



## **HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

**Meeting of Recreation and Open Spaces Committee held on  
Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 9.30am in the Henfield Hall**

**Present:** Cllr G Perry (Chairman), R Kendall, D Grossmith, D Jemmett, A Sharp and C Simmonds.

**In Attendance:** Mrs A May (Tree Warden), Mr K Wright (Clerk) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator (PA)).

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS**

Cllr Jemmett declared an interest in item 6 as he is Chairman of Henfield Cricket Club (HCC).

#### **2. APOLOGIES**

Were received from Cllr M Eastwood.

#### **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1<sup>ST</sup> FEBRUARY 2023**

These were approved and signed and dated by the Chairman.

#### **4. MATTERS ARISING**

- 1 Posts around of Cricket pitch – To receive an update – The Chairman and Cllr Sharp had walked the perimeter of the Cricket Pitch to review condition of the posts; approximately 50% are rotting or missing. She noted that the bund isn't that high at its east end especially near the car park entrance and none of the posts are chainsaw protected. It was felt that, despite their condition, the posts remain a psychological barrier to mark out the Common and could be replaced gradually as needed, given the likely high costs of full replacement. Cllr Sharp suggested that recycled plastic ones (with a 25-year Guarantee) could be tried out and these could be installed in gaps near car park entrance. He also suggested planting dog roses around them or in between.  
The cost was likely to be £50 per post but an Auger would also be needed to create the holes in which the posts would sit and the cost of that was likely to be £250. The Clerk confirmed that the costs should come from Playing Field Maintenance Budget.

It was **PROPOSED BY** Cllr Simmonds, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Sharp and **AGREED BY ALL** to buy six posts and auger at a cost of £550.00.

**ACTION POINT:** PA to liaise with Works Team over purchase of equipment and materials.

- 2 Community Road Verge Partnership Agreement with WSCC – to receive update – The Chairman confirmed that a meeting with WSCC Highways had been booked for 25<sup>th</sup> April. She hoped to be able to add in more verges to the scheme.  
She also said that Andrea May (Tree Warden) had talked to Saxon Weald residents about more wildflower planting at Wantley Hill and many would like some more planting there.  
The Chairman also said that in the light of discussion at the last Parish Council meeting it would be right for this committee to support No Mow May within the Works Team and stop any cutting of verges during that month as well as publicising the scheme on the Website. All were in favour and it was agreed that this suggestion would be passed to Village Amenities Committee for their feedback.

**ACTION POINT:** PA to liaise Operations Manager (OM) and ensure that this was put on next Village Amenities (VA) agenda. She would also liaise with Works Team if agreed by VA Committee.

- 3 Cherry Tree replacement at the Kings Field – It was confirmed that the cherry tree in the Kings Field had been replaced by a rowan tree and planted by Tree Wardens.
- 4 Community Walk – To receive an update – Cllr Simmonds said that Childrens and Young People Committee (CYP) had a number of events planned for this year and that a walk for Young People was not one they had prioritised but would be considered for next year. The Chairman confirmed that something more local than previous suggestions was needed and it could be discussed at the next meeting.

**ACTION POINT:** PA to ensure that this is on the next agenda and the Chairman to continue liaising with others on possible route.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting.*

#### **OPEN FORUM**

Ms May (Tree warden) thanked this Committee for their time and support. She confirmed that she had circulated a Henfield Community Canopy newsletter. She also confirmed that 25 trees had been planted in December under the Donate a Tree Scheme with WSCC and the majority of homeowners are happy. One concern about location was being addressed and a solution was anticipated shortly. She also said that she and another tree warden would be happy to assist with replanting.

Ms May also said that many residents had indicated their desire for more trees to be planted on verges near their homes and their willingness to water newly planted trees. In total it was hoped for up to 30 trees: -

Wantley Hill on the large verge on A281 – 3 trees (on WSCC land)  
3 trees (on Saxon Weald land)

Wantley Hill verges inside estate - 10 - 12 small fruit and blossoming trees (on Saxon Weald land)

Flower Farm Close on verges – 12 blossoming trees (on WSCC land)

She would apply to Sussex Community Fund for money but was not sure how much. She said that she would be happy to come to explain the project to other Parish or Committee Meetings if that would help. The Clerk confirmed that she could use the Parish Council's Open Forum for a 5-minute presentation.

It was suggested that the two Chairmen of ROS and VA could discuss this matter with Cllr Eastwood and possibly with County Cllr S Payne. The Clerk confirmed that a quote had already been requested for surgery to 42 trees (12 monthly project resulting from Tree Survey carried out last year) which will be a large commitment for the tree budget. The Chairman thanked Ms May for her work in getting 25 trees planted last year in our village and offered the support of this committee for finding ways to fund more trees in future.

*The Chairman reconvened the meeting.*

#### **5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- 1 Sussex Green Living – request to support - The Chairman confirmed that she had sent an email of support but was not sure whether they have received the grant.
- 2 She also said that she and Cllr Goodyear had attended a Wilder Horsham Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February and she thought there would be a follow up focusing on nature corridors.
- 3 The Milne Bench – The Chairman confirmed that the family had purchased a bench for the site on the Lydds and hoped that the bench could be installed in time for Coronation Weekend. The Clerk suggested that the area might need a trim although the Chairman said that she thought there might be a gap in the hedge behind where it would be installed which may need filling to prevent people using it as a cut through.

#### **6. HENFIELD CRICKET CLUB**

- 1 Nets – The Clerk confirmed that HDC had confirmed the allocation of S106 money of £16,368 towards costs and that HPC had already agreed to pay £3,200 towards this project from Playing Fields Reserves. Cllr Jemmett said that it was hoped that the work would go ahead in May.
- 2 Car Park works – delayed until new financial year – The Chairman confirmed this was due to the work being carried out on the nets. Cllr Grossmith did suggest that the Contractors might help with the repairs although Cllr Jemmett did say that some of the damage was caused by reversing delivery lorries to nearby Swains.

#### **7. PLAYING FIELDS**

- 1 Memorial Field – Box Cut carried out on 3.2.23 – The Chairman also confirmed that Cllr Eastwood had indicated that Henfield Football Club were in discussions about first team pitches in future.

#### **8. PLAY AREAS**

- 1 Kings Field Playing Area
  - a. Aerial Runway – new bearings have now been fitted. This was noted.
  - b. Skate Park – Further graffiti reported 6.3.23. It was confirmed that HDC had been notified. Cllr Simmonds said that the CYP Committee wanted a Graffiti board to be installed behind Skate Park

and that an expert on Skate park designs had spoken at their last meeting. He also said that there would be a Skate Jam later in the Summer

- c. Basketball backboard – Motion to approve expenditure of £379.98 for two back boards The Chairman explained that this project had been in discussion for many months.

It was **PROPOSED BY** the Chairman, **SECONDED BY** Cllr Simmonds and **AGREED BY ALL** to buy two Skate Board back Boards at a cost of £379.98 and to be taken from Recreation and Equipment Reserves.

**ACTION POINT:** PA to order boards and liaise with Works Team over installation.

- d. Community Payback team working on play area in Kings Field – The Chairman stated that work had already been carried out on Chess Brook Green Play area by Community Payback team and had made a significant improvement to the look of the area. The Clerk said that the team had helped with litter picking and snow clearance when the weather prevented painting being carried out. He felt that they had done a tremendous job.

## **9. TRAILS**

- 1 Safe Routes – Update from meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 – The Chairman said that she thought it was likely that two of the routes would not be possible but discussions on others continue, possibly linking in with the Nature Corridor work of Wilder Horsham District project.
- 2 Trails - The Chairman confirmed that Cllr Eastwood had said that PMW have completed the work on the Trail website and that Henfield Birdwatchers were making a few changes. He hoped that more work in a similar vein could be added to the other existing trails. The Chairman reminded all those that had agreed to walk the footpaths that with the better weather, she hoped more would do so. The Clerk confirmed that he had taken some more trails leaflets to the Library recently.

## **10. TREE WORK**

- 1 To receive an update on WSCC Donate a Tree Scheme – This was covered in Open Forum.
- 2 Community Orchard – Brambles cleared by Works Team – The Chairman confirmed that this was carried out especially at the western end of the Sandpit Field and following advice from HDC Rangers some of the brush was burnt. Fire in the future would ways be held in the same spot each time.
- 3 Community Orchard - Signs made by Sheddars – The Chairman confirmed that more signs were being made for the individual trees at the Orchard including the one donated by Cllr Morgan. She also said that the signs were likely to cost £100 more than anticipated (£200) because of the rising cost of wood, she confirmed that this had already been agreed and therefore the making of signs would continue.
- 4 Hedgerows – Concerns about loss of hedgerows – The Chairman said that from Plans Advisory Committee Meetings (PAC) she was aware that a number of hedgerows are lost and she suggested that the rules on their removal (Over 20 metres) be publicised on the website. The Chairman confirmed that she would contact the OM to give more details.

**ACTION POINT:** The Chairman agreed to contact OM to give her the details that needed to be posted.

The Chairman also said that some of the hedges on parish land are being improved by the planting of whips and she thanked the volunteers who help with this work.

The Chairman said that at a recent Tree Wardens Meeting there was concern over the recent loss of large and old trees throughout the village. Cllr Grossmith said that he had found details about "amenity value" of trees and he agreed to resend to all.

**ACTION POINT:** Cllr Grossmith agreed to send the details he had for assessing Amenity Value of trees to members of the Committee

## **11. CLERKS REPORT**

- 1 Financial Update – The Clerk said that he was waiting for a quotation for the work required on trees in the "12 month after Tree Survey" category but he hoped it would be received before the next meeting. He also confirmed that this Committee had stayed in budget having spent 92% of budget with 91.7% of year having elapsed, with offset this meant that 83% of the budget was spent.
- 2 Any Other matters – there was none.

## **12. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

**13. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS**

Cllr Kendall asked about the timings of meetings in the future to ensure that they are open to as many people as possible. It was agreed that the times of meetings could be decided by each individual Committee when the membership of Committee was agreed.

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am in Henfield Hall.

The Meeting closed at 10.47am.