



HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
**A Meeting of Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held
on Wednesday 22nd June 2022 at 9.30am in the Henfield Hall**

Present: Cllr G Perry, R Kendall, M Eastwood, D Grossmith and A Sharp.

In Attendance: Mr C Thorns - Henfield Cricket Club (HCC) Ms K Thomas - Henfield Football Club (HFC) Ms A Christie (Tree Warden), Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator)

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were none.

2. APOLOGIES

Were received from Cllrs Jemmett and Simmonds.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 11TH MAY 2022

These were approved and signed by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

Milne Bench on the Lydds - The Chairman confirmed that the repair is underway, and the bench will be back in place when finished, she also said that there is a lot of overgrown weeds near the site. It was agreed that this would be cut back shortly as it was confirmed that the landowner had previously agreed to work of this nature in the past. The Clerk said that there was one other bench on the Lydds with one slat missing and works officer is aware and will replace the slat.

OPEN FORUM – The Chairman invited each of the three members of the public to speak about their particular concerns.

5. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman said that at a previous meeting it had been agreed that a meeting would be arranged with Cllrs Morgan and Eastwood and the Clerk along with the Landowner near the Sandpit about the previously discussed access route which was coloured blue on the map.

The Chairman also said that HDC had approached the parish for details of play areas for children and young people with disabilities. In responding it was thought that the only piece of inclusive equipment is the cradle swing at the Kings Field Play area. The Committee felt that it would be a good idea to consider sensory play areas when thinking about new play equipment or replacing old. Cllr Eastwood said that this could be looked at when looking at the future housing developments at Wantley and Parsonage Farm. He also thought that the Rothery play area will probably need replacing in the relatively near future and sensory and inclusive play equipment could be sited here.

6. HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL BUSINESS PLAN – ROS RESPONSIBILITIES

Social Media Output – The Chairman confirmed that she had met with the Operations Manager, and they had updated the Website pages within the ROS section including adding Trees for Henfield. The Chairman thanked the Operations Manager and said that if anyone had additional pictures or ideas to please send them through.

The Chairman confirmed that the Greener High Street Walk had been a community walk. Cllr Eastwood suggested that the trails and footpaths need checking for overgrown hedges, weeds etc. He suggested that regular walkers could be asked to give updates on the accessibility of these footpaths, and it was agreed to mention this on social media as well as making contact direct with those individuals that regularly lead walks or survey paths locally. This would help the committee deliver Exploring our Community and Accessibility of the Countryside from the Business Plan.

ACTION POINT – Operations Manager to post details on website and Parish Administrator to contact directly those known to walk frequently.

7. CRICKET CLUB

To receive an update on requests from HCC for funding – Mr Thorns said that the project to replace the

nets, similar to those at Hurst College, and English Cricket Board (ECB) approved would be about £32,000 although an updated cost is awaited. HCC did not receive the £10-12,000 Jubilee Grant and he thought it unlikely that they would be able to get anything from the Sussex Community Fund. He did also add that they could possibly apply for an interest free loan from Sussex Cricket for up to £10,000 and that ECB sometimes gave small interest free top up loans. Cllr Eastwood said that there might be S106 money which could be used, he said that HCC would need to raise £12,800 (40%) S106 could be used for £16,000 (50%) and that Henfield Parish Council would consider funding £3,200 (10%) It was agreed that the operations Manager would send HCC the guidance notes for the application for S106 money. Cllr Grossmith said that he thought that HCC should still apply for other grants in the meantime. Mr Thorns said that the road near the Pavilion needed some larger holes filling when the Works Team had an opportunity to do so. The Clerk confirmed that this would be added to their work schedule.

It was **PROPOSED by Cllr Eastwood, SECONDED by Cllr Kendall and AGREED by all** to proposing paying up to £19,200 (60%) (of which £3,200 would be from HPC money and £16,000 from S106 money) towards the total costs for the replacement of the nets.

ACTION POINT – Operations Manager to send HCC the guidance notes on applications for S106 money.

8. FOOTBALL CLUB

- 1 Memorial Bench for Ben Bray – It was confirmed that the bench is now complete and awaiting the plinth. HFC would like the Works Team to prepare this as the outside quote was £250 and this will be added to Works Team schedule once they are up to full strength.

ACTION POINT – Parish Administrator to add to schedule of work for Works Team.

- 2 Ms Thomas from HFC confirmed that the goals had been left at the Memorial Field and would remain there throughout the year and is suitable to be used for a kickaround. She explained that only about 12 matches had been played there this past season but that from the Autumn one of the Men's teams and the Girls Under 15s would be playing there regularly but they would want to use the pavilion for refreshments and wondered if the kitchen could be made available. Mr Thorns said that he thought it would be possible to use the kitchen as well as the changing rooms. It was agreed that HFC and HCC needed to liaise over what facilities were needed and when.
Cllr Eastwood said that it was much appreciated by the Parish Council as well as the youngsters who are using the goal posts. He also said that it would be helpful to have an update from HFC on their plans for the new pavilion at the Kings Field.
Ms Thomas also confirmed that the newly seeded grass at the Rothery was growing well and that the rabbit holes would be filled by soil before the football season began.

ACTION POINT – HFC and HCC to liaise about requirements of HFC's use of the kitchen during the football season.

9. TENNIS CLUB

To receive an update – Mr Muirden from Henfield Tennis Club (HTC) had sent a report which the Chairman read. The first stage of the Pavilion work is now complete. This was undertaken by a local contractor (unrelated to the February 2021 flood / insurance claim) and included installation of a French Drain surrounding the building, replacement of ground level rotting wooden walls and installation of new glass panelling on west and south facing walls to improve illumination and court visibility. The Tennis Club had paid for this.

The Stage 2 work (Insurance claim for 2021 flood damage repair) had recently commenced with the Insurer's Southampton based contractor. The internal strip out was almost complete, and they were about to commence the internal re-build which is a huge task as little of the original internal structure remains. No completion date has been given but as soon as HTC know they will let the Parish Council know. Once completed all items in the blue container will be returned to the clubhouse and the container will be removed from the Leisure Centre Car Park.

HTC thanked the Parish Council for their continued assistance and understood the reasons for the Council's note to the HTC asking for the container to be removed by 31 July. The penalty of £10 per day thereafter had been passed on to HTC Insurers.

HTC also thanked the Parish Council for allowing them to join in with the Queens Platinum Jubilee Activity Day which they felt was very successful. They had around 50 children enjoying some tennis play and coaching.

10. PLAYING FIELDS

- 1 Memorial Field – Update on HFC supplying dimensions for goalposts and contributing to maintenance costs - It was confirmed that HFC would come back to the Parish Council once they had had their next meeting.
- 2 Rothery Field – Access Route, it was reported that this matter was almost finalised with just a few questions from the landowner needing an answer from the Solicitors.
- 3 Kings Field – It was confirmed that there had been no further response from Activ8 Nursery about Farm Visit.

11. PLAY AREAS – The Chairman confirmed the RoSPA Inspection will be carried out this month.

- 1 Kings Field Play area –
 - a Mound and Tunnel – the 2 quotes were discussed and thought to be very high. Cllr Grossmith agreed to take a look at what might be needed and whether he with the Works Team might be able to find an alternative solution. The matter would be held over until September ROS Committee Meeting.
 - b New seats for roundabout problems with fitting – It was confirmed that the seats recently purchased would need either a new plate or longer screws to fix and the matter was with the Works Team.
- 2 Chess Brook Green – Request to purchase a new rubbish bin at £220
- 3 Skate Park – Request to purchase of new rubbish bin and a recycling bin at £220 each. The Clerk confirmed that there were funds in the litter budget.

It was **PROPOSED by The Chairman, SECONDED by Cllr Sharp and AGREED by all** to purchase two new rubbish bins and one new recycling bin at a cost of £220 each (total of £660)

12. TRAILS AND FOOTPATHS – Cllr Eastwood said that the trails needed to be re-energised and in the next month he hoped to be able to get together with Mr Ainscough and Mr Gordon and work on it. He also hoped that a Community Walk could be arranged for next Spring, possibly a River Walk or with Berretts Farm as the base.

13. TREE WORK

- 1 Tree Wardens – Ms Christie confirmed that she had dropped leaflets in relation to GoFundMe Trees for 2022 to some houses in Wantley Hill, and to Staples Barn, Lower and Upper Station Road and Lower Faircox and she had received a number of positive responses including a few residents willing to help with watering. She explained the Donate a Tree scheme run by WSCC and said that she had already made applications for up to 25 trees (applications need to be with WSCC by end of July each year with planting. If agreed taking place between November and March). She confirmed that an Arboriculturist from WSCC is coming out next week to look at the areas and assess whether they are suitable.
She also confirmed that the Henfield Garden Club had agreed to help fund as well as care for trees and Henfield Community Partnership were hopeful that they would also be able to contribute. She was also waiting to hear back from Nature Recovery Grant. She confirmed that the 25 trees would cost £5,225 and that she was likely to raise approximately £1,400-1,500. So she hoped for a contribution of up to £3,826.
The Chairman said that the tree budget of £4,000 for this year needed to pay for the current tree surgery as well as the tree surgery which will be required in March or April next year. It was suggested that £1,000 could come from the wildlife budget and the rest from reserves. Cllr Eastwood confirmed that he was eager to support this project as long as the Community would support the watering of the trees once planted. He also confirmed that the BP Guild had a water bowser that he felt sure they would be willing to lend it to aid with the watering. Cllr Grossmith said that he felt that pipes should be fitted with each tree so that water could be directed to the root. Ms Christie agreed to ask WSCC. The Chairman confirmed that the scheme had been around for many years and was likely to be continued by WSCC in the future, she said that WSCC would only agree to the trees being planted in suitable sites.

It was **PROPOSED by Cllr Eastwood, SECONDED by the Chairman and AGREED by all** to provide up to £3,826 including £1,000 from Wildlife budget for up to 25 trees. It was also agreed that in subsequent years HPC would match fund only.

Ms Christie was thanked for her time and effort in getting this project going.

- 2 Water Trough – The Chairman confirmed that it had been delivered and was awaiting the Shedders to create a float for animal safety. She also said that she wanted to put up signs at Community Orchard indicating the types of trees as well as the names who are commemorated there. Cllr Eastwood asked if some of the brambles and weeds could be cleared from the area, and it was agreed that this would be added to the Works Team list of jobs.

ACTION POINT – Parish Administrator to add this job to Works Team Schedule.

14. CLERKS REPORT

- 1 Financial Update – The Clerk confirmed that as 2 months of the year have elapsed, that is 16.7% of year, but that 18.9% of the budget had been spent. This included upfront payments for refuse collection from the Hall and a contribution towards the cost of renovating the Rothery Field, he also confirmed that £2,800 had been received from HFC.
- 2 Any Other matters – The Clerk asked about whether the Committee felt it would be necessary to insure the playground equipment, which had not been done before. It would increase the insurance costs for the year by £838. The view of the committee was not to insure the equipment since most could not be stolen and the only risk would be criminal damage.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Difficult stile Henfield FP 2562 - Path Offline & Stile/Steps - 37719 & 37720 email trail from WSCC Ranger – It was agreed that the Parish Administrator would email the ranger to find out the landowner concerned so that contact could be made. Cllr Eastwood agreed to walk the route and see the problem for himself.

ACTION POINT: Parish Administrator to contact with WSCC Ranger and establish the landowner concerned and Cllr Eastwood may make contact if deemed suitable. Cllr Eastwood agreed to walk the route.

16. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

There were none.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 27th July at 9.30am in Garden Room, Henfield Hall.

The Meeting closed at 11.20am