

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 9th July 2007.

Present:

Councillors: Norman Symcox (Chair), Paul Brighten, Pete Crocker, James Day, Jim Fitch, David Nicholls, Jean Oswick, Malcolm Stobart, Adam Temperton, Mickey Vincent.

Clerk: Mrs Walker

There were 2 members of the public in attendance, one of whom was District and County Councillor William Wallace.

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

Apologies had been received from Mr Jarvis, Mr Everill and Mr White.

2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 11.06.07.

RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

4. Matters deferred from previous meetings:

- a. **Proposal that 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.**

The Chairman explained that it was the principal of the matter that was being considered and decided at this stage and that the details would be considered presently if necessary.

RESOLVED: The proposal was approved. The Council agreed to take item 5b as the next item:

5b. Proposal that the Parish Council agree to using Madasafish for supply of Broadband and telephone services.

The proposal had been put forward by Mr Symcox and Mr Temperton following the Council's instruction for them to look at prices of different packages at the previous meeting. Mr Temperton explained that 5 price comparisons had been carried out and Madasafish had been the most competitive. He added that the parent company had in fact been taken over by BT which should add to the company's security and longevity.

RESOLVED: The proposal was approved.

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5. Matters arising from previous meetings:

- a. To receive a presentation regarding the possible setting up and management of a Parish Council website and agree any further actions arising from this.

The Chairman invited Jimmy Flynn of Milborne Port Computing to provide a presentation and quotation for a website. Mr Flynn explained the way in which he would work and took questions and comments from Councillors.

A member of the public was invited to make comment and raised concerns over the possible use of “.co.uk” and also from the possibility of the Council making money through advertising.

Mr Wallace was asked whether funding was available at District or County level for the setting up of a website and responded that he would look into this on the Council's behalf.

The Clerk reminded the Council that they had asked her to find another company to provide a similar presentation.

The Chairman suggested that there would appear to be two aspects, firstly whether a website was wanted and secondly how to go about it.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council should set up a website.

The importance of seeking Best Value was discussed.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk should invite other bidders to come and address the Council and that the Council should wait upon advice from William Wallace as to whether there is funding available prior to taking a decision.

- 5c. To agree any response which the Council wish to make with regard to the Choice Base Letting Scheme Consultation (Documents circulated).

There were no comments on the Consultation.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed not to provide a response.

6. Correspondence

12.06.07 / 18.06.07	A.L. Hall	To agree any response necessary to letters regarding vacant plot of land at Old Station Gardens, Henstridge
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The Clerk summarised the history of the correspondence and the Council's responses and position. The clerk explained that she had, in this instance, taken it upon herself to provide an immediate response reiterating the Council's previous position due to the threat to involve the press. The Clerk was thanked for her response.

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<u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Council's position was as the Clerk had already stated.		
15.06.07	Paull Robathan – South Somerset Together	To agree any response which the Council may wish to make on the South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy (Documents circulated).
Councillors had no direct comment to make. The Clerk read the goals as listed in the questionnaire and there was a general feeling that these were all good aspirational goals.		
<u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Council agree wholeheartedly with the aspiration towards the goals as laid out in the Strategy document.		
15.06.07	Helen Rutter – SSSDC	To agree whether any representative wishes to attend the Area East workshop on the South Somerset Sustainable Community Strategy on Wednesday 1 st August, 7pm
Mr Stobart agreed to attend on the Council's behalf.		
28.06.07	Nicola Dawson – SCC Civil Contingencies manager	To agree whether the Council wish to draw up a Parish Emergency Plan and if so how they wish to proceed with this.
The drawing up of a previous plan was briefly discussed as was then importance of such a plan beyond the most obvious possibilities. The Chairman suggested that it seemed appropriate to set up a working party to look at this and that this should extend beyond the Parish Council to include parishioners themselves.		
Mr Temperton stated that he had previous experience of emergency planning and as a member of Raynet and would be keen to participate in such a working party.		
<u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Council should set up a working party to consider the Emergency Plan Template, that this should include members of the Parish and that to this end an advertisement be placed on the notice boards and in the Newsletter.		
Mr Temperton, Mr Day and Mr Nicholls volunteered to represent the Council on the working party.		

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).

7. Council Matters

- a. For the Council to agree the adoption of the paragraph 7 of the model code of conduct as advised by the District Council's monitoring officer.**

The Clerk explained that the initial adoption of the code including Paragraph 12 had been on the advice of SALC but that additional advice now received from District recommended also adopting Paragraph 7. The Clerk read through Paragraph 7 of the code.

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RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to adopt paragraph 7 of the model code of conduct as advised by the District Council's monitoring officer.

- b. For the Council to receive an update on the possibility of providing water at the allotments and to agree any further action to be taken.**

The Clerk explained that the existing pipe work is not usable and that this would have to be classed as a new installation.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk put in an application and investigate costings and bring this back to a subsequent meeting.

- c. For the Council to consider and respond to a request for improvement of the fencing between the allotments and Pip's playground and to agree any further action arising.**

The Clerk explained that she had had contact from one of the allotment holders to say that another holder had had property damaged by youths coming over the fence and asking if the Council intended to put in higher fencing. The Clerk suggested that it would seem illogical to do this at the current time when the other boundaries are not fenced at all.

Mr Stobart had visited the allotments and suggested that much of the problem is due to the earth bordering the allotments. It was hoped that this problem would be lessened by the removal of the play equipment and the reduction in the earth that this would hopefully bring about.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council should hold off from considering higher fencing until such time as the remainder of the are is fenced.

- d. For the Council to agree the content of the next Parish Council newsletter.**

The Clerk was thanked for putting together the newsletter. Mr Crocker had not seen the newsletter. The Clerk apologised that this was down to her error.

The Clerk informed the Council that the Woodhayes hedge had now been cut and that an amendment would be made to this effect.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the newsletter with the inclusion of the amendment to the Woodhayes hedge item and also the inclusion of an advertisement relating to the Emergency Plan working party.

- e. For the Council to agree the price which they wish to charge for supplying copies of minutes, agendas or both to members of the public including consideration of the format in which these are sent.**

There was some discussion regarding the item and it was generally agreed that it would be best to work out a subscription price. The Clerk explained that a decision in 2000 had agreed a cost of £10 per annum for paper copies of minutes but that we were now talking about agendas, minutes and planning committee papers, as well as a

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substantial rise in postage costs over this period and that this decision had little bearing on today. She advised that SALC suggest a cost of 10p per copy. A calculation was made on the basis of the average number of pages to agendas and minutes and a 50p postage charge twice a month (to accommodate planning).

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council should charge an annual subscription of £42.00 for copies of all papers and £10.00 if these are received via e-mail.

- f. Proposal that the wording “and to approve the reason for any apology as thought fit” (as agreed 8th Aug 2005) is removed from the apologies item, with reasons only to be provided and agreed if necessitated by the 6 month absence rule.

Mr Jarvis

RESOLVED: The proposal was voted on and approved.

g. Playgrounds:

(i) To receive Playground Inspection reports

The Clerk reported that while weekly inspection reports were continuing there had been no District reports for some time but that this was not unusual as they were often overdue. There was concern raised with regard to the Health and Safety implications of this.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council should write to the District Council expressing concern that the quarterly reports be received in good time and requesting that if possible these should be e-mailed.

(ii) To agree a contractor for the removal of the equipment at Pip’s playground (as instructed 12.03.07)

The Clerk presented three quotes for the necessary work. The possibility of also getting the extra topsoil levelled was raised and it was suggested that this be brought to a future meeting.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the quote from Gartells be accepted.

(iii) For the Council to agree whether they wish to consider the purchase and installation of additional equipment at Ash Walk play area and to instruct the Clerk with regard to this.

The Clerk explained that the Council had previously discussed adding a “multipondo” to the playground and that money had been budgeted for this but that Steve Barnes had also raised the possibility of adding a freestanding slide and had advised that we would be eligible from funding from Awards for All again. The Clerk added that this may become more pertinent as she had concerns regarding the A climber as it has large cracks in the wood and this may necessitate its removal.

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RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to look into the purchase of additional equipment.

h. Report from VHMC rep

There was no report to be made as the most recent meeting was while Mr Crocker was on holiday. However he did express concerns with the short notice he had been given and the lack of information.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to write to the Village Hall Management Committee requesting greater communication, including copies of agendas prior to meeting, minutes after and good notice of when meetings are.

8. Finance

a. To approve the following accounts for payment:

AOL	DD Internet June	£12.99
Car Phone		
Warehouse	DD Calls & charges 18/06-17/07	£21.26
T Watson	Telephone 28/05 - 27/06/07	£7.06
T Watson	Salary June	£282.78
R Walker	Salary June	£220.74
G Edwards	Salary May	£94.76
T Pulling	Salary May	£34.90
Inland revenue	NI & Tax Contributions	£98.78
Henstridge VHMC	Village hall Insurance funding	£841.28

Comment was passed on the bill for the Village Hall Insurance and the fact that the Parish Council had also donated to recent projects and have a vested interest in keeping themselves informed.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the above accounts be approved for payment.

b. Income –

J Fitzpatrick	Allotment rent 07/08 plot 7	£10.00
Mr & Mrs Lesuer	Allotment rent 07/08 plot 15	£10.00
Appleby & Childs	Memorial ref. P Jackson	£86.74
Wessex Memorials	Additional Inscription ref. Skinner	£38.59
Peter Jackson		
Funeral Services	Plott Purchase x 2 ref. Dowding	£230.96
J Fitzpatrick	Allotment rent 07/08 plot 18	£10.00
M Place	Allotment rent 07/08 plot 19B	£5.00
S Rayment	Allotment rent 07/08 plot 10a	£5.00
L Mason	Allotment rent 07/08 plot 10b	£5.00

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HM Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	£85.89
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9. Date of Next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 6th August 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 26th July 2007.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.