



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES

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

The meeting commenced after there has been an opportunity for members of the electorate of the Parish to speak. New items raised by the public in this session are not discussed by the council and will not be 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.

1. **Present:** Cllr Smith, Cllr Steel, Cllr Petheram, Cllr Courtney, Cllr Gaymer, Cllr Graham, Cllr Howlett (arrived at 19.10) Cllr Finch, Cllr Rose.
2. **In Attendance:** Cllr Burt, Ann Lee Clerk
3. **Apologies for Absence:** To receive and approve apologies for absence including reasons given (Local Gov. Act 1972 s85(1)). **Cllr Scard, Cllr Thompson, Cllr Clark.**
4. **Absent:** Cllr Thompson, Cllr Scard
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. **Dispensation for matters relating to the Bird in Hand Public House continues. No other declarations disclosed.**
3. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Parish meeting, held on the 3rd of February 2026.** (Local Government Act 1972 Sch 12. **Minutes proposed as an accurate record by Cllr Graham, seconded by Cllr Steel, unanimously agreed.**
4. **To note the Actions from the 3rd February 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 intended objective. On going flood risks will be monitored in Marsh Lane, the track and entrance. First invoice will be paid in March for £2,820. Monitoring will continue on Marsh Lane for flooding due to the drain issue at the top of Furge Lane.	Cllr Thompson On going monitoring
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 reported that the PC grant has been returned less the cost of accrued bank charges.	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 is 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
3 2.26 7b	Symonds and Samson LLP have failed to collect the rent for land at Furge Lane amounting to £1,590. Action RFO has sent a letter demanding immediate action, copied to senior partner. Progress has been made and the agent has taken responsibility to collect rent. The receipt will be noted at the meeting in April.	RFO
3.2.26 8a	To ADVERTISE the role of Flowers in Bloom volunteers 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.	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

5. Reports

a) To **RECEIVE** any Police matters **Cllr Smith. No relevant reports received.**

b) To **RECEIVE** County reports from **Cllr Hayward Burt.**

Cllr Burt reported that the final Local Government Boundary Commission report has been published. The result will be to split the current Blackmoor Vale ward. A New division called Milborne Port, which includes Milborne Port, Henstridge and Charlton Horethorne Parishes. For further information please use the link below [someret final recommendations full report.pdf](#).

Cllr Burt stated that the Full Council have decided its budget for the coming year. The Council will be a Tax Rise of 4.99%. He explained that the Government is going to clear 90% of Somerset's SEND Deficit (£116m) subject to the Council agreeing a plan to bring future spending under control. Around £104.4 million of the Dedicated Schools Grant deficit is expected to be cleared by the Department for Education, with approximately £11.6 million remaining under the current statutory override arrangements until 2028. The agreement requires the Council to

set out measures to manage demand and expenditure, with progress to be monitored by the Department for Education.

Cllr Burt indicated that since the start of the year, Somerset Council has received 16,332 reports about defects on the roads, compared to 4,417 for the same period last year. In response, the Council has more than doubled the number of teams dealing with the damage, deploying extra equipment and using alternative materials to try to speed up the process.

As of the 20 February 4,577 potholes have been fixed by 35 teams dedicated to this work. If a problem on the road is detected the public can contact Somerset Council by visiting www.somerset.gov.uk and searching "report a problem on the road". It takes a few minutes and goes straight to the team who will visit and assess the defect. Depending on severity, it will be fixed on a timescale of two hours, 24 hours, seven days or 28 days for non-emergency repairs

- c) To **RECEIVE** a verbal report following the Village Hall Committee meeting on the 26 January 26 **Cllr Scard. Deferred to the next meeting.**
- d) To **RECEIVE an UPDATE** from Open Spaces on the Allotment project **Cllr Scard See matters arising. Deferred to the next meeting.**

6. 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 an interim hearing is anticipated on the 24th March to determine if it can proceed to a full hearing.
- 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 Petheram reported that there is no further information to disclose at this time.
- 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.** Cllr Gaymer reported that he attended the **Somerset LCN Highways Meeting on the 3rd March** in Castle Cary. The meeting was attended by 26 Parish/Town Cllrs with 2 County Cllrs present who were accompanied online by a Highways Administration Manager and two Highways Engineers. The following was discussed:

Enhanced Highways Pilot Implementing the enhanced Highways pilot was proving challenging – a letter is anticipated before release of the report.

Blocked drains, and Gullies, Tractor waste from Biodigesters are blocking drains and causing Flooding. Somerset Council's policy had been to clear drains every 4 yrs. This is being revised and may be introduced in April and become every 1-2 yrs.

Road edges breaking up due to outsized tractors in narrow lanes.

Street parking causing congestion – legislation is being prepared for this.

Hedge cutting and visibility of road signs lack of clarity about who is responsible – landowners or Somerset Council. No firm decision either way from Highways, but at the annual grass cutting Highways hoped the team would clear the road signs.

Potholes. Repairs to A roads are expected using the hot box method with hot true tarmac. Failure within a specific timescale will lead to a temporary repair using cold deferred tarmac. It is up to Highways to specify to the contractor which method should be used for potholes in other roads.

- d) To consider the CEMP construction traffic review for the end of Marsh Lane.
Cllr Gaymer/Petheram reported that the PC is waiting for notification of reserve matters from Somerset Councils Planning Department.

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

Application	Proposal	Applicant details	Deadline
26/00307/COL Notification Certificate of Lawful Use or Development	Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for a Proposed extension onto rear (East) elevation. Location: Unit 1A Harding's Business Centre, The Marsh Camp Road Henstridge Templecombe	Keen Meat Company	Validated 11 Feb 2026 Awaiting decision

- f) 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
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 dwellings in accordance with Conditions 1 and 2 of the Outline Planning Permission (Not in this Parish)	Vistry Group	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	Approved with conditions 22 Jan 26
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	Approved with conditions 18 Feb 26
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	Approved with conditions 6 Feb 26

7. Finance

- a) To **APPROVE** the amended payment schedule for **March 2026**. **RFO**. The payment schedule was proposed by Cllr Courtenay and seconded by Cllr Graham and unanimously carried. Cllr Courtenay was appointed to make the payment on behalf of the PC.

<u>March 26 Payment Schedule</u>			
	PAYEE	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	Timeback Accounts	Payroll Feb26 - INV tbc	£ 18.00
2	Henstridge Village Hall	Hall Hire HVH- INV tbc	tbc
3	Somerset Council	Ranger 30046579 and Bins 32013815	£ 1,327.18
4	Worthy Groundworks	Ditch clearing	£ 2,820.00
5	Mr T Pulling	Ground Maintenance	£ 111.93
PAYMENTS FOR REPORT			
	Staff	Salaries and Expenses	£ 2,559.58
<u>TOTAL PAYMENTS</u>			<u>£ 6,836.69</u>

- b) To **NOTE** receipts. **RFO** Cllrs noted the return of the PC allotment grant less the cost of the accrued bank charges.

<u>Jan 26 Receipts for Report</u>			
	RECEIVED	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
1	Allotment fees	Various	£ 90.00
2	Henstridge Allotment Committee	Return of Grant (less £25.50)	£ 2,474.50
<u>TOTAL RECEIPTS</u>			<u>£ 2,564.50</u>

- c) To **NOTE** any further anticipated expenditure from the allotment grant (**£3,040**) **Cllr Scard. Deferred to the next meeting**
- d) To **COMPLETE** bank mandate form by bank signatories **RFO**. **Cllrs requested the form for this purpose from the RFO.**
- e) To **APPROVE** the Quote for 2nd phase of work proposed for Oak Vale Wood. **Cllr Thompson. Cllr Thompson has not received a second quote at this time.**

8. Council Matters

- a) To **ADOPT** proposed changes to the Grant policy and application form **Cllr Petheram. Proposed by Cllr Gaymer, seconded by Cllr Graham, unanimously approved.**
- b) To **AGREE** the GDPR Audit **Clerk. Cllr Finch to scrutinise and present amendments at the next meeting.**
- c) To **RECEIVE** feedback from the LCN meeting. **Cllr Courtenay. No further feedback or date for the next meeting.**
- d) To **RECEIVE** Plan for GDPR compliance for use of the icloud. **RFO/Clerk Deferred to the next meeting**
- e) To **AGREE** to participate in the county wide Dog Fouling and Control survey. **Cllr Steel** was authorised by the whole council to discuss this with the PC Dog warden and complete the survey if relevant to this PC.
- f) To **AGREE** to participate in the County Wide SALC survey on challenges PCs are experiencing. **Cllr Smith was authorised by the whole council to complete the survey and comment on the challenge of recruiting Cllrs as well as planning matters.**
- g) To **AGREE** to request Somerset Council to clear the ditches in Marsh Lane, limit heavy traffic and repair the bridge. **Cllr Thompson Unanimously agreed**
- h) To **AGREE** the agenda items for the next meeting. **Cllr Smith**
- Approval of an IT policy
 - Approval of amendments to the GDPR audit
 - Completion of the signature banking mandate form
 - RFO presentation on bank/building society transfer of funds
 - Closed session for appraisals

Date of the Next meetings – The next Parish Council meeting to be confirmed held on **Tuesday 7 April 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 March 2026** **Ann Lee Parish Clerk**

Exclusion of the Press and Public

Under section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and pursuant to Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following item(s) of business on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, in accordance with Part 1 of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

- a) Legal matter