

HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

**Meeting of Henfield Parish Council
held on Tuesday 12th March 2024 at 7.00pm in The Henfield Hall.**

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

In attendance: Mr K Wright (Clerk), Mrs R Grantham (Operations Manager), Cllr S Payne (West Sussex County Council – WSCC) and two members of the public.

MINUTES

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

None.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Cllrs Shaw and Potts.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2024**

Approved, signed and dated by the Chairman.

3. **MATTERS ARISING**

None.

4. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman congratulated Cllr Perry on her election as Horsham District Councillor.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

The members of the public were invited to speak but declined.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting.

6. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Payne reported that she has been dealing with secondary school placement issues and has recently met with Cllr Potts and WSCC highways to discuss their basis for judgement on the Sandgate Nurseries development. She reported that the parameters are set by the National Planning Policy Framework which are unlikely to change. The Church Street junction does not meet the threshold that would result in WSCC highways raising any concerns or objecting to further housing development. At the same meeting with highways, the issue of parking on Craggitts Lane and Chestnut Way was discussed. It was felt by WSCC that double yellow lines would just move the problem to another location, therefore no action would be taken. However, the resident concerned could apply for a Community Highways Scheme if they wished and had community backing. There were no further suggestions for the issue of parking outside One Stop. Following brief discussion, it was agreed that the main problem is lack of enforcement by Horsham District Council (HDC) on double yellow lines and Sussex Police for the zig zags as well as inconsiderate parking. There will be further discussion at the Village Amenities Committee meeting tomorrow. Cllr Perry will raise the issue of lack of enforcement with HDC.

7. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Perry reported that she has attended a lot of training since being elected. She reported that the Joint Commons Committee is being reformed in line with the new constitution at HDC and this will likely mean more input and involvement from HDC rangers. She also reported on the Wildway project which is part of the Nature Recovery Network. An area in Deer Park will be left to grow wild and only be mown once a year by HDC. This will also be monitored by them. With regards to the gas mains

work on the Common, this requires an easement from the Secretary of State, so may be delayed beyond September. She will also be meeting with Cllr Potts on some casework issues.

Cllr Potts submitted a written report which included the same information shared by Cllr Payne on the issues in Church Street. Other highlights were read out by the Chairman and included mention of the agreement by HDC planning officers to conduct a site visit to Stonepit Lane, a crack-down on highways littering by HDC along with the Environment Agency and Sussex Police, a meeting to listen to planning concerns at Berretts Farm and potential residential seasonal parking permits in HDC car parks.

8. **VACANCY FOR COUNCILLOR UPDATE**

There is still one Councillor vacancy, the deadline for applications is the 15th March and any applications will be considered at the April meeting.

9. **HENFIELD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – REVIEW & ACTION POINTS**

The Annual Parish Meeting (APM) was attended by 78 residents, lower than last year but it was felt that attendance may have been affected by the poor weather, and that residents are now well informed by live streamed meetings and the information shared on social media. It was also suggested that this could also suggest that residents are on the whole happy with the service that the Parish Council provide. It was also acknowledged that there seems to be a nationwide apathy and lack of interest in local government, and that many people are unaware of the different responsibilities of the various local authorities. The Chairman welcomed ideas and suggestions for improvements to the APM as well as for potential speakers for next year.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(A) **Finance, Risk & Change Governance**

Cllr Jones invited any questions on recent minutes. She also confirmed that the Infrastructure Delivery Plan is being reviewed, is likely to take a more straightforward format and will be brought to Full Council for approval once discussed by the committee. Community Groups will be asked to update on their projects in April. It was confirmed that there is £21,000 Community Infrastructure Levy in reserve.

(a) Summary of £25,255.86 Expenditure from 1st February – 29th February 2024.
Noted by Council.

(b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Checks – February.
Cllr Grossmith selected Sussex Museum Group - £49.60

(c) Year End Financial Update.

The Clerk reported that the Council is likely to come in around £20,000 under budget, in part due to the contribution not yet being made to the Scout Community Building project, as it does not yet meet the conditions. This payment will likely fall into the next financial year. There has also been £16,000 more income than expected due to higher interest rates and more cemetery income than anticipated.

(B) **Plans Advisory**

(a) The Horsham Local Plan

Cllr Grossmith reported that there has been lively discussion on the Stonepit Lane issues where multiple objections are being co-ordinated. There will shortly be a site visit by HDC officers. The new Tanyard Barn application will be discussed by the committee in the coming weeks. Residents are expected at the meeting and their views will be considered prior to the committee submitting its view to HDC planning. The Parish Council's objection to the Horsham District Local Plan was submitted before the 1st March deadline.

(C) **Recreation & Open Spaces**

Cllr Perry reported that the Committee has linked with the Children and Young People Committee to arrange planting of more trees in the Kings Field play area which is hoped will

provide some shade in future years. The verges working group have met and are looking forward to positive outcomes. Work on the football club licence is progressing.

(D) Village Amenities

Cllr Morgan invited any questions and confirmed that he hopes the committee will make a final decision on festive lighting at their meeting tomorrow.

(E) Children & Young People

Cllr Leader reported that the committee have decided to purchase a wheelchair accessible roundabout for the Kings Field play area and that there will be a scooter jam on the 11th of May, kindly sponsored by Stokes of Henfield. It was also noted that there is wheelchair accessible gym equipment in the leisure centre. Cllr Ayres will investigate whether there is a register of accessible equipment or app for the public to use to find out about these services.

(F) Museum

The Chairman reported that projects are progressing well, and the Emergency and Disaster Plan has recently been updated. There will shortly be a new costume display with a biodiversity theme.

(G) Joint Commons

Cllr Perry reiterated the information given in her HDC report and mentioned that the Conservation Volunteers are carrying out clearance work on Broadmere Common.

11. REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

12. PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES

The Clerk advised there was little to report other than five reports of paint damage to cars which occurred on one evening at Wantley.

13. ANY OTHER URGENT MATTERS TO BE RAISED BY COUNCILLORS

It was confirmed that the Big Thank You event may be delayed until September.

The Chairman also reported that the CEO of the West Sussex Association of Local Councils has offered to run a workshop to include new Councillors which will give useful information as well as an opportunity to ask questions.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 2nd April 2024. This is directly after the Easter bank holiday weekend. It was noted that the full monthly financial report for March will not be available for this meeting.

Meeting Closed at 8.00pm.