



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

The Parish Meeting of Henstridge Parish Council will be held at the Village Hall, Ash Walk, Henstridge on Tuesday 3 December 2024 from 7.00pm.

All members are summoned to attend.

The meeting will commence after there has been an opportunity for members of the electorate of the Parish to speak.

Open Session: The session opened at 7pm. The session Issues raised:

- a) A request for the PC to sympathetically allow provision for headstones and a commemorative inscription on a plaque to be fitted in the PC cemetery from a property in the village. In addition, for the PC to consider liaising with the property owner to move 4 other headstones to avoid them being destroyed.
- b) To include in the agenda for the 7 January a proposal to allow the Village Hall Committee to replace the canopy at the entrance with a suitable replacement.
- c) Disappointment that the Planning Committee have approved outline planning for an additional 52 properties in Henstridge.
- d) Concern that the Ash Public house have been granted permission for 12 music events a year.
- e) Guidance notes for the PPO role have been received.

The session closed at 7.06 pm.

The Meeting commenced at 19.06. The Chair welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance.

1. **Apologies for Absence.** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1). **Cllr Graham, Cllr Rose, Cllr Nicola Clark, Mr John Smales.**
2. **Present:** Cllr Smith, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Steel, Cllr Scard, Cllr Finch, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Petheram
3. **In Attendance:** 3 members of the public, Cllr Hayward Bert, Ann Lee Parish Clerk
4. **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) **None declared**
5. **To APPROVE as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 5 November 2024.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12) Cllr Thompson required the following amendment to be made: **Cllr Thompson missed 2 meetings. Minutes to be amended, published and signed for the next meeting. Proposed by Cllr Howlett, seconded by Cllr Gaymer, unanimously carried.**
6. **To APPROVE as a correct record the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting, held on the 21 August 2024.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). **Proposed by Cllr Steel seconded by Cllr Petheram, unanimously carried.**

7. To NOTE the Actions from the 5 November 2024 meeting and discuss any matters arising:

4/10/22 8b	To receive an update on VH consideration of installation of wind turbines. John Smales will advise the PC when more information is forthcoming. Cllr Smith reported that the Village Hall committee are currently investigating the feasibility and viability of installing wind turbines which will require planning permission. An update will be provided in 6 – 8 weeks' time.	Cllr Smith Ongoing
6/12/22 9g	Vale Wood flood prevention: Time critical in preparation for Winter. To receive written quotes and insurance verification from three contractors to enable a decision to award a contract (Agenda item included in Financial Matters with quotes).	Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham Reported in the Financial section of the Agenda

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 wood works.
3/10/23 8l	To receive a proposal to increase the Parish Council prices for burial, Interment, memorials and resolve to extend the path through the parish cemetery. Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham to lead this work with the support of the Clerk. Cllr Finch reported that prices are competitive in relation to lease lengths. Costs equates to c£2 per year pro rata for a 99-year lease. However, rates need to be published on the website. Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham will meet with the Clerk to look at viable options for a path in the cemetery before Christmas. ACTION: a) Clerk to publish rates on the website. b) Cllr Finch and Graham to identify a date for a site visit.	Cllr Finch Cllr Graham Clerk Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham
3/10/23 9d 3/9/24 12e	RFO to establish provision to budget for a community website with development and delivery costs of between £5k- 10K for 25/26. Cllr discussed the size of this, and Cllrs resolved to include £500 in the budget for reasons of affordability. The Clerk reported that there were modules within Word Press that could be used	RFO: Complete and included as a draft budget for decision in January 2025

	within the existing programme with the support of an experienced resident. Action RFO to incorporate into the draft budget and a Govt domain to be investigated.	Cllr Howlett /RFO to include in budget
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 due to sickness of Parish Clerk	Chair and Clerk ONGOING
1/10/24	To AGREE to investigate to replace damaged village gateway sign. The Clerk has provided Cllr Finch with all the details. Cllr Finch	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

8. Reports

- a) **To RECEIVE** Avon and Somerset Police and Crime update. The Minutes of the Council relating to Police and Crime related matters was provided by the Clerk. The Clerk reported that she had circulated the minutes of the Council meeting. She also stated that the new PCSO for the area of Henstridge and surrounding areas is PCSO 7911 Mandy Ware, who is based at Wincanton Police Station. Mobile 07889 655 336
- b) **To RECEIVE** Cllr Clark's Unitary Authority report for December 2024. Cllr Smith acknowledge grateful receipt of the reports from Cllr Clark and Cllr Burt. She extended her thanks for their attendance at the recent Planning Committee meeting in November.
- c) **To NOTE** the election of Hayward Burt on the 21 November 2024 as the new co-councillor for the Blackmoor Vale division. Cllr Smith congratulated Cllr Burt in his recent appointment and attendance at the meeting.

9. Planning

- a) **To RECEIVE the official letter indicating the CLUED is lawful and discuss** the legal position of the Certificate of Lawfulness application by Barratt Homes **24/01183/COL** and agree action the PC may wish to undertake, (Judicial Review). **Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Petheram.**

The notification was noted but the PC is still awaiting the official copy. The PC have 6 weeks to claim for a Judicial Review. Cllr Gaymer estimated that it will cost in the region of £46k and more if the case is lost unless its possible to get the costs capped. Cllrs will seek legal opinion. Provision for an extraordinary meeting convened by the Chair may be required. Cllr

Gaymer and Courtney detailed the timeline of events. Cllr Petheram has filed for a freedom of information request.

The Chair suspended the meeting to allow the public to speak at 8pm.
The Chair reopened the meeting at 8.06pm

Proposal: To write a notice of the PCs Intention to challenge the certificate of Lawfulness and claim for a Judicial Review. Proposed by Cllr Courtenay, seconded by Cllr Thompson, unanimously carried

ACTION Clerk to write formal pre action Judicial Review notification letter to Somerset Council stating Henstridge Parish Council wrote on 22nd November 2024 asking for replies to the points raised by November 29th 2024, explaining that no substantive reply has been received to the points raised in that letter and are now intending to pursue a Judicial Review Claim and give notice of this intention.

Proposal: To public the PC's KC opinion on our website together with the minutes of this meeting. Proposed by Cllr Courtenay, seconded by Cllr Finch, unanimously carried.
ACTION Clerk

- b) To RECEIVE an update on the application to the Ombudsman relating to Townsend Green** regarding the handling of Barrett's application and the discharge of condition 10 iii, outlining procedural unfairness, lack of transparency, irrationality and disregard by Officer of Somerset for pedestrian safety, inadequacy of response. Reference 15843149. **Cllr Gaymer and Cllr Petheram. The application has been rejected by the Ombudsman on the grounds that the PC cannot make a complaint about another government body.**
- c) To RECEIVE an update on developments with 23/01470/OUT Townsend Farm** 52 houses, including new plans showing visibility splays and HGV tracking and discuss the outcome of the Planning Committee meeting 26 November 2023 where Officers have submitted their recommended approval. **Cllr Petheram**

Proposal: To complain to the Council about Officers decision and question the £40K allocated to the golf course for private provision of changing rooms and play group facilities for commercial purposes. Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Steel, unanimously approved. ACTION Cllr Petheram

- d) To RECEIVE notification of the CIL.**

The clerk advised that calculations total £13,733.11. This is made up from:

1. 23/00534/FUL Land at Chapel Lane Yenston BA8 ONH full payment £830.78
2. 21/03369/REM Land OS 5439 Part Townsend Green Henstridge 1st instalment £12,902.33

The RFO reports that the PC has now received £13733.11.

- e) **To NOTE content of the Somerset Local Plan engagement questionnaire that has been submitted. Cllr Petheram**
Petheram reported that the form had been submitted and covered concerns relating to settlement status, lack of GP, dentist, elderly care provision and youth. Challenges were noted about over development, parking, traffic speed, pedestrian safety. Notes included need for a new Village Hall and the need to protect the environment and countryside.
- f) **To AGREE the content of the Consultation on Local Validation Check list for Somerset.** Cllr Petheram reported that the PC submission recommended additional information on phosphates, transport, cross boarder planning questionnaires.
- g) **Planning Applications: To AGREE the PC view on the following planning applications received since the last meeting: -**

Application number	Proposal	Applicant Details
24/02254/HOU 24/02255/LBC	Replacement of back door which is beyond economical repair Wing House Ash Walk Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0QG Application supported. Proposed by Cllr Gaymer, seconded by Cllr Courtenay, unanimously carried	Mrs Richelle Drewery

- d) **To NOTE recent SSDC Planning Decisions made by the Unitary Authority:** Cllrs noted the status of all applications.

Application number	Proposal	Applicant details	Decision
24/02269/S73 23/01486/HOU	1 Brookland Way Henstridge Templecombe BA8 0QR Application to vary condition 02 (drawings) of planning approval (First floor side extension and new porch) to add utility room, fenestration and cladding. Application Type: Section 73 Determination	Mr and Mrs Goddard	Approved with conditions 19 Nov 2024
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	Awaiting decision application validated 14 July 2023.
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 RECIEVE any further updates on gully/flood issues and any further concerns regarding highways concerns. Cllr Gaymer.** Cllr Gaymer noted that the drains were blocked near the Bird pub, flooding on Marsh Lane, and at Judges House. **ACTION Cllr Gaymer to report to Council**

10. Finance

- a) **To APPROVE the December 2024 payment schedule accounts for payment via internet banking and agree signatory to authorise. Cllr**

Graham proposed the payment schedule, and this was seconded by Cllr Courtenay and unanimously carried. The schedule will be authorised electronically by Cllr Howlett.

- b) To **APPROVE** the salary payments. These were proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Courtenay. Payments were authorised by Cllr Howlett.

DECEMBER 24 Payment Schedule			
INVOICE	PAYEE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	TIMEBACK ACCOUNTS	PAYROLL OCT24 INV 6810	£ 39.25
2	HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL	MEETING HVH-1670	£ 40.00
3	SOMERSET LANDSCAPES LTD	RANGER OCT24 SLL35142	£ 792.00
4	STALBRIDGE BUILDING SUPPLIES	BIN BAGS	£ 15.12
5	T J YOUNG	EQUIPMENT SERVICE /MAINTENANCE	£ 55.00
PAYMENTS FOR REPORT			
	STAFF	SALARIES AND EXPENSES	£ 2,465.41
	MR T PULLING	GROUND MAINTENANCE	£ 111.93
	J GRAHAM	REIMBURSE AUDIO EQUIPMENT	£ 284.00
	HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE FETE	GRANT	£ 1,177.50
TOTAL MONTH PAYMENTS			DEC 24 £ 4,980.21

- b) To **NOTE** receipts for October 2024

OCTOBER 24 Receipts for REPORT			
RECEIVED	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	
VARIOUS	ALLOTMENT RENT	£ 300.00	
CEMETERY	MEMORIAL FEE	£ 155.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	OCTOBER 24	£ 455.00	

- c) To **NOTE** the letter received from Cllr Bill Revans Leader of Somerset Council recommending contingency planning if Somerset Council cannot meet their financial obligations. **Cllr Smith had circulated the letter and Cllrs resolved to make contingency in the budget scheduled for agreement in January 2025. ACTION Cllr Howlett to liaise with RFO.**

- d) To **RECEIVE** revised draft budget progress for 2025/26 following finance working group progress. **Cllr Howlett.** Cllr Howlett stated that the draft budget had been circulated. Cllrs resolved to remove provision planned in the budget for the website from £5k to £500. Cllrs asked that the CIL money to be detailed in the reserves. Cllr Smith asked provision for bin charge increases concerning new regulations.

Cllr Smith stopped the meeting as it was 9pm and stated that Cllrs were free to leave but if they wished to stay she would finish the meeting at 9.30pm.

- e) To **AGREE the QUOTE AND AGREE** to pay a contractor to undertake the installation of yellow boxes in the car park to protect the new emergency access. **Cllr Graham had circulated quotes for this work. Based on cost Cllr Steel proposed the contact be award to APM Lining – Dorset at a cost of £320. This was seconded by Cllr Courtnay and unanimously carried.**
- f) To **RECEIVE the QUOTES** for ground works in Oak Vale Woods and appoint a contractor. **Cllr Finch/Cllr Scard Quotes were circulated prior to the meeting.** Cllr concluded that the scope of quotes provided were widely different. Cllr Smith deferred the decision to the next meeting.

The criteria for comparing quotes will be: - Sustainability; minimise ongoing maintenance requirements, provide for environmental provision, ensure minimum effort for maximum gain, cost comparisons and validity of quote, due diligence and insurance checks.

Consideration must be made for hibernation of wildlife and protection in spring.

ACTION Cllr Finch and Cllr Thompson to present at the meeting in February 2025.

- g) To **NOTE** receipt of a grant request from Citizen's advice and **AGREE** to a payment contribution. **Cllr Smith deferred this item until the next meeting.**

11. Council Matters

- a) To **RECEIVE** reports from representatives (Dog Warden. VHMC, Footpaths, Tree Warden, CSW, Youth) and provide guidance as appropriate.

Cllrs noted the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee Cllr Scard.

Cllrs noted the report from CSW Youth The report was received and the 5% increase for youth provision was noted for budget discussions in January 2025. ACTION Cllr Howlett to inform the RFO

- b) To **RECEIVE** update on the Allotment project **Cllr Howlett (Verbal report).**
Cllr Howlett noted that there had been no further progress at this time.
- c) To **AGREE** the recruitment process for two Cllr vacancies and arrange elections as required **Cllr Smith. ACTION CLERK to advise Council and place public notice of vacancies on website and notice boards by the 12 December until the 7 January 2025**
- d) To **RECEIVE a PROPOSAL to** elect Cllr Scard as the PC's Village Hall Committee representative. **Cllr Smith. This was proposed by Cllr Smith and seconded by Cllr Courtenay and unanimously carried.**
- e) To **NOTE** outcomes of any **actions undertaken by the LCN. Cllr Courtenay.** Cllr Courtenay had circulated the minutes and referred to Fraser Cookes significant contribution to matters relating to footways. He noted the 41 outstanding issues. He reported that 6 issues raised were resting with contractors.
- f) To **AGREE to transfer of headstones**, when removed, up against a wall in the Cemetery and allow a small plaque to be fixed to the wall indicating that the remains are in the Congregational Chapel Churchyard. **Cllr Smith.** Cllr Smith explained that the PC had received a request from Gillain Young to have three headstones relocated from the former Chapel that is now a private dwelling to the Parish Cemetery. **Proposal to allow the transfer of these headstones to the Parish Cemetery with a plaque indicating the provision of transfer was proposed by Cllr Gaymer and seconded by Cllr Thompson, unanimously carried.**

Four other headstones are also at risk of being crushed and made into hardcore. Cllrs resolved to ask Mr Shirlin to speak to the owner of the

property to establish if these could also be moved at no cost to the PC but be relocated to the Parish Cemetery. **ACTION Cllr Smith.**

g) To **NOTE** Parish Key Events. Events were noted.

h) To **AGREE** items for the next meeting **(Cllr Smith)**

The budget

i) To **Agree** schedule of dates for PC and subcommittee meetings **(Cllr Smith)** **Dates approved except for May. ACTION Clerk to amend and recirculate**

Next meeting 7 January 2025 7pm Village Hall Lounge.

Ann Lee Parish Clerk