



HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of Recreation and Open Spaces Committee
held on Wednesday 9th March 2022 at 9.30am
in the Garden Room, Henfield Hall

Present: Cllr G Perry (Chairman), R Kendall, D Grossmith, N Farrell, D Jemmett and A Sharp.

In Attendance: Mr N Blake (Henfield Cricket Club - HCC), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator)

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

Cllr Jemmett declared interest item 7 as he is Chairman of Henfield Cricket Club.

2. APOLOGIES

Were received from Cllrs M Eastwood and M Morgan.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 19TH JANUARY 2022

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Chairman said that the dog training that had taken place on the Kings Field was one off and no longer a problem. She also said that it would be good if the Works Officer could fence off the area by Cricket Club and that some small saplings could be planted there. She reminded Cllr Sharp to raise the issue of motor bike driving on the Memorial Field at the next Commons Committee Meeting.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting

OPEN FORUM

Mr Blake is the treasurer and groundsman at HCC, and he explained that the two cricket nets are set on concrete and the bounce of the ball is quite dangerous at times because the surface is no longer smooth, the matting gets wet and mossy because there is not good drainage. HCC want to cut out existing concrete replace with aggregates as a base layer for better drainage. The nets would be in the same place as now and that the cost was £29,328. He confirmed that HCC had £10,000 already and were hoping to raise the remaining almost £20,000 from Queen's Platinum Jubilee grant or through Sussex Community Funds, possibly a combination of smaller grants. HCC were asking the Parish Council if they would be willing to assist with some of the funding. Cllr Kendall asked how much was wanted Mr Blake was not sure. The Chairman asked whether this project would have benefits for other groups or users of the Memorial Field. Mr Blake said that the better drainage may well add drainage on the whole area, but it was unlikely to affect the common. Cllr Grossmith asked about other quotes and he had another quote for £33,000 but that this was not for an ECB approved surface. Cllr Kendall asked whether it could still be used, and Mr Blake said it could with care but that the problem would get worse. Cllr Jemmett said that one net is worse than the other and that the more experienced and powerful bowlers would use a particular net only. Cllrs Farrell and Kendall said that they thought it was important to support local sports clubs as they are used by so many children. Mr Blake also said that the nets were available to be used by anyone.

It was **proposed by the Chairman** and **seconded by Cllr Kendall** and **agreed by 5**, with **1 abstention**, to support the Henfield Cricket Club. It was agreed that Mr Blake would keep the Parish Council informed of progress on the matter and their fund-raising.

The Chairman read the email received from a member of the public who had hoped to attend the meeting but had Covid. She had asked that Henfield Parish Council consider favourably requests to plant trees in suitable verges around residential areas and that it consider establishing a Go Fund Me page so that residents could contribute towards the cost of trees without having to pay £200 which is the sum needed for a Donate a Tree scheme run by WSCC. The Chairman said that she felt this would be a good project for the Tree Wardens to get together and discuss what trees might be suitable and where they could be planted before opening to locals. Cllr Farrell questioned whether this was similar project to what had been posted on website previously and the Operations Manager confirmed that

responses had not been huge earlier but that may have been because watering by residents had been requested at the same time. All councillors felt that this was the sort of project that should be encouraged.

It was agreed by all to support this initiative and for the Parish Administrator to minute the meeting held by the Tree Wardens and adding recommendations to the next agenda.

5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1 Replacement of 2 swing seats at Wantley Playground @ £35 each plus VAT. This was noted.
- 2 New LED lights purchased by HFC for Rothery Field – This was noted.
- 3 Lost Woods Project – Veteran Tree Recorder initiative - The Chairman confirmed that all of the Tree Wardens had volunteered to get involved. The Lost Woods includes Action in Rural Sussex, Woodland Trust and Sussex Wildlife Trust and they are keen to work with Henfield.

6. THE SANDPIT

Update on Orchard Planting – The Chairman confirmed that the Community Orchard had been established with pear, perry pear, apple, walnut and plum trees. Cllr Morgan hoped to donate a Purple Filbert. She said that the hedging needed to be improved in places and she was waiting for a local professional hedge layer to find time to assist with the project. It was agreed that the Works Team would clear away the brambles from the middle of the orchard but leave around the edge and also add more deer proof fencing.

7. CRICKET CLUB

- 1 Update on Lease extension – Cllr Jemmett confirmed that this was still in hands of Solicitors. He also agreed to see if there might be somewhere else that the nets could be positioned.
- 2 Update on parking area on edge of grass – It was confirmed that fencing off this area was outstanding, and the Parish Administrator would remind the Works Team. It was also agreed that some small saplings would be planted on the edge of this area to prevent further parking.
- 3 Replacement of training nets – Request for Financial Assistance – This was covered in the Open Forum.

8. FOOTBALL CLUB

- 1 Update on Access to Rothery Field - It was confirmed that Cllr Morgan had spoken to the landowner who had agreed to consult his solicitor, but that he had yet to hear anything more. It was agreed that the Clerk would be asked to write to the landowner, drafted by Cllr Morgan, to try to expedite the matter. It was confirmed that the landowner had asked that walkers were reminded to walk only on footpaths at the side of the fields, it was agreed that this would be posted on social media but that any signage would have to be his responsibility.

ACTION POINT: The Clerk and Cllr Morgan would liaise and write to the Landowner.

- 2 Consider request from Henfield FC to hold a Football Tournament on 21st & 22nd May 2022 – This was unanimously agreed by all.

ACTION POINT: Parish Administrator would liaise with Football Club.

9. TENNIS CLUB

Update on Pavilion works - Container still in LC Car park – This was noted. Cllr Kendall confirmed that the Leisure Centre were not too bothered by this arrangement.

10. SEVEN STILES

Consider request from Henfield Joggers to hold a run in and around Henfield – Sunday 24th July 2022 – This was unanimously agreed by all.

ACTION POINT: Parish Administrator would liaise with Joggers Club.

11. PLAYING FIELDS

- 1 Memorial Field –
To receive update on meeting to consider its condition held on 11.1.22. It was confirmed that a meeting between the Chairman, Cllr Jemmett, the Clerk, HFC Chairman and Grasstex had taken place and the resulting quote was for approximately £21,000 per annum. It was also confirmed that the Memorial Field is being used for up to three matches a week from January to April but was not the first choice of HFC. Advise from a local expert who felt that the ditch work and

vertidrainage were essential, but that sand banding could take place the following year. All were reminded that the last time vertidrainage and reseeding took place it was followed by a drought and proved worthless. The Chairman suggested that just one pitch could be used by HFC and the other used for other sports facilities. It was agreed that Cllr Morgan would be asked to check what responsibilities were agreed with Sport England and that a frank discussion would be needed with HFC to ascertain what pitches they used regularly and whether any additional pitches would really be needed at Wantley. The Operations Manager confirmed that a Community Facilities meeting would be taking place later this month between all the sports clubs of the village to find out what was needed and get a plan of future priorities. Cllr Grossmith said that a standard of the pitches needed to be established once Cllr Morgan had looked at the original paperwork. It was agreed that the Chairman, the Clerk and HFC Chairman would meet with one other Parish Councillor (possibly Cllr Eastwood but if not, Cllr Kendall is happy to attend) It was also agreed that a further quote would be needed for the work to the Memorial Field. All were reminded that the Playing Field Budget for 2021 – 2022 was £8,500 for all the playing fields and none had been spent and that this could be carried forward and added to 2022 – 2023 budget of £6,500.

The Chairman said that she wanted budgets to be looked at in every ROS Committee meeting. Cllr Jemmett said that he expected to be approached by a club in Horsham to use the Memorial Field if it was not being used by HFC.

It was **proposed by the Chairman** and **seconded by Cllr Grossmith** and **agreed by all** to carry forward Playing Field Budget of £8,500 from this financial year to next.

ACTION POINT: The Clerk will arrange to carry this forward.

It was also agreed that it would be helpful if the Scope of the Budget could be investigated to establish which clubs should benefit.

- 2 Rothery Field –
Proposal to plant the semi-circular area on mound – The Chairman confirmed that this would be carried out after the Daffodils had died down.
- 3 Kings Field – There was nothing to report.
- 4 Ground Maintenance – To consider quotation from Grasstex for 2022-2023 – Although this quote was considered to be good value for money a number of Councillors wondered whether 12 or 14 cuts a year was strictly necessary for Wantley field and Pinchnose Green. It was agreed to get an additional quote from Grasstex but with fewer cuts for these areas.

ACTION POINT: Parish Administrator would liaise with Grasstex to get a new quote for reduced cutting at Wantley Field and Pinchnose Green at twice a year only.

12. TRAILS AND FOOTPATHS

- 1 Wooden Bench – Milne family - on the Lydds – It was confirmed that the repairs had not yet been completed but were being carried out at the cost of the family.
- 2 The Chairman thanked Cllr Grossmith for his work on logging all the benches in the Parish, he had photographed all including the inscriptions and logged them on Google maps. He had also spent time transferring on to Parish Online. The Chairman asked that a screen be used at the next meeting to show everyone what had been achieved. Cllr Grossmith confirmed he was now looking at benches on the Downslink. It was confirmed that Cllr Simmonds was repairing the Ambulance Bench and he would be asked how far he had got.

ACTION POINT: Parish Administrator would liaise with Cllr Simmonds and make sure that a screen was available for showing the work that Cllr Grossmith had completed.

13. TREE WORK

- 1 Tree Wardens' update and recommendations - It was reported that another Tree Warden had volunteered.
- 2 Tree Survey – to be carried out W/C 14th March - This was noted.
- 3 Update on Queens Platinum Jubilee Trees – The Chairman confirmed that there were about 70 small saplings remaining and that some could be used on the edge of the Cricket pitch where the ground had been churned up and some would be given to St Peter's school to put in the hedge near the Kings Field. She also showed the plaque (made by the Royal British Legion Industries) for Orchard and tree (Sorbus Acuparia Autumn Spire) behind the Library for the

- Jubilee which will be planted later in the month.
- 4 Queen's Green Canopy – letter from Cllr R Noel at HDC – The Chairman confirmed that St Peter's School had been asked to suggest a location for this tree. She confirmed that the Parish Council had exceeded its target for the numbers of trees being planted which was welcomed.

14. PLAY AREAS

- 1 Update on installation of shade in and around play areas (IDP) – This was noted
- 2 Kings Field Play area
 - a. Mound and Tunnel – still awaiting contractor's quote. Cllr Grossmith agreed to look at it and see if he could find another company who would be able to carry out repair.

15. BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

- 1 Community Highway Partnership Agreement including Community Road Verges update –The Chairman confirmed the Community Verges at Crouch Hill to the north of the Village, at Manor Way, at the end of Mill Drive, Opposite Fabians Way, between Furners Lane and Nyes Close. The Chairman also confirmed that the crocus ribbon had already generated many positive comments and that it would improve year on year.

16. SAFE ROUTES

To receive an update – The Chairman confirmed that a sub-group had met and mapped out a circular route using existing footpaths and bridleways which would be very attractive to off road cyclists and horse riders. Unfortunately, one of the landowners in Small Dole who had been supportive of cyclists using a footpath in a permissive way had changed his mind but he was selling his land and so it may be possible to seek a dialogue with the new owners when the sale completes. Cllr Grossmith wondered whether there might be a Natural England grant on the land which might be limiting what was allowed.

17. CLERKS REPORT

- 1 Financial Update – It was confirmed that ROS expenditure stands at 80.0% of budget but that 91.7% of the financial year has elapsed. It was confirmed that none of the Playing Field Maintenance budget had been used, £8,500 and that it could be accrued to next year.
- 2 Any Other matters – There were none

18. CORRESPONDENCE

Climate action news in Horsham District from Sussex Green Living –This was noted.

Email from a resident had already been circulated regarding new activities for young people in the village. It was confirmed that Community Transport could be used, and Cllr Farrell said that the Youth Club may also want to take up the offer of transport for small groups. She also agreed to speak with Ms D Slaughter and Cllr Eastwood about the proposals when she met them next week. Cllr Grossmith confirmed that a climbing wall would be better suited inside, but that boulders could be erected outside for children or young adults to use.

ACTION POINT: Parish Administrator would respond with the resident and confirm any further actions. Cllr Farrell agreed to raise this it at an appropriate meeting.

19. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

The Operations Manager asked if other sports could be considered for the Wantley Field, it was agreed by all that all sport should be considered not just football, possibly an exercise trail a multi ball court, or an outside Gym. It was confirmed that it was hoped that a Pump track for mountain bikes would be sited in the Parsonage Farm development.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 11th May at 9.30am in Garden Room, Henfield Hall.

The Meeting Closed at 11.25am.