

MINUTES

Henstridge Parish Council meeting held at the Village Hall;
Ash Walk, Henstridge on Tuesday 8 APRIL 2025 at 7.00pm

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

1. **Present:** Cllr Smith, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Scard, Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Steel, Cllr Finch, Cllr Petheram, Cllr Graham. Cllr Shea, Cllr Thompson,
2. **In the presence of:** Cllr Clark, Mr Frazer Cook, Ann Lee Parish Clerk and 1 member of the Public
3. **Apologies for Absence.** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1)). **Cllr Hayward Burt and John Smales**
4. **Absent:** Cllr Jane Rose
5. **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 Scard acknowledged he had submitted reimbursements with receipts. No further declarations were noted**
6. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 4 March 2025.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). **Cllr Howlett proposed that the minutes were an accurate record; seconded by Cllr Graham and unanimously carried. The Chair signed and dated them.**
7. **To note the Actions from the 4 March 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. Public Liability insurance to be provided. The Clerk reported that Mr Wright had contacted her and will be providing a copy of his Public Liability insurance prior to work commencing in September 2025 which is in line with wildlife sensitivity needs.	Clerk and Cllr Thompson Copy of Public liability Insurance to be received before work commences. Starts in September 2025
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 8I	To SCOPE work for a footpath in the cemetery, compare proposals and provide quotes for the PC and award contract. The Clerk reported that	Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham

	Cllr Graham, Cllr Graham and Cllr Smith would meet with the local undertakers on the 28 May. Therefore, proposal deferred to the June PC meeting.	Ongoing
1/10/24 6	To UPDATE the PC on the replacement of the damaged village gateway signpost by Keir.	Cllr Finch COMPLETE
1/10/24 6	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 advised that the submitted grant application had been successful, and the PC has been awarded £3,040. Cllr Howlett is inviting all allotment owners to a meeting to discuss this. Date to be confirmed.	Cllr Howlett/Smith
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 reported the PC is waiting for reserve matters.	Cllr Petheram Ongoing
3.12.24 11f	To RECEIVE a quote for a small plaque to be placed on the cemetery wall indicating where the original graves were located within parish. To be resolved once gravestones relocated.	Cllr Steel Ongoing
4.3.25 9d	To install gov.uk domain wholly hosted by Jimmy Flynn. The Clerk reported that work has commenced. The PC domain name has been purchased and the website transposed. Cllr emails will be initiated and corresponding email archives managed by September 2025.	Work underway In progress
4.3.25 8c	Clerk to contact Highways to request an additional Grit bin for Church Street and put up caution signs (at no cost to the PC) to protect the interests of pedestrians. Cllr Graham reported that the Council have responded favourably, and the PC now waits for delivery	Completed and awaiting delivery

8. Reports

- a) To **RECEIVE** Avon and Somerset Police and Crime update. **Cllr Smith. No reports received relating to hunting as the season has finished. PCSO Amanda Ware to be invited to the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14 May 2025.**

- b) **To RECEIVE and NOTE** Cllr Clark's Unitary Authority report for April 2025. **Cllr Clark. Cllrs noted the content of the report.**

Cllr Clark reported that behavioural issues relating to dog fouling are being reviewed. A Public Spaces Protection Order (PSPO) is an order that is enforceable under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. They are used to protect the public from behaviour that is having, or is likely to have, a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality and is, or is likely to be, persistent and unreasonable. A consultation is taking place to seek any views regarding a proposal to extend the Dog Fouling and Dogs on Leads provision order for a further three years in the Somerset South area. Cllr Clark encouraged the community to respond to the survey. Cllr Clark also noted that John Nicholson Lead Planning Officer is leaving the County Highways department and will be replaced by Tracey Harris.

- c) **To RECEIVE and NOTE** Cllr Burt's Unitary Authority report for April 2025. **Cllr Burt. Cllrs noted the content of the report.**

9. Planning

- a) **To RECEIVE an update on 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 reported there were no further developments or news from the Court.**
- b) **To RECEIVE** an update on progress from CLASH **Cllr Petheram reported that a two-page article had been published in the digital version of the Blackmore Vale magazine. Action Clerk to publish on the PC website.**
- c) **To RECEIVE** an update on the freedom of information request reference 16637013. **Cllr Petheram. Cllr Petheram reported that despite numerous requests nothing had been received. The case now has been referred to the Information Commissioners Office. She noted that the Office does not provide receipts of submissions and that the process takes a long time.**
- d) **To RECEIVE** any further updates on **24/01861/FUL at Cherry Bolberry Farm Furge Lane** concerns **Cllr Courtenay. Cllr Clark stated that she is following up discrepancies on the map provided, identifying the precise proposed location which is confusing. The slurry pit is only 100 metres from the resident's properties. Action: Clerk to reemphasise to planning department that the PC object vehemently to the proposed pit location.**
- e) **Planning Applications: To APPROVE** planning applications received since the last meeting:

Application number	Proposal	Applicant details
25/00486/FUL	Proposed Store Location: Cahill Welding Henstridge Airfield The Marsh Camp Road Henstridge Templecombe	Cahill Welding Services Ltd
Cllrs requested that the Clerk seek the precise location of the proposed store from the planning department and request that light pollution prevention is made a condition for the application to be accepted. Proposal to support application Cllr Gaymer, seconded by Cllr Thompson, unanimously carried.		

f) 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 Validated 17.1.25	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 Appeal decision unknown
25/00171/FUL Validated 24.1.25	Erection of a new workshop/storage building Location: Land At Henstridge Airfield, The Marsh Camp Road	Hookins	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	Approved

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

Cllr Gaymer stated that an ad hoc poll had taken place at a well-attended village meeting on the 8/3/25 that determined residents were overwhelmingly in favour of a 20mph limit.

Cllr Gaymer proposed that the PC should explore the possibilities of a 20mph limit throughout Henstridge village from the A30 traffic lights to Grassroots and including side roads. He noted that If the Townsend Green development progresses, the developers are responsible for creating a 20mph area from where Church St meets the A357 through the High St proper up to Cotton Corner crossroads. Time scale for this is unknown and also dependent on the current judicial review brought by Paul Dimishky against Somerset Unitary Council.

Somerset Highways indicated in 2023 that they are prepared to help communities who wish to have a 20mph area, but costs must be covered by the community and Highways criteria will have to be met before they offer support. There is a quota of such schemes allowed each year.

Email correspondence with our local traffic engineer states that before a Community Funded 20mph Limit can be accepted there are several standard checks that need to be made first. The Highways department will look at accident history in the village and set up a means of assessing speeds before it decides if it will sanction our request. They are totally in charge of assessment and doubtful our SID info will be acceptable [or intelligible]. We would need to determine what injury collision statistics we have for these roads. These and other factors will determine if a more comprehensive 20 limit is viable and if so whether your intended extents will be acceptable or whether they need to be adjusted.

Proposal from Cllr Gaymer to discuss the benefits of a 20mph speed limit throughout the this with residents at the May village meeting. Seconded by Cllr Graham, unanimously carried.

Cllr Gaymer also reported that the drains near the village hall to the left and right are all blocked along Ash Walk to the end of Marsh Lane
Concerns were raised about the ditches at Oak Vale Wood running along the railway line and through the drainage tunnels. This has been reported by Cllr Steel and Cllr Scard. Highways will be managing concerns raised about Old Station Gardens

- h) To **AGREE** to write to the Council expressing concerns associated with the need for work on Marsh Lane to ensure a lane width of 9ft with the banks of ditches reinstated to form an edge to the tarmac whilst reclaiming the ditches to prevent flooding **Cllr Peter Thompson**
Cllr Thompson explained that Marsh Lane has significantly increased in width over time from a combination of pothole repairs and resurfacing as well as, traffic from agricultural vehicles. **Cllr Gayner proposed that Highways should be asked to return the lane to a width of 9 feet, rebuild the banks, clear the ditches, resurface the road as it is dangerous for cyclists and provide signage to indicate it is not suitable for HGV traffic. This was seconded by Cllr Steel and unanimously agreed.**
- i) To **RECEIVE** an update on the rules and regulations on Light Pollution **Cllr Thompson. This item will be fully discussed at the next meeting ACTION Cllr Finch to investigating the requirements and seeking a point of contact within Somerset Council to establish who is responsibility for conducting light pollution audits**

10 Finance

- a) To **APPROVE the Q4 (EoY) Cashbook/BR and Budget. The cash summary was presented.** Cllr Howlett stated that aside from unplanned expenditure in year for legal expenses the budget had been adhered to.
- b) To **APPROVE the April 2025 payment schedule accounts** for payment via internet banking and agree signatory to authorise. **Cllr Howlett/RFO**

The payment schedule circulated and was **proposed for payment by Cllr Howlett, seconded by Cllr Gayner and unanimously carried.**

- c) To **NOTE** receipts for **March 2025**. Receipts were not specifically presented but it was noted that all receipts were apparent in the cash book.
- d) To **AGREE** the waste bin strategy and associated costs. **Cllr Steel**. Cllr Steel stated that the Open Spaces Committee recommended the purchase of x 3 fireproof metal enclosed 240 litre Co-mingle bins. Existing dog excrement bins (Co-mingle bins can accommodate dog waste). It is anticipated that collection for the 2 recreational bins and the remaining bin in the Church Yard to be collected fortnightly. Incurred capital expenditure will be £3,000. **Cllr Courtenay proposed expenditure and fortnightly collections. This was seconded by Cllr Scard. The motion was carried.**

11 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 that no reports had been received but Cllr Scard will ensure the Footways report is presented to the Open Spaces Meeting and subsequently circulated to all Cllrs.
- b) To **DISCUSS** the ongoing management of PC vacancies **Cllr Smith**. Cllr Smith recommended that Cllrs look to continue to encourage interest from residents within the parish in order to mitigate against the risk of further resignations. Cllr Finch to incorporate into the PC risk register.
- c) To **NOTE** outcomes of any actions undertaken by the LCN. **Cllr Courtenay**. Cllr Courtenay stated that the next LCN meeting will be held on the 30 April in Henstridge Village Hall. The agenda will be circulated once received and all Cllrs will be encouraged to attend.
- d) To **AGREE** to support the development of a neighbourhood plan **Cllr Petheram**. Cllr Petheram agreed to summarise the benefits of such a plan and seek the views of residents at the Annual Parish Meeting on the 14 May eliciting volunteers to undertake this work with some support from the PC. **This was proposed by Cllr Finch, seconded by Cllr Steel and unanimously carried.**
- e) To **RECEIVE** update recommendations for the Emergency Review Plan. **Cllr Finch**. Cllr Finch presented a proposed article for inclusion in WOT's On calling for volunteers to be part of a team in the event of an incident. This was proposed by Cllr Scard, seconded by Cllr Graham and unanimously carried. **Cllr Finch to revise names on the website**
- f) To **NOTE** Parish Key Events. Cllrs noted with thanks the list of events for April and May 2025 that had been provided by Mrs Elspeth Graham.

- g) To **AGREE** items for the next meeting (**Cllr Smith**)
- 1.Waste Bin progress **Cllr Steel**
 - 2.Pump Track quotation for repairs **Cllr Graham**
 - 3.Light pollution summary of the 2019 guidelines. **Cllr Finch**

The next meeting will be held on the 6 May 2025 and will be preceded by the Parish Council Annual General Meeting. Items for the agenda to be provided to the Clerk by the 24th of April 2025. The Annual Parish meeting hosted by the Chair will take place on the 14 May

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 any applications to CO-OPT** members to the PC vacancies. **Cllr Smith**. A proposal was discussed but due to unforeseen circumstances this cannot go ahead.

Ann Lee Parish Clerk