



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

Henstridge Parish Council Meeting held at the Village Hall, Ash Walk, Henstridge on Tuesday 3 February 2026 at 7.00pm.

The meeting commenced after there has been an opportunity for members of the electorate of the Parish to speak. Please note, any new items raised by the public in this session are not included in the minutes. Items for inclusion on the agenda should be put to the Clerk in writing prior to the meeting as listed in the final item.

Open Session commenced at 7.00pm Items discussed: Grant application for the Summer Village Fete . Update on Judicial Reviews & CLASH.

Cllr Smith noted a letter from Judith Rabone, Treasurer for the Bird Society conveying heartfelt thanks to the Parish Council for their generous grant of £15,000 to the Bird in Hand Society explaining that an offer on the Bird has been accepted and the purchase is now in the hands of the lawyers. Completion is expected in March.

Open Session Closed at 7.15 pm
PC meeting commenced at 7.16pm

- 1. Present:** Cllr Smith, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Steel, Cllr Scard, Cllr Finch, Cllr Graham, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Petheram, Cllr Courtenay
- 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 Gov. Act 1972 s85(1) **Cllr Rose (Unwell)** **Cllr Howlett (On a training course)**, **John Smales**, **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. **None declared**
- 5. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 14th of January 2026.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12. **Proposed as accurate by Cllr Petheram, seconded by Cllr Scard, unanimously agreed.**
- 6. To note the draft minutes of the Open Spaces Meeting held on the 20th of January 2026.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12. **Draft minutes noted.**
- 7. To note the Actions from the 14 January 2026 meeting and discuss any outstanding matters arising.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12.

6/12/22 9g 14.12.25	Oak Vale Wood flood prevention: The first phase of work has been completed by the contractor. Before further work can commence. It will take until May to fully appreciate if this intervention has achieved the	In Progress Cllr Thompson
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	intended objective. On going flood risks will be monitored in Marsh Lane, the track and entrance. First invoice to be paid in March for £2,820. On going monitoring to continue.	
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. Cllr Smith has reminded the Chief Constable of her request for local intelligence data and has had contact with the PCSO who advises that she will write a report for the Parish and is willing to attend a meeting if her duty allows. Action: Chair to invite to the Parish Annual Meeting in May 2026.	Complete Cllr Smith Cllr Smith
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 (1 February).	Complete 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 None noted**
- b) To **RECEIVE** County reports from **Cllr Hayward Burt and Cllr Nicola Clark. Cllr Haywards report was noted.** He advised that a second Air Ambulance has been procured. He noted that the Police element of the precept equates to £15 per household. In order to close the £41m budget gap for 2026/27, Somerset Council will need to reduce expected cost pressures and request further Exceptional Financial Support from the Government. This could be in the form of a Council Tax rise above the cap of 4.99% or through a further

capitalisation direction (which allows councils to sell assets or borrow money and use the proceeds to fund the budget gap and the day-to-day running costs). Following discussion at Scrutiny on 28 January, the Council's budget will then be considered by Executive in mid-February before going to the Full Council on 4th March for final decisions

- c) To **RECEIVE** a verbal report following the Village Hall Committee meeting on the 21 January 26 **Cllr Scard**. Cllr Scard reported that the Committee will be reforming their committee membership. The building maintenance management is currently being supervised by Ashley Shirling with a maintenance contractor on a retainer. Once published the Village Hall minutes will be circulated.
- 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 court decision**
- 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.** Cllr Gaymer to write to the planners requesting to be informed and included in any consultation.

Cllr Petheram explained that she had been accompanied by Cllr Steel and Cllr Courtenay to a meeting in Keinton Mandeville about the nature of a newly formed group called SCRAPP. Although the terms of reference of SCRAPP and how it will operate require some work, Cllrs acknowledge the strength of working in partnership together. The Local Planning Authority (Somerset Council) is obliged to consult Parish Councils on planning applications. Cllrs considered if SCRAPP would seek consultee status. Without this, its input would have no more weight than that from any private individual. Funding to access specialist expertise was discussed. Contrary to some comment made at the meeting, an urgent priority is to influence the development of the new Somerset Local Plan. Cllrs wondered if SCRAPP could assist with this? Drafting should be happening soon although the Plan itself will not come into force until 2028/9. The Plan should incorporate bottom-up inputs from Somerset residents and be robust enough to withstand attempts by property developers et al to set it aside for their profit reasons. In many cases expert guidance in specialist areas (eg traffic impacts, flooding etc) will add quality to these inputs. The date of the next meeting is to be confirmed.

- c) To **RECEIVE** any further updates on the Enhanced Highways Pilot update anticipated in an expected report at the end of September 2025. **Cllr Gaymer. A report has still not been published. Highways have this on the agenda for the 19 March.**

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

Application	Proposal	Applicant details	Deadline
22/03560/OUT 25/02759/REM	Location: Land OS 6975 South of Bowden Road Templecombe Reserved Matters approval for the appearance, landscaping, layout and scale in respect of 140 no. dwellings in accordance with Conditions 1 and 2 of the Outline Planning Permission (Not in this Parish)	Vistry Group	11 February

Overall, the numbers of houses seem excessive. Traffic through Henstridge is already at capacity. CEMP for construction traffic should match the application for the 150 houses 25/00410/COL with all construction traffic avoiding Henstridge High street and Marsh Lane. Action: Henstridge PC would expect that the CEMP would follow the same requirements as planning. no 23/03015/S73 - Townsend Green, REM no 21/03369/REM

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
25/02658/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. Sunnyside Playgroup Whitechurch Lane Henstridge Templecombe, Somerset BA8 0PA	Mrs Amanda Bakewell	Awaiting decision
25/02837/FUL	Land At Henstridge Airfield The Marsh Camp Road Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0TN Erect a new steel framed building to provide storage space	Adlem	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 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 February 2026. **RFO.**
The payment schedule was proposed by Cllr Courtenay, seconded by Cllr Steel, and unanimously approved.
- b) To **NOTE** receipts. **RFO** Receipts were noted but concern that Symonds and Samson LLP have failed to collect the rent for land at Furge Lane amounting to £1,590. **Action RFO to send letter demanding immediate action, copied to senior partner.**
- c) To **NOTE** any further anticipated expenditure from the allotment grant **£3,040 Cllr Scard. Discussed in agenda item 7.**
- d) To **AGREE** a grant application for £500 for the 2026 Village Fete.
Proposed by Cllr Gaymer, seconded by Cllr Thompson, unanimously agreed with payment awarded in April 2026.

9. Council Matters

- a) To **DISCUSS** appointed Flowers in Bloom lead. **Cllr Smith.** Cllr Smith reminded colleagues that Cllr Steel has resigned a appointed lead for this annual project. Cllrs resolved that a Cllr is not required for this role. Action: Advertise the role on the website seeking someone to take this voluntary position and circulate posters as well. **Action Clerk to liaise with Cllr Steel to advertise the role and Cllr Steel to handover to the new appointee.**
- b) To **RECEIVE** feedback on the 21 October 2026 LCN meeting. **Cllr Courtenay.** Cllr Gaymer will be attending the Highways working group on

the 3 March in Castle Cary. The next LCN is on the 27 April and the AGM is noted as the 15 July.

- c) To **AGREE** ratification timetable for all core policies for compliance and best practice. **Clerk.** The Clerk noted that she had circulated the first batch of policies for review. The second batch will be circulated in March. All policies will be for adoption in May.
- d) To **RECEIVE** Plan for GDPR compliance for use of the icloud. **RFO/Clerk**
Deferred to next meeting
- e) To **AGREE** the agenda items for the next meeting. **Cllr Smith**
 - a) CEMP construction traffic review for the end of Marsh Lane
 - b) Grant policy and application form Cllr Petheram
 - c) Policy models from SALC
 - D) Quote for 2nd phase of work proposed for Oak Vale Wood. Cllr Thompson
- f) To **AGREE** meeting new meeting date timetable **for 26/27 Cllr Smith**
APPROVED with an amendment for the September meeting to be held on the 8th September to avoid the bank holiday in August.

Date of the Next meetings – The next Parish Council meeting to be confirmed held on **Tuesday 3 March 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 20 February 2026** **Ann Lee Parish Clerk**