

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Westcombe House,
48 Bowden Road,
Templecombe,
BA8 0LF

Phone: 01963 370388
Fax by arrangement
Email Rachel at: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk
Email Tracey at: planning@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

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 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. Planning meetings (held twice monthly) are open to the public, and public opinion on planning applications is always welcomed 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.

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 VHM Representative
Jean Oswick—VHM 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.

The meeting dates for the first quarter of 2009 will be:

FULL COUNCIL:

Monday 12th January
Monday 9th February
Monday 9th March

PLANNING

As above, plus Monday 26th January
Monday 23rd February
Monday 23rd March.

Full Council Meetings take place at 7.30 in the Village Hall Lounge. The start times of planning meetings have some flexibility to reflect the number of applications, 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.

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 19 DECEMBER 2008



The Parish Council
wish you all a very
Merry Christmas
2008 and a Happy
and Prosperous
start to the New Year
2009!



NEW MODEL PUBLICATION SCHEME

The freedom of Information act came into force at the beginning of 2005 and encourages greater openness and transparency across the whole public sector. The Act provides individuals or organizations with the right to request information held by a public authority and obliges every public authority to adopt an approved Publication Scheme which shows the information which is routinely available to

them from the authority. A new model publication scheme comes into force from 1st January 2009 and Henstridge Parish Council adopted this at their meeting of 10th November. The Scheme document is rather long and so unfortunately will not appear on the noticeboards, but copies can be sought from the Clerk. Additionally the scheme document and almost all of the offered information will be available for accessing on the Parish Council's website.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

FINANCIAL UPDATE	2
YOUR NEWS-LETTER YOUR SAY	2
HOW AWARE ARE YOU—PART 2	3
THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW	3
DATES	4

FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the last quarter the Parish Council's accounts for 2007- 8 were closed and audited.



The Finance Committee met in October and recommendations were made to the Council for the budget for 2009-10 at the November meeting, in order that the precept request could be put in for the next financial year.

Parish Councils obtain income to meet expenses from a number of sources including rents from property and the Parish Precept, which is a demand issued to the District Council requiring them to pay the Parish Council a spe-

cific sum. The precept is added to the Council Tax bill and collected by the District Council.

In recent years the Parish Council have been successful in reducing this amount. With the current financial situation, the Council are very pleased that they have continued to be in a strong financial position allowing them to maintain the precept at the same level of £20,000.

However, while mindful that it is the Parishioners money which they are spending, the Council are still open to suggestions for the benefit of the Parish, brought in by members of the Parish which may lead them to consider the possibility of a need for an increase in the future.

YOUR NEWSLETTER—YOUR SAY



Following the publication of the last newsletter, we had some comments that the size of the print made the newsletter difficult to read. We've tried to address that in this issue! However we are very grateful for any other feedback that you may have about the newsletter

or its future contents (bearing in mind that it is a Parish Council newsletter!) Additionally if you would like to be added to our e-mail mailing list for the newsletter then please contact the Clerk (clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk) with your details.

HOW AWARE ARE YOU??? PART 2!

You may recall that in the last newsletter we advertised the fact that as Henstridge is on a "Red route" - a road with a high number of crashes resulting in a fatality or serious injury we had been offered the chance to provide a Free Driver awareness course presented by an approved driving instructor with the opportunity to try out a driver simulator, have tea and coffee

and hear a presentation. The response from the village has been limited so far but we have now been able to join forces with Templecombe to provide a presentation at Templecombe United Reform Church on 17th February 2009 from 7.00pm. If you would be interested in attending this course then please contact the Clerk in order that we have some indication of numbers.



THE LONG ARM OF THE LAW!

The Parish Council were delighted, at their meeting of Monday 8th September, to receive a visit from our Neighbourhood Team Inspector, Andrew Pritchard, joined by our local PCSO Fiona Wilson. Inspector Pritchard provided Councillors with an informative presentation on the nature of today's changing police force. He also took questions and concerns with, speeding on the A30 and A357, and jumping the lights being high on the Council's list. Inspector Pritchard emphasized the importance placed on liaison with communities as a two

way street, whereby the community also receive feedback from the police. The Council are pleased to see such liaison through the attendance of a representative or provision of a report for Parish Council meetings, through PCSO Wilson's once a month attendance at the Loose Ends Coffee mornings and also the introduction of a message book for her, kept in the Village Hall Lounge. The Council look forward to such communications being enhanced still further in the future.

