A281 was increasingly difficult with the large number of vehicles parking at the entry point. He lives on Henfield Common and he felt visibility was being reduced because of the number of cars. The Chairman thanked him for his input and asked Cllr Sharp to respond as he is Chairman of the Henfield Joint Commons Committee (HJCC) he confirmed that the land belonged to Horsham District Council (HDC) he confirmed that the only vehicles that should be parked should be those of the homeowners and only in permitted bays. Cllr Sharp said that he hoped to speak with the homeowners when the restrictions were lifted and agreed to raise it at the next HJCC meeting.

**ACTION POINT:** The Parish Administrator would notify the Secretary of the HJCC to include this on the next agenda.

One of the other members of the public wanted to talk about verge management as well as seeing how the Committee operated. Mr C Thorns wanted to talk about Henfield Cricket Club.

##### **7. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1 Henfield Cricket Club – letter from C Thorns and response from Chair of ROS – The

- Chairman said that she felt that explanation from Mr Thorns had been very helpful.
- 2 Vandalism at Chess Brook Green play area – This has since been repaired.
- 3 Accident at the Sandpit – 8.5.21, no serious injury but area was flattened on 20.5.21 – The Chairman confirmed that an 11 year old boy had fallen from his cycle and injured his shoulder. The neighbours had stayed with him until his parent could collect him. She also said that despite the Parish Council (PC) asking people not to cycle there some had continued and so the works team had removed the humps and gullies so that it was no longer as exciting for cyclists.
- 4 Poison pellets reported on Downs Link – 16.4.21 – The Chairman said that a local resident had made the PC aware of poison pellets on Downslink near the Cat and Canary pub, this was reported to the police, West Sussex County Council (WSCC) and the local vets, it was also put on social media.
- 5 HDC - Parks Security measures to prevent parking on playing fields – The Chairman said that she felt the Playing Fields in Henfield were secure to prevent unwanted access, all agreed.
- 6 Request for access through Meadow field to the rear of a resident’s garden in Wantley Hill. She confirmed that the field was leased from WSCC and that the resident would be made aware of the need to reinstate any damage or planting on field boundary. All agreed that this was acceptable.

**ACTION POINT:** Parish Administrator to notify the home-owner and liaise with works team over exact dates.

## 8. THE SANDPIT

- 1 Cllr Morgan’s email about ownership of land around Sandpit – The Chairman explained that the red outline was of the Sandpit, HPC also used to own the footpath marked in yellow but that these rights were given away in 1997 so HPC had the same rights over this footpath as any member of the public. She also said that the blue line on the map is an access route for maintenance. Cllr Sharp confirmed that this would mean that cyclists could get access to the Sandpit via Furners Lane.
- 2 Review of Working Group Meeting – 8.4.21 – The Chairman confirmed that it had been hoped that a second meeting of the working group could have got together for a review about now but because of the events of accident and abusive behaviour of some of those using the Sandpit, Cllr Eastwood had felt it would need more time. The Chairman confirmed that those who had met for the working group had been contacted to ask them to maybe work out some draft ideas that would be acceptable to the landowners in the future. She also said that HPC would make contact with other interested parties to see if there was support for getting a plan drawn up. Cllr Farrell said she would be happy to assist with this.
- Cllr Kendall stated that the PC was responsible for the land and therefore for any accidents. The Chairman explained that that was why the area had been flattened. She also confirmed that it would still be a designated area for wildlife and that one of the families had said would be happy to help restore the natural area. Cllr Farrell asked whether HPC’s insurance covered the area and the chairman said that the insurance company would insist on an annual ROSPA check as well as regular inspections by the Works Team.
- Cllr Sharp felt it would be sensible to check the blue route to confirm access and Cllr Kendall said that he felt the matter could not be allowed to drag and that by the next meeting of this committee there should be a plan in place. Cllr Farrell asked whether the area that she knew as the Donkey Field between Sandy Lane and Windmill Lane could be used instead.

**ACTION POINT:** Parish Administrator to establish exact access rights on the blue line on map and find out the owner of the Donkey Field.

- 3 Plan for future Working Group Consultation – The Chairman stated that it was hoped for a meeting in a month or two’s time.

## 9. CRICKET CLUB

- 1 To receive an update – The Chairman confirmed that at next week's FRC meeting the split of payments by HCC and HPC for the repair of the Cricket Club car park, she also said that Cllr Eastwood had thought that 75% paid by HPC and 25% paid by HCC might be an acceptable split. Mr Thorn confirmed that the pavilion which HCC had hoped to be building would now not be built for several years but that the car park could not be left in its present state until after that time. The car park copes in the dry weather but as soon as the rain comes it gets flooded.  
The Chairman confirmed that the extension of the pitch was ongoing and being dealt with by solicitors at the moment.
- 2 Common Car Park repairs – Quotes (subject to VAT) had been received from:-  
Battens £1,690 and £3,700  
Edburton £2,750 and £4,250  
PHB – £2,946 and £3,533.  
The Chairman confirmed that the money could come from reserves and it was agreed that Cllr Sharp would meet with Works Officer at the car park to decide which was the best option.

**ACTION POINT:** Parish Administrator to contact Works Officer and ask him to liaise with Cllr Sharp about meeting and recommending a quote which could then be agreed by email with this committee if necessary

#### **10. FOOTBALL CLUB**

- 1 To receive an update – The Chairman confirmed Cllr Eastwood has already met with Mr Hutchinson of HFC about the New Pavilion and that another meeting would be organised to include HPC, the Sheddars, HFC and the architect to discuss the best structure
- 2 John Rodriguez is stepping down as Chair, new one will be elected at AGM on 26.6 21 – This was noted.

#### **11. TENNIS CLUB**

To receive an update – It was confirmed that the valuation was ongoing.

#### **12. PLAYING FIELDS**

- 1 Memorial Field – Nothing to report.
- 2 Rothery Field - Nothing to report.
- 3 Kings Field – Nothing to report.
- 4 Use of Playing Fields for Business – The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Morgan had asked whether HPC should reconsider charging individuals for the use of playing fields for their business. Cllr Kendall said that he felt there should be no charges until at least the end of the year. It was agreed to leave this matter until December 2021 and review again. Cllr Jemmett confirmed that he would be organising a Playing Fields Committee Meeting once the new Chairman of HFC was elected.

#### **13. TRAILS**

To receive an update – The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Eastwood had met Paul Crowe and Mike Ainscough to discuss the distribution of Trail Leaflets and that a draft plan is in place. She also said that the Three Parishes Trail online version is nearing completion and that a meeting with Henfield Birdwatch was planned for third week in June to discuss the bird overlay so that PMW have the information that they need to create this detail. The Chairman also confirmed that the Henfield Village Walk is the most popular page on the Hidden Henfield website with 1,700 views to date.

#### **14. TREE WORK**

- 1 Specimen Tree from Henfield Gardening Club
- 2 Specimen Tree from Local Resident
- 3 Trees for the Downs Campaign
- 4 Trees for Queen's Green Canopy
- 5 Meeting with Tree Wardens and their recommendations – The Chairman said that there had been a lot of suggestions about planting a tree in memory of Covid 19, a relative and for Queens Platinum jubilee. She also said that she had sent through the recommendations from a Tree Warden Meeting for consideration:

A Henfield PC recommends local people use the WSCC Donate a Tree scheme to increase tree planting in village (nature recovery), WSCC would check that the area was suitable and the resident could choose type of tree (Preferably native to the UK) and they would water it regularly whilst it establishes.

B Henfield PC will run a consultation on where residents want more trees on verges/public areas.

C Henfield PC will fund (or seek donated trees for) larger commemorative planting project/s at the most appropriate locations to include Sandpit Field, Edges of Kings Field or Rothery Field. Cllr Sharp said that an ecological survey of Sandpit area was to be carried out and that it was an area where trees could be planted but not exclusively. The Chairman said that it would need watering volunteers.

D Henfield PC will promote the idea of local clubs/venues planting a commemorative tree in their grounds to increase our Nature Recovery Network (ideally blossom trees).

E Henfield PC will organise and part fund the planting of crocuses in a ribbon through the village in autumn 2021 for spring 2022 flowering in Platinum Jubilee year, clubs could also be asked to contribute.

F Henfield PC will seek permission from other relevant landowners/councils for planting projects which the residents support on their land e.g. back of Library.

It was **PROPOSED** by the Chairman **SECONDED** by Cllr Kendall **AGREED BY ALL** accept all these proposals.

**ACTION POINT:** The Operations Manager to post these proposals on website in consultation with the Chairman.

**ACTION POINT:** The Parish Administrator to draw up a list of Clubs to make contact with in relation to these proposals and in consultation with the Chairman.

#### **15. DOWNLINK ACCESS FROM GUIDE HUT**

With WSCC - Ranger has details and is contacting Contractors for further information – This was noted.

#### **16. ADUR RESTORATION CORRIDOR**

To receive an update – The Chairman confirmed that there had been no further meetings since the last ROS Committee Meeting.

#### **17. PLAY AREAS**

- 1 Risk Assessments – The Chairman confirmed that these had been reviewed and updated, notices have been put up in all play areas and on website.
- 2 Skate Park – The Chairman confirmed that finally one estimate had been received for £1,200 to £1,400 from R & J Concrete Repair Specialists for the repair to the Skate Park. She also confirmed that there was money in reserves for this project and that if all on this Committee were in agreement it would be raised at the FRC meeting next week for approval.

It was **PROPOSED** by Cllr Kendall **SECONDED** by Cllr Jemmett **AGREED BY ALL** to take the matter to the FRC and if necessary finalise the arrangement with an email after the meeting.

- 3 Chessbrook Green – Request for Section 106 money has been submitted to HDC – This was noted.
- 4 Kings Field Play area – showing signs of wear and tear, possible replacement of mound – The Chairman confirmed that quotes for a replacement to the mound were being sought.

#### **18. LOCAL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT PLAN**

- 1 Biodiversity Working Group – The Chairman confirmed that there had been a couple of meetings and one is planned for July, one of the areas particularly being looked at was to make a coherent plan to increase nature and reduce carbon footprint.
- 2 Verge Management –

- a. Maintenance and Grass cutting – Map attached - This was noted.
- b. Service Agreement with WSCC – notes of meeting on 14.5.21 – This was noted. Cllr Kendall said that he thought the grass in Fabians Way was very long and the Chairman confirmed that the next cut by WSCC would be on or around 16<sup>th</sup> June. She also confirmed that the Works Team generally mowed the edges of verges. She also said that WSCC Highways do not take away the risings after mowing. To encourage wildflowers next year at the meeting with WSCC it was suggested that on the designated community road verges with wildlife planting, volunteers could take the last mowing cuttings and leave them in a suitable wilder area after the autumn cut.

**ACTION POINT:** The Parish Administrator would liaise with WSCC Highways to establish the date of the Autumn cut on designated community verges.

- c. Community Verges at Borrer Bank, Manor way and Swales – The Chairman confirmed that the Borrer Bank had done well this year but Manor Way planting had been a bit more problematic. WSCC had put signs up at the Swales to indicate that they are wildlife verges.
- d. Application from Furners Mead resident to maintain a verge sent to WSCC awaiting a response – The resident concerned explained that she wanted to maintain one of the verges in Furners Mead, she said that she would like to plant a hawthorn tree in place of nettles with a wildflower mix which would hopefully only need cutting just once a year. She said that she was happy to look after ground and hoped to encourage hedge hogs. The Chairman thanked the member of public and said that HPC were also supporting this venture.
- e. Resident request not to mow Pinchnose Green 14.5.21 – The Chairman confirmed that the Works Team had been asked to leave this area for now.

## **19. SAFE ROUTES**

To receive an update – The Chairman confirmed that there had been another meeting. It was not positive news about cycle ways to Blackstone, and that Roger Noel had been very concerned about aggressive sign posting by some landowners. The next meeting was likely to receive a report about Hurstpierpoint’s Monday club.

## **20. CLERKS REPORT**

- 1 Financial Update – After 2 months of the current financial year (16.7% completed) expenditure by ROS was 12.9% of budget. £2,540 had been spent on the third trail overlay on Hidden Henfield website.
- 2 Any Further Updates Works Team Mulcher arrived 19.5.21 – This was noted.

## **21. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

## **22. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Jemmett said that he wondered if visitors to these meetings could be encouraged to speak early in the meeting to avoid them having to wait for such a long time to speak.

## **23. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 1 Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 9.30am in the Henfield Hall.
- 2 Timings and days for future meetings – after some discussion it was agreed that future ROS Committee Meetings would be held at 9.30am on Wednesdays every other month in line with the changes to Village Amenities Committee Meetings.

**ACTION POINT:** The Parish Administrator to update website with new times and dates and to inform the Hall Steward of changes.

The Meeting Closed at 2.22pm.