



HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
**Meeting of Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held on
Wednesday 1st February 2023 at 9.30am in the Henfield Hall**

Present: Cllr G Perry (Chairman), R Kendall, M Eastwood, A Sharp and C Simmons.

In Attendance: Mr J Willis (Tree Warden) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator (PA)).

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were none.

2. APOLOGIES

Were received from Cllrs D Grossmith and D Jemmett.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14TH DECEMBER 2022

These were approved and signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Pendulous Sedge along Tanyard Path – The Chairman said that it had been removed but that it will return, as the roots have not been removed.
- 2 Footpaths –There have been no further updates.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported a discussion with the repairer (arranged by the family) for the Milne Bench on the Lydds footpath. It has proved unviable to repair the bench as planned. As a result, the family have decided to replace the bench.

6. HENFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB

1. Consider Request to hold Football Tournament on 20 & 21 May - It was agreed by all to allow this event to take place but that the organisers must ensure that all stall holders clear away their own rubbish and that any **single use plastic** products (cups/straws/food trays etc) are avoided. It was suggested that the Football Club should be asked to carry out a litter collection the following day if needed.

ACTION POINT: PA would inform the Football Club of this Committee's decision and also to stress the importance of clearing litter as well as reducing plastic being used.

7. HENFIELD CRICKET CLUB

- 1 Car Park Repairs – The Chairman confirmed that this would be carried out by the Works Officers when the weather is dryer.
- 2 To consider the replacement of posts around road edge of Cricket Field (likely cost of materials £600 - £800, works officers to carry out the work) or the digging of a ditch at cost of £3,460.69 plus VAT (PHB) – The Chairman confirmed that the Lead Works Officer had suggested an alternative to replacing the posts but that it was much more expensive. It was agreed that Cllrs Perry and Sharp would walk the path and see how bad the problem is. It was suggested that metal posts could be an alternative. It was agreed that a decision should be made at the meeting to set an upper limit on costs

but would be finalised after inspection.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY Cllr Kendall, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Simmonds and **AGREED BY ALL** to allow the work to be carried out by the Works Team up to £800.

ACTION POINT: The Chairman and Cllr Sharp would walk the area and see what was needed.

8. PLAYING FIELDS

- 1 Kings Field – Report on Meeting of interested parties held on 11.1.23 - Cllr Eastwood said that the meeting had been organised so that all the groups with an interest in the Kings Field could give input in order to get a complete view for the long term. He said that the proposals would be put before Council next week, along with proposed timescales. He also confirmed that Henfield Leisure Centre would be represented by someone with knowledge of Padel Tennis.
- 2 Green Flag Checklist – Report from Children and Young People Committee meeting held on 18.1.23 – The Chairman said that Cllr Goodyear had suggested a new version of the checklist and it had been agreed to meet, likely to be later in Spring
- 3 Memorial Field – The Clerk confirmed that a box cut has been organised for later this week with Grasstex (£310.00), It was confirmed that the leaves would be deposited in the area behind the nets.

9. PLAY AREAS

- 1 Kings Field Playing Area
 - a. Mound and Tunnel – It was confirmed that the small repair had been carried out the previous day.
 - b. Aerial Runway – It was confirmed that the bearings have arrived and will be fitted shortly by the Works Team.
 - c. Skate Park – Report from Children and Young People Committee meeting held on 18.1.23 – The Chairman expressed her disappointment at the graffiti on the skate Park. The Clerk confirmed that he had contacted HDC to ask for its removal and would alert the PCSO as well. There was some discussion on the benefits of installing CCTV directed at the Skate Park but no decision was made. Cllr Simmonds said that a Skate Board expert had spoken to the Children and Young People Committee and had impressed the Committee with his knowledge and enthusiasm. Cllr Eastwood said that it was hoped that work would be carried out on the Skate Park and that he had agreed to write to the developers asking for a repurposing of S106 money if that was agreed as the best way forward.
It was agreed by all to support the project to improve the Skate Park.

10. TRAILS

- 1 Safe Routes – It was confirmed that a meeting was anticipated around the end of February to decide which projects can proceed. Cllr Eastwood said that he hoped to see the new owner of the farm where he hoped to gain better access.
- 2 Consider request to use £2,760.00 to upgrade trails (£2,500 from Trail Budget and £260 from Trail Reserve). Cllr Eastwood said that he wanted the marking of points of interests on map to be the same colour as route markers and each one to have some history of the area and the types of birds that inhabit the area, linked to RSPB site. The Chairman said that the website had shown a lot of activity and suggested increased visitors to the Village.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY Cllr Eastwood, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Simmonds and **AGREED BY ALL IN FAVOUR** to pay PMW Ltd £2,760.

11. BIODIVERSITY WORKING GROUP

- 1 Community Road Verge – Update on virtual meeting with WSCC held on 12.1.23 – The Chairman said that there had been a request to monitor insects on the verges from expert at insect charity, Buglife. WSCC Highways had also sent Henfield PC a large selection of wild flower seeds to plant in the verges. The Chairman said she would like to look at which verges HPC already maintain in our current WSCC Partnership agreement and see where suitable sites might be. She also confirmed it had been agreed that the Works Officers would mow a double width on roadside edge of Borrer Bank to ensure visibility in high summer. Cllr Simmonds asked whether wild flowers could be planted near the Henfield Sign north of the village.

ACTION POINT: The Chairman and Clerk will confirm the contents of the Community Road Verge Partnership agreement and decide on whether the new planting suggestions can be added to the agreement with WSCC

12. TREE WORK

- 1 Tree Wardens Meeting – To receive an update on meeting held on 19.1.23 –Mr Willis said that it was hoped that a number of substantial and attractive species of trees around the village could be considered for a Tree Preservation Order (TPO). Cllr Eastwood suggested that a couple of trees be chosen, with a view to approaching HDC to see if they met the criteria of a TPO. The committee is supportive of the scheme to have trees adopted under TPO.
The Chairman confirmed that a very large number of community trees had been planted in the year some at the Community Orchard which is looking very good now that it has been cleared of brambles and bracken. The Tree Wardens had hoped to plant at Wantley Hill and had tried to contact Saxon Weald. The Chairman confirmed that three more trees were being donated after a resident had collected large quantities of metal. The Chairman said she would like a sign for the Community Orchard and that she is talking to the Shedders and that the signs were likely to cost about £200.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY the Chairman, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Eastwood and **AGREED BY ALL IN FAVOUR** to purchase signs for the Community Orchard up to £200.

- 2 To receive an update on WSCC Donate a Tree Scheme – The Chairman said that one resident was unhappy that 2 trees had been planted outside his house, she also confirmed that this had been reported to WSCC who would investigate whether there were any safety issues.
- 3 Removal of Cherry Tree from Kings Field Play area – It was confirmed that this had been removed on 3rd January. Mr Willis said he would like the tree replaced and that he would look at a suitable native replacement.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY Cllr Simmonds, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Sharp and **AGREED BY ALL IN FAVOUR** to purchase a tree up to a cost of £200.

ACTION POINT: Mr Willis would investigate costs of a suitable replacement tree.

The Chairman thanked the Tree Wardens for all their hard work.

13. WORKS TEAM

- 1 Community Orchard – clearance of brambles completed by Works team on 17.1.23 – The Chairman thanked the Works Team for completing the clearance.

14. TO CONSIDER BUDGET REQUIREMENTS FOR 2023/24

There were no further comments.

15. BUSINESS PLAN

ROS Committee section attached – The Chairman said that as it is the year of Young People a walk which included the current school and the old school might be a good idea. She also said that Sussex Prairies were keen to offer something and she had suggested a trail for children there possibly on 1st July, and that Sussex Green Living might be able to come along. The Chairman agreed to talk to Pauline at Sussex Prairies and the Henfield Joggers to see if they could help. Cllr Simmonds agreed to talk to CYP Committee. It was thought that it would be helpful if Community Transport Minibuses could be used.

ACTION POINT: The Chairman would liaise with Sussex Prairies and the Henfield Joggers about a trail for children in the Summer. Cllr Simmonds agreed to inform CYP Committee.

Cllr Eastwood mentioned the Smugglers Walk which might be suitable as a community walk.

16. ANNUAL REPORT

Draft attached – It was confirmed that there had been some amendments and the Chairman agreed to send to the Parish Office.

17. CLERKS REPORT

- 1 Financial Update – The Clerk had sent through the budget report and that although expenditure was over this month this was because of the Mound and Tunnel at the Kings Field (at £3,846.75 although

this had come in at £1,900 less than original budget), annual charge to ACT Pest Control (£1,150.00). He also said that the Recreation equipment will be set against the reserves for Recreation. He also said that the income from HFC of £2,386.36 for Maintenance and Licence had been received.

2 Any Other matters – There were none.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

There were none.

19. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

There were none.

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 9.30am in Henfield Hall.

The Meeting closed at 10.54am.