

## HENFIELD PARISH COUNCIL

Meeting of Henfield Parish Council held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 at 7.00pm in The Henfield Hall.

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

**In attendance:** Mr K Wright (Clerk) and Mrs B Samrah (Parish Administrator – PA).

### MINUTES

1. **DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

There were none.

2. **APOLOGIES**

Were received from Cllrs F Ayres, A May and J Potts.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2024**

These were approved. They were signed and dated by the Chairman.

4. **MATTERS ARISING**

Cllr Perry said that she had talked about parking problems with HDC.

5. **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were none.

*The Chairman adjourned the meeting.*

**OPEN FORUM**

There were no members of the public present.

*The Chairman reconvened the meeting.*

6. **MOTION: TO CONSIDER CO-OPTING ONE COUNCILLOR FROM THE APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

The Clerk distributed the voting slips and explained that it was a 'yes' or 'no' vote. The Chairman confirmed after the votes had been counted that the majority vote was not to elect a Parish Councillor. She suggested it would be sensible to wait to co-opt a Councillor later in the year. She also asked the Clerk to write to the candidate with the decision.

7. **WEST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

The Chairman said that Cllr Paine had indicated that the Number 17 Bus may be increasing its services in the future and possibly running later at night. Cllr Perry stated that she thought that there may be an introduction of hydrogen powered buses.

8. **HORSHAM DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT**

Cllr Perry said that some residents had concerns about parking permits in the Library car park as well as parking on the pavement in some areas of the village. She said that she was hopeful of a positive outcome for the hedge along the Mill Stream. She also said that HDC may be selling Drill Hall, refurbishing the Capitol Theatre and considering the purchase of Swan Walk Shopping Centre.

She had been present at a meeting earlier in the day with HDC officers, Henfield Community Partnership (HCP) and Cllr Morgan about the electrical charging points in Coopers Way and the Library car parks.

It had been suggested that it would be possible to reroute the cables for the Artisan Market rather than re-site the car charging points, it was hoped that this would be resolved soon to allow the Artisan Market to re-open. The Chairman confirmed that the Parish Council pay the standing charge and HCP pay for the electricity used. It was confirmed that other community groups could use the electricity as well as the Market stall holders.

Cllr Perry said that HDC is still looking at the governance of Henfield Joint Commons Committee and that the next meeting was planned for the following week.

She also said that she had represented Henfield at HDC's Climate Action Group on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The main themes this year included electric vehicles, supporting Community Groups and 30-day rewilding.

Cllr Potts had submitted his HDC Report including the implementation of a food waste scheme having received a government grant of £1.46 million towards set up. The overall cost is expected to be in the region of £2.6 million. This will be predominantly made up of 11 new vehicles plus food caddies and food waste bins. £25K will be used to plan new collection routes.

He confirmed that a one off payment of £157K has been approved for the purchase of a waste collection vehicle to access remote properties.

£100K had been approved to contribute to the cost of living for HDC staff on salaries of grade 4 or lower.

The Adur River Recovery Group consisting of local farmers and landowners have met and a significant agreement is in place that will involve Defra funding.

It was anticipated that a meeting with HDC officers at Stonepit Lane would take place the following week.

Cllrs Potts confirmed that he had been involved in discussions in connection with the Tanyard Barn. He was aware of the concerns that had been raised at PAC.

Cllr Morgan said that contrary to what Jane Eaton had said on an earlier occasion, HDC officers have indicated that there is enough electricity for the new car charging points. Cllr Kendall asked about the charging points in the two Henfield car parks and Cllr Perry said that the Library car park was likely to be up and running first, but the timescale was still unclear.

9.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Cllr Jones confirmed that the last FRC meeting was on 20<sup>th</sup> March, there were no further questions.

- (a) Summary of £25,075.87 Expenditure from 1<sup>st</sup> March – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 this was noted by Council.
- (b) Select Expenditure as the Monthly Random Audit Checks – March. Cllr Willard selected Henfield Hall Final Maintenance charge.  
The Chairman confirmed that the Clerk had more or less completed end of year accounts.  
She also said that at the last FRC meeting it had been suggested that it would be a good idea to maintain list of Councillor skills and that the Operations Manager (OM) would make contact on her return from holiday.

### **(B) Plans Advisory**

- (a) The Horsham Local Plan – It was confirmed that there was no further news on the Local Plan.  
Cllr Shaw confirmed that the last PAC meeting was on 28<sup>th</sup> March and the main areas of concern were Tanyard Barn planning application and an appeal from Fernlea and problems in Furners Lane. He said that this had led to a useful discussion about what Parish Council can do, what influence Parish Council we can have and what members of the public could do. He confirmed that were 10-12 Planning Applications for discussion and that the PAC meeting planned for 4th April had been cancelled as there had only been one planning application which had been deferred. The Chairman said that there were a few pockets around the village where there are problems with Enforcement.

### **(C) Recreation & Open Spaces**

Cllr Perry said there was little to report as the March ROS meeting had been cancelled but that there was a meeting the following week and that she was hopeful of a positive response to 'No Mow May.'

**(D) Village Amenities**

Cllr Morgan said that the Memorial Bench for the Village Square was complete and awaiting collection and installation by the Works Team when all present. He also said that the Village Signs had been removed to look for replacements as they were beyond repair.

**(E) Children & Young People**

Cllr Leader said that the last meeting was on 11<sup>th</sup> March and thanks to ROS Committee for helping to plant trees in the Kings Field Play Area. She also said that the art work wall would be repainted but confirmed that photos had been taken of the previous art work and it was hoped to store these in an archive.

**(F) Museum**

Cllr Potts to report. It was confirmed that there had not been a Committee Meeting since that last Parish Council Meeting.

**(G) Joint Commons**

Cllr Perry reported that there had not been a Committee Meeting since December but that one was planned for the following week.

10. **REPORTS FROM MEMBERS REPRESENTING COUNCIL ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Cllr Leader had attended a HCP Committee Meeting and that the Artisan Market Licence had been discussed. There had been a good presentation by HCP for about its future direction.

Cllr Jones confirmed that the Henfield Hall had decided to split the roll currently carried out by David Phillipson to have a full-time caretaker who would set up rooms and a part time caretaker, along with an administrator for 10 hours per week based in the Hall Office. Interviews were set for the end of the week with three candidates for each roll. She also said that bookings for the Hall would go online next month. Cllr Jones said that the house may be a point of discussion with potential candidates and that catering for the Monday Market would be taken on by those organising the market.

Cllr Shaw said that the Haven had arranged an afternoon for all volunteers who work inside the Haven, to say thank you to them and for them to get to know each other. It had been well received.

11. **PCSO & POLICE ACTIVITIES**

The Clerk said that he had spoken with PCSO but had not seen him for quite a while as he was training two new recruits. Cllr Perry had also spoken to him and he had said he would come and look at street parking.

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

Cllr Perry asked whether the Parish Council wanted to make any comments about Gatwick's second runway and it was agreed that the Clerk would register the Parish Council by 12<sup>th</sup> April so that a response can be made if required.

Cllr Kendall asked about celebrating volunteers in the Village and Cllr Shaw said that this had been delayed until September and that another meeting was being organised in the near future.

13. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

The Chairman confirmed that this would be the AGM and will be an opportunity for Councillors to change Committees and she asked for any comments to be sent to the Clerk. Cllr Leader asked about training and the Chairman said that she was waiting to hear from WSALC.

The Clerk said that next month's meeting would include the two charity meetings for both the Rothery and the Kings Field.

The meeting closed at 7.33pm.