

MINUTES

**Henstridge Parish Council held at the Village Hall; Ash Walk Henstridge on
Tuesday 4 February 2025 at 7.00pm**

The Chair acknowledged that there were no members of the public at the meeting and therefore the Chair proceeded to open the PC meeting at 7pm.

1. **Present.** Cllr Smith, Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Scard, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Steel, Cllr Finch, Cllr Graham, Cllr Rose, Cllr Thompson
2. **In attendance.** The Clerk and Cllr Burt
3. **Apologies for Absence.** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1). **Cllr Petheram and Cllr Clark**
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). **Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Smith, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Steel and Cllr Graham declared that they knew the appellant for item 6c.**
5. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 7 January 2025.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). **Proposed as an accurate record Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Courtenay and unanimously carried.**
6. **To note the Actions from the 7 January 2025 meeting and discuss any matters arising: -**

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 Cllr Scard reported that the Village Hall have withdrawn their interest in this project at this present time. Item closed.	Cllr Scard CLOSED
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. Discussed and decision made as detailed in the financial section of the meeting.	Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham and Cllr Tompson
1/3/23 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 8I	Cllr Finch and Graham to scope work for a footpath in the cemetery, compare proposals and provide quotes for the March PC meeting and award contract.	Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham March PC meeting

4/6/24 8e	To Publish presenting themes and write an article in WOT's On in November and seek wider responses from residents to ensure representative.	Clerk COMPLETE
1/10/24	To UPDATE the PC on the replacement of the damaged village gateway signpost road traffic incident. Cllr Finch reported the Work will be undertaken by Keir.	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 reported that he is attending a meeting on the 5.2.25 to learn about the opportunities on offer. He is waiting for a response form FODO. He believes capital provision is not available. He hopes that the project will start in April 2025.	Cllr Howlett/Smith Ongoing
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. This matter is ongoing	Cllr Petheram Ongoing
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. The Clerk reported that an election will not take place. Adverts for the vacancies are now on the Parish notice boards, in the village shop and cited on the website. The deadline for applications is the 19 February. Co-option will take place at the next PC meeting on the 4 April 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. Cllr Scard reported that Miss Young is satisfied with the proposed location of the headstones and has made provision with a stonemason to have the headstones professional mounted. Costs for moving and mounting have been met by Mrs Young at a cost of £1,200 for moving and £120 per headstone mounting. There are three remaining stones that remain unattended. Cllr Thompson offered to move these (as a resident) to the cemetery. He will liaise with the Clerk for a suitable location	Cllr Scard COMPLETE

	which will not impact on existing or future grave plots or mounting costs and report at the next PC meeting. Cllr Scard will take photographs of the gravestones for archiving purposes. Cllr Steel will get a quote for a small plaque to be placed on the cemetery wall indicating where the original graves were located.	
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7. Reports

- a) To RECEIVE** Avon and Somerset Police and Crime update (Minutes of Council provided).

The Clerk reported that a PSCO is prepared to attend the Parish Annual Council meeting and talk about her role. It seems that reports from the Police are no longer available and access to the crime statistics can be found on the Avon and Somerset police website.

Cllr Smith reported that she had been contacted by one of the neighbourhood officers for Somerton and Wincanton rural areas due to complaints about the hunts that take place on a regular basis in our catchment area. He had stated that the police are aware of some residents who have experienced problems with the hunts, anything from hounds out of control in private gardens to quad bike being ridden illegally. Cllrs recalled recent events where horses and hounds had been on the A30 causing significant risk for vehicles.

PC Thomas Bidwell is prepared to provide details on the no. of incidents, area of occurrence, no. of hunts, and information about any patrols completed. He will provide monthly updates within hunting season.

- b) To RECEIVE and NOTE** Cllr Clark's Unitary Authority report for February 2025. **Cllr Clark sent her apologies.**

- c) To RECEIVE and NOTE** Cllr Burt's Unitary Authority report for February 2025.

Cllr Burt outlined the Councils progress with their budget. He indicated that there are several meetings taking place. Discussions with the Government have provided an agreement for a 7.5% increase. The Council has revised its budget setting timeline with meetings: -

- Extraordinary meeting of Scrutiny Corporate & Resources – 17 February
- Extraordinary meeting of the Executive – 19 February
- Revised Full Council meeting date for Budget proposals – 26 February

Cllr Burt also explained that the deadline for phase 2 of the consultation process for the Boundary review has been extended to 4 March 2025. Somerset Council requested to extend the deadline followed the Constitution and Governance Committees Meeting on 14 January where the committee resolved to **reject** the recommendations of the cross-party Electoral Review Working Group for submission to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) for Stage 1 of Somerset Council's Phase 2 response.

Cllr Burt encouraged the PC to contribute to the discussions and provided this link - <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/somerset>

8. Planning

- a) To **RECEIVE** a further update on the freedom of information request reference 16637013. **Cllr Petheram**. The Clerk read feedback submitted by Cllr Petheram who had indicated that *the officer in charge of the requested FOI had replied to say they were still finding out if they could provide an unredacted Barratt KC report along with the Legal Advice given to Somerset Council.*
- 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**. Nothing further to report at this meeting.
- c) **Planning Applications:** To **APPROVE** planning applications received since the last meeting:

Application number	Proposal	Applicant details
24/01861/FUL	Creation of a slurry lagoon in an existing pasture with additional areas for wild-flowers and pond to allow for BNG Location: Cherry Bolberry Farm Furge Lane Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0RN	Mr Guy Raymond
Cllrs stated that subject to the LPA fully investigating for risks of contamination and were satisfied there were no dangers they would support the application. Proposed Cllr Gaymer, seconded by Cllr Graham, unanimously carried. Action Clerk to advise the Case Officer to thoroughly investigate and take advice from the environmental agency.		
24/02913/LBC Listed Building Consent	Re-Roofing of two 20th Century extensions of 18th Century Listed Cottage Location: Church Close Church Street Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0QE	Dr Gotthelf Wiedermann
Cllrs resolved to support the application. Proposed by Cllr Gaymer, seconded by Cllr Steel, unanimously carried.		

- d) To **NOTE recent SSDC Planning Decisions made by the Unitary Authority:** Cllrs noted the application below.

Application number	Proposal	Applicant details	Decision
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

- e) To **RECIEVE any further updates on gully/flood issues and any further concerns regarding highways concerns.** **Cllr Gaymer.**
Cllr Gaymer noted:

Residents will be able to see that several white and yellow road markings have been recently repainted. He commented that in Yenston, the Manor Farm entrance has been moved away from the centre. He noted that the new House on Chapel lane seems to have excellent views from its driveway. In Henstridge (Church Street) a pothole has appeared to worsen at the end of the stretch of road running parallel to the Church, just before the first bend when driving from the A357; and that Ash Walk remains a drain problem during heavy rain.

9. Finance

- a) To **APPROVE** the **February 2025 payment schedule accounts** for payment via internet banking and agree signatory to authorise.

<u>FEBRUARY 25 Payment Schedule</u>			
INVOICE	PAYEE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	TIMEBACK ACCOUNTS	PAYROLL DEC24 INV 6895	£ 18.00
2	HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL	tbc	
3	SOMERSET LANDSCAPES LTD	RANGER DEC24 SLL35318	£ 264.00
4	YOUTH CONNECT SOUTH WEST	Q4 CONTRACT PAYMENT	£ 2,841.18
<u>PAYMENTS FOR REPORT</u>			
	STAFF	SALARIES AND EXPENSES	£ 2,275.56
	MR T PULLING	GROUND MAINTENANCE	£ 111.93
<u>TOTAL MONTH PAYMENTS</u>			<u>FEB 25 £ 5,510.67</u>

The payment schedule was proposed by Cllr Courtenay, seconded by Cllr Graham and unanimously carried. Cllr Howlett agreed to authorise the payments.

- b) To **NOTE** receipts for **December 2024**. Cllr noted the following receipts.

<u>DECEMBER 24 Receipts for REPORT</u>		
RECEIVED	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
VARIOUS	ALLOTMENT RENT	£ 180.00
INTEREST	OCT24-DEC24	£ 840.35
CEMETERY	VARIOUS	£ 498.71
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>DECEMBER 24</u>	<u>£ 1,519.06</u>

- c) To **RECEIVE** the **QUOTES** for ground works in Oak Vale Woods and appoint a contractor. **Cllr Finch/Cllr Graham/Cllr Thompson**. The **PC** were briefed and discussed the merits of all four proposed schemes of work. After extensive debate Cllr Gaymer proposed James Wright at a cost of £3,600 plus VAT. This was seconded by Cllr Courtenay and unanimously approved. **ACTION** Clerk to advise James Wright and appoint as the contractor subject to citing of Public liability insurance cover.
- d) To **RECEIVE** update on grant applications submitted for the Allotment project with sum applied for **Cllr Howlett**. **Cllr Howlett reported that he is attending a meeting on the 5.2.25 to learn about the opportunities on offer. He is waiting for a response from FODO. He believes grants available are not for capital provision. He hopes that the project will start in April 2025.**
- e) To **RECEIVE** quote for website domain changes and respective government email addresses **Cllr Smith Carried forward to the next meeting.**

- f) To **AGREE** to support the grant application for £500 from Wot's On. Cllr Smith. Cllr Rose proposed to support the application. This was seconded by Cllr Howlett and unanimously carried. Cllr Howlett advised that the payment should be made in April 2025. Cllrs resolved that this should be the case. **ACTION: The Clerk to advise Mr Simon Cullum and the RFO accordingly.**
- g) To **NOTE** receipt of a grant request from Citizen's advice and **AGREE** to a payment contribution. **Cllr Smith. Cllr Smith asked the Clerk to ask Citizens Advice to clarify how many residents of the parish have benefitted from their service and bring their response back to the next meeting in March.**
- h) To **AGREE** for the PC to apply or support grants applications on behalf of CLASH if procedurally and legally possible. **Cllr Howlett reported that this is Ongoing. Cllr Howlett will advise the PC at the meeting**

10. Council Matters

- a) To **RECEIVE** reports from representatives (Dog Warden. VHMC, Footpaths, Tree Warden, CSW, Youth) and provide guidance as appropriate. **(All reports must be sent to all Cllrs at least 4 days prior to the meeting to be included for discussion).** The Clerk indicated that a new SLA from the Youth Club providers has been submitted with a 5% increase that the PC were anticipating and will be presented at the next PC meeting on the 4th March.
Cllr Scard and Graham reported that the Village Hall Committee have generously agreed to install the water fountain and manage the ongoing maintenance, cleaning and associated water costs. The PC asked the Clerk to write a note of thanks to the Village Hall Chair. **ACTION Clerk to write a letter of thanks to the Village Hall Chair.**
- b) To **Note** the advert for two Cllr vacancies and to proceed with the Co-Option of Cllrs showing an interest **Cllr Smith.** Cllr Smith confirmed that the Election team have verified that the PC can proceed to advertise for the vacancies locally. The advert is now on the website and on all the notice boards and the local Shop notice Board. Expressions of interest can be sent to the Clerk. There is an application for all candidates. The closing date is the 19th February 2025.
- c) To **NOTE** outcomes of any actions undertaken by the LCN. **Cllr Courtenay.** Cllr Courtenay indicated that he is waiting for the minutes of the 22 January. He stated that the consultation for the forthcoming call for zone development sites is now taking place. Cllr Gaymer and Cllr Smith stated that Henstridge should be exempt as it has already contributed 5% of Somersets contribution.
- d) To **NOTE** the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee of the 21 January 2025. Cllrs noted the content of the minutes.
- e) To **NOTE** Parish Key Events. Cllrs noted that the list of events provided by Mrs E Graham covered February.
- f) To **AGREE** items for the next meeting **(Cllr Smith)**
 - Provision of a neighbourhood plan **Cllr Petheram**

- Waste bin strategy and associated costs **Cllr Steel**
- Briefing on legal position for the PC to determine if they are able to support CLASH grant applications. **Cllr Howlett**
- Citizens Advice to provide numbers of residents who have used the service (For PC to consider their grant application. **Clerk**
- Emergency plan review **Cllr Finch**
- Scope of options for cemetery path provision **Cllr Finch Cllr Graham**
- LCN update on the local plan **Cllr Courtenay**

Next meeting 4 March 2025 Items for the agenda to be provided to the Clerk by the 19 February 2025.,

Ann Lee Parish Clerk