



HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of the Village Amenities Committee held on Wednesday 12th February 2025 at 10.30am at the Henfield Hall

Present: Cllrs M Morgan (Chairman), D Jemmett, R Kendal, S Leader and R Shaw.

In Attendance: Five Members of 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 Jones and Willard.
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE MEETING 8th JANUARY 2025**
These were approved. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.
4. **MATTERS ARISING**
There were none.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

One of the members of public wanted to speak about the speed of vehicles particularly in Church Street which made it difficult to pull out of the roads leading on to Church Street but also made it difficult to cross the road. The Chairman said that the parked cars in Church Street did actually slow down the traffic and confirmed that the currently speed limit was 30mph. The same resident said that some surrounding villages have adopted 20mph speed limit on all their roads.

The Chairman said that Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) record the speed and that the data collected does not indicate that many drivers break the speed limit.

Another member of the public said that the SID in Upper Station Road had been damaged and no longer faces the road and has been that way since November, she felt that they had been placed in the wrong place. She also felt that a crossing was needed on Church Street.

One of the members of public said that pulling out of Church Terrace on to Church Street was always difficult and that she had been hit a year earlier.

The Chairman said that West Sussex County Council (WSCC) had been working on a plan for Active Travel for the last two and a half years with the Parish Council to encourage more walking and cycling safely especially for schoolchildren and that he was awaiting the outcome of their research.

The Chairman said that without enforcement any speed limits are difficult to monitor and the costs that relate to this are high.

One of the members of public gave two letters from residents who also raised concerns of speeding.

Cllr Kendall said that WSCC would have requests from around other towns and villages in the County and with limited resources WSCC would have to decide on priorities.

The Chairman thought that the last fatality in High Street was about 40 years ago. He also said that the Parish Council is waiting to hear from WSCC.

A resident said that she had contacted Cllr Sarah Paynes requesting double yellow lines be placed around Pinchnose Green but had not heard anything more. The Chairman said that he believed if cars were not parked there then the traffic would go even faster.

The resident who had recently been hit near Neptown Road said that he wondered whether the bollards there had made the accident more likely, the chairman said that WSCC are looking at lighting in the area.

The Chairman encouraged anyone who wished to contact WSCC direct. Cllr Kendall said that it might be worthy contacting Katie Bourne, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Sussex.

One member of public left the meeting at 10.50am.

Cllr Leader questioned whether Community Speedwatch could monitor other roads and the Clerk confirmed that they only had permission from the Police to monitor of specific roads.

One member of public said she was concerned about the new development being proposed off Furners Lane and that the lack of pavements there may cause an accident with increased traffic. The Chairman said that WSCC would look at the planning application. Cllr Shaw said that Highways have said that they do not have any concerns about traffic from this development.

The remaining members of public left the meeting at 10.55am.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman said that one of the parking team from HDC would be coming to the Coopers Way Car Park on 4th March to meet members of Access Henfield and look at disabled parking there. The Clerk agreed to go along.

The Chairman also said that the Youth Club had requested to have a stall on the Village Square on Saturday 7th June to sell the donated goods and have a street collection. It was confirmed that they would apply to HDC for a licence for the collection. It was agreed by all to support this project and that they would be reminded not to stock their goods on or block access to the Bench.

ACTION POINT: The OM to liaise with the Youth Club.

6. **VE DAY CELEBRATION**

The Chairman confirmed that the BP Guild had agreed to prepare and light the Beacon at the Rothery on the evening of 8th May. (The BP Guild confirmed after the meeting that they would run a barbecue and Bar at the Rothery)

Cllr Leader said that CYP Committee had discussed asking St Peter's School Choir to sing I vow to Thee my Country.

7. **LEISURE CENTRE CAR PARK LIGHTS**

The Chairman confirmed that of the five lamp posts around Leisure Centre car park only two worked. He thought that all needed replacing and the likely costs would be £10,000. He said that until a contractor looked at the electricity supply it would not be clear what other costs might arise. The Clerk confirmed that there is £13,666 in the reserves and that another £2,000 would be added next year. He also confirmed that two more quotes would be needed before any work could be agreed. Cllr Leader said that she would want the Council to be mindful of the Dark Skies. It was agreed by all that two further quotes should be sought for the replacement of all five lamps.

ACTION POINT: The OM to seek two further quotes for the replacement of the lampposts.

8. **CONSIDER REQUEST FOR 20MPH SPEED LIMIT ON HIGH STREET**

The Chairman said that he wanted this Committee to consider the speed limit on the High Street in light of a letter received earlier in the month. Cllr Kendall said that he believed from a Government document that reducing the limit to 20mph would result in the average speed actually reducing to 25mph. He wondered whether a 20mph area near the school would be a good idea.

Cllr Shaw said that in Central London where there are now a large number of speed cameras that most drivers stick to a 20mph speed limit. He also said that in Brighton where there are much fewer cameras the speed limit is not as widely adhered to.

The Chairman re-iterated that the data from the SIDs does not back up the theory that many drivers do speed. He said that he believed 90-95% of drivers observe speed limit. The Chairman stated that not all pedestrians use the correct crossing points on the High Street.

The Chairman wondered whether this issue should be raised at the Annual Parish Meeting. Cllr Jemmett said he felt it was important to discuss this issue from time to time but it did not mean that the speed limit should be changed at this stage. It was agreed that this Committee would wait to see what suggestions were raised by the Active Travel Scheme.

9. **CONSIDER QUOTATIONS FOR INSTALLATION, REMOVAL AND STORAGE OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

Details of the three quotes for the installation, removal and storage of the Christmas Lights had been circulated prior to this meeting. The OM said she had tried to get quotes from eight companies but had only received two on top of the quote from the existing company.

It was PROPOSED BY Cllr Kendall, SECONDED BY Cllr Jemmett and AGREED BY ALL to go with High Level Electrics for the installation, removal and storage of the Christmas Lights at a cost of £2,135.00 plus VAT per year.

ACTION POINT: The OM to liaise with High Level Electrics and Blachere.

Cllr Leader wondered whether children might be offered the opportunity to “turn on the Christmas lights” The OM indicated that the lights were turned on individually and then left on a timer. She also said that a “switch on” event may be possible but would be at an additional cost.

10. **CONSIDER REQUEST FOR SELF SERVICE DOG WASH AT LEISURE CENTRE**

The Chairman said that the Leisure Centre would receive £100 per month from the company that would install and maintain the Dog Wash Unit. It was agreed to support the Leisure Centre with this project but they would need confirmation from HDC about Planning and Water Neutrality.

ACTION POINT: The Clerk to liaise with the Leisure Centre.

11. **ACTIVE TRAVEL**

Cycle routes proposal - The Chairman said that he would rather wait to hear back from the Active Travel Team at WSCC before taking matters further. He felt that when the new developments were being built that some thought could be given to cycle lanes at that stage.

It was agreed by all that no further action could be taken until WSCC have been in contact.

ACTION POINT: The OM to liaise with Sustainable Henfield.

Cllr Leader said that she had met with the head of St Peter’s School and they hoped to have a path created and made from TigerMulch on the edge of the Kings Field from Deer Park to the gate in the middle of the School fence to provide an entry point for children coming in from Deer Park. Cllr Shaw said that although TigerMulch was expensive it is very low maintenance. The Chairman asked that any further requests from the School come via this Committee and that it would be better to wait to hear from the Active Travel team before any work is undertaken. He agreed that this Committee wanted to support the school especially with its plan to get more children walking and cycling but much would depend on WSCC funding any schemes that are adopted via Active Travel. Cllr Leader said she had spoken with Henfield Football Club and they were happy with this path.

Cllr Leader said that the School would like to consider drop down bollards on the verge outside the school to prevent damage to the verge from cars. She also asked whether the grass encroachment on the path between the school and Leisure Centre could be removed, the Clerk agreed to ask the Works Team about this or consider Community Payback Team carrying out this clearance.

The Chairman re-iterated that he felt it was important to wait for a response from Active Travel. It was confirmed that the School did not want an access at the rear for deliveries which had been discussed at the previous meeting.

The Chairman agreed to walk the route. He also said that Recreation & Open Spaces Committee (ROS) would also need to consider the path.

12. **CONSIDER CONTINUATION OF SUNDAY OPENING FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Clerk said that the person currently cleaning the public toilets would be going into hospital and therefore there may be occasions when the Public Toilets would not be opened as one of the Works Officers was on a two-week holiday.

He said that there had been positive comments about the Toilets being open on Sundays. It was agreed by all to continue to open on Sundays.

13. **CEMETERY MAINTENANCE**

The Clerk said that Grasstex had said that they were happy to continue for another year with the Cemetery Maintenance at the same price as this year. It was agreed by all to continue with Grasstex.

ACTION POINT: The Clerk would liaise with Grasstex.

14. **CLERK’S REPORT**

1. Financial update – The Clerk confirmed that 83.3% of the year had elapsed and that 95.5% of the budget had been spent which included the new Christmas Lights. He added that cemetery income is already £18,270 against a budget of £18,000.
2. Any further updates – There were none.

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

Cllr Leader said that a Care and Wellbeing initiative of Coffee on the Curb is taking place in Upper Station Road. She confirmed that Sainsburys were providing Tea and milk and the Barista Project is providing coffee.

16. **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 10.30am.

The Meeting closed at 11.50 am.