

MINUTES

**Henstridge Parish Council held at the Village Hall; Ash Walk Henstridge on
Tuesday 7 January 2025 at 7.00pm.**

Open Session: At 7pm Cllr Smith welcomed residents to speak for three minutes.

Issues raised related to:

- The purchase of the Bird in Hand public house and the Government's decision to withdraw the grant for Community Ownership Fund (UK) which was for a significant proportion of the purchase. Brigadier John Smales stated that the committee is exploring alternative sources of funding.
- The repair of the Village Hall canopy with a wooden replacement.
- Provision within the budget for repairs to outstanding footway defects.
- The Chair closed the open session at 7.07pm.

The Parish Meeting commenced at 7.08 pm

1. **Present:** Cllr V Smith, Cllr K Courtenay, Cllr B Howlett, Cllr C Steel, Cllr D Finch, Cllr D Petheram, Cllr P Thompson, Cllr J Graham, Cllr A Scard

In attendance: John Smales PCC representative, Mrs Julie Ferguson RFO, Mrs Ann Lee Clerk and 5 residents.

Apologies for Absence. To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1). **Cllr A Gaymer, Cllr J Rose, Cllr H Burt, Cllr N Clark**

2. **Declarations of Interest.** (Members are reminded of their obligation to declare any Pecuniary or Other interests they may have under the Localism Act 2011 and the Council's Code of Conduct). **Cllrs resolved to grant a collective dispensation under the Localism Act 2011 for matters relating to all matters relating to CLASH as the PC would be unable to operate effectively due to the number of members affected and it was considered in the public interest.**
3. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 3 December 2024.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). An amendment was made to item 11 Council Matters (f) page 7 of 8, 2nd paragraph to read: **Cllrs resolved to ask Cllr Scard to speak to the owner of the former Chapel in the high street to discuss the removal of four additional gravestones and their proposed transfer to the Parish Councils cemetery.**
4. **To approve the corrected record of the minutes of the Parish meeting held on 5 November 2024.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). **These were proposed as accurate by Cllr Howlett, seconded by Cllr Petheram and unanimously approved.**
5. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting, held on the 18 December 2024.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). **These were proposed as accurate by Cllr Courtenay, seconded by Cllr Steel and unanimously approved.**
6. **Finance**
 - a) To **APPROVE the January 2024 payment schedule accounts** for payment via internet banking and agree signatory to authorise.

<u>JANUARY 25 Payment Schedule</u>			
INVOICE	PAYEE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	TIMEBACK ACCOUNTS	PAYROLL NOV24 INV 6855	£ 18.00
2	HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL	MEETING HVH-1697, 1719	£ 52.00
3	SOMERSET LANDSCAPES LTD	RANGER NOV24 SLL35240	£ 264.00
4	APM LINING AND MARKING	HVH CAR PARK LINING	£ 320.00
5	PAUL TRAVERS	PATIO REPAIR	£ 60.00
6	A R LANDSCAPES	VH GATE SUPPLY & INSTALLATION	£ 2,750.00
7	STALBRIDGE BUILDING SUPPLIES	PADLOCK FOR GATE	£ 24.90
PAYMENTS FOR REPORT			
	STAFF	SALARIES AND EXPENSES	£ 2,502.00
	MR T PULLING	GROUND MAINTENANCE	£ 111.93
<u>TOTAL MONTH PAYMENTS</u>			<u>JAN 25 £ 6,102.83</u>

Proposed by Cllr Howlett, seconded by Cllr Courtenay, unanimously approved. Cllr Howlett proceeded to make payments.

b) To NOTE receipts for November 2024

<u>NOVEMBER 24 Receipts for REPORT</u>		
RECEIVED	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
VARIOUS	ALLOTMENT RENT	£ 15.00
SOMERSET COUNCIL	CIL	£ 13,733.11
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>NOVEMBER 24</u>	<u>£ 13,748.11</u>

The receipts listed above were noted by Cllrs.

- c) The RFO NOTED that the bank reconciliation was satisfactory. Cllrs noted this and will receive the quarter three report at the next meeting.**
- d) To AGREE the 2025/26 budget Cllr Howlett and the RFO. Cllrs considered each individual line of the budget. The agreed budget is attached to the minutes of the meeting.**
- e) To AGREE the 2025/26 precept Full Council and the RFO. Having agreed the budget Cllr Courtenay proposed a precept of £80,600. This equated to a 9.7% increase that is equal to a payment of £115.40 equivalent to a Band D property. The Band D Payment in 2024/2025 equated to £106.57. The increased uplift for a Band D property was calculated at £8.83/yr. This is an 8.29% increase.**
- f) To RECEIVE and AGREE a grant application from Paul Dimishky on behalf of Legal Action for Safety Henstridge (CLASH) Cllr Gaymer. A grant application was submitted for £3,120. Cllrs acknowledged that the grant budget for 24/25 was underspent, and that the PC was sympathetic to the legal position. Cllr Courtenay proposed that the grant request be awarded. This was seconded by Cllr Howlett and unanimously approved.**
- g) To AGREE for the PC to apply for grants on behalf of CLASH. Cllr Gaymer and Cllr Petheram. Cllr Howlett. Cllrs were sympathetic but concerned about any associated liability risks. Cllr Howlett proposed that the PC should make enquiries to see if it was procedurally and legally possible. This was seconded by Cllr Finch and unanimously carried. Cllr Howlett will lead on this.**

7. To note the Actions from the 3 December 2024 meeting and discuss any matters arising: These were noted.

4/10/22 8b	To receive an update on the VH's consideration of the feasibility and viability of installing wind turbines which will require planning permission.	Cllr Scard Ongoing
6/12/22 9g	Vale Wood flood prevention: To receive written quotes and insurance verification from three contractors to enable a decision to award a contract.	Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham and Cllr Tompson For February 2025 meeting

7/3/23 8f:	To obtain 3 quotes for gates & signage in Oak Vale Wood when the flooding issue has been resolved. To be undertaken once work at Vale Wood is completed.	Cllr Thompson ACTION: Post completion of wood works.
3/10/23 8l	To publish Parish Council prices for burial, Interment, memorials on the website. ACTION: a) Clerk to publish rates on the website. b) Cllr Finch and Graham to identify a date for a site visit to explore path options before Christmas c) Cllr Finch and Graham to scope work and provide quotes for February 2025 meeting.	a) Complete b) Complete c) February PC
3/10/23 9d 3/9/24 12e	RFO to re draft budget for January. ACTION RFO to:- a) Remove £5k provisional allocation for a community hub website and make provision for £500 for a Govt domain website and emails. b) To make provision for contingency ref Cllr Revans Letter Somerset Council. c) CIL funding to be identified within the reserves. d) 5% uplift in the Youth Budget e) Make provision for legal fees £2500 f) Make provision for a Cemetery path	RFO:Complete and discussed in Finance section of the agenda

4/6/24 8e	To CIRCULATE Public priorities to respective committees. To Publish presenting themes and write an article in WOT's On in November and seek wider responses from residents to ensure representative. Deferred to March for the Spring edition	Chair and Clerk ONGOING
1/10/24	To AGREE to investigate to replace damaged village gateway sign.	Cllr Finch ONGOING
1/10/24	To RECEIVE a progress report to apply for grant applications from Somerset Social Investment Programme and RSPB/RHS for the Allotment project	Cllr Howlett/Smith ONGOING
3.12.24 9a	To WRITE and SUBMIT a notice of the PCs intention to challenge the certificate of Lawfulness and claim for a Judicial review	Clerk COMPLETE
3.12.24 9a	To PUBLISH the KC opinion on the PC website alongside the minutes of the 5 November 2024	Clerk COMPLETE
3.12.24 9c	To formally COMPLAIN to Somerset Council about their decision regarding 23/01470/OUT and allocating £40k to the golf club to provide commercial changing rooms and play group facilities several miles away from the community.	Cllr Petheram ONGOING
3.12.24 10e	To APPOINT APM Lining for VH yellow hatching at a cost of £320 for work to be completed by Christmas.	Cllr Graham COMPLETE
3.12.24 11c	To ADVISE Somerset Council of vacancy for 2 Cllr positions and post public notice for 14 working days on website until 7 January 2025	Clerk COMPLETE
3.12.24 11f	To RECEIVE notice of the outcome of transfer of headstones (private and public) to the PC cemetery.	Cllr Scard ONGOING

8. Reports

- a) To **RECEIVE** Avon and Somerset Police and Crime update
(Minutes of Council provided) **None received**
- b) To **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** Cllr Clark's Unitary Authority report for January 2024
Received and noted
- c) To **RECEIVE** and **NOTE** Cllr Burt's Unitary Authority report for January 2024
Received and noted

9. Planning

- a) To **RECEIVE** an update on the freedom of information request reference 16637013. **Cllr Petheram**. Cllr Petheram reported that the reply from the Unitary Authority had been unsatisfactory. Further requests have subsequently been submitted.
- b) To **RECEIVE** an update on the complaint concerning 23/01470/OUT Townsend Farm 52 houses, reference the outcome of the Planning Committee meeting 26 November 2023 where Officers have submitted their recommended approval. **Cllr Petheram**. Cllr Petheram reported that no action had been taken yet.
- c) To **RECEIVE** an update on reports that pedestrian footways are being altered at Furge Lane and Furge Grove and **AGREE** action that the PC can take. **Cllr Gaymer/Courtenay**. Cllr Graham reported that this work was as a result of unfinished work by developers. Bollards along Furge Lane had been installed following complaints to the Police about parking.
- d) **Planning Applications:** To **APPROVE** planning applications received since the last meeting: **None received**

d) To **NOTE** recent **SSDC Planning Decisions made by the Unitary Authority:** Cllrs noted all decisions made.

Application number	Proposal	Applicant details	Decision
24/02254/HOU 24/02255/LBC	Replacement of back door which is beyond economical repair Wing House Ash Walk Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0QG	Mrs Richelle Drewery	Approved 19 December 24
23/01822/FUL alternative ref. PP-12304556	Erection of 1 No. self –building dwelling Land Adj. to 2, Yenston Hill, Henstridge, Templecombe	Debbie Warnes The Hollies Cabbage Lane Templecombe	Approved 9 December 24
TrafficManagement@somerset.gov.uk >	Derestriction sign Combe Hill, Templecombe extension of the 30mph zone from the southern edge of Templecombe to the traffic lights at the top of Yenston Hill.	Templecombe request for support	Awaiting decision

- d) To **RECEIVE** any further updates on gully/flood issues and any further concerns regarding highways concerns. **Cllr Gaymer**.

10. Council Matters

- a) To **RECEIVE** reports from representatives (Dog Warden. VHMC, Footpaths, Tree Warden, CSW, Youth) and provide guidance as appropriate. **Footpaths Fraser Cooke**. Cllr Smith acknowledged the comprehensive report on the latest defect position provided by Mr Frazer Cooke which had added to discussions concerning the allocation of £2,500 being added as a separate line item to the Open Spaces budget.
- b) To **AGREE** the recruitment process for two Cllr vacancies and arrange elections as required **Cllr Smith**. The Clerk verified that the **public notice period closed on the 7 January 2025** and noted that the Council have not yet verified if the PC could proceed to co-option of Cllrs at this stage. The Clerk will contact the Council Officer to determine if an election is required and advise Cllrs accordingly.

- c) To **CHECK** the status of the General Power of Competence **Cllr Courtenay**. Cllr Courtenay advised Cllrs that he was satisfied that the General Power of Competency was declared after the election in 2022 when 80% of Cllrs had been elected. He stated that at this time the Clerk was CiLCA qualified. The current Power of Competence status will remain until the annual PC meeting in 2027.
- d) To **AGREE** a request from the Village Hall Committee to allow the replacement of the canopy at the main entrance that was damaged by Storm Burt. **Cllr Smith/ Cllr Scard. A wooden replacement was proposed by Cllr Scard, seconded by Cllr Finch and unanimously approved.**
- e) To **NOTE** outcomes of any actions undertaken by the LCN. **Cllr Courtenay**. Cllr Courtenay acknowledged that there was nothing further to report since 31 October 2024. He recommended that Cllr Howlett note Health Grants that would support the Allotment project.
- f) To **NOTE** Parish Key Events. Cllr Smith acknowledged thanks to Elspeth Graham for circulating a comprehensive list of events for Cllrs to take note of.
- g) To **AGREE** items for the next meeting **(Cllr Smith)** Cllr Smith listed the following items for inclusion at the forthcoming meeting:-
 - a) To **RECEIVE the QUOTES** for ground works in Oak Vale Woods and appoint a contractor. **Cllr Finch/Cllr Graham/Cllr Thompson**
 - b) To **Co-Opt** two new Parish Councillors **Cllr Smith**
 - c) To **RECEIVE comments from the PCC and recommendations and quotes provided to move 4 unattended gravestones from the former Chapel in the High Street and place them in the PC Cemetery. Cllr Scard**
 - d) To **RECEIVE** update on grant applications submitted for the Allotment project **Cllr Howlett**
 - e) To **RECEIVE** quote for website domain changes and respective government email addresses **Cllr Smith**
 - f) To **NOTE** receipt of a grant request from Citizen's advice and **AGREE** to a payment contribution. **Cllr Smith**
 - g) To **RECEIVE and AGREE a grant request from WOTS ON Cllr Smith**
 - h) To **NOTE** the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee of the 21 January 2025.

To **NOTE** the revised schedule of dates for PC and subcommittee meetings. **(Cllr Smith)** Cllr Smith provided copies of the proposed dates for the forth coming year.

Next meeting. The next meeting is the 4 February 2025.

Ann Lee Parish Clerk

Budget attached

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL BUDGET 2025-26

Budget Line	FY24-25 Budget	Current spend against	Predicted remaining expenditure	Projected Total Expenditure	EOY budget remainder FY24-25	FY25-26 Budget APPROVED
COMMUNITY SERVICES AND SUPPORT						
Grants (other)	£5,000.00	£1,177.50	£0.00	£1,177.50	£3,822.50	£4,500.00
Youth club	£10,000.00	£7,102.95	£2,367.00	£9,469.95	£530.05	£10,000.00
Christmas Trees	£1,500.00	£935.00	£0.00	£935.00	£565.00	£500.00
Play Days	£1,000.00	£260.00	£520.00	£780.00	£220.00	£500.00
TOTAL	£17,500.00	£9,475.45	£2,887.00	£12,362.45	£5,137.55	£15,500.00
OPEN SPACES AND BURIAL GROUND						
Rec Ground Grass cutting	£2,000.00	£1,870.00	£0.00	£1,870.00	£130.00	£2,000.00
Rec Ground hedges and trees	£1,500.00	£1,047.50	£0.00	£1,047.50	£452.50	£1,100.00
Oak Tree Park	£3,000.00	£0.00	£1,400.00	£1,400.00	£1,600.00	£0.00
Ranger	£8,000.00	£4,928.36	£3,000.00	£7,928.36	£71.64	£6,600.00
All area maint (play area/footpaths/fuel)	£3,500.00	£4,374.95	£2,000.00	£6,374.95	(£2,874.95)	£7,000.00
Parish Contractors - General maint	£1,400.00	£1,007.47	£384.00	£1,391.47		£1,400.00
Bins	£3,000.00	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00	£3,000.00	£2,200.00
Annual Inspections	£170.00	£150.00	£150.00	£300.00	(£130.00)	£200.00
Equipment/Tools (NEW)						£1,500.00
Burial Ground (NEW)						£2,000.00
TOTAL	£22,570.00	£13,378.28	£6,934.00	£20,312.28	£2,249.19	£24,000.00
OFFICE & ADMIN						
Salaries	£24,800.00	£21,437.73	£7,080.00	£28,517.73	(£3,717.73)	£29,500.00
audit fees	£600.00	£475.00	£0.00	£475.00	£125.00	£600.00
insurance	£2,000.00	£1,553.91	£0.00	£1,553.91	£446.09	£2,000.00
Subscriptions	£1,500.00	£1,180.22	£0.00	£1,180.22	£319.78	£1,500.00
General admin	£4,000.00	£3,867.07	£900.00	£4,767.07	(£767.07)	£6,000.00
Training	£500.00	£325.00	£0.00	£325.00	£175.00	£1,000.00
Website (NEW)	£0.00					£500.00
TOTAL	£33,400.00	£28,838.93	£7,980.00	£36,818.93	(£3,418.93)	£41,100.00
RESERVES CONTRIBUTION/ TRANSFER						
General (Admin)	£0.00	£12,750.00	£12,000.00	£24,750.00	(£24,750.00)	£0.00
Defibrillator	£0.00	£750.00		£750.00	(£750.00)	£0.00
Open Spaces	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Asset Maintenance	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Allotments	£0.00	£0.00		£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Legal Fees (NEW TBC)	£0.00	£0.00				£0.00
VAT		£5,495.20		£5,495.20		
TOTAL	£0.00	£18,995.20	£12,000.00	£25,500.00	(£25,500.00)	£0.00
TOTAL	£73,470.00	£70,687.86	£29,801.00	£94,993.66	(£21,532.19)	£80,600.00