

Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Westcombe House, 48, Bowden Road, Templecombe,
Somerset, BA8 0LF, Tel/Fax: 01963 370388

e-mail: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Approved minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Henstridge Village
Hall Lounge on Monday 8th October 2007.

Present:

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

Clerk: Mrs Walker

There was 1 member of the public in attendance

1. Apologies.

Apologies were received from James Day and Chris Everill

Mr Jarvis apologised that he would have to leave the meeting at 8.20pm.

2. Declarations of Interest.

No interests were initially declared. However at item 6h Mr Temperton declared a
personal interest as a neighbour to the airfield but did not perceive this to be
prejudicial.

3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 10.09.07.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the previous minutes.

4. Matters arising from previous meetings:

a. For the Council to agree the format of a holding page to appear at the Council's domain name until the Parish Website is running.

Mr Temperton expressed the view that the draft website to be discussed at item 6a
was far enough advance to make a holding page unnecessary.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that a holding page was no longer needed.

5. Correspondence

05.09.07	SSDC	To agree whether a representative is available to attend the first Area East Forum – 17.10.07, 6.30
There were no members available to attend the meeting.		
06.09.07	Colin Fletcher – Somerset Highways	To report a response to the Parish Council's request for a reduction in the speed limit
The Chairman reported the response. It was questioned whether it would be legal for the Parish Council to commission road signs for themselves to adjust the existing limit signs, and also the time limit of the current review of speed limits at County Level.		

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<u>RESOLVED:</u> The Clerk was instructed to investigate these two matters and bring them back to a future meeting.		
12.09.07	SCC	HGV Pinch Point Consultation – for the Council to agree any areas to be put forward as unsuitable for use by HGV traffic
<p>The Chairman summarised for the Council, the question that they were being asked to respond to. There was a strong feeling that the A357 as a whole was inappropriate and unsuitable for HGV's as are all of the roads going off of the A357 to the left and right except for the A30. There was some discussion as to the possible implications of banning HGV traffic on local businesses and also as to the fact that a ban is extremely unlikely to be made on a County 'A' road. It was suggested that cars speeding are also a danger and that an additional pinch point on entry to the village would be useful. It was felt that the centre of the village is too narrow for HGV traffic but it was pointed out that this could be said to apply to most of the road infrastructure across the County. It was felt that the Council were being asked for areas which are unsuitable, rather than being asked for areas in which to ban HGV's, and that it is improvement of the road system which is necessary through planning obligation, highways planning and so on. Marsh Lane from the Trading Estate to the A30, Park Lane and Whitechurch Lane were also cited as other possible problem areas.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the Council would respond that the A357 and all roads going off of this barring the A30 are considered to be unsuitable for HGV's as are Park Lane, Whitechurch Lane and Marsh Lane.</p>		
15.09.07	SCC	Consultation on Waste Management – to agree any comments which the Council may wish to make and if a representative is available to attend a consultation event (dates as per letter)
<p>Concerns were raised regarding the lack of recycling of Plastic and Cardboard and the issue of recycling lorries passing their contents to rubbish lorries. The Clerk pointed out that this would be covered by the later item on Bring banks and that it is County Policy being discussed here. There was no-one available to attend the meeting and no comments to put forward.</p>		
20.09.07	Simon Cullum	To agree the Council's response and any actions arising to a letter and accompanying papers requesting the support of the Parish Council in seeking for Highways to accept liability for the repair for the boundary wall at The Millpond.
<p>There was a feeling among the Council that Mr Cullum should be supported. The Chairman expressed concern that this was a private dispute between Mr Cullum and Somerset Highways. The Clerk agreed with this concern. She advised that it is not in the Council's remit to become involved in such a dispute and that this would also</p>		

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imply that they could become involved with other such disputes which would not be an appropriate use of the Parish Council's funding. She suggested that if there were concerns over the safety of the wall to the general public, that the Parish Council could write with regard to these.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council should write to the Highways department advising that it has been brought to the Council's attention that there is a potential danger with the wall and asking for confirmation that there is no danger to the public from this.

21.09.07	SSDC	To inform the Council of the removal of "Bring Banks"
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Concerns were again raised with regard to plastic and cardboard recycling. A proposal was put forward that we request plastic recycling banks to replace the existing bins. An amendment was put forward that we also request cardboard banks.

RESOLVED: The amendment was voted on and agreed. The amended proposal that the Parish Council should write and request that the existing Bring banks be replaced by Plastic and cardboard recycling banks was approved.

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. To discuss the draft website and agree:

- (i) Colouring
- (ii) Graphics
- (iii) Layout
- (iv) Text content of home page
- (v) Sub page titles
- (vi) Other issues arising.

The Council were generally happy with what had been produced to date. It was felt that a solid background colour would possibly be better and that a picture of the village may be preferable. It was pointed out that as this is an ongoing document that it may be appropriate to delegate authority to a working party in order to deal with finalising the details.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that a working party consisting of Mr Symcox, Mr Temperton and Mr Stobart be appointed to finalise the details of the website on behalf of the Council, with any suggestions from other Councillors to be directed to the working party.

b. To agree a protocol and actions to be taken in relation to:

- (i) Maintenance and upkeep of allotments not currently in use.
- (ii) addressing allotments which are not being maintained appropriately.
- (iii) Paths at the allotments

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The Clerk explained that she had received a phone call from a resident in relation to Pip's playground but that in the course of the conversation it had been pointed out that many of the allotments were not being worked and were deteriorating. The Clerk had therefore carried out a visit to the site and discovered that while some of the plots are being cultivated very successfully, several of the plots are not, and a number of them have been partially cultivated but partially left overgrown. This is leading the allotments to deteriorate at a rapid rate of knots and will make life difficult for those who are working their plots successfully. It would therefore seem prudent to write to allotment holders reminding them of their responsibility.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk should write to the allotment holders and draw their attention to their responsibilities under their tenancy agreement and request that all plots are tidied within three months or the Council will re-enter upon the Allotment Garden and the Tenancy shall thereupon come to an end. It was further agreed that in future years the allotments should be inspected at the end of September for the purposes of ensuring compliance with the tenancy agreement, and re-entry onto the allotment where necessary.

The Clerk pointed out that the Council have a responsibility to ensure that the central path is maintained and asked for instruction as to how the Council would like this matter to be addressed.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Mr Edwards be requested to clear the path, lay grass seed and maintain the path in the future.

- c. **To agree whether the Council are happy to move a bench from Pip's play area to replace the bench at the Cemetery.**

The Clerk explained that the bench previously at the cemetery had been removed for safety reasons some time ago and that Mr Edwards had suggested that one of the disused benches from the play area be moved to replace this.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the bench should be moved.

- d. **Proposal that the Council consider and agree whether to buy extra email addresses to allow each councillor to have their own parish council email address in the henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk domain (e.g. adamtemperton@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk) at a cost of £59.97 for up to 15 Addresses a year with both clerks having a free email address with each domain eg Clerk@ and Planning@ and a generic email address to catch all other mail(spam) sent to the domain.**

Adam Temperton

There were varying opinions as to whether there was a need for Councillors to have Parish Council e-mail addresses, although Mr Temperton advised that this was something that SALC had been encouraging at the AGM.

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RESOLVED: It was agreed to approve the proposal in principal but leave to individual councillors whether they felt they had a need for an address.

The Clerk left the meeting.

- e. To agree the date of the Clerks' appraisals and by whom these should be completed, and to provide Councillors with an opportunity to raise any issues which they feel should be addressed as part of this.**

It was felt that the Chairman should carry out the review and that he and the Clerks should liaise to agree a date. Councillors were given the opportunity to put forward any issues which they felt should be addressed in the appraisal.

The Clerk returned to the meeting.

- f. To announce the date of the next finance meeting.**

The Clerk advised the Council that the next finance meeting will be held on 26.11.07 following the planning meeting.

Mr Jarvis left the meeting.

- g. To receive a report from the SALC AGM**

Adam Temperton

Mr Temperton reported that he had attended the SALC AGM and other area meeting which occurred. He explained that one section of the open forum was largely taken over by planning issues and complaints from all areas of the County as to the fact that there is not enough time given for responses etc. The second part of the open forum had dealt with the possible devolvement of greater responsibility to Parish Council's and the possibility of clustering parishes for delegation of planning rather than this being dealt with by District Councils. This had already been done successfully in Sedgemoor for a number of years. Another issue which had been raised was the level of policing. Mr Temperton reported that Wincanton police station is to close with staff moving to Churchfields which should mean that opening hours are increased. There was also a presentation from the Somerset Rural Youth Project and Mr Temperton suggested that it may be useful for the Parish Council to advertise their Moped Loan scheme. Mr Temperton advised that Peter Lacey had talked about policy and made particular reference to the importance of the Quality Council Status and also the new code of conduct, directing the representatives to a report on the Standards Board Website on the importance of attending a meeting with an open mind in order to avoid being perceived to have a prejudicial interest.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to Mr Temperton for attending the meeting and providing the Council with his report.

- h. To agree any issues which the Council wish to raise at the next HACC meeting on 24th October.**

The Chairman reminded Councillors of the importance of declaring interests. Mr Temperton declared a personal interest as a neighbour to the airfield but did not perceive this to be prejudicial. There were no points raised.

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i. To agree whether the Council wish to purchase litter picking equipment.

The Chairman explained that this had been allowed for within the last budget and that we now needed to know whether the Council wished to go ahead and purchase this equipment, although he pointed out that it had been some time since a litter day had been held and that there is little value in purchasing equipment if such days are not supported. The Clerk was asked for approximate costs of equipment and estimated that this was likely to cost in the region of £27.00 per head (to purchase hi-vis, Canadian rigger gloves, handihoop and picker) plus the cost of black sacks. It was felt that it may be appropriate to try another day and see how well supported this is within the village prior to purchasing equipment.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk be requested to organise and advertise a further litter day and bring the item back to a meeting for review after this has occurred.

j. To receive Playground Inspection reports including Annual Report.

The Clerk reported that the Annual reports had now been received although this had taken nearly three months from the time at which they were carried out. She pointed out that the Council are obviously aware of the vandalism problems at Pip's playground and the implications of this and the Clerk had spoken to Gartells and been assured that the work is to be carried out within the next fortnight. There will remain the issue of providing some kind of barrier between the field and the road at this point and the Clerk will investigate the most cost effective options of doing this. Faults raised at Ash Walk were either for monitoring or were already in hand.

k. Report from VHMC rep

There was no report to be made.

l. To agree a representative to attend the Remembrance service and the purchase of a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

RESOLVED: Mr Vincent agreed to attend the service on behalf of the Council and it was agreed that the Clerk should make the necessary arrangements with regard to a wreath.

7. Finance

a. To approve the following accounts for payment:

VHMC	Hall rental 08/01-25/06/07	£121.00
Madasafish	Line 1 DD Internet & Telephone 24/09-23/10	£10.76
T Watson	Salary September	£276.38
R Walker	Salary September	£220.52
T Pulling	Salary August	£30.04
Inland revenue	NI & Tax Contributions	£77.02
SSDC	Annual playground inspections	£88.12
Somerset Landscapes	Grass cutting 30/07 & 13, 27/08/07	£98.00

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Henstridge CC	Grass cutting 04-06/07	£625.00
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The Payment to the Cricket Club for grasscutting was queried and explained.

RESOLVED: The above accounts were approved for payment.

b. Income –

B Eastment	Plot 12 half yr rent	£5.00
HM Revenue & Customs	VAT repayment	£1,148.75

8. Date of Next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 12th November 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 1st November 2007**.

The meeting closed at 8.40pm