



# **HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

## **ANNUAL HENFIELD PARISH MEETING**

**TUESDAY 4th MARCH 2025 AT 7:00pm  
IN THE HENFIELD HALL**

**Present:** Cllrs E Goodyear (Chairman), J Jones, M Morgan, F Ayres, G Perry, M Andrews, A Willard, R Shaw, C Simmonds, J Potts, A May, S Leader, D Grossmith, D Jemmett and R Kendall.

**In attendance:** Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager), Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator), Ms G Campsey (Youth Coordinator), Cllr S Payne – West Sussex County Council (WSCC), two representatives from Sussex Police and 88 members of the public.

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. WELCOME BY CHAIRMAN OF THE HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL**

The Chairman explained there is a slight change of format to this year's meeting, with there being less formal presentations but more displays and a chance to meet and chat with Councillors at the end, along with refreshments provided. Each Councillor introduced themselves and stated which Committee they are a member of.

#### **2. AGREEMENT TO THE MINUTES OF 2024 MEETING**

Approved. Signed and dated by the Chairman.

#### **3. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

The Chairman thanked Cllr Mike Morgan who has now stood down as Parade Marshall for Remembrance. She also highlighted the success of 2024 Year of Biodiversity . Other highlights from 2024 also included the new high street festive lighting and the Summer Fayre organised by the BP Guild. This years events include a commemorative event with Beacon lighting for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of VE Day on the Rothery Field on 8<sup>th</sup> May and a Summer Fayre on Henfield Common on 13<sup>th</sup> September. This years's theme for the Council is Care and Wellbeing.

The Chairman also mentioned that this area is now on the fast track programme for devolution. There will be no County Council election this year. Horsham District Council (HDC) will cease to exist and there will be Mayoral elections in May 2026. Consideration will need to given to land and assets currently owned by HDC. The leader and CEO of HDC will be attending the Parish Council meeting on 11 March 2025 to discuss, residents are welcome to attend and can watch the live stream on Facebook.

#### **4. YEAR OF CARE & WELLBEING**

The Chairman of the Trustees explained that this is the tenth year of the Haven, which has become a centre of excellence for care and wellbeing alongside many other organisations such as the Youth Club and Self Help group. Financial and volunteer contributions are vital to the running of the Haven. He introduced the wife of one of their service users who is completing a series of ten sponsored challenges in ten months in order to raise funds and awareness. She

explained how the Haven had helped and supported her husband and wider family following his diagnosis of dementia.

**5. OPEN FORUM (For Henfield Residents to comment or ask their questions about life in Henfield)**

- A resident commented that the recent clearance work on Henfield Common was a waste of money and detrimental to wildlife. Cllr Perry responded that the majority of clearance was ash die back related and that the ecology action plan suggested creation of glades to allow diverse habitat for wildlife. The action was taken following the guidance in the Commons Management plan.
- A resident asked what could be done about parking on zigzags outside One Stop. It was confirmed that parking on zigzags is a criminal offense dealt with by Sussex Police. A large part of the problem is lack of enforcement. Residents were encouraged to take a photograph of offending vehicles and report online to Operation Crackdown. It was also confirmed that Sussex Police rejected the Parish Council suggestion to install CCTV cameras. Fencing outside One Stop was also suggested, however this would impede One Stop deliveries and, when suggested by the Parish Council, Sussex Police had indicated would not likely improve the situation.
- A resident who lives close to the Tanyard complained about having two dead rats in her garden last year and a dead fox in her garage this year, she implied they had been poisoned. It was confirmed that the Parish Council does not use poison and is also unlikely to be HDC. Clearance work recently undertaken had to be actioned prior to upcoming bird nesting season.
- A resident asked for traffic calming near the roundabout opposite the petrol station. Cllr Payne confirmed that an application can be made on the WSCC website for a traffic regulation order. It is advisable to seek support from the Parish Council and wider community. CPRH offered to assist.
- A resident asked about repairs to the pavement in Church Street. It was explained that this is a Conservation area and damaged sections of the stone slabs have untidy tarmac repairs. WSCC had in the past offered to replace the pavement slabs with a smooth tarmac pavement but residents had objected. Cllr Payne offered to investigate further.
- A resident stated that the step into the ladies toilet on the high street is seven inches high and the disabled toilet requires a radar key. These are easily obtained. The Parish Council will consider whether anything can be done.
- A resident asked who is responsible for pot holes, it is WSCC. Pot holes can be reported on their website. Cllr Payne added repairs are prioritised according to volume of traffic on the road in question as well as severity according to their own intervention levels.

The Chairman reminded all to have refreshments and take the opportunity to chat with Councillors as well as to take a look at the displays, These include a survey from the museum, feedback requests on skate park design and new signage for the village and a petition for installation of flood warning signage at Mock Bridge. She thanked those responsible for the Year of Biodiversity display.

**6. APPROVE DATE OF NEXT YEAR'S PARISH MEETING – 3<sup>rd</sup> MARCH 2026**

This was approved.

**7. MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS**

**Meeting Closed at 7.57pm.**

