



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Henstridge Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Ash Walk, Henstridge on
Tuesday 2nd September 2025 at 7.00pm.

At 7pm Cllrs Smith led a minute's silence for the late David Nicholls who dedicated many years of service to the community and this Parish Council.

The Open Meeting commenced at 7.01 with an opportunity for members of the electorate of the Parish to speak. Discussions included discussions about the progress made by the Bird in Hand Society as well as an update from CLASH on the 2nd Judicial Review. The Open Meeting closed at 7.15pm and the PC meeting commenced.

- 1. Present: Cllr Smith, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Scard, Cllr Petheram, Cllr Gaymer., Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Finch, Cllr Thompson, John Smales**
- 2. In attendance: Cllr Burt, Ann Lee Clerk, 2 residents**
- 3. Apologies for Absence.** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1)). **Cllr Scard, Cllr Graham, Cllr Rose, 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 Smith declared an interest the Bird in Hand Public House agenda items 8DE and 8E. She stated that the Vice Chair Cllr Finch will take the Chair for these items.**
- 5. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 1 July 2025.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12. **Cllr Howlett proposed the minutes to be accurate; seconded by Cllr Steel, unanimously carried.**
- 6. To note the minutes of the Open Spaces Committee, held on the 22 July 2025. The content of the minutes was noted by Cllrs.**
- 7. To note the Actions from the 1 July 2025 Meeting and discuss any outstanding matters arising.**

6/12/22 9g	Vale Wood flood prevention: Contractor James Wright. Public Liability insurance to be provided at start of work. Action: The Clerk to seek confirmation of start date for work to commence and advise Cllr Thompson.	On Going Cllr Thompson Work to commence. at the end of September 2025
1/3/23 8f:	To RECIEVE 3 quotes for gates & signage in Oak Vale Wood once work at Vale Wood is completed.	On Going Cllr Thompson on completion of drainage work

3/10/23 8l	To note work undertaken in the cemetery Gate. Posts have been replaced and a combination lock installed. Gate to remain closed all the time. Co-mingle bin is now located at the pedestrian access gate. Earth waste to be removed and green waste separated on an annual basis. Cllrs noted a complaint from an electric mobility scooter user who has indicated that the width of the gate and path is too narrow to accommodate safe passage. Action Cllr Finch to measure path width and establish if it meets national legal requirements.	Cllr Graham Complete
1/10/24 6	Allotments: Open Spaces Committee (OSC) to oversee grant from Somerset Social Investment Programme for the Allotment project. Cllr Howlett reported that a skip has been provided, and tenants are clearing rubbish. Planning permission may be required for the new shed depending on its proposed site. ACTION: Cllr Howlett to confirm with Planning Officers. The tenancy agreement has been refined and is on the agenda for ratification.	Cllr Scard On going
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 On going
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 On going
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. He will send instructions for all Cllrs to assist in the transition. Cllrs reported ongoing issues assessing historical emails and documents. Cllrs to contact Mr Fynn for remote support.	Complete All Cllrs
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 Complete

8. Reports

- a) **To receive any Police matters.** No relevant reports however, Cllrs expressed concern that the reports lacked local intelligence and that local burglaries are not detailed in the reports. **Action: Cllr Smith to write to the Chief Constable to request this data. Amanda Ware PCSO will remain allocated to Yeovil and is not returning to this location.**
- b) **To receive County reports from Cllr Hayward Burt and Cllr Nicola Clark.** Cllr Burt commented on his report and specifically note the new boundaries and the potential impact on the A357 split between parishes.
- c) **To receive the 1st Quarter report for Youth Work.** Cllr Rose. In the absence of Cllr Rose, Cllr Smith acknowledged receipt of the report from Youth Connect Southwest. Cllrs acknowledge the Bream trip and the excellent work being undertaken by the Youth Leader and commended her progress.

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.** Cllr Petheram noted the work being undertaken independently from the PC. She advised that Paul Dimishky is waiting for the statement of resistance from the interested party(s). The outcome of the second judicial hearing has not yet been confirmed. The independent Ombudsman request for investigation remains ongoing. Community fundraising activity continues.
- b) **To RECEIVE an update on the Enhanced Highways Pilot update Cllr Gaymer.** Cllr Gaymer reported that he anticipates a report by the end of September 2025. Further updates to come.
- c) **To NOTE Somerset Councils local transport plans.** Cllr Gaymer. Cllr Gaymer reported that the Council's strategy for LTP is to move from a "Predict & Provide" approach to "Vision & Validate" and take a more active position. The Councils vision has 4 key points:-
 - Sustainability (walk/cycle)
 - Health (Safe school access. Plans to create 20mph zones)
 - Reduce environmental impact
 - A reliable and resilient transport system.

Cllr Gaymer noted that LTP needs to properly integrate with the forthcoming Local Plan. He stated that Highways policies and standards shouldn't be compromised when planners consider new applications, particularly with regard to road safety issues for residential developments. This is a potential issue given the increasing pressure for the County to meet Government housing targets. He stated that LTP and planning decisions need to recognise the cumulative effect on congestion/safety of multiple residential developments in rural areas. He noted that Somerset is primarily a rural county and suggested that the LTP needs to creatively co-ordinated, low-cost rural transport needs.
- d) **To NOTE local plan recommendations and determine way forward.** Cllr Petheram. Cllr Petheram noted that this will have an impact on Housing targets, the transport plan, strategic road and railway routes. More information will be shared on an ongoing basis.
- e) **To CONSIDER any new Planning Applications:**

Application Number	Proposal	Location	Applicant details
25/01645/HOU	Installation of replacement oil tank; demolition of existing garden shed; and erection of replacement shed	Cross House *The Cross High Street Henstridge Templecombe Somerset	David Sekers
Cllrs had no objections to the application.			

f) 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.	Templecombe request for support	Awaiting decision
Application Number: 25/01425/PAPV Prior Approval Solar Photovoltaics (PV)	Notification for prior approval for the installation of 80kWp Stranding String Solar PV System on a barn roof	Location: Farm Buildings and Land At Cherry Bulberry Farm Furge Lane Henstridge Templecombe Somerset	Approved
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 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
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	Approved
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 layout. Erection of 1 No. self-build dwelling	Land Adj. To 2 Yenston Hill Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0NA (GR:371085/121730)	Approved

10. Finance

- a) To **approve** the payment schedule for payment in September **RFO**. **Cllr Howlett proposed the schedule. Cllr Courtney seconded and this was unanimously carried.**
- b) To **note** receipts in report **RFO**. **Cllrs noted that no receipts for this month had been received.**
- c) To **receive and** approve financial internal controls following amendments made since last meeting **RFO**. **Cllrs considered the amendments and asked that in addition, the RFO make reference to the condition of best practice accounting measures to any organisations seeking a grant/donation. Action RFO**
- d) To **discuss** options to support the purchase of the Bird in Hand in recognition that it is a community asset. **Cllr Howlett. Cllr Smith handed over to the Vice Chair (Cllr Finch) declaring her interest and did not participate in the discussion. Cllr Howlett** stated that the Bird in Hand Group are raising Funds to take ownership and run the Bird as a community Pub. The uptake of shares has not been as high as expected and hard decisions will be made in the coming two months regarding the way forward. He opened a discussion about an option for the Parish Council to purchase the Freehold of the Bird to secure the entity as a valuable community resource. He stressed that he has no detailed costs and was not making a proposal

requiring an immediate decision. He outlined a model to save the pub. This would be for discussion and decision at a future meeting with a proposal:-

- That the PC obtain a loan/mortgage to buy the Freehold of the Bird
- To use the apartment to provide income to service the loan.
- For the PC lease the Pub to the Bird Group (LTD/CIC)
- That the Bird Group runs the operation of the Pub under a full repairing lease.

Cllr Howlett acknowledged that there are many unknowns and risks: -

- Purchase price of the Bird Freehold.
- Cost of Mortgage and servicing the debt & associated responsibilities.
- Modification requirements to the building to let the apartment.
- Income generated from renting the apartment.
- Income generated from the lease.

Cllrs discussed concerns about the impact on the General Power of Competence in 2027 without a qualified Clerk and the risk of servicing the debt.

Cllr Howlett asked Cllrs to send their thoughts to him suggesting an informal meeting to discuss details before returning to the October Meeting.

Action All Cllrs

- e) **To receive a proposal from the Bird in Hand Society to request CIL funding to support the acquisition of the Bird in Hand as a community asset. Cllr Smith.** Cllr Smith stated that financial position is not as expected despite the purchase of shares. She then handed over to the Vice Chair Cllr Finch.

The PC holds £13,000 in CIL funds however only £830 is free as the remaining allocation is linked to the Barretts development. Cllrs questioned the legal position on CIL funding allocation for this purpose as it is not yet guaranteed as a going concern. They collectively concluded that whilst they are sympathetic to the cause, they cannot offer CIL funding at this time.

- f) **To agree the revised tenancy agreement and annual uplift to support allotment project. Cllr Howlett.** Cllr Howlett proposed the revised tenancy agreement excluding the allotment association fees (which will be managed separately). This was seconded by Cllr Courtenay and carried. **Action Clerk to circulate to tenants. Fees for the membership and insurance to be pay by the tenants separately.**
- g) **To note expenditure to date from allotment grant £3,040 and £2,500 from restricted reserve help by the PC. Cllr Scard.** Deferred to the next meeting.
- h) **To agree a recommended quote to address Ash Die Back work in Oak Vale Woods. Cllr Steel.** Cllr Steel is in the process of collating quotes and will present these at the next meeting in October. **Action Cllr Steel**
- i) **To agree the presented quote for £300 plus VAT for removal of earth, hardcore at the cemetery. Cllr Graham.** Proposed by Cllr Howlett, seconded by Cllr Steel, motion carried.

9 Council Matters

- a) **To agree the recruitment plan for 2 Cllrs following the letter of resignation of Cllr Shea. Cllr Smith** explained that Cllr Fiona Shea has

tendered her resignation. One vacancy is still advertised. The Clerk will advise the Council to give notice in accordance with Section 87 of the Local Government Act 1972 that a second vacancy has occurred on the Henstridge Parish Council. Somerset Council will determine the notice period before co-option can take place.

If a request for an election to be held is not submitted in writing to the Chief Executive of Somerset Council at Electoral Services by ten electors for the Parish of Henstridge, the Parish Council will proceed to fill the vacancy by co-option.

- a) To **clarify** the representation and responsibility for Cllrs attending the Village Hall Committee. **Cllr Smith confirmed that all Cllr's are not Trustees of the Village Hall Committee. She emphasised that a Cllr in this role is purely representing the PC and the role is to sit at the meetings for discussion and feed in information from the PC and vice versa. It is not as a Trustee of their committee.**
- b) To **agree** recommendations for an autumn litter pick **Cllr Finch. Cllr Finch suggested to hoist another litter pick on Monday the 20 October at 11 am. He requested the support of members of Open Spaces and volunteers to assist.**
- c) To **note** expressed concerns from residents regarding Sherbourne Tip access. **Cllr Smith. Cllr Burt indicated that there had been no further update from Dorset. Cllrs stated that residents have raised concerns.**
- d) To **receive** recommendations from playinspections.co.uk annual inspection reports and agree action plan. **Cllr Graham and Cllr Finch reported that the inspection had been favourable with minimal concerns. They agreed to draw up an action plan and take this to the Open Spaces Committee outlining remedial work and any associated costs for presentation to the PC in November.**
- e) To **action** response to Somerset Council regarding winter grit requirements. **Cllr Scard.** The clerk reported that Cllr Scard had established the content requirements of all the grit bins in Henstridge and Yenston. The Clerk has submitted the request to Somerset Council. **No further action required.**

11. Agenda items for the next meeting:

- Conformation that James Wright will be undertaking work at Oak Vale at the end of September.
- To receive and agree amendments to the financial regulations
- To provide an update from CLASH
- To Provide an update on the community's purchase of the Bird in Hand Pub
- To receive feedback from the LCN
- To receive the recreational ground and Play Park action plan.

Date of Next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 7th October**. 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 20th September 25**

Ann Lee Parish Clerk