

# HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Zöe Godden, Elvyns, Wavering Lane East, GILLINGHAM. SP8 4NX

Tel: 01747 826401 Mobile: 07745 270285

e-mail: [clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

[www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

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Approved minutes of a meeting of Henstridge Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee held on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016.

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**Present:** Simon Cullum (Chair), Carolyn Nichols and David Nichols.

**Clerk:** Zöe Godden

The meeting started at 19:30.

## 1. Apologies for absence.

Apologies had been received from John Graham.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed to approve the reason for absence as reported.

## 2. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest.

## 3. Public Participation.

No members of the public were present.

## 4. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2016.

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

## 5. Matters deferred and arising from previous meetings.

No matters were raised.

## 6. Land: To review the use of Common Lane field and agree any further action to be taken.

The location of the field was discussed. The Clerk was instructed to find out how much it would cost to have both Common Lane field and Furge Lane field valued and to have the rent on both fields assessed.

**Action 160926/1: Parish Clerk**

## 7. Footpaths

- a. To hear a report on barbed wire found on a newly erected stile on Plott Lane and to agree any further action to be taken.

The matter was discussed and it was agreed that the PPLO and County Council had the matter in hand and no further action was required by the Parish Council.

- b. To note a response from Somerset County Council regarding a request to redirect footpath WN 12/6 to run under the A30 at the railway bridge, and to decide any further action to be taken.

The Clerk read a response from the County Council, which explained that path WN 12/6 started on the north side of the A30. The path on the south side was number WN 12/31. This meant that, in order for the two paths to be joined together to form an unbroken path, a new footpath would have to be created, which County would not pursue at this time.

Members felt that there was enough public interest in this matter for the Parish Council to try to take it forward independently. The Clerk was instructed to write to the owners of Bridge House to ask if they would be amenable to disposing of a small corner of their land to accommodate a new path to run under the railway bridge and join the two existing paths together.

**Action 160926/2: Parish Clerk**

## 8. Recreation Ground

- a. To discuss the quality of the recent weed killing work and decide any further action to be taken.

The Clerk was instructed to contact Somerset Landscapes to discuss how to deal with the larger weeds that had not been destroyed by the recent weed killing and to report back to the next meeting.

**Action 160926/3: Parish Clerk**

- b. To hear reports on the two youth activity days held in the summer and to decide an amount to set aside from the 2017/18 budget to run similar events next year.

Simon Cullum reported that both youth events had been very well attended and **proposed** a budget of £600 to be allocated to part fund similar activities in 2017/18. It was **agreed** that this amount should be requested during budget setting with the full council.

- c. To note that a chain and padlock has been put onto the vehicle gate; to agree two members as key holders and agree any further action to be taken.

Members discussed this matter and **agreed** that the padlock should only be put in place at pertinent times. It was further **agreed** that the Clerk should put up a sign with the contact number of a key holder at times when the gate was locked, to enable access by emergency vehicles if necessary.

- d. To hear an update on progress with the perimeter track project and agree any further action to be taken.

Simon Cullum reported that a grant offer had been received from SSDC in relation to the S106 funding from the Woodhayes development. The Viridor grant application was underway. It was **agreed** that Simon would contact the Village Hall Management Committee to ask to attend one of its meetings to give a progress report.

- e. To hear an update on progress with plans to replace play equipment in the Play Area.

The Clerk reported that she had obtained one quote and was meeting with another contractor on 30<sup>th</sup> September.

- f. To discuss approaches to weed killing at the car park.

It was noted that the car park needed to be treated for weeds and **agreed** that this would be budgeted for in next year's budget.

## 9. Cemetery

- a. To discuss underground rock formations at the cemetery and agree any further action to be taken.

The Clerk reported that there are no more double depth burial plots available due to the extreme difficulty in digging through layers of rock. It was noted that this reduces the number of plots available. There was a brief discussion about potential extension sites for the burial ground. The Clerk was instructed to find out the burial fees in Stalbridge, Templecombe and Milborne Port and report back to the next meeting.

**Action 160926/4: Parish Clerk**

- b. To consider quotes for removal of the spoil heap and agree which to accept; to agree any further action to be taken.

It was **agreed** to defer this item to the next meeting as the third quote had yet to be obtained.

## 10. Allotments

- a. To note that all allotments have now been let.

### Noted.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from a householder living adjacent to the allotment site, asking various questions. The Clerk was instructed to respond as follows: The Council is aware that one of the allotment holders has a key to the vehicle gate at the allotment site and allotment

holders are permitted to park on the site as long as they are working on their plots. A licence is not required for the application of domestic weed killer on private land.

**Action 160926/5: Parish Clerk**

- b. To hear an update on reports of young people riding motorised bikes at the site.

PCSO John Winfield had been in touch with the Clerk to let her know that the young people concerned and their parents had been spoken to and that there was a chance that a local farmer could provide a field for them to use to ride their bikes in future.

#### **11. Oak Vale Woodland**

- a. To note receipt of a request for the installation of gates accessible to wheelchair users etc; to decide any further action to be taken.

The Clerk was instructed to respond, informing the gentleman that there are plans to improve drainage at the Woodland and that consideration will be given to widening the access at that time, probably in the next financial year. The Clerk was also instructed to inform the gentleman that the surface of the path in the Woodland was bumpy and often quite wet, so was likely not suitable for wheelchair users, but that the Council was taking advice on their responsibilities under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and any relevant subsequent legislation.

In relation to the gate on path WN 12/29, the Clerk was instructed to report this matter to the County Council and to advise the gentleman to do the same.

**Action 160926/6: Parish Clerk**

- b. To revisit the drainage work at Oak Vale Woodland and agree further action to be taken.

David Nichols reported that he was due to visit the site with a groundwork contractor and would report back to the next meeting.

- 12. Budget:** To note that budget setting will be discussed at the next meeting; to hear any suggestions for amendments to the 2016/17 budget which will be brought to the October meeting.

**Noted.**

- 13. Future meetings:** to agree that the next Open Spaces Committee meeting should take place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.30pm.

**Noted.**

**The meeting ended at 20:35.**

**Agreed and signed by the Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_