**HENFIELD COMMONS JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES 02/12/24**

**Members:** Cllrs.Gill Perry (GP) (chair), Roger Noel (RN), Josh Potts (JP), Andrea May (AM)

 (RN acting as Chair, in GP’s absence.)

 Tony Baker (TB), Eddie Colgate (EC), John Willis (JW) (non-voting members)

**Officers:** Pete Crawford (PC), Malin Andersson (MA), Jake Everitt (JE)

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS INTERESTS:** None
2. **APOLOGIES :** Gill Perry, Tony Baker, Jake Everitt, Neal Matheson
3. **Confirmation of voting members of the committee:**

No new members put forward from Parish.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 30/09/24:**

Circulated with these minutes for confirmation.

1. **CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Henfield PC ‘Year of Biodiversity’ initiative is drawing to a close with an event at Henfield Hall on Mon 9th December from 6-30pm including an exhibition of photos. All are welcome.

1. **MATTERS ARISING**

Governance – Signed copies of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Terms of Reference for the committee are now held by both District and Parish.

Cricket Club debris in Henfield Common Woods – This now seems to have been removed, although some matting remains.

1. **OPEN FORUM** – Nothing raised.
2. **TANYARD**

Hedges – 4 Chestnut End requested that the hedges to the rear of their property be cut back. The Leylandii hedge is the property of Little Wyndham and so this needs to be resolved by the neighbours. The bramble scrub section at the back of 4 Chestnut End this year. Scrub to be managed on a rotation. MA is working with Neal Matheson, the HDC Tree officer to develop a 5-year plan for management of trees across the site. This needs to factor in that many of the trees have TPOs and the whole site is within a conservation area.

Tanyard Barn – The Men in Sheds proposal has been withdrawn and is unlikely to return. JW asked whether the Barn could be used for storing Henfield Conservation Volunteer tools? For HDC, PC said he would check with the Property team.

Clearance work has taken place around the central pond and the Barn, with yellow rattle seed sown around the Barn.

1. **HENFIELD COMMON**

Henfield Village Fair - PC to advise AM on obtaining relevant license or permissions required to run the event.

Swains Planning application – Councillors were unable to take a view on the application as this must take place through the Planning committee, but if the application were successful and the build goes ahead, the Committee would hope that any damage to the trackway is restored.

Current works – MA has organized a contractor to continue the work from last winter, cutting another section of reedbed and removing some more of the willow. They will also be clearing out the ditch along the eastern side of the causeway. The ditch along Henfield Common South will be cleared separately.

1. **BROADMARE COMMON**

MA has undertaken willow clearance around Lily Pond and Black Pond with HCV. Wardens and HCV have pushed back willow scrub in the fen area to keep that open. An earlier attempt to brush cut Reedmace in pond house pond was not successful. Wardens will try cutting reedmace by hand from a boat, as silt is too deep for waders. It may be worth exploring possibility of digging out the reedmace by excavator.

1. **OREHAM COMMON**

The plan this winter is to cut some scallops into the scrub to encourage dense bushy regrowth favoured by nightingales. There will also be some clearance in the ponds, but we have to be aware of the presence of Great Crested Newts.

1. **CORRESPONDENCE:** None
2. **BUDGET/EXPENDITURE:**

Out of the budget of £19,780, £6295 has been invoiced, and a further £8,842 committed for the hedgelaying at Tanyard and the reedbed work on Henfield Common. Thus a total of £15,137 is spent, with £4,643 remaining.

1. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:** None

After the meeting the Committee undertook a short site visit to Tanyard to look at the hedges, the clearance work around the pond and the Barn, and the Barn itself.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS –** Mon 10th March 2025 All meetings to start at 10-00am and take place at the Henfield Club (tbc)