



**HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Meeting of Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held**  
**on Wednesday 12th January 2022**  
**at 9.30am via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs G Perry (Chairman), R Kendall, M Eastwood, D Grossmith, N Farrell, D Jemmett, M Morgan and A Sharp.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager), Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator), Mr J Willis (Tree Warden), Mr J Penfold (Henfield Football Club) and one member of the public.

**MINUTES**

**1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

There were none.

The Clerk stated that at recent WSALC forum it was confirmed that all decisions from Committee Meetings can only be agreed in a face-to-face format; it had been thought that this would only be the case for financial decisions. All committee members said that they would be happy to meet in person at the next Recreation and Open Spaces Committee Meeting being held in March. The Clerk confirmed that he would make sure it was raised at next week's FRC meeting.

**ACTION POINT:** The Clerk would raise the issue of face-to-face meetings at FRC meeting.

**2. APOLOGIES**

There were none.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 10TH NOVEMBER 2021**

These were approved and will be signed by the Chairman when next in the Parish Office.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman said that there was no further information on the Outside Gym; she also said that she had approached SDNP for their Guide on Outdoor Spaces.

Cllr Kendall asked about progress on the recruitment of a new Works Officer and the Clerk confirmed that he had received five applications and that the deadline for applying was 14.1.22. He confirmed that the new Works Officer would be working 25 hours per week and confirmed that one of the existing works officers was doing an additional day a week as the Lead Works officer had reduced his hours. He said that all applicants would be reviewed once the deadline had been reached.

*Cllr Eastwood joined the meeting at 9.38am*

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting*

**OPEN FORUM**

*The Chairman reconvened the meeting*

*Cllr Sharp joined the meeting at 9.39am.*

**5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1 Making Space for Girls – This article was noted.
- 2 SDNPA Call for Nature Sites - The Chairman confirmed that she had been in contact with SDNP to ask for more information but also said that little of our Parish is considered to be in SDNP.
- 3 Energy Audit – The Chairman confirmed that this had been raised at Biodiversity Working Group and that the Parish Council was looking at its own carbon footprints, especially in relation to lighting, heating and floodlights.
- 4 Lost Woods – The Chairman confirmed that this project run by Action in Rural Sussex (AIRS) and The Woodland Trust often make contact with the Parish Council as local landowners and that she

- would keep the committee informed of developments.
- 5 Use of Council Land (Deer Park Field) for Dog Training – Cllr Morgan said that he had seen an advert on Love Henfield pages on Facebook. It was agreed to monitor the situation as it was not clear whether this would be taking place on Council land.

**ACTION POINT:** The Parish Office would monitor developments and find out where the training is taking place.

- 6 Annual Parish Meeting ROS content – The Clerk asked for suggestions of topics and Cllr Eastwood said that he thought Cllr Kendal’s suggestions of Biodiversity, Planning update and what’s happening with local plan as well as positive projects for the future, were good ideas. He felt the Infrastructure Delivery Plan could be discussed with future projects likely to be a mountain bike track as well as projects that have been completed over the last year such as the speed indicators which seem to be having some impact on the A281. The Chair said the focus on Biodiversity would be of interest to the local resident who had requested more regular communication on what the Council is doing about environmental issues. The resident had also sent us details on possible grants for farmers to develop nature on Flood Plains.

## 6. THE SANDPIT

- 1 Update on Orchard Planting. It was confirmed that a number of trees had been ordered for this project and would be arriving in February and that the Council had received donations from two families who wanted memorials to loved ones. It was confirmed that the nearby residents had confirmed that their water supply could be used.
- 2 Update on Hedgerow using whips from the Queen’s Green Canopy trees – It was confirmed that a large number of the whips received had already been planted and that a hedge layer would be giving advice.
- 3 Update on Woodland thinning – It was confirmed that this would be carried out when necessary.
- 4 Cllr Eastwood confirmed that the Archaeological Survey which was being investigated was likely to be on the three other nearby fields but not the actual Sandpit Field.

## 7. CRICKET CLUB

- 1 Update on Lease extension – It was confirmed that no further progress had been made.
- 2 Update on parking area on edge of grass – After much discussion it was agreed to ask the Works Officer whether the area could be chained off during the winter time to protect the soil. The possibility of planting trees and/or hedging shrubs was discussed and it was agreed to raise this at the next meeting.

**ACTION POINT:** The Clerk would speak with Works Team about chaining or roping off the area for protection.

- 3 Memorial Bench for John Duncan – It was confirmed that this would be installed when weather conditions were better more suitable.

*Mr J Penfold of Henfield FC joined the meeting at 9.45am.*

## 8. FOOTBALL CLUB

- 1 Access to Rothery Field by Ambulance – After much discussion about this access route it was agreed that Cllr Morgan would make contact with the landowner concerned and ask about formalising the arrangement over access to the Rothery for Works Officers and contractors.

**ACTION POINT:** Cllr Morgan agreed to contact the landowner direct and get clarification.

Mr Penfold explained that the Kings Field had been unusable for a number of weeks because of drainage problems. He felt that the meeting at Memorial Field had been productive. Cllr Eastwood said that the Kings Field had been neglected over recent years with more time being spent on other projects such as the Memorial Field but that now would be the right time to look at what was needed and that if there was funding from Section 106 this could be allocated to this type of project. The Clerk confirmed that the Contractor had recommended at least six monthly “Vertidrainning” of the Memorial and Kings Field. Mr Penfold confirmed work would be starting on the Rothery after the football season ended.

Cllr Eastwood said that he had very recently been contacted by WSCC about the land at Wantley Hill which had been earmarked as a possible sports ground, including a Cricket pitch, small sided football pitch, pavilion and parking and that a meeting had been arranged for 10am on 25th January. Mr Penfold agreed to attend and Cllr Jemmett said he would arrange for someone to represent the Cricket Club at the meeting. Cllr Farrell reminded all of the need to consider girls' sports.

*A member of the public joined the meeting at 10am.*

## **9. TENNIS CLUB**

- 1 Update on Lease – Cllr Morgan confirmed that the paperwork had been completed and that the lease was being registered at Land Registry.

*Cllr Morgan left the meeting at 10am*

- 2 Update on Pavilion works – It was confirmed that the storage container is still in Leisure Centre car park and that a completion date for works is not known.

## **10. PLAYING FIELDS**

- 1 Memorial Field –
  - Moles on field – ACT Pest Control alerted – This was noted.
  - Rabbits on field – It was confirmed that there were no further sightings of rabbits.
  - Damage caused by Motorcycle – Cllr Eastwood wondered if it would be possible for the Commons Committee to consider re-instating the barrier on the edge of the field to prevent access by motorcycle through the woods. It was agreed that this would be raised at the next Joint Commons Committee Meeting.

**ACTION POINT:** Cllr Sharp would make sure that this was raised at the next Joint Commons Committee Meeting.

- To receive update on meeting to consider its condition held on 11.1.22. The Clerk explained that a number of interested parties had met with the Contractor at the Memorial Field the day before to find out what would be necessary to improve the condition of the pitch. Four monthly "Vertidrainning" was recommended for the area near the village with six monthly draining needed on the rest of the pitch. Additional grass seeding and fertiliser application would also benefit the surface. Cllr Eastwood said he had noticed marsh grass beginning to grow through in areas and that the weather had played a part in the problems. A proposal and quote for ongoing maintenance was requested and this will also include an option on using peat free products in line with the Parish policy.
- 2 Rothery Field –
  - Proposal to plant the semi-circular area on mound – it was confirmed that a quote is still awaited.
  - Mole activity in SW corner of field – It was confirmed that ACT Pest Control has been alerted.
- 3 Kings Field - This was covered under Henfield Football Club.

## **11. TRAILS AND FOOTPATHS**

- 1 Wooden Bench – Milne family on the Lydds – The Chairman said that she had been contacted by a resident about a bench sited at the Lydds for the Milne Family which is in a state of disrepair and that the Parish Office would try to contact the family to see if they wished to repair. Cllr Grossmith said that he had made a start on the survey of benches in the parish but had been hampered by bad weather. He would carry on when the weather allowed.
- 2 Mr Willis noted that when he was using the Henfield River trail brochure he had realised it mentioned the West bank of the river when it was the east bank. Cllr Eastwood confirmed it would be amended at the next print run.

## **12. TREE WORK**

- 1 Tree Wardens' update and recommendations – Mr Willis confirmed that the fruit trees for the Orchard had been ordered and that the ground needed to be prepared for planting, he had also collected the two walnut trees (saplings). The Chairman confirmed that most of the 345 whips that had been received from the Woodland Trust had been planted but some were being held back for

hedging around the Orchard. Cllr Eastwood confirmed that the nearby home owners had given permission for their water to be used and asked Mr Willis for further details of timings and that he would liaise with home owner.

Mr Willis asked if residents could be asked at the Annual Parish Meeting for ideas on where to plant new trees or shrubs. He also stated that a huge oak tree had come own at the weekend by Batts Pond and the nearby twitten, so that might be suitable area for replanting. The Clerk said he thought the land belonged to HDC. The member of the public said that she lived nearby and would be happy to help with funding for trees or shrubs there as well as helping with planting and maintenance of the plants. She had also pointed to a site in on Lower Faircox and on Lower Station Road. She said that she had seen research that suggested drivers slowed down when they entered areas that had a lot of planting. She also suggested that a mature rowan might be suitable for the area behind the library, although Cllr Farrell voiced concerns about youngsters damaging a tree in this area as they had done before. The Chairman said that suitable protection would need to be in place around any trees planted.

- 2 Tree Survey due 2022 - Proposal to carry out in March (likely cost £2,000). It was confirmed that the consultant had been lined up for this work.
- 3 Update on Queen's Platinum Jubilee Trees – It was confirmed that planting of the Queen's Green Canopy whips had been almost completed. Cllr Eastwood said that it was likely that all towns and parishes would be asked to light a beacon for the Jubilee Weekend. Cllr Farrell confirmed that it was being discussed at a Platinum Jubilee working Group meeting.

### **13. PLAY AREAS**

- 1 Update on installation of shade in and around play areas (IDP) – The Chairman confirmed that this was included on the IDP and would be considered when CIL funding was available.
- 2 Kings Field Play area
  - a. Mound and Tunnel – contractors will provide quote. It was confirmed that a quote was still being sought from a local contractor. She expressed dismay that this piece of equipment had been out of use for so long.

### **14. BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP**

- 1 To receive an update from meeting on 17th November 2021 – The Chairman confirmed that some local contractors were gradually moving towards supplying plants in peat free compost. The Energy Audit work is also related to this group.

### **15. SAFE ROUTES**

- 1 To receive an update from meeting on 30th November 2021 – Cllr Eastwood confirmed that a number of routes were being looked at and that he had had meetings with landowners in connection with the Route in Small Dole to the Downslink and that he hoped to have a meeting with both landowners together in the near future. He also said that the group would be looking at a link on the Lydds to Barrow Hill and that other members of group are trying to speak to landowners. It was also confirmed that Cllr Sarah Payne would be visiting the proposed access route at the Guide Hut to the Downslink.

### **16. CLERKS REPORT**

- 1 Financial Update – The Clerk confirmed that the ROS expenditure budget is slightly below the 'expected' level at this stage of the year; 75% of the financial year had elapsed and expenditure stands at 72.2% of budget. He confirmed that donations had been received for Trees. He also confirmed that the Parish Council's budget and Precept request had been accepted by HDC.
- 2 Any Other matters – There were none.

### **17. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence.

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

The Chairman confirmed that members of the public normally spoke in the Open Forum only.

### **19. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 9.30am in Garden Room.

Meeting closed at 11.01am.