



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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**Henstridge Parish Council Meeting at the Village Hall, Ash Walk, Henstridge on
Tuesday 3rd June 2025 from 7.00pm.**

The Open session commenced at 7pm and subsequently closed as no residents present.

- Present:** Cllr Smith, Cllr Scard, Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Steel, Cllr Shea, Cllr Finch,
- In attendance:** Ann Lee Clerk, Julie Fergusson RFO, Cllr Hayward Burt
- Absent:** Cllr Thompson
- Apologies for Absence:** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1)). **Cllr Petheram, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Graham, Cllr Rose, John Smales, Cllr Nicola Clark**
- 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 Steel declared an interest in financial reimbursement.**
- To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 6 May 2025.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12). **Proposed by Cllr Courtenay, seconded by Cllr Steel, unanimously carried.**
- To note the Actions from the 6 May 2025 meeting and discuss any matters arising: -**

6/12/22 9g	Vale Wood flood prevention: Contractor James Wright. Public Liability insurance to be provided at start of work.	Cllr Thompson Work commences. September 2025
1/3/23 8f:	To RECIEVE 3 quotes for gates & signage in Oak Vale Wood once work at Vale Wood is completed.	Cllr Thompson on completion of drainage work
3/10/23 8l	To SCOPE work in the cemetery and AGREE plan to enable quotes to be obtained and contract awarded following consultation with undertakers on the 28 May. Meeting undertaken. Vehicle access mainly used by grave digger. Gate and posts to be replaced and combination lock installed. Gate to remain closed all the time. Co mingle bin to be located at pedestrian access gate. Earth waste to be removed annually. Cllr Graham to seek quotes and present at the next meeting.	Cllr Graham
6.5.25 17c	To take action to advise the school that 20mph light on the southside of the school is now permanently on (day and night) School notified and have contacted Highways as the school not responsible.	Complete

1/10/24 6	Open Spaces Committee (OSC) to oversee grant from Somerset Social Investment Programme for the Allotment project. Cllrs reaffirmed decision for open spaces to oversee grant of £3,040 and budgeted allocation of £2500 for the allotment project. OSC to have oversight of both funds and final grant report. Open Spaces Committee (Andy Scard) has the authority to spend the £3,040 grant funds held by the Parish Council.	Cllr Scard
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. The PC resolved to wait for reserve matters to materialise.	Cllr Petheram Ongoing
3.12.24 11f	To arrange a small plaque for the cemetery wall indicating where three original graves were located within parish. Action Cllr Scard to provide Cllr Steel with details of deceased for the plaque and a quote for work.	Cllr Steel
4.3.25 9d	To install gov.uk domain wholly hosted by Jimmy Flynn. Cllr emails will be initiated in September 2025. Cllrs will be supported by Mr Flynn with the transition.	Commences in June
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. Cllrs resolved that a better solution is to request signs from Highways indicating "Steep Path". Cllr Graham has cancelled Grit Bins in preference for signage and awaits highways for resolution.	Cllr Graham

8. Reports

a) **To receive any Police matters.** None received.

b) **To receive County reports from Cllr Hayward Burt and Cllr Nicola Clerk.**
Cllr Burt noted the content of his report. He focused Cllrs attention to the Governments Reform of Planning Committees Consultation indicating that the government is proposing to introduce a national scheme of delegation. Consultation is over an 8 week period.
 In the reform consultation includes a two tier scheme:-

Tier A applications with "Mandatory Officer Delegation" for:

- Householder development
- Minor commercial development
- Minor residential development (up to 9 dwellings)
- applications for reserved matter approvals
- applications for s96A non-material amendments to planning permissions
- applications for the approval of conditions
- applications for approval of the BNG Plan
- applications for approval of prior approval (for permitted development rights)
- applications for Lawful Development Certificates
- applications for a Certificate of Appropriate Alternative Development

Tier B: “Optional officer delegation via a “Gateway Check” by Chief Planning Officer and Planning Committee Chair” and includes:

- Significant new housing and commercial development
- Applications where the applicant is the local authority, Councillor or Officer
- Section 73 applications to vary conditions
- Applications where Mineral planning conditions apply

Cllr Hayward encouraged Cllrs to respond via this link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultation/reform-of-planning-committees-technical-consultation#delegation-of-planning-functions>

Cllr Howard also commented on the The Local Government Boundary Commission for England review <reviews@lgbce.org.uk> relating to the division of boundaries consultation and reminded Cllrs to respond to the link above. He noted that provision has been suggested for Henstridge, Charlton Horethorne and Milbourne Port to be a cluster. However, Cllrs debated the value of having Templecombe, Horsington, North Cheriton and Lattiford and Henstridge being grouped along the A357.

The content of Cllr Clarks report was highlighted by Cllr Smith who noted that matters relating to reporting on Highways issues has changed. She stated the following:-

✗ Do not use Fix My Street

✓ Use the official Somerset Council portal:

 [Report a problem on the road](#) This covers potholes, blocked drains, overgrown vegetation and more. Issues are now automatically tracked and assigned with reference numbers.

If internet access is not possible call **0300 123 2224**.

ACTION: Clerk to put this message on the website and write an article for WOTs On.

9. Planning

- a) To **RECEIVE** an update on Application no. 25/00410/COL for a third application 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 Gaymer**. In their absence Cllr Courtney indicated that confusion had arisen over CLUED numbers. The second CLUED is subject to the JR but Somerset Council revised the CLUED due to administrative errors and Officers signed off a revised version on the 9th May 2025. **ACTION: Clerk to seek verification from planning officer on CLUED application identification numbers.**

b) To consider any new Planning Applications:

Application Number	Proposal	Location	Applicant details
Householder Application Application Number: 25/01157/HOU	Demolition of attached outhouse replaced with single storey extension. Location:	London House High Street Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0RB	Mr Richard Burton Comments by: 5 June 2025
Cllr Courtney proposed support for the application, seconded by Cllr Scard, unanimously carried			
25/01152/S73 23/01822/FUL	S73 application to vary condition 2 (approved plans) to allow changes in design, elevation style, section heights and site	Land Adj. To 2 Yenston Hill Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0NA	Not stated Comments by 18 June 25

	layout. Erection of 1 No. self-build dwelling	(GR:371085/121730)	
Cllr Steel proposed support for the application, seconded by Cllr Shea, motion carried			

c) To note recent SSDC Planning Decisions: The following applications were noted|:-

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.	Templecomb request for support	Awaiting decision
24/01861/FUL Validated 17.1.25 Clerk to resubmit the assertion that the PC does not support the application	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 BA8 0RN	Location: Cherry Bolberry	Awaiting decision
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

d) To receive any further updates regarding 20mph limit across the village. Cllr Gaymer.

Cllr Smith noted the content of Cllr Gaymer's report stating that Andrew Barron the Traffic Engineer who had examined the existing speed data, history of injury collisions and road geography. She explained that the national guidelines set out the order for a 20mph speed limit requirement. To be viable, existing speeds must not be over 24mph along the section proposed. It appears data for the A357 through Henstridge from Virginia Ash crossroads to the Dorset border, show that over a section of just under 600m through the very centre of the village this is indeed the case. Reports indicate all day average speeds over the sections interrogated are 21mph. The part of the road where the 20mph limit would be permissible would be from the Blackmore Lane junction to the junction with Woodhayes. Either side of these locations, the speeds are above 24mph so these sections could not be included.

The Police show that there are no recorded injury collisions over this stretch over the past 5 years which doesn't add any weight to our request. The number of residential properties and width of the road especially in the village centre would tend to support the proposal however the Police would need to discuss the proposed speed limit reductions and highways would need their support to carry it forward as they are a statutory consultee.

The cost would be £10,000 to £15,000 for a Traffic Regulation Order, site work and depends on the number of roads included. A non-returnable deposit of £500 is required start the process including a statutory public consultation lasting 21 days. Costs can rise if objections are received.

Cllrs concluded that limiting the 20mph stretch of road will be only minimally longer than the one imposed on the developers for the 130-housing project under the judicial review. If the ruling allows the housing development to progress the developers will need to put in a 20mph limit from approximately Blackmore Lane junction to Cotton Corner where Marsh Lane and Furge lane meet the A357.

Cllr Shea proposed the PC wait to learn the outcome of the Judicial Review and if required make budget provision for next year's budget for the 20mph speed limit. Seconded by Cllr Scard, unanimously agreed.

- e) **To receive an update on the Light pollution 2019 guideline requirements and identification of the person responsibility for conducting light pollution audits. Cllr Finch.** Cllr Finch reported that Environmental Health departments take responsibility for controlling light pollution that is considered a statutory nuisance, potentially interfering with a person's use and enjoyment of their property or causing harm. They can take legal action under the Environmental Protection Act 1990. **ACTION: Cllr Finch to provide the Clerk with information for the PC website and planning statement for all future applications that details light pollution conditions that the PC can apply.**

10 Finance

- a) **To approve the accounts presented by the RFO for payment to be paid via internet banking and agree two signatories to authorise.** The schedule below was presented and the payments were **proposed by Cllr Courtenay and seconded by Cllr Howlett and unanimously approved. Cllr Howlett made the payment electronically.**

<u>June 25 Payment Schedule</u>			
	PAYEE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	TIMEBACK ACCOUNTS	PAYROLL JUNE25 - INV TBC	£ 18.00
2	HENSTRIDGE VILLAGE HALL	HALL HIRE HVH- INV 1862	£ 40.00
3	SOMERSET LANDSCAPES LTD	RANGER SERVICE APR INV 35665	£ 819.72
4	STALBRIDGE BUILDING SUPPLIES	PAINT	£ 10.67
5	YOUTH CONNECT SW	Q1 YOUTH WORK SESSIONS INV 1425	£ 2,983.24
6	J GRAHAM	REIMBURSE PAINT	£ 115.99
7	SES FIRE AND SECURITY	SECURITY CAMERA SERVICE 151956	£ 279.30
8	HENSTRIDGE FLYERS WI	REFRESHMENTS FOR APM	£ 50.00
9	T J YOUNG	LAWNMOWER REPAIRS INV 11907	£ 121.56
10	A R LANDSCAPES	BIN INSTALLATION INV 525210	£ 700.00
11	PINNACLE ACCOUNTANCY	AUDIT FEE	£ 204.00
PAYMENTS FOR REPORT			
	STAFF	SALARIES AND EXPENSES	£ 2,504.97
	MR T PULLING	GROUND MAINTENANCE	£ 111.93
<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>			<u>JUNE 25 £ 7,959.38</u>

- b) **To note April 2025 Receipts for report.** Receipts noted.

<u>APRIL 25 Receipts for REPORT</u>		
RECEIVED	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
HMRC	VAT REFUND	£ 6,077.14
SOMERSET COUNCIL	PRECEPT	£ 80,600.00
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>	<u>APRIL 25</u>	<u>£ 86,677.14</u>

To note the Annual Internal Audit Report and consider any recommendations.
The RFO noted that the accounts had been internally audited by TB Williams and declared satisfactory.

- c) **To approve AGAR section 1 – Annual Governance Statement.** The PC went through all the statements in Section 1 items 1 – 8 and agreed that to the best of their knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, they had met all internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. The statement was duly signed by the Chair (Cllr Smith) and the qualified Officer (RFO). Minute reference 10 c page 5 of 6.
- d) **To approve AGAR section 2 – Accounting Statements.** The RFO noted that comparatively the balance carried forward in 2024 was £107,021 compared to £115,603 and reported that the PC was in a good position financially. The RFO signed the document before the PC certifying that all receipts and payments on an

income and expenditure basis had followed the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of the PC. The Chair then signed and dated the document to confirm that the Accounting Statements were approved by the authority. The minute reference was noted.

To announce and note the period for the exercise of the public rights – The RFO announced that the period for exercise of public rights was dated Tuesday 4 June 2025 to Monday 15 July 2025 and publication on the HEPC website on the 3 June 2025.

- e) To **discuss** the absence of rent received for the Furge Lane field and **note** the response from Symonds and Sampsons and **agree** to the recommendations made. **Cllr Courtenay** The RFO explained that **Symonds and Sampsons would not be charging the PC for any administration fees as they accepted responsibility for the error.**

Cllr Courtenay proposed that Symonds and Sampson should continue managing the account and collect back rent and instigate on going rent collection on an annual basis, arranging for it to be paid to Henstridge PC, after fees have been accounted for. This was **seconded by Cllr Howlett and unanimously agreed.**

Cllr Courtenay also proposed that Symonds and Sampson request that a rent review be carried out prior to the anniversary date of 31st October 2025, effective from the 31st of October 2026; **seconded by Cllr Howlett and unanimously agreed.**

- f) To **agree** cemetery expenditure for removal of waste annually; installation of new gate with coded lock. **Cllr Graham Deferred to the next meeting.**
- g) To agree £250 for weed treatment of cricket square. **Cllr Graham. In his absence Cllr Courtenay proposed the expenditure. This was seconded by Cllr Scard and unanimously carried.**

Council Matters

- a) To **note** Somerset Council's upcoming Housing Options Appraisal, along with a preview copy of Frequently Asked Questions for customers (Tenants and Leaseholders) available on the Council website. The PC noted the content.
- b) To **receive** an update on the installation of Co-Mingle Bins. **Cllr Steel. Cllr Steel reported that groundworks are complete, and the bins are expected next week.**

Date of Next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 1st July**. All items for inclusion on the agenda and all items to be listed under issues arising from previous meetings must be received by the Clerk by **9.00am on 18th June 2025** **Ann Lee**