

# Henstridge Parish Council

Clerk: Rachel Walker, Ashbourne House, Marsh Lane,  
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**Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at the Henstridge Village Hall Lounge on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2010.**

**Present**

**Councillors: Mickey Vincent (Chair), Paul Brighten, Pete Crocker, Jim Fitch, Adam Temperton, Paul White.**

**Clerk: Rachel Walker**

**There were two members of the public in attendance for the beginning of the meeting.**

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

Apologies had been received from Mr Symcox, Mrs Oswick, Mr Jarvis and Ms Rowland 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.**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 08.11.10.**

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

**RESOLVED: It was agreed to move to item 5 as Mrs Powell-Smith and Ms Place were present for the item.**

18.11.10	Nicola Powell Smith	To respond to a request for the Council to approve the skate park plans.
<p>The meeting was closed in order for Mrs Powell Smith to speak and to talk through the plans. She talked about the pros and cons of the varying designs and favoured the design from monster play. The additional area needed for the design was discussed and whether this had been included within the budgeting considerations. Mrs Powell Smith emphasised the design elements which the children had favoured at the consultation evening. She also talked through the youth shelter options and again favoured the monster play design as it gives some degree of shelter.</p> <p>Mr Temperton expressed concern over the lack of time to look over the plans and the lack of Councillors present at the meeting. The Chairman pointed out that the Councillors had had the agenda and had the opportunity to be at the meeting or request that the item be deferred. Mr Temperton was further concerned that the plans had not been approved by the Youth Facilities committee themselves. Mr Vincent pointed out that if the Parish Council delayed the process and the money was lost then the Parish Council would be at fault.</p>		

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Mrs Powell Smith stated that the Youth Facilities Committee were happy with any of the three designs which had been presented, and had expressed a preference for the monster play shelter. Mrs Place emphasised that the current financial situation meant that they had been extremely lucky to secure as much funding as they had and she suggested that the decision be made provisionally based on confirmation that the Committee are happy with that decision.

The meeting was closed to the public.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed that the Monster play options were approved (without lighting) on the provision that confirmation is received from the Henstridge Youth Facilities group that the group are happy with the design.

#### 4. Matters deferred and arising from previous meetings:

- i. To consider possible revised rules for placing memorials in the churchyard based on the other current local town council/CofE guidance

The Clerk advised that a number of sets of rules had been gathered but that different councils appeared to approach the matter in very different ways. The Council's current rules continue to reflect the diocesan rules. The Clerk advised that there would appear to be two options therefore. The first is that the Council agrees that every application be dealt with on its own merit and ceases to have any rules other than those about how to make an application. The difficulty with this approach is that it can be a very subjective issue and opinions vary depending on who is on the Council, and make up the nominated party to agree applications at any given time and this could potentially cause conflict, with people being allowed one thing in one year but the same style of application being turned down in the following year because the people approving have changed. The other option would be to look at the existing rules and agree any which the Council are unhappy with or want changed and simply carry out a review of these. It may also be that part of this review would be to return the decision to the new Clerk who may be more happy to take on this responsibility. Whether the Clerk takes this role or a group of Councillors continues to do this, it should then be made very clear that anything which directly contravenes the rules should be brought to the Council for approval.

**RESOLVED:** The Council considered the existing rules and agreed to add a section under HEADSTONES:

*"In the case of infant burials the headstone should be no less than 12"(300mm) wide and 19" (475mm) high".*

It was agreed to remove the requirements not to include a photograph or coloured or painted image.

Under "Permission" it was agreed to change the second paragraph to read "Where the application is within the rules laid down, permission will be agreed by three nominated Councillors, who will then pass the application to the Clerk for signature. In the event of the application being outside of the agreed rules, the application will be put forward to the Council for their consideration."

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**ii. To advise the Council of the return of plans and funds with regard to the Village Hall planning application.**

The Clerk reported that the funds of £1675.00 paid out for the Village Hall Planning Application had been returned by the District Council.

**iii.**

22.09.10	Sam Healy	To receive a response to the Council's letter regarding Village Hall refurbishment funding
<p>The Clerk advised that the Council had agreed that if the funds could be retrieved from District for the planning application that these would be passed on to the Management Committee, but that the Committee had in fact been looking for £2698.31 from the Parish Council. There are funds in the project account earmarked for provision of a new community building which could be used for this purpose if necessary.</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the funds returned by SSDC for the planning application of £1675.00 should be passed on the Village Hall Management Committee. Additionally it was agreed to make up the funds to a figure of £2700.00 from the project account.</b></p>		

**iv. Proposal that the Council write to Highways querying why Wincanton School have lights adjacent to crossing and better lighting of crossing than Henstridge.**

**Pete Crocker**

Mr Crocker explained that the lights in Wincanton have lights on the posts themselves, it is in a 20mph zone, it is not on an A road and it has ramps either side, and this seems wrong when the crossing here is on the A road and is far more poorly lit.

**RESOLVED: The proposal was amended to read “that the Council write to highways requesting that the lights on the Pedestrian crossing outside of the school be upgraded to the same standard as those on the crossing outside of Wincanton Primary School”.**

## 6. Council Matters

**a. To receive a visit/report from a local police representative**

There was no representative present.

**b. To report the resignation of Mr Stobart and agree any actions arising.**

The Clerk advised that Mr Stobart had resigned from the Council. The Clerk advised that as the resignation has come within 6 months of an election the Council can decide to elect via co-option or to leave a vacancy for that period.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that due to the proximity of the election and other changes currently occurring on the council that the vacancy should be left empty at the current time.**

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- c. To agree the content of the December newsletter.

**RESOLVED:** The content of the December newsletter was approved.

- d. To discuss any outstanding highways issues or highways matters which Councillors wish to raise and agree any actions arising.

An update was provided on the Ash Walk footpath and the anti skid surfacing. It was raised that the signpost on the A357/A30 junction has two fingers missing and that the Bellman's cross signpost is broken.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that the defects with the signs should be passed on to Highways.

- e. To provide an update with regard to the employment of a replacement clerk.

The Clerk reported that following 17 enquiries, 9 applications had been received and from this a shortlist of 3 people had been drawn up for interviewing next Monday.

- f. To agree whether the Council are happy to complete an application for funding in support of the activities of the youth worker.

The Clerk explained the situation.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed to make the application for funding.

- g. Playground Inspection reports.

There were no new issues to report. GB Sports were due to look at the see-saw last week but had been unable to do so because of the weather and would reschedule when the weather improves.

- h. To receive reports from Representatives (VHMC, HALT, Footpaths, Other) and provide guidance as appropriate.

There were no new matters of report.

## 7. Finance

- a. To approve the cash book and bank account reconciliation for November 2010 as presented.

**RESOLVED:** The Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for November 2010 as verified by Pete Crocker were approved and signed by the Chair.

- b. To agree and approve transfers of funds between Parish Council accounts as presented.

The Clerk advised that she would need to move £1675.00 from the deposit account and £1025.00 from the project account in order to cover the £2700 donation to the

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Village Hall Management committee.

**RESOLVED:** The transfers as detailed above were approved.

- c. To approve the following accounts for payment and two signatories for cheques:-

Madasafish	Phone and Internet Services (error at Plusnet – 2 months)	£39.96
George Edwards	Wages	£67.89
Terry Pulling	Wages	£28.29
Fiona Parrott	Wages	£253.10
Rachel Walker	Wages	£258.48
Flo Cornish	Wages	£125.00
HM Revenue and Customs	Tax	£81.60
SSDC	Contribution to shared Youth worker	£500.00
Fiona Parrott	Application pack postage	£2.88
Digley Associates	Annual playground inspection	£52.88
SALC	Subscription renewal	£151.00
Playing Fields Association	Subscription renewal	£10.00

The cheque values were verified against the invoices presented by Pete Crocker and the invoices signed as a correct match. An additional cheque was raised for the donation to the Village Hall Management Committee.

**RESOLVED:** The above accounts were approved for payment and Paul Brighten and Mickey Vincent agreed as signatories.

## **e.Income**

Mr & Mrs Paginton	Allotment rent	£5.00
Funeralcare	Burial (Priscilla Essex)	£77.38
SSDC	Repayment of Village Hall Planning Application Fee	£1675.00

**8. Date of Next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2011**. 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 30<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm**