



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Henstridge Parish Council Meeting to be held at the Village Hall, Ash Walk, Henstridge on Tuesday 7th October 2025 at 7.00pm.

The Chair welcomed those present and opened the public session allowing members of the Parish to speak at 7pm. **Matters included:**

Concern about overgrowth of vegetation across prime footways within the Parish. In addition, residents noted that Somerset Council have been observed cleaning Parish drains

The PC meeting commenced at **7.07pm**.

- Present:** Cllr Smith (Chair), Cllr Steel, Cllr Scard, Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Rose, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Petheram, Cllr Finch, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Graham, Cllr Howlett
- In attendance:** Ann Lee Clerk, Frazer Cook and 2 residents.
- Absent:** John Smales
- Apologies for Absence.** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Government Act 1972 s85 (1). **Cllr Hayward Burt and Cllr Nicola Clerk.**
- 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 in agenda item 10 (f) relating to The Bird in Hand proposal, stating that Cllr Finch (Vice Chair) would take the Chair during this discussion.**
- To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 2nd September 2025.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12. The minutes were amended as follows: Cllr Steel was "present" and Cllr Scard had submitted his "apologies" in advance of them meeting as he was on holiday. Thereafter, the minutes were proposed as accurate by Cllr Courtenay, seconded by Cllr Gaymer and unanimously agreed.
- To note the Actions from the 2nd September 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 confirmed that James Wright had not responded to requests for a start date to commence work or tender his public liability insurance details. Action: Cllr Thompson to provide quotes for the 21 October Open Spaces meeting.	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	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. The Clerk stated that a resident had reported that the public were climbing over the gate and similarly lifting the cable lock over the post to open the gate without needing to use the combination lock. Action: Cllr Finch and Cllr Graham to investigate	Cllr Finch Complete and all within legislative parameters. Cllr Finch and Graham
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 the rubbish. Planning permission may be required for the new shed depending on its proposed site. Action: 1.Clerk to confirm with Planning dept. Clerk to circulate newly approved tenancy agreement proposed unanimously to all allotment tenants. 2. Clerk to amend and liaise with RFO for invoicing fees due.	Cllr Scard On going Complete no planning permission required Complete
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	1 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. 2 To receive update on clearing of the graveyard rubble. All spoil removed and green waste separated.	Cllr Steel On going Cllr Graham/Cllr Finch Complete
4.3.25 9d	To install gov.uk domain wholly hosted by Jimmy Flynn. Cllr emails were 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 if ongoing issues continue.	Complete All Cllrs

2.9.25 5a	To request local intelligence concerning burglaries or other police matters that are not detailed in the reports. Action: Cllr Smith to write to the Chief Constable to request this data.	Cllr Smith Complete- no reply to date.
	To provide feedback on the recruitment plan for 2 Cllrs. Vacancy advert continues to facilitate co-option. Advert extended to January 2026.	Clerk Complete

8. Reports

- a) To **RECEIVE** any Police matters and notify Cllrs of incident at Village Hall on Sunday 28th September. **Cllr Smith.** Cllr Smith stated that she had written to the Chief Constable about the need for local police intelligence data relevant to the Parish. To date she has not had a response to her letter. Cllr Smith indicated that two antisocial incidents had taken place in close succession. One on the 28th September and the other on the 5th of October involving 5 young boys. The male toilets had been blocked and the premises flooded. The second incident involved a birthday party being disturbed. The Village Hall have incurred costs of £220 to avoid future flooding risks.
- b) To **RECEIVE** County reports from **Cllr Hayward Burt and Cllr Nicola Clark.** Cllrs noted the content of the reports including the opportunity for a Youth Parliament and the concern associated with planning delays exceeding more than 12 weeks.

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 Petheram reported that the third JD application is being examined by the Court. The hearing is likely to be next year now.
- b) To **RECEIVE notification on Application 23/01470/OUT** that Somerset Council has granted planning permission for 52 dwellings with associated access, infrastructure and open space at Townsend Farm. **Cllr Petheram.** Cllr Petheram reported that Somerset Council have signed off the 52 houses despite their previous undertaking NOT to decide until the outcome of the 25/00410/COL JD is known. Concerns about road safety using the back route were raised. Cllr Petheram assured Cllrs that Cllr Hayward will follow up the objections and is preparing his comments for reserve matters.
- c) To **RECEIVE** further updates on the Enhanced Highways Pilot update anticipated in an expected report at the end of September 2025. **Cllr Gaymer.** Cllr Gaymer awaits the report as it has not yet been circulated. He noted that Highways are now reporting pothole repairs on a regular basis.
- d) To **NOTE** any further information relating to Dorsets local plan consultation **Cllr Petheram.** Cllr Petheram encouraged Cllrs to individually respond to the consultation using the link provided. She noted the high level of anticipated development in Stalbridge and the impact this will have locally including concerns about construction traffic routes.
- e) To **CONSIDER** any new Planning Applications: **None received**
- f) To **NOTE** concern raised by the public of a perceived change of use to land in the Parish registered as a tyre business trading as Sparewheels R us Ltd and Mobile Tyres Ltd on the Stalbridge Road. Address The Pantiles, Henstridge, Templecombe,

BA8 0SA. **Cllr Smith.** Cllr Smith and the Clerk reported that there hasn't been a response from Somerset Council. Cllr Hayward is aware of the situation.

- g) To **NOTE** safety concern raised by the public about some fencing and a hedge being removed to make parking available for two vehicles at Myrtle Cottage. Vehicles now have direct vehicular access onto the A30. **Cllr Smith.** Cllr Smith reported that there hasn't been response from Somerset Council. Cllr Hayward is aware of the situation.

- h) 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
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

10. Finance

- a) To **APPROVE** the payment schedule for payment in October. **RFO** Proposed by Cllr Courtney and seconded by Cllr Howlett following requested amendments to NOT pay Somerset Council for waste as the invoice is in dispute. Unanimously carried.
- b) To **NOTE** receipts. **RFO None received.**
- c) To **AGREE** the planning process to secure a timely draft budget for 2026-27 **RFO.** Cllrs resolved to discuss recommendations in November anticipating an inflation increase of 3.6%. The budget will be presened recommendations in December any refinements presented for approval at the PC meeting in January 2026. Cllr Courtenay requested receipts to include the annual field rent. **Action RFO**
- d) To **NOTE** the content of the S3 audit report posted on the website. **RFO.** Cllrs noted the comments and asked the RFO to write a statement to expressly detail the variance in full for the November meeting. **Action RFO**
- e) To **RECEIVE and** approve the financial internal controls policy following amendments made since last meeting **RFO. Action RFO to supply revised document for the November PC meeting.**
- f) To **AGREE** proposal to support the purchase of the Bird in Hand in recognition that it is a community asset. **Cllr Howlett.** Cllr Smith noted her conflict of interest and remained silent for this agenda item and handed proceedings over to Cllr Finch (Vice Chair). Cllr Howlett proceeded to outline the value that the pub brings as a community asset to the parish. He verified that the Bird in Hand Society will be deciding by the end of the month on the viability of their planned purchased. Cllr Howlett stated that the PC may consider how it may support the society and proposed to bring a proposal to the attention of the PC at the next meeting in November. **Action Cllr Howlett to bring a proposal to the next meeting.**
- g) To **NOTE** expenditure from the allotment, grant £3,040 and £2,500 from restricted reserve help by the PC. Deferred from the last meeting. **Cllr Scard.** Cllr

Scard noted expenditure to date. Cllrs resolved that the tenants must form an association to make use of the grant from FODO.

- h) To **NOTE** concerns regarding Invoice number 32003353 for waste collection **Cllr Steel**. Cllr Steel advised the PC of the error made by Somerset Council. Cllrs resolved not to pay the invoice. Cllr Steel will advise them.
- i) To **AGREE** a recommended quote to address Ash Die Back work in Oak Vale Woods. **Cllr Steel**. Cllrs discussed the liability risks of not undertaking the work. **Action: To be discussed at Open Spaces with a recommendation for the November meeting.**
- j) To **AGREE** a quote for a new contractor to complete the work at Oak vale Wood. **Cllr Thompson Action Cllr Thompson to provide quotations for PC to agree in November.**

11. Council Matters

Before proceeding any further Cllr Smith indicated it was 9pm and gave Cllrs the option to continue for 20 minutes. Cllr rose left the meeting to go to work. Others agreed to remain.

- a) To **AGREE** feedback to the Village Hall Committee on their plans to refurbish the kitchen. **Cllr Scard. Cllr Gaymer proposed option 3 with an imperative to optimise on high material and build quality. This was seconded by Cllr Courtenay and unanimously agreed.**
- b) To **NOTE** the autumn litter pick on the 20 October at 11 am **Cllr Finch**. **Cllrs noted the date which Cllr Finch will post on Next Door encouraging the public to attend. Cllrs also encouraged to participate.**
- c) To **RECEIVE** feedback on the LCN. **Cllr Courtenay**. Cllr Courtenay noted that the next meeting was scheduled for the 15th October. The agenda as circulated. Topics to be presented will include Yeovil Maternity Unit, the ICB update, Somerset Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Also included are sign up for four working groups including: County wide active travel; county wide footways; county wide flooding resilience and the Southeast LCN highways. There will be an update on the local transport plan submission. In addition there are four online consultations taking place:
 - 1. Pride in place.
 - 2. Community working review.
 - 3. Children and Families, social care, family's partnership.
 - 4. Yeovil town centre.Cllr Courtenay stated that there is a LCN's survey to review how Somerset Council can best engage with its local community. The survey is open until the 17th October online. Cllrs are encouraged to personally respond.
- d) To **AGREE** the scheme of work recommended in the playground inspection. **Cllr Graham and Cllr Finch referred to Open Spaces Committee.**
- e) To **AGREE** the agenda items for the next meeting. **Cllr Smith**
 - A) Precept budget preparation. B) Oak Vale Wood**
 - C) Financial regulations D) Bird in Hand proposal**

f) Exempt Session – Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Council under an exemption session under section 1, paragraph 2 of the Public Bodies (admission to meetings) Act 1960, the press and public were excluded from the meeting of the following items of business because the publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business.

The meeting concluded at 9.21 pm.

Date of Next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 4 November**. 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 October 25**

Ann Lee Parish Clerk