

# Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Westcombe House, 48, Bowden Road, Templecombe,  
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Approved minutes of the Parish Council meeting held at the Henstridge Village  
Hall Lounge on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

**Present:**

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

**Clerk:** Mrs Walker

There were 2 members of the public in attendance for the open forum and 1 for the  
Council meeting.

**1. Apologies.**

Apologies had been received from Paul Brighten, Geoff Jarvis and James Day.

**2. Declarations of Interest.**

There were no interests declared.

**3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on  
10.12.07.**

**RESOLVED: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.**

**4. Matters deferred from previous meetings:**

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that due to the confidential nature of  
the business to be discussed, that the press and public be excluded, and that for  
this reason the item would be moved to the end of the meeting.**

- a. **To review the detailed log of activities related to employees in the light of  
additional information received and agree any actions arising.**
- b. **Special Resolution that the Rules Specific to the Erection of Headstones  
and memorials are reviewed and clarified.**

**Norman Symcox; Mickey Vincent; Adam  
Temperton; Paul Brighten; Jean Oswick and  
Malcolm Stobart.**

The Chairman explained that the item was being discussed because although there is a  
need to give people the opportunity to remember their loved ones in the way that they  
want to, there is also a responsibility with this and that a set of standards had been in  
place for a number of years which it may now be, the Council feel need changing, but  
that there would be a danger in throwing them out entirely when it may be simple  
clarification that is needed.

The Chairman then asked for views around the table. Several Councillors expressed  
concern over the possibility of photographs, although the opposing view was also  
given. It was suggested that engraving a picture was no different to engraving letters.

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The Clerk expressed concern over this, reminding Councillors that the picture is the content and that engraving is simply the medium through which the picture is placed onto the memorial stone. The example was given that a picture of a dog remains a picture, whether it is drawn with a felt tip or a wax crayon – the medium has changed but the content is still a picture of a dog. The Clerk emphasised to Councillors that the reason for bringing the item for further discussion was to allow Councillors to think carefully about what they do and don't find to be acceptable and to ensure that this is what the rules say.

There was a general feeling that an engraved picture was acceptable although concern was raised as to the possible content of this. The view was also put forward however that a set of rules exist and that if people want to use the burial ground then they should abide by those rules. It was pointed out that while people should be allowed to remember their loved ones it is important to keep the whole of the site dignified and respectful for the benefit of all, and that the situation has only arisen because a mason had broken the rules and set a precedent.

The Chairman summarised that there seemed to be a general consensus for the need for a set of rules. The Clerk suggested that the Council addressed the rules section by section to agree what they were happy with and what changes were necessary.

## **RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed:**

- That the section entitled "Headstones" should remain the same;
- That the section entitled "Horizontal Ledgers" should remain the same;
- That the section entitled "Vases" should remain the same;
- That the section entitled "Monuments" should remain the same except for Paragraph 2 which should now read: "*A monument shall not include any raised kerb, railings, stone or other chippings, photograph, statuary or bird bath. An engraved uncoloured picture (content to be approved) is acceptable. However, any coloured or painted image should not be included.*";
- That the section entitled "Planting" should remain the same;
- That the section entitled "Permission" should now read: "*Permission for erection of headstones and monuments is to be sought from the Parish Council*" and then be followed with the additional clauses agreed at the November meeting with the addition of the word "final" prior to "approval" in the last sentence;
- That the Council approve the Rules Specific to the Erection of Headstones and memorials with the inclusion of the above amendments.

## **6. Correspondence**

03.12.07	Various bodies	To respond to a request for Nominations for the Safer Somerset Awards
There were no nominations put forward.		

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06.12.07	Caroline Rowland	Website response form – to respond to a request for inclusion of local/family history link
<p>The Chairman explained the response which had been received. It was pointed out that it had been agreed to keep the website as a Parish Council website to promote the business of the Parish Council, and that moving to something broader could potentially lead to escalation in charges and issues as to who would moderate the content etc.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed to ask the Clerk to e-mail Ms Rowland explaining that while the Parish Council are not prepared to host what she is suggesting, they would be happy to provide a link to a not for profit website.</b></p>		
13.12.07	Rachel Beckingham-Smith – Explorer Pre-school	To respond to a request for funding for a Sand Tray, Digital Camera and CD Players totalling £200.00
<p>It was felt that this was a valuable project for the Parish Council to support but pointed out that there is only £150.00 remaining in the budget for supporting local groups in this financial year. Some discussion occurred as to which items would be more useful.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed to provide a donation to cover the purchase of the Sand Tray and Digital Camera as requested as ask the Pre-school to come back in the new financial year with their request for CD Players.</b></p>		
19.12.07	Clive Sutton – Highways	To report the response to the Council’s request to change speed limits in Marsh Lane and surrounding areas and agree any actions arising.
<p>The Chairman summarised the response that had been received.</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).

## 7. Council Matters

### a. To report the decision of the Standards Board in relation to Case no SBE 18639.07

The Clerk reported that an allegation had been made against former Councillor, Mrs Angela Barton, that she had failed to disclose a personal interest and failed to withdraw from a meeting in which she had a prejudicial interest. Following an investigation the ethical standards officer found no evidence of any failure to comply with the Code of Conduct. The Clerk apologised for the delay in reporting this matter to the Council. The investigation had been concluded in August but the report had not been provided to the Council, despite being chased in October, until chased again in December. An apology for this oversight had been received from the Standards Board.

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## b. To receive Playground Inspection Reports.

The Clerk advised that she was continuing to monitor the apparent subsidence under the tiles around the swing but that nothing can be done about this at this time of year and that she did not feel there to be any immediate danger because of this.

## c. Report from VHC rep

There was no report from the rep. The Council noted that the kitchen was now complete and that things seemed to be moving in a positive direction.

## 8. Finance

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

The Clerk advised the Council of the figures which had not been available for the agenda and provided some additional payments which had come in after the agenda but which were payments needed for work previously agreed by the Council if the Council were happy to deal with these.

Tracey Watson	Wages	£220.52
Rachel Walker	Wages	£276.28
Inland Revenue	Tax and NI Contribution	£68.76
Madasafish	Line 2 DD Internet & Telephone 06/01-05/02/08	£38.45
Somerset Landscapes	Grass cutting Ash Walk Playground 12/11/08	£32.67
Jimmy Flynn, MPCS	Setting up of website	£323.12

### b. Income –

S Folkes Memorials	Memorial Fees	£173.48
HM Customs and Excise	VAT Refund	£506.50
T Watson	Line rental November	£8.50

The Chairman returned to item 4a and asked members of the public to leave the meeting.

**4a. To review the detailed log of activities related to employees in the light of additional information received and agree any actions arising.**

**RESOLVED: It was agreed to request that for Health and Safety reasons, Mr Pulling be requested to stop covering two of the items on his log of activities and that the Council should consider the purchase of a replacement mower for Mr Pulling.**

**8. Date of Next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2008**. 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 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008**.

**The Meeting closed at 8.35pm.**