

Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Ashbourne House, Marsh Lane,
Henstridge, Somerset, BA8 0TG, Tel: 01963 362937
e-mail: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Draft minutes of the Special meeting of Henstridge Parish Council to discuss the skate park and the budget and precept demand held at the Henstridge Village Hall Lounge on Monday 25th October 2010.

Present

Councillors: Mickey Vincent (Chair for item 1-3), Norman Symcox (Chair for item 4), Pete Crocker, Jim Fitch, Geoff Jarvis, David Nicholls, Jean Oswick, Caroline Rowland, Adam Temperton, Paul White.

Clerk: Rachel Walker

There was one member of the public in attendance.

The meeting began at 7.27pm.

1. Apologies and to approve reasons for apology as seen fit.

Apologies had been received from Mr Brighten and Mr Day and the Council advised of the reasons for absence.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the reasons for apology as provided.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Mr Crocker declared a possible personal interest in the youth shelter item if it was at the play area position.

3. Skatepark

i. To provide the Council with information with regard to the potential insurance costs and maintenance costs of a skate park.

The clerk advised that the insurance company had quoted £667.80 for insuring the park and the maintenance costs would be in the region of £100.00 per year for paint plus the time which it took for the painting to occur. It was questioned how many of the village this serves.

Mr Symcox arrived at the meeting and was offered the opportunity to declare any interests.

The Clerk further advised that the insurance company would require notification of any organised events with assurance that appropriate supervision would occur and that these may attract an additional premium. Additional costs were discussed and the possibility of agreeing that no organised events would be allowed without the organisers providing additional insurance was raised. Clarity on the breakdown of public liability and property damage was discussed, the former costing £212.00 and the latter £455.80. The lack of existing amenities for this age group was pointed out but concern was raised with regard to the substantial increase in the insurance costs in relation to the current £1300.00 bill.

Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Ashbourne House, Marsh Lane,
Henstridge, Somerset, BA8 0TG, Tel: 01963 362937
e-mail: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

It was questioned how the area would be closed off if the equipment was damaged and explained that this would have to be by hazard tape. Concern was raised that this would be easy to rip down and it is very difficult to prevent someone using equipment but pointed out that if adequate steps are taken and evidence can be provided of this then the Council should be covered, as long as it is recorded appropriately.

- ii. Further to the consultation event held on 13th September, to discuss and agree a response to the request for confirmation that the Parish Council are happy for Henstridge Youth Facilities to provide funding and manage the building of a Youth Shelter and a skate/bike park at the recreation ground in the proposed locations alongside the play area (youth shelter) and on the basketball court (skate/bike park).**

Nicola Powell Smith was invited to speak and explained that she has applied for a grant and has had £5000 given for the reinstatement of a basketball hoop or a multi use games wall. Obviously if the Council say no the money has to be given back. She clarified that the shelter would now be at the same area as the skate park.

It was questioned that if the Council are responsible for maintaining the park in a safe condition, who is responsible for graffiti and so on, and advised that this would also be the Parish Council.

It was queried whether the existing £28,000 grants were sufficient to complete the project and Ms Powell Smith advised that no, this would only be adequate for the surfacing of the pad, and provision of a shelter, seats and a hoop/wall, but that further grants would need to be sought for the equipment. There are three grants which are possibilities.

The question was raised of what certainty there is that having done stage one of the project that funds would be able to be raised in order to complete stage 2 and whether, in the event that grants were secured, there be any latitude in the grant to make an upfront contribution to ongoing insurance and maintenance costs.

The view was expressed that the Council would need to look at budgeting £1000.00 per annum for the insurance and maintenance costs and that perhaps this should be reconsidered if, as and when the money has been secured. However, the clerk pointed out that many of the grants would not be issued without evidence that the council would support the project and allow it to be built.

The suggestion was made that the Youth facilities group should be expected to raise funds for the costs of the facility in perpetuity. Ms Powell Smith pointed out that she

Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Ashbourne House, Marsh Lane,
Henstridge, Somerset, BA8 0TG, Tel: 01963 362937
e-mail: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

did not believe that the group, who are unelected and unpaid volunteers, would want to take on that responsibility indefinitely.

The question of VAT was raised and whether the Council could raise funds by paying for the facilities on behalf of the group and then claiming the VAT back. The Clerk emphasised that while the Council could take payment from the group and then pay the invoices in order that the grants can be stretched to their utmost by the Council bearing the costs of the VAT prior to reclaim, that the Council are not allowed to aim to profit from reclaiming VAT in the way suggested.

It was discussed that while, to move forward with the funding, the Council need to agree that they are prepared to use the land for skatepark/ youth facilities etc that they also need to agree the proportion of land that is used for each facility. The view was expressed that the Council already have a basketball court and need to balance the usage of the land because that is already included in the current insurance and that they should reserve the right to agree the details of the plans.

Ms Powell Smith advised that if you get the funding this year it has to be applied for by January and it won't be repeated. It was pointed out that the Council will have to steel themselves to pay the maintenance of £1000 every year and if they are not prepared to do this then they are conning the youth facilities group.

Concern was raised that if sufficient funding cannot be raised then the project cannot proceed anyway. Ms Powell Smith expressed concern that the funds for resurfacing of the pad would be lost if the money was not spent by February and queried whether this could go ahead.

The Clerk asked for clarification that the money would not need to be repaid if the skate park did not go ahead as she understood that the money had been given for resurfacing for the purposes of use as a skate park, not as a basketball court, and therefore if the skatepark did not go ahead then potentially this could be an issue.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council are happy for the committee to fundraise and manage a build, with the understanding that all of the funding is in place for the project before any building works go ahead and that the Council has the final say on any plans, and that the Parish Council are happy to commit £1000.00 per annum to the continued maintenance and insurance of the project for the next 20 years on the provision that the facility remains used.

Mr Symcox took the chair.

Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Ashbourne House, Marsh Lane,
Henstridge, Somerset, BA8 0TG, Tel: 01963 362937
e-mail: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

4. Budget and precept.

- a. To consider the information presented regarding the Council's financial position for the first half of 2010-11 and predicted position at the end of the financial year.

Thanks were expressed to the clerk for preparing the figures. No other comments were made.

- b. To review the project account and agree any changes arising and any transfers necessary.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council accept the recommendations and move forwards with these.

- c. To consider the proposed budget figures and agree figures that the Council are happy with.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council accept the budgeted figures as presented.

- d. To agree the level of the precept demand.

The level of increase that the suggested figure would mean in real terms for parishioners was briefly discussed.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Council raise the precept by **£1000.00**.

The Chair advised that there was one last item for information, that he had received the Clerk's resignation and that the Council will need to put together a schedule for dealing with this at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.16pm.