



HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL
Meeting of Recreation & Open Spaces Committee held on
Wednesday 25th September 2024 at 10.00am
in the Henfield Hall

Present: Cllr G Perry (Chairman), D Grossmith, A May and C Simmonds.

In Attendance: Mr J Bowes (Henfield Football Club (HFC)), Mr J Willis (Tree Warden), Mr C Thorns (Henfield Cricket Club (HCC)) two members of the public, Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager (OM)) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator (PA)).

MINUTES

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS

There were none.

2. APOLOGIES

Were received from Cllrs F Ayres, D Jemmett and R Kendall.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 24th JULY 2024

These were approved, they were signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. MATTERS ARISING

- 1 Tree for Parsonage Road green – It was confirmed that the matter had been left with HDC.
- 2 Signage project – Cllr May confirmed that the first meeting had taken place and a second one was due the following week. She said that the Working Group would be looking at the material of signs as well as style, font of wording and other inclusions. She confirmed that Cllr Grossmith had agreed to prepare a Spreadsheet to assist with decisions making. She thought that a third meeting may be necessary and also that HDC favoured metal signs in their parks. The Chairman said that once the style had been agreed then each committee would decide what signs they wanted.
- 3 Footpath over Springlands Lane – The Chairman said that she was not aware of any further progress.
- 4 Terms of Reference for ROS Committee – After much discussion it was agreed that there was still some work to be done on Terms of Reference for other Committees within the Parish Council and that the ToR for ROS would be discussed at a later date.

Cllr Grossmith arrived at the meeting at 10.05am.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The owners of one of the properties on Springlands Lane said that they had bought their home seven years ago and spent time working on what was a barn and making it into a home they confirmed that they were the sole owners of that section of the Lane. He explained that they had always lived in rural locations and understood that there was a footpath to the side which was used by a few walkers until recently when many more came by on their way to the Cabin at Berrett's Farm as well as early morning runners. He said that they had spoken with some of the walkers and said that there were five alternative footpaths and that they had decided to erect gates at either end and only close them for one day a year. He said that one local had been very irate at the signs and they later learnt that he had applied to have the footpath opened.

He said that they had wanted the tranquillity of rural living and that he and his wife had received abuse on social media and an even greater number of walkers to the path.

The Chairman said that this raised a lot of issues.

Cllr Grossmith admitted he had only moved to the area five years ago and had used the path and he had also seen the social media posts.

Cllr Simmonds said that he is aware that the area is much busier now since the Cabin has opened.

The other resident said that most people hadn't realised that it was a private footpath because when the barn had been derelict it hadn't mattered. She said that the signs that Berrett's have erected are to avoid cars attempting to drive to the cabin not about walking there.

The Chairman said that those people with disabilities or walking buggies found this the most straightforward route.

The Chairman thanked them both for coming along to the meeting and explained that the Parish Council had been made aware of the problem first when the Fire Brigade alerted the Office.

The two residents left the meeting at 10.30am.

Mr Thorns said that there had been a problem between HFC and HCC in terms of communicating when they needed to use the Pavilion in advance of the event. He said that he had written to Ms Thomas saying that HCC used the Pitch and Pavilion from 3rd week in April to Early September each year for the cricket season. Mr Bowes said that the manager concerned had not realised that they should have been using the pitch furthest from the cricket pitch and nearest the village. It was re-iterated that contact between the two clubs should be between Mr Thorns and Ms Thomas.

The Chairman confirmed that this committee did not need to be involved with discussions but that if there were other issues then she would be happy to assist.

Mr Thorns asked whether the Parish Council had looked at the HCC Car park repairs. He confirmed that HCC would not be extending the pavilion which is what had been holding up any decisions on repairs.

The Chairman said that this could be discussed at next meeting after looking at budgets and IDP.

ACTION POINT: PA would ensure this was included on the next agenda, Clerk would check budgets and OM would check the IDP.

5. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were none.

6. HENFIELD FOOTBALL CLUB

- 1 Communication between HFC and Henfield Cricket Club about fixtures on Memorial Field – This was discussed under Open Forum.

Mr Bowes said that the grass at the Rothery had been rolled recently and that some other work had been carried out at the Kings Field and that all pitches were doing fine.

The Chairman said that the Verges Management Working Group was looking to plant wildflowers possibly on the Rothery bank (behind the goal) and in small areas on the Kings Field and she confirmed that no work would be carried out that would encroach on the pitches.

Mr Bowes asked if there was any further news of the paddle courts, Cllr Grossmith said that funding was coming into place but there were some problems with HDC, but he said he hoped that things may move soon. He assured HFC that nothing would start without consultation with HFC.

Mr Thorns and Mr Bowes left the meeting at 10.48am.

7. PLAYING FIELDS

- 1 Wantley Field Licence – It was confirmed that the licence had been finalised and was expected from WSCC very soon. It was agreed that the sample sign was acceptable if WSCC were also happy with the details.

ACTION POINT: PA would liaise with WSCC over the sign and arrange for copies to be erected at the Wantley Field where agreed with WSCC.

- 2 Meeting with HDC about playing field strategy – The Chairman said that Mr MacDonald from HDC had agreed to come to the next meeting and hoped that he might be able to give guidance on what might be possible in the village.

8. TREE WORK.

- 1 Quote for survey from Gale Tree Consultancy – The Chairman asked whether there were any queries with regards the details and all agreed that it made sense to consider a new Consultant. It was agreed that this did not need a decision now and would be added to the next agenda for a decision.

ACTION POINT: PA would ensure that a proposal would be included on the next agenda.

- 2 Elm Trees near and around the Rothery Field – The Clerk confirmed that this work was on the Works Team Schedule and that he would keep this committee informed of progress. It was agreed that before and after photographs should be taken. It was confirmed that the Tree Warden has already supplied some current photos.

9. COMMUNITY ORCHARD

The Chairman said that a resident was buying a James Grieve Apple Tree for the Orchard and that the Tree Wardens were happy to plant it. She asked that some suitable stakes could be purchased up to £50.00 and that was agreed by all. Cllr May May be able to offer some tree guard wire and Cllr Grossmith said that he had plenty of chicken wire he was happy to give for protection around the newly planted trees.

The Chairman said that one of the donated trees had died and she felt it would be good to replace it.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY the Chairman, SECONDED BY Cllr Simmonds and AGREED BY ALL to purchase a replacement tree up to £60.00.

Mr Willis agreed to purchase the tree and collect once he'd liaised over the type of tree.

Cllr May reminded all that seven trees had been selected but not collected for the Kings Field. It was agreed that further details would be supplied for the next agenda.

ACTION POINT: PA would ensure that details would be included on the next agenda and check if they had already been paid for.

The Chairman said that the Orchard was doing very well; the grass has been cut, the Ragwort removed and bramble and bracken had been taken away.

10. YEAR OF BIODIVERSITY -

- 1 Current data on iNaturalist – The Chairman said she was delighted to report that 3,861 identifications had been made of 1,235 species for this project and that 109 people had taken part. She said it was included on the website and the top identified species was European Stag Beetle. She said that it had been a successful project.
- 2 Talk on Bees on 9th October by Mike Russell – The Chairman said that this would take place in the Henfield Hall.
- 3 Biodiversity Exhibition 9th December 6.30-8.30pm in the Garden Room - The Chairman said that this would be a good way to celebrate the Year of Biodiversity. She hoped that the photos from the display could also be used at Annual Parish Meeting next year.
- 4 Youth project – The Chairman hoped that some young people might be able to be involved in bulb planting at the Youth Club, Rothery Bank and the edge of Kings Field. She said that she would like £165 to purchase 500 bulbs.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY the Chairman, SECONDED BY Cllr Grossmith and AGREED BY ALL to purchase 500 bulbs at £165.

The Chairman encouraged all to look out for the flower if the month. Cllr May also confirmed that HDC had agreed to buy some more bulbs for planting in HDC owned land.

11. VERGES

- 1 To receive an update from Verge Management Working Group – The Chairman said that the existing Community Road Verges (CRV) would continue but that no new ones would be created. She said that other areas would be considered for wilding projects. OM said that she had spoken with a resident who had been upset that the grass near a junction was too high and she could not see clearly to drive away. She confirmed that the Works Officer had cut a border on the verge for safety. Cllr May said that she felt the working group were working hard to get an acceptable compromise between those that wanted shorter neater verges and those that wanted more wildflowers areas.

12. TRAILS AND SAFE ROUTES

- 1 Henfield Trails – Mr Willis said that he and others had looked at the existing trails and the leaflets which showed those trails. He said that as the weather often impacted on the accessibility of these trails the leaflets had become obsolete. He explained that the Henfield Trails had been included on the Hidden Henfield Website and that this could not be updated directly by either Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) or PC and was costly. He said that Mr Ainscough who had provided many existing photographs would be happy to work on a new website Henfield.Weebly.com but would need assistance which may come from HCP. Cllr Grossmith suggested it might be a good project for a young person studying programming. Mr Willis gave out a few copies of a suggested format for a new leaflet and wondered whether the Parish Council could help with finance. He also thought that local Estate Agencies might want to sponsor the project. The Chairman asked him to come back to this Committee with an ideas of the costs.
The Chairman said that the QR codes may need looking at and updating. All on the committee agreed that this would be a good project support, and that the maps would be very beneficial to businesses and individuals in Henfield. The Chairman thanked Mr Willis and Mr Ainscough for their work on this. The Clerk said that there was £700 in the budget.
- 2 Footpath 2547 from Daisycroft to Henfield Common - Issue 45745 – The Chairman confirmed that WSCC Public Rights of Way (PROW) had confirmed that remedial work to repair this path had been added to their schedule of work.
The Chairman said that the Works Team had been clearing around the benches in grassed areas to make them more easily accessible. She also confirmed that Cllr Morgan was looking at the ownership of a twitten near Scout Hut.

13. WORKS TEAM

- 1 Clearing Ragwort from Community Orchard – The Clerk confirmed that this had already been cleared.
- 2 Meeting between Works Team, VA Chairman and ROS Chairman – This was noted.

14. CLERKS REPORT

The Clerk confirmed that 41% of the financial year had elapsed and spending was 35% of budget, he also said that there would be another invoice for the last grass cut of the year. He said that the Playing Fields Budget was still intact but he did point out that there would be work on drainage on the Kings Field but this would not be carried out until after the Paddle Courts had been installed.

15. CORRESPONDENCE

- 1 Ouse & Adur Rivers Trust - Introducing the Adur Adaptation Project – It was confirmed that there was a project to enhance natural flood management by means of making the rivers meander through the countryside rather than to run straight.
- 2 Active8 Nursery – to consider request to hold Winter Wonderland on Kings Field 7.12.24 – It was confirmed that HFC were happy for this to go ahead and this committee agreed as long as all the paperwork had been received in advance.

16. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

The Chairman said she had been alerted to a local gin company who had been foraging for Sloes on the Commons by a local resident. She said that she had sent details to HDC. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to advise the local Gin Company direct.

ACTION POINT: The Clerk agreed to write to the local Gin Company.

17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday 23rd October 2024 at 10.00am.

The meeting closed at 11.46am.