

# Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Westcombe House, 48, Bowden Road, Templecombe,  
Somerset, BA8 0LF, Tel/Fax: 01963 370388  
e-mail HenstridgePC@aol.com

Approved minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Henstridge Village  
Hall Lounge on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

## Present:

**Councillors:** Norman Symcox (Chair), Pete Crocker, Chris Everill, Geoff Jarvis,  
David Nichols, Malcolm Stobart, Adam Temperton, Michael Vincent,

**Clerk:** Mrs Walker

There were 2 members of the public in attendance, District Councillors William  
Wallace and Tim Inglefield.

### 1. Apologies and to approve the reason for any apology as thought fit.

Apologies had been received from Paul Brighten, Jean Oswick, James Day, James  
Fitch, Paul White.

Mr Jarvis raised concerns regarding the necessity for Councillors to provide reasons  
for their apologies. The Chairman suggested that he raise an item for a future agenda.

### 2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations.

At the fourth correspondence item Mr Jarvis stated that he may have a possible  
personal interest with regard to the Standards Board and that he would decline from  
voting.

At item 6g, Mr Crocker gave his apologies as he realised he should have made a  
declaration as he works for the Royal Mail and left the meeting.

### 3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 14.05.07.

**RESOLVED: It was agreed to approve the previous minutes.**

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that as the information contained in  
item 6 g would be pertinent to the decision to be taken at 4a, that it was  
appropriate to move the item up the agenda.**

### 6g. To receive a report back with regard to the meeting on the County Council's bid for Unitary status.

**Mickey Vincent and Malcolm Stobart**

It was reported that the meeting had appeared to be a sales operation on behalf of the  
County Council to promote the positive aspects of their bid, but that the overall  
feeling of the meeting was very negative and sceptical.

### 4. Matters deferred from previous meetings:

#### a. To agree the Council's response in respect of the SALC consultation on the proposals regarding the Unitary Council bid from Somerset County Council.

There was a strong feeling that a move to a Unitary authority was a removal of the  
middle tier of answerability and representation and that this would be a farcical move.

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It was felt that a single authority based in Taunton would have very little concern for the areas as far away as Henstridge.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council should respond to the SALC consultation by expressing strong opposition to the idea of a single Unitary Authority at County level due to the belief that this would be a removal of the middle tier of answerability and representation and would be detrimental to the representation of and consideration of the outlying Parishes.**

## 5. Correspondence

17.05.07	John Dyke	To provide a response to the Area Working Panel with regard to three schemes which the Parish Council feel could be delivered within the Parish within the current financial year and three schemes which are longer term and more aspirational in nature
<p>The Chairman recapped the ideas which had been put forward at the April meeting. There was a feeling that some of the issues regarding the village hall would be best dealt with by providing a new hall and that this should possibly be a long term aspiration.</p> <p>There was some debate as to the evidence for a need for a 20mph limit outside of the school and the best way in which to address this.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that as one of the short term goals the Parish Council would request the reduction of the speed limit outside of the school to 20mph and the provision of appropriate fixed signage to accompany this.</b></p> <p>William Wallace was invited to speak and provided some information regarding the amounts of money available and the way in which the money would be allocated.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and approved that the second suggestion should be the provision of changing rooms and the third should be the provision of appropriate storage at the village hall in order to replace the existing container.</b></p> <p>The Council then moved to discuss a longer term more aspirational goal. It was felt that it was appropriate for this to be forward thinking.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Council would put forward the provision of a new village hall as an aspirational long term project.</b></p>		
17.05.07	Housing Options Team – SSDC	To agree whether the Parish Council wish to participate in the Choice Based letting scheme Consultation which ends on 08.08.07
<p>The Clerk explained that Councillors had not seen any detail of this as the question was whether they felt that they wanted to participate in the consultation.</p>		

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There were mixed views as to whether this was necessarily an issue for the Parish Council and also as to whether the Consultation would actually take into account of those representations put forward. However it was felt that this was not a reason not to participate and that the Parish Council's role is to represent all people including those who may be affected by Choice Based letting.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and approved that the Parish Council would wish to participate in the consultation on Choice Based letting and that the Clerk should circulate the documents accordingly.**

23.05.07	Pat Williams – South Somerset Homes	To report a response with regard to the request for South Somerset Homes to fence the allotments to the rear of Windsor Terrace and agree further action arising.
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The Clerk explained that as part of the Land Registration of the Allotments, it had been clearly shown in the Land Registry entry that the responsibility for fencing the allotments along the track lay with the current owner, that being South Somerset Homes but that they had stated in their response that there is no obligation for them to do so and that they would not be undertaking the work.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to request the Clerk to instruct the Solicitor to write to South Somerset Homes with regard to this matter.**

25.05.07	SALC	To agree any votes which the Council wish to make with regard to the election of Parish Members to the SSDC Standards committee
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The role of the SSDC Standards Committee was queried and the District Councillors asked for their input. However this was not able to be clarified.

Mr Jarvis stated that he may have a possible personal interest with regard to the Standards Board and that he would decline from voting.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council do not participate in the vote as they have insufficient evidence of the role of the Standards Committee.**

Mr Jarvis abstained from the vote.

01.06.07	CPRE	To agree whether the Council wish to subscribe to the CPRE (£27.00)
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**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council continue to subscribe.**

The meeting was adjourned as Andrew Browne, the Beat Manager had arrived at the meeting in order to introduce himself to the new Council. He confirmed that Dave Travers, the PCSO, had now been replaced by Fiona Wilson.

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01.06.07	Dee Jales	To agree action and provide a response to a letter regarding the possible involvement of the Parish Council in erecting a bench in memory of Peter Jackson.
<p>The Clerk explained that the Parish Council’s support had been sought for the erection of a memorial bench primarily because of the fact that Parish Councils have the power to erect a bench without seeking planning permission whereas the Football Club would need to gain permission. There would be no financial outlay as the bench would be funded by a public subscription, but a licence would need to be sought from the Highways as it is believed that the land outside of the Bird in Hand, where it is hoped the bench will be erected, is Highways land.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council should wholeheartedly support the football club in their intention and that the Parish Council therefore called for a public subscription for the erection of a bench outside of the Bird in Hand Public House in memory of Peter Jackson.</b></p>		
01.06.07	SSDC/PMP	To complete a questionnaire with regard to pitch and playing field facilities as part of a District Wide Consultation.
<p>The Chairman explained that the questionnaire is a series of factual questions.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk be requested to complete the questionnaire.</b></p>		
04.06.07	NDDC	To agree whether the Council wish to participate in the consultation on the Core Strategy (which will establish strategic planning objectives and policies for the district).
<p>There was a feeling that this was beyond the remit of the Parish Council being for an adjoining District.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Council should not participate in the consultation.</b></p>		

Other correspondence not requiring discussion by the council will not be reported as it has been circulated to councillors. (As advised by SALC – 18.06.03).

## 6. Council Matters

### a. Proposal that

- (i) **in order to make the transfer of scanned files secure, we purchase a copy of adobe Acrobat which is more secure than sending graphic files and reduces the file size for transmission;**
- (ii) **the software is bought from an online supplier to reduce the cost. an older version i.e. Version 6 Not 8 is sourced**

**Adam Temperton**

There was some debate between Mr Temperton and Mr Symcox as to the most appropriate type of file for the Council to utilise.

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**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed that Mr Symcox and Mr Temperton should liaise to look into the proposal and clarify its appropriateness and the cost implications and bring this back to the next meeting in order to allow a decision to be taken.

**b. Proposal that**

- (i) the parish council pay for the clerks to both have broadband applied to their telephone lines to be paid by the council, freeing up the clerks telephone lines and saving time in distribution and downloading of the documents.
- (ii) That we look to another provider for broadband to replace AOL to ensure Best value.

**Adam Temperton**

There was general agreement as to the logic of moving to Broadband. However there was some debate as to the most appropriate provider, and it was also felt appropriate to consider the telephone packages which may be available as a part of this.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed that Mr Symcox and Mr Temperton should liaise to look into the proposal and clarify its appropriateness and the cost implications and bring this back to the next meeting in order to allow a decision to be taken.

**c. For the Council to consider the issue of development of a website and decide if and how they may wish to proceed with this.**

The Chairman explained that the previous Council had budgeted to allow for a managed website to be set up if this was felt to be appropriate.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed that Milborne Port Computers and an alternative supplier should be invited to come along and make a presentation to a meeting of their thoughts, ideas and costs, in order to allow a decision to be taken.

**d. For the Council to consider the possibility of providing water at the allotments and to agree any further action to be taken.**

The Chairman explained that all of the allotments are let but that some holders are requesting the provision of water.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed that the Council should investigate the costs through Wessex Water, and bring this back to a future meeting

**e. To provide Councillors with additional information to add into their Information packs (please bring files with you for ease of adding documents).**

Mr Jarvis left the meeting.

The Clerk provided Terms of reference for the Planning Committee, Councillor contact details and a list of representatives and committees.

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Mr Stobart left the meeting. Mr Jarvis returned to the meeting.

Mr Stobart returned to the meeting.

**f. To provide a report back from the Annual Parish meeting and address matters arising from this, agreeing any action as appropriate:**

The Chairman gave a brief account of the meeting prior to discussion of the specific issues that had been raised.

**(ii) Problems with fly tipping;**

Councillors were in agreement that this is an increasing problem and it was felt that the only way to stop this is to take the matter to the police.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council would be prepared to go to the police on behalf of an individual who was able to pass on information regarding fly-tipping and that we should advertise this alongside promotion of the reporting system on the SSDC website in the next newsletter.**

**(iii) Concerns over areas of the village which are not adequately cleaned by road sweeper vehicles, particularly around the pinch points;**

There was discussion of the fact that the design of the road sweeper vehicles does not allow them to manoeuvre around the pinch point areas. The cleaning of the drains was also raised within the discussion.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council should write to Highways and ask them for their proposal to provide a more adequate service in dealing with the cleaning of the roads and also requesting an update as to the regularity of the drain cleaning.**

**(iv) Concerns over the Woodhayes hedge;**

The actions of the Council from the previous meeting had been reported to the Annual Parish Meeting when this issue was raised. The Clerk reported that she had received a response from Mr Sorrenson to say that the matter was being addressed.

**(v) Concerns over the broken gate at the Ash Walk play area allowing dogs in to the children's area;**

The Clerk explained the history of the gate and that we had looked at the option of replacing the gate with a Wicksteed gate but that this would appear to be more difficult than had been first presumed as the gate would not fit the existing hole.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the quote from Shire fencing to repair the post for the price of £80.00 with the caveat that following this work the gate is effectively self-closing as per the original specification.**

**(vi) Concerns over the number of hedges which are overgrowing road signs;**

The Council felt that this was a valid concern but were unsure of the particular signs where the problem existed.

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**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Highways Representatives be asked to collect information on this and bring this back to the next meeting.**

Mr Crocker declared a personal and possibly prejudicial interest and left the meeting.

**g. To provide an update with regard to the requested change of postal address and agree any further action arising.**

The Clerk reported that she had now received responses from the necessary bodies but needed to liaise further with SSDC as they felt that all of the addresses now contained the necessary information. Mr Temperton expressed the belief that the database had actually already been updated. The Clerk stated that she would investigate this further.

**i. Report from VHMC rep**

There was no report to make. The Clerk stated that she would ensure that the committee were aware of the new representative.

## 7. Finance

**a. To approve the following accounts for payment:**

AOL	DD Internet April	£12.99
Car Phone W/house	DD Calls & charges	£20.54
R Walker	Postage	£12.24
T Watson	Telephone 28/04 - 27/05/07	£6.19
Som. Sci. Services	Asbestos identification ref. Allotments	£35.37
CPRE	Membership	£27.00
T Watson	Salary May plus extra hours	£404.59
R Walker	Salary May plus extra hours	£280.67
G Edwards	Salary April	£82.28
T Pulling	Salary April	£60.80
Mrs Cornish	Gate keeping salary	£125.00
T Watson	Mileage 03/03 – 22/05	£26.80
Inland Revenue	Tax and NI	£111.76
Rachel Walker	Mileage 03/03 – 22/05	£31.20

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the above accounts for payment.**

**b. Income –**

Henstridge VHMC Peppercorn rent 07/08	£1.00
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**8. Date of Next meeting –** The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007**. 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 Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007**.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm