

MINUTES

Henstridge Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall; Ash Walk, Henstridge on Tuesday 4 March 2025 at 7.00pm

At 7pm the Chair welcomed the residents of the Parish to the open meeting and invited residents to address the Council. Issues raised included:

- Concerns associated with recent work undertaken by Somerset Council in Marsh Lane that is causing significant flooding and risk to property.
- Flooding concerns on pathways located in Plot Lane caused by branches blocking ditches.
- Concerns raised by several residents who had not been notified by Somerset Council that an application had been made to build a slurry pit 100 metres to their homes (Planning application Ref: 24/01861/FUL Slurry Lagoon, Cherry Bolberry Farm, Henstridge, BA8 0RN. Residents outlined the devastating impact this would have to their wellbeing as well as to the local environment.

The Open meeting closed, and the PC meeting commenced at 7.07pm

1. **Present: Cllr Smith, Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Scard, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Steel, Cllr Finch, Cllr Petheram, Cllr Graham, Cllr Rose, Cllr Thompson**
2. **In attendance The Clerk Ann Lee, Mr Frazer Cooke and 9 residents**
3. **Apologies for Absence.** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1). **Cllr Hayward Burt , Cllr Nicola Clark, Cllr Gaymer, John Smales**
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 4 February 2025.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). **The minutes were presented and proposed by Cllr Courtenay as an accurate account of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Scard and unanimously carried.**
6. **To note the actions from the 4 February 2025 meeting and discuss any matters arising: -**

6/12/22 9g	Vale Wood flood prevention: To RECIEVE a progress report on the offer of a contract to James Wright for work in Oak Wood and assurance of insurance verification. The Clerk reported that thanks to Cllr Thompson she had received a response from Mr James Wright by email confirming he accepts the contract for £3,600 to undertake the work in Vale Wood and proposes to start by the 31 March. He will send a copy of his Public Liability insurance to the Clerk. If work does not commence by 31 March 2025, work will commence in June 2025.	Clerk and Cllr Thompson
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1/3/23 8f:	To RECIEVE 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 SCOPE work for a footpath in the cemetery, compare proposals and provide quotes for the March PC meeting and award contract. This will be presented at the meeting on the 8th April	Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham April PC meeting On going
1/10/24	To UPDATE the PC on the replacement of the damaged village gateway signpost by Keir. Cllr Finch reported that Cllr Burt is following up on this delayed action.	Cllr Finch Ongoing
1/10/24	To RECEIVE a progress report on grant applications from Somerset Social Investment Programme and RSPB/RHS for the Allotment project including briefing from FODO . Cllr Howlett reported that he has spoken with FODO and now produced a draft grant application. Cllrs agreed to support the Community Health and Wellbeing grant application. Proposed by Cllr Rose, seconded by Cllr Smith, 8 Cllrs voted in favour, 1 Cllr abstained. Motion carried.	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. Ongoing	Cllr Petheram Ongoing
3.12.24 11f	a) To RECEIVE a report on the possibility of moving the remaining gravestones. Cllr Thompson. Cllr Thompson noted that he is resolving this independently of the PC. b) To FIND a potential location for the stones which will not impact on existing or future grave plots, mounting costs and report at the next PC meeting. The stones will be placed flat next to the wall side of the vicarage within the PC cemetery. c) To TAKE photographs of the gravestones for archiving purposes. d) To RECEIVE a quote for a small plaque to be placed on the cemetery wall indicating where the original graves were located. To be resolved once gravestones relocated.	Cllr Thompson The Clerk Complete Cllr Scard Complete Cllr Steel

7. Reports

- a) **To RECEIVE** Avon and Somerset Police and Crime update (Minutes of Council provided). Cllr Smith reported that the Police have responded to local concerns regarding the hunt and issued Level 1&2 warning letters. There are 3 incidences are under investigation. The team have issued two Section 59 – Police Reform Act 2002 warning notices which means if vehicles are used again in an anti-social manor the vehicles will be seized.

A driving incident took place during a hunt. An individual has received a notice for prosecution for careless and inconsiderate driving and wilful obstruction of a highway. Number plate obstructions have also been dealt with.

Cllr Howlett advised Cllrs that attempts to cross the allotment had been made and Cllr Graham advised that hunt riders and vehicles had driven through the High Street. **ACTION Clerk to advise PC Thomas Bidwell in Wincanton.**

- b) **To RECEIVE and NOTE** Cllr Clark's Unitary Authority report for March 2025.
Not received
- c) **To RECEIVE and NOTE** Cllr Burt's Unitary Authority report for March 2025.
Report received and circulated.

8. Planning

- a) **To RECEIVE an Application no. 25/00410/COL for a Lawful Use or Development Certificate** for an existing development relating to the commencement of works 17/03029/out and reserved matters approval ref. 21/03369/rem at Land Os 5439 Part Townsend Green Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0RG. **Cllr Petheram.** Cllr Petheram updated the PC explaining that this was the 3rd CLUED application from Barratt's. The first was served on the 8/11/24 but Somerset Council admit they had made an administrative error. This was proceeded with amendments and the Council back date the certificate, but this was judged as unlawful. The PC have been notified of the 3rd attempt.

Cllr Petheram proposed that this application (25/00410/COL) should be opposed. This was seconded by Cllr Courtenay and unanimously agreed.

ACTION Clerk to advise Eren Balkir (Senior Planning Officer) eren.balkir@somerset.gov.uk telephone on Tel No: 01823355200 and Mr Paul Dimishky accordingly. **Cllr Petheram seconded by Cllr Courtenay proposed that the following agreed statement should be accompanied with an attached opinion from Gregory Jones KC dated 29 July 2024. This was unanimously carried.** The statement reads:

“Henstridge Parish Council strongly opposes the CLUED application 25/00410/COL. The opinion of Gregory Jones KC (copy enclosed) dated 29 July 2024 makes it clear that Condition 10 of planning permission 17/03369/OUT is a true condition precedent, going to the “heart” of the planning permission and that works done in breach of that condition do not

implement the planning permission. Therefore, the award of a CLUED would be unlawful. We understand that CLUEDs for the Townsend Green site dated 8 November 2024 and 12 November 2024 have been quashed. The application 25/00410/COL is for a similar CLUED on the same site and the legal advice we have received continues to apply. Henstridge Parish Council urges Somerset Council officers to refuse this application” [Enclosed: Opinion by Gregory Jones KC dated 29 July 2024]

- b) To **RECEIVE** an update on the freedom of information request reference 16637013. **Cllr Petheram. Cllr Petheram reported that there has been no forthcoming information from the Council. The next step is to contact the Information Commissioners Office.**
- c) To **RECEIVE** an update on Footpath at Henstridge PROW Order - 21/03369/REM - Condition 11. **Cllr Gaymer.** Cllrs concluded that the footpath should remain open until diverted. Provision to address access to the Style and clearance of vegetation was noted.

The footway from Church Street to St Nicolas Close was recommended by Barrett’s as a safe route for pedestrians. However, the Church Street end is particularly steep and slippery making it treacherous in wet and icy conditions. Cllrs instructed the Clerk to contact Highways to request an additional Grit bin and put up caution signs (at no cost to the PC) to protect the interests of pedestrians. **ACTION Clerk.**

- d) 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. Ongoing until CLUED resolved.**
- e) To **RECEIVE** an update from the LCN on the local plan **Cllr Courtenay.** Cllr Courtenay reported that a mini workshop had taken place in Wincanton, designed to capture the priorities / views of local PC’s. The results of the consultation have not been circulated yet. Cllrs acknowledge the inevitability of the impact on the Governments demand for land supply and local plans generally.
- f) To **RECEIVE** an update on **24/01861/FUL at Cherry Bolberry Farm Furge Lane Henstridge** concerns. **Cllr Gaymer. Cllr Smith advised the PC.**

Residents of the parish were not given the opportunity to comment on application 24/01861/FUL. Somerset Council’s Officers failed to provide notice or advise local residents of the application. Henstridge Parish Council were not aware of this when they voted last month to support the application subject to full environmental agency involvement and approval. Residents report that the slurry pit is only 100 metres from residents and will cause significant impact. There appears to have been no engagement with the Environmental Agency as there is no report in the public domain. **Cllr Graham proposed that the PC should oppose the application, this was seconded by Cllr Scard and unanimously agreed. Cllrs noted their disappointment in this administrative failure**

and agreed to advise Cllr Burt and Cllr Clark and seek support to oppose this application.

ACTION: Clerk to notify Planning Department Officers and notify Cllr Burt and Cllr Clark.

- g) **Planning Applications:** To **APPROVE** planning applications received since the last meeting:

Application number	Proposal	Applicant details
25/00171/FUL	Erection of a new workshop/storage building Location: Land At Henstridge Airfield, The Marsh Camp Road	Hookins
Cllr Finch proposed that the PC support the application subject to mitigation against light pollution in accordance with rules and regulations for wildlife. Seconded by Cllr Thompson, Unanimously agreed.		

- h) **To NOTE recent SSDC Planning Decisions made by the Unitary Authority:** Cllrs noted the applications listed 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
24/01861/FUL See minute note 8f	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	Location: Cherry Bolberry	Awaiting decision
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	Awaiting decision

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

9. Finance

- a) To **APPROVE** the **March 2025 payment schedule accounts** for payment via internet banking and agree signatory to authorise. Proposed by Cllr Smith, seconded by Cllr Graham, unanimously agreed. Cllr Howlett authorised the bank payment immediately.

<u>MARCH 25 Payment Schedule</u>				
INVOICE PAYEE		PARTICULARS	AMOUNT	
1	TIMEBACK ACCOUNTS	PAYROLL FEB25 - TBC	£	18.00
2	HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL	HALL HIRE HVH-TBC	£	16.00
3	SOMERSET LANDSCAPES LTD	RANGER JAN25 TBC	£	264.00
4	RING STREET FILLING STATION	FUEL - NOV24	£	37.38
5	MILBORNE PORT COMPUTERS	LIVEDRIVE BACKUP - ANNUAL FEE	£	48.00
6	STALBRIDGE BUILDING SUPPLIES	BIN BAGS	£	12.60
<u>PAYMENTS FOR REPORT</u>				
	STAFF	SALARIES AND EXPENSES	£	2,342.81
	MR T PULLING	GROUND MAINTENANCE	£	111.93
<u>TOTAL MONTH PAYMENTS</u>			<u>MAR 25</u>	<u>£ 2,850.72</u>

- b) To **NOTE** receipts for February **2025**. **None received**
- c) To **RECEIVE** update on grant application value submitted for the Allotment project **Cllr Howlett**.
- d) To **RECEIVE** quote for the website domain changes and respective government email addresses **Cllr Smith**. Cllr Smith explained that currently Milborne Port Computers charge for 16 mailboxes (£5), domain Name (£30), SSL certificate (£25) and hosting (£25) in total £160 plus VAT. Jimmy Fynn charges an additional £100 for website maintenance. Total annual costs amount to £260.

Under a new gov.uk domain wholly hosted by (Jimmy Flynn) hosting would cost £130 to include mailboxes (unlimited), SSL certificate and hosting. A gov.uk domain name would cost £40 and the current £100 website maintenance would remain the same. Total ongoing costs would equate to £270 per year.

There is a one-off associated cost for the change of £100 for the website migration and a nominal £5 per mailbox migration including help with setup if needed. The existing.org.uk domain name would need to be kept for a year for forwarding purposes at a one-off cost of £25 to September 2026. This would represent a total one-off cost of £205.

Cllrs debated the merits of changing or waiting until mandatory. **Cllr Graham proposed that the PC didn't wait as the current arrangements represented a cyber security risk. This was seconded by Cllr Courtney. Only 1 Cllr opposed the change, so the motion was carried by majority.**

- e) To **RECEIVE** a report on number of residents using the **Citizen's advice and AGREE to a payment contribution. Clerk and Cllr Smith**. The Clerk clarified that 20 residents of the parish have benefited in the last year from this service. **Cllr Courtney proposed a donation of £100 to the Charity to be paid in April 2025. This was seconded by Cllr Rose and unanimously carried.**
- f) To **AGREE** for the PC to apply or support grants applications on behalf of CLASH if procedurally and legally possible. **Cllr Howlett. Cllr Howlett reported that after speaking to the CEO of SALC the PC must not apply for funds to support CLASH.**

- g) To **AGREE** to pay the uplift of 5% for the Youth SLA. **Cllr Rose**. The new annual service level agreement was presented. Cllr Rose explained that provision for a 5% uplift had been incorporated during budget rounds and the number of young people using the service as grown since the appointment of a new youth leader. Numbers range now range from 19 and have been as high as 30 on a weekly basis. Cllr Howlett proposed that the PC should accept the 5% uplift. This was seconded by Cllr Scard and unanimously agreed. **ACTION Clerk to send contract to RFO and return a signed copy.**
- h) To **AGREE** the Waste bin strategy and associated costs. **Cllr Steel**. Cllr Steel explained that final confirmation on costs has not been verified by Somerset Council. Costs were last quoted at £7.82 per collection irrespective of size and weight of the container. Fortnightly collection was considered with co-mingle bins (the size of a wheely bin that could hold all rubbish including dog excrement. The PC has 3 bins. This would cost c£600 per year. The capital outlay for 3 bins would cost c£3,750. Cllrs resolved to defer a decision on this until costs for collection were confirmed. **ACTION ONGOING Cllr Steel.**
- i) To **AGREE** the provision of a play day provided by Steve Burrows at a cost of £520 for the new financial year. **Cllr Smith. This was proposed by Cllr Howlett and seconded by Cllr Rose and unanimously agreed. ACTION Clerk to advise RFO and Mr Burrows.**
- j) To **AGREE** Scope of options for cemetery path provision and **RECEIVE** quotes to award a contract **Cllr Finch Cllr Graham. DEFERRED to next 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).** Cllrs noted the following reports.
 - Youth report received for 3 quarter.
 - Footways report circulated by Frazer Cooke.
- b) To **DISCUSS** the ongoing management of PC vacancies **Cllr Smith**
- c) To **NOTE** outcomes of any actions undertaken by the LCN. **Cllr Courtenay. No further information to share at this stage.**
- d) To **AGREE** to support the development of a neighbourhood plan **Cllr Petheram**. Cllrs discussed the benefits of undertaking a neighbourhood plan. Cllrs asked to examine examples of such reports, associated costs and grants available for planning expertise. **ACTION Clerk to provide examples.**
- e) To **AGREE** to undertake a review of the Emergency Plan **Cllr Finch**. Cllr Finch explained that he is in the process of reviewing the document and will present his recommendations at the next meeting in April. **ACTION Cllr Finch**

- f) To **AGREE** to plan activities to support the Parish May 8th 2nd World War Victory Day. **Cllr Smith. Cllrs concluded that they had not planned any events for this specific day apart from raising a flag on the PC pole.**
- g) To **NOTE** Parish Key Events. Cllr Smith reminded Cllrs about an invitation to the Choral Service at Taunton Minster in May. Cllrs asked to contact the Clerk if they wish to attend.
- h) To **AGREE** items for the next meeting (**Cllr Smith**)
1. Provision with quotes for revised cemetery footway. **Cllr Graham and Finch**
 2. Emergency Plan review **Cllr Finch**
 3. Recommendations for PC waste collection. **Cllr Steel**
 4. Follow up on Slurry Pit application **Cllr Courtenay**
 5. Update from CLASH **Cllr Petheram**
 6. Focus on rule and regulations on Light Pollution **Cllr Thompson**
 7. Appointment to PC vacancy **Cllr Smith**

Next meeting 8 April 2025 Items for the agenda to be provided to the Clerk by the 21 March 2025.

The meeting closed at 9.03 pm

Exempt Session – Exclusion of the Press & Public

The Council is recommended to resolve that under section 1, paragraph 2 of The Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

To RECEIVE applications to CO-OPT members to the PC vacancies. Cllr Smith. Cllr Courtney proposed the appointment of Fiona Shea as a Henstridge Parish Councillor. This was seconded by Cllr Rose. This was carried by a majority. Ann Lee Parish Clerk