

## HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
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### HAVING YOUR SAY

As always, the Parish Council are keen to receive input from parishioners and would remind you that while a discretionary public forum is held at the beginning of every meeting so that you can put forward your views, lawful items for discussion and decision have to be listed on the Parish Council's or Committees' Agendas. Therefore if there is something that you feel the Parish Council should consider, please put your concern or query in writing to the Parish Clerk

The Planning Committee would like to remind the village that all planning meetings (held twice monthly) are open to the public,

and that public opinion on planning applications is always welcomed by the Parish Council, either at the meetings or in writing.

Copies of meeting Agendas are posted the previous week on the Parish Council's Henstridge & Yenston notice boards.

However, for your information, the remaining meetings for 2008 are as follows:

#### FULL COUNCIL:

Monday 10th November  
Monday 8th December  
Meetings take place at 7.30 in the Village Hall Lounge.

### MEET THE COUNCIL!

The Parish Council in Henstridge is made up of 13 Councillors.

Norman Symcox—Chair, HACC Representative  
Mickey Vincent—Full Council Vice Chair, Planning and Finance Chair, Yenston and Youth Representative  
Adam Temperton—Planning Vice Chair, Footpaths and Play area rep  
Paul Brighten—HALT Representative  
Pete Crocker—Highways representative  
James Day  
Chris Everill  
Jim Fitch  
Geoff Jarvis  
David Nicholls  
Malcolm Stobart—SALC and VHMC Representative  
Jean Oswick—VHMC Representative  
Paul White

Administration for the Council is dealt with by the Clerk and Proper officer to the Council, Rachel Walker, while Planning and Finance matters are handled by the Planning Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer, Tracey Watson. In the first instance all queries should be made to the Clerks.

The District Councillors are Tim Inglefield and William Wallace, who is also the County Councillor.

#### PLANNING

Monday 20th October  
Monday 10th November  
Monday 17th November  
Monday 8th December  
Monday 22nd December (TBC)  
The start times of planning meetings have some flexibility to reflect the number of applications to be dealt with. However they usually begin between 6.45 and 7.15 and times can be confirmed on the notice board, website or by calling the clerk.

#### FINANCE

Monday 20th October following the planning meeting.

# HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 18 SEPTEMBER 2008

## FIRE HITS VILLAGE HALL FOR SECOND TIME

The Parish Council, as with the rest of the village, were shocked to wake up on Wednesday to the news that once again the Village Hall Changing rooms had been the victim of an arson attack. Extensive damage was caused in the attack, which actually took place on Tuesday evening. Parish Councillor Pete Crocker spotted the fire when walking his dogs on Wednesday morning and called the fire brigade. The police made extensive enquiries throughout Wednesday and were hopeful that they would find the culprits, especially after the Village Hall Management Committee were able to hand over CCTV evidence showing the attack taking place. The Parish Council hope that they are able to find the perpetrators of this act and that they are able to take some sort of action to prevent this from happening again. As the village are probably aware, this is actually the second time

that the hall has been attacked this year, and while the hall's insurance will cover the damage, this will obviously mean that the insurance is likely to be increased. Additionally, the Village Hall Management Committee team have worked extremely hard in recent years to build up the hall's bookings and the general décor of the hall. This has not only caused damage but has also meant that a number of bookings have had to be cancelled, as well as creating a problem for the football team who were playing home matches in the weekend following and obviously had to do this without the provision of changing rooms. While the reports stating that the Parish Council will have to pick up the repair bill were incorrect, the Council do however wish to offer their support to the VHMC team in their efforts.



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## VILLAGE HALL—THE FUTURE

So what next for the village hall? We all want the hall up and running again but recently there has been talk of a new hall. The Parish Council were initially asked to back the Sports Club plans for stand alone changing rooms, but after an approach from the VHMC about the feasibility of a new village hall, and the Sports Club's support

for this, the Council backed the VHMC's suggestion. For funding reasons, the Parish Council as a body are not allowed to lead such a project, but are keen that any new building meets the community's needs and if you have any views, we would like to hear them, so we can give an informed response to any plans received



### THE BIG TIDY UP!

You may have heard in the press about the Big Tidy up campaign. Events have been held around the country and we held our own Big Tidy up in Henstridge on Saturday 27th September starting at the recreation ground.

After a week of beautiful weather it was a misty murky morning, when 5 representatives of the Parish Council turned out along with 7 members of the public, four of whom were children. We not

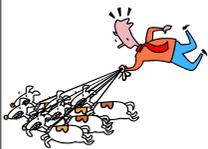
only tidied the recreation ground but also large areas of the village, including Townsend Green, Centenary Gardens, Woodhayes and so on, with 17 bags of rubbish being collected in total.

Children from the school had been encouraged to participate by entering a national colouring competition to win a WALL-E goody bag. We are pleased to announce



runners up prizes go to Marcia, Lucas and Kieran, while all of those participating in the tidy up were rewarded with badges and WALL-E stickers and of course refreshments! The Parish Council are very grateful to all those who turned out for the tidy up and hope that the rest of the village appreciate the difference that it has made!

### DOG FOULING UPDATE.



You may recall that in our last newsletter we raised the problem of dog fouling, which has been an issue in the recreation ground in recent months, and requested that people clear up after their dogs, or let us know if there was an ongoing problem. Since then the Parish Council have had a number of complaints from people with regard to dog mess at the recreation ground, including a

complaint from one resident whose child came home from the rec covered in dog faeces. While we fully appreciate that this is the minority causing a problem for the majority, the health hazards of this are well documented and the Parish Council have a duty to protect all users of their land. The Parish Council are therefore asking once again, that people clear up after their

dogs, but also let us know if they are aware of someone else allowing their dog to foul and not clearing up after it so that we can pass the information on to the Dog Warden. However, the Parish Council would encourage parents to educate their children on the potential dangers of the environment that they play in, and to be aware of these when they are in the recreation ground.

### MEMORIAL SEARCH

The Parish Council have recently had additional land at the burial ground consecrated in order to provide more spaces for the future. This will mean extending the existing central pathway in the

long term, which will possibly mean the removal of the bush at the end of the existing pathway. However, the Parish Council want to ascertain that this was not planted as a memorial, prior to

agreeing its removal, and so we would be very grateful to hear from anyone who may have any knowledge or information on the history of this bush.

### HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW!

The allotments to the rear of Furge grove and Windsor Terrace have gone from strength to strength this year with some fine produce being grown! It has been fantastic to see this formerly derelict area take on a whole new life and we currently have a waiting list for plots so we are being quite strict on policing to make sure that all plots are in use as we do not want the site to deteriorate. We are

currently waiting for Wessex Water to install a water supply and as the site has been so successful we have also agreed to convert the upper part of the site to allotments to hopefully provide spaces for those currently waiting, so if you are interested then please let us know and we will add you to the list. We are hoping that the new plots will be available by spring next year although we

have to gain planning permission before the change can be made! As some of you may be aware the area was formerly a play area site which had been named in memory of Pip Raymond. In order to keep this memory going, the allotment site will in future be known as Pip's gardens and we hope to plant a memorial Copper beach in the site to commemorate this.



### PLANNING—HOW THE SYSTEM WORKS!

It is the requirement of planning laws for the local Planning authority, in our case South Somerset District Council, to consult with Parish Councils. The Parish Council do not determine applications but provide a consultation response from a local point of view highlighting the most impor-

tant local issues surrounding a particular planning matter. The Planning Committee meet twice monthly and are keen to hear views from applicants and neighbours to inform their decisions. The Committee are unable to provide advice, however, every Monday (between 9am-1pm and 2-5pm), a Planning Offi-

cer is available at Churchfield to deal with planning enquiries such as the need for planning permission. All local applications are available to view during normal office hours of 9am-5pm in addition to website access to all current plans and the availability of local planning applications via the Parish Councils.

**MONDAY IS PLANNING SURGERY DAY AT CHURCHFIELD, WINCANTON**

### HOW AWARE ARE YOU???

As you may or may not be aware, Henstridge is on a "Red route" - a road with a high number of crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury. Because of this the Parish Council have been offered the chance to provide a

Free Driver awareness course presented by an approved driving instructor. The course runs from 7-9 with the opportunity to try out a driver simulator, have tea and coffee and hear the presentation. Feedback so far has

been excellent! If you would be interested in attending such a course then please contact the Clerk so that we can see how much interest there is and hopefully organize a course for Henstridge.

