



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Henstridge Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Ash Walk, Henstridge on Wednesday 14th January 2026 at 7.00pm.

The Open meeting:

The meeting commenced after there has been an opportunity for members of the electorate of the Parish to speak. Items raised by the public included: -

1. Concerns from 66 residents about the lack of communication from Somerset Council planning department on the status of the Slurry lagoon application.
2. A call for action to clear vegetation blocking footways by using the £2500 set aside for the maintenance of PROW's.
3. Clarity on the guidance document that was provided by Somerset Council under section 43 Highways Act 1980 that the PC may undertake maintenance of any footpath, bridleway, or restricted byway within the parish by a lengths man.
4. Request for a slippery surface sign for the passageway from St Nicholas Church to St Nicholas Close. **The session closed at 7.19pm.**

The Chair welcomed those present and the PC meeting opened at 7.20pm.

1. **Present:- Cllr Smith (Chair) Cllr Courtenay, Cllr Scard, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Howlett, Cllr Steel, Cllr Petherham, Cllr Finch, Cllr Graham.**
2. **In Attendance:- Julie Furgeson RFO, Ann Lee Parish Clerk, 2 residents**
3. **Apologies for Absence:** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Gov. Act 1972 s85(1) **Cllr Hayward Burt and Cllr Nicola Clark who were attending other PC meetings. John Smales PPC**
4. **Absent:- Cllr Rose and Cllr Thompson**
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 Graham declared an interest in his personal expenses submitted for payment. Dispensation for matters relating to the Bird in Hand Public House continues.**
6. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 2nd of December 2025.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12. **Proposed as accurate by Cllr Gayner, seconded by Cllr Graham**
7. **To note the Actions from the 2nd December 2025 meeting and discuss any outstanding matters arising.**

6/12/22 9g 14.12.25	Oak Vale Wood flood prevention: Cllr Finch contacted Worthy Ground Works confirming contracted work at £2,820 including VAT to commence by March subject to valid public liability insurance. Cllr Thompson to co-ordinate works. Action: Insurance certificate to be provided before work commences.	On Going Cllr Thompson
1/3/23 8f:	To RECIEVE 3 quotes for gates & signage in Oak Vale Wood once work at Vale Wood is completed.	On Going on completion of work

14.1. 26	Allotment: Cllrs noted that tenants have rejected the PC £2,500 grant. Cllrs noted that tenants do not want to be members of the Allotment Society. An additional skip from the alternative grant for clearing and weed suppression of vacant plots has been requested. Action: Cllr Scard to advise the grant making body of further grant adaptations and seek approval. Cllr Howlett to facilitate the return of the £2,500 back to the PC.	On Going Cllr Scard Cllr Howlett
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. Cllr Burt investigating see his report.	On Going Cllr Petheram
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 the deceased for the plaque and a quote for signage.	On Going Cllr Scard/Cllr Steel
2.9.25 5a 14.1.26	To request local intelligence concerning burglaries or other police matters that are not detailed in the reports. Action: Cllr Smith to remind the Chief Constable of her request for local intelligence data.	On Going Cllr Smith No response to letter written in Sept 2025.
7.10.25 10 14.1.25	To promote the recruitment plan for 2 Cllrs. Vacancy advert continues to facilitate co-option. Advert extended to September 2026 on PC website and place advert in WOT's On..	On Going Clerk
7.10.25 6f g	To follow up potential breaches in planning 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 and Mrytle Cottage with newly appointed direct access for vehicles onto the A30.	On Going. Awaiting response from Somerset Council. Cllr Burt aware

8. Reports

- a) To **RECEIVE** any Police matters **Cllr Smith reported that there was nothing to note for the Parish on communication from the Police. Cllrs noted concern of two incidents– one in the High Street and one in Furge Lane. ACTION Cllr Smith to contact the PCSO and request local intelligence report and invitation to attend a future meeting.**
- b) To **RECEIVE** County reports from **Cllr Hayward Burt and Cllr Nicola Clark.** Cllrs noted Cllr Hayward Burts report. Cllrs noted Cllr Burt's report acknowledging Somerset Councils need to manage its cash flow and accepted arrangements for precept payments.
- c) To **RECEIVE** a verbal report following the Village Hall Committee meeting on the 16 December **Cllr Scard. Cllr Scard reported that Chris Savage and Bob Steel have both resigned from the Committee. John Smales is the new Chair and will remain in this position until their AGM. A sub committee has been set up to manage site maintenance with associated call out costs. The kitchen refurbishment will be postponed until after August 2026.**
- d) To **RECEIVE an UPDATE** from Open Spaces on the Allotment project **Cllr Scard See matters arising.**

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 Awaiting legal responses. No further information to date.**
- 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 and S106 funding proposal. **Cllr Petheram. Awaiting legal responses. Cllr Smith stated that the PC have been advised that the s106 allocation cannot be changed. Cllr Gaymer is following this up. No further information to date.**
- 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 reported that a report has not been published and he will seek a response from Highways at the next LCN meeting.**

d) To **CONSIDER** any new Planning Applications:

Application	Proposal	Applicant details	Deadline
25/02658/COU Change of use	Proposal: Change of Use of two nursery buildings, one to an annexe ancillary to dwelling and one for domestic garden storage. Location: Sunnyside Playgroup Whitechurch Lane Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0PA	Mrs Amanda Bakewell	26 December 2025
Cllr Gaymer proposed no objections to the application, seconded Cllr Scard, unanimously carried.			
25/02837/FUL	Proposal: Erect a new steel framed building to provide storage space Location: Land At Henstridge Airfield The Marsh Camp Road Henstridge Templecombe Somerset	Adlem	26 January 2026
Cllr Gaymer proposed support for the application with consideration for light pollution (Meet recognised obtrusive light limits (ILP GN01), and (GN01/21 Reduction of obstructive limits using the relevant environmental zone (EO -E4) and pre-post curfew threshold's and switched off outside operating hours except for genuine safety or security needs. Light should be prevented from spilling beyond the site boundary; and provision must be used to provide direction, shielding and fixture type that is downward aiming, no upward light and use of baffles/shields. Ecology specific lighting should be used to protect bats/protective species. The PC requests post installation compliance. This was seconded by Cllr Courtenay, unanimously carried.			

e) To **NOTE** 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
25/02791/COL Certificate of Lawful Use or Development	Application for Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed alteration on part of the golf course, coarse fishing and up to 75 touring caravans to remain sited throughout the year and be occupied for human habitation of any type including as a person's sole or main place of residence (the lawful use), and for the	Henstridge Sport And Leisure Marsh Lane Henstridge BA8 0TG	Application permitted 31 Dec 2025

	siting of up to 60 touring caravans and up to 15 static caravans.		
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 BA8 0RN	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 amended payment schedule for January 2026. **An additional invoice for a total of £675 to a Mr P Porter (including £112.50 vat) was added to the payment schedule bringing the total payment to £3,775.36. The scheduled was proposed by Cllr Howlett and seconded by Cllr Scard.**

<u>January 26 Payment Schedule</u>			
	PAYEE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	Timeback Accounts	Payroll Dec25 - INV 7401	£ 18.00
2	Henstridge Village Hall	Hall Hire HVH- INV 1958 & 2048	£ 32.00
3	Somerset Landscapes Ltd	Ranger INV 36351 (Credit £546.48 applied)	£ 273.24
4	Ring Street Filling Station	Fuel	£ 20.82
5	Mr J Graham	Reimburse - SID key	£ 25.20
6	Mr T Pulling	Ground Maintenance	£ 111.93
PAYMENTS FOR REPORT			
	Staff	Salaries and Expenses	£ 2,619.17
TOTAL PAYMENTS			£ 3,100.36

- a) To **NOTE** receipts. Cllrs noted receipts received.

<u>Nov 25 Receipts for Report</u>		
	RECEIVED	AMOUNT
1	Allotments	£ 195.00
	Various	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		£ 195.00

- b) To **Note the outcome of Q3 25-26 Summary RFO**. The RFO presented the Q3 summary. Cllr Howlett checked the bank reconciliation and reported that the PC has £144,954.77 at this time. Q3 expenditure has amounted to £64,194.24. Expenditure is as expected and on target for a breakeven budget at year end. Cllr Courtenay noted that the field rent has not been collected by the land agent and asked the RFO to action this asap.
- c) To **AGREE the 2026/2027 budget Full Council and the RFO**. The PC resolved to set the budget at £88,700.
- d) To **AGREE the 2026/27 precept Full Council and the RFO**. The resolved to set the PC precept at £88,700 which equates to a 4.95% increase. This equates to an increase of £5.71 for a Band D household.
- e) To **DECIDE if the PC provides a £15,000 grant to the Bird Society**. Cllr Smith following deferment from the last meeting. Cllr Courtenay proposed the PC approve the grant for £15,000 with the condition that if the purchase fails, the Bird Society returns the money. This was seconded by Cllr Graham and unanimously carried.
- f) To **AGREE to a change in the range of young people who attend the Youth Club deferred from the previous meeting. Cllr Rose**. Cllrs resolved to defer this proposal until a proposal is forthcoming.

- g) To **AGREE** an extra £10,000 per year for youth club services for 16 to 19 year olds. Deferred from the previous meeting Cllr Rose. Cllrs resolved to defer this proposal until a proposal is forthcoming.
- h) To **NOTE** any further expenditure from the allotment grant £3,040 and to note the intended return to the PC of £2,500 that originated from PC restricted reserves. Cllr Scard. No further expenditure to date.

11 Council Matters

- a) To **RECEIVE** feedback on the 15 October LCN meeting. **Cllr Courtenay**. Cllr Courtenay reported that the next meeting is on the 21 January in Castle Cary. The agenda includes feedback from the Highways Working Group and matters relating to the A357.
- b) To **AGREE** the agenda items for the next meeting. **Cllr Smith**
 - a) Ratification of all core policies for compliance and best practice.
 - b) Plan for GDPR compliance and plan for use of the icloud.

Date of the Next meetings – The next Parish Council meeting to be confirmed held on **Tuesday 3 February 2026**. 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 at **9.00am on 23 January 2026** **Ann Lee Parish Clerk**