

# HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3      DECEMBER 2009



The Parish Council  
wish you all a very  
Merry Christmas 2008  
and a Happy and  
Prosperous start to the  
New Year 2010!



## A NEW YEAR RINGS THE CHANGES!

Changes are afoot at  
your Parish Council!

The Council were sorry  
to lose Mrs Tracey Wat-  
son as Planning Clerk  
and Responsible Finan-  
cial Officer in September  
after some 4 and a half  
years, although we wish  
her every success in her  
new role as Stalbridge  
Town Clerk. We are now  
pleased to welcome Mrs  
Fiona Parrott into a new  
role as Assistant Parish  
Clerk, supporting Rachel  
Walker in the day to day  
running of the Council  
and its business. Addi-  
tionally, the Council will  
be moving after Christ-

mas to new office ac-  
commodation at  
Ashbourne House in  
Marsh Lane, a move  
brought about by health  
and safety issues. Al-  
though the phone num-  
ber will be changing in  
due course, we can still  
be contacted via the  
same e-mail address.  
From January, the office  
will be open on Monday,  
Wednesday and Friday  
mornings be-  
tween 9.30 and  
11.30. Outside  
of these hours  
please leave us  
a message!

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**Our PCSO has asked  
us to make you  
aware of bogus call-  
ers operating in the  
area—please be  
vigilant.**

## **COME AND JOIN US!**

There is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council, which the Council are seeking to fill by means of co-option. This means that the Council will elect someone themselves from a list of willing volunteers! If you would be interested in joining us and playing a role in how your community is managed and develops in the future, then please contact the Clerk on 01963 370388 or at [clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk) or in order to express your interest.

## **GARDEN WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE**

For some time the Parish Council have heard local concerns regarding the difficulties of disposing of garden waste with the nearest tip being some distance away and no local collection service. We were therefore pleased to hear that an opt in Garden Waste Collection Service is being introduced within our area.

By the time of publication, the service should be in operation and the price for opting in is £60.00 for the period until 31 March 2011. If this is something that would be of interest to you then you can find out more by contacting South Somerset District Council Customer Services on 01935 462462

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## **A POLITE REQUEST**

The Council have received a number of complaints recently with regard to overgrown hedges causing problems around the village. Hedges which overhang the foot paths cause a number of hazards, both for pedestrians, who are in danger of being hurt by the hedges themselves, or by the traffic that they need to negotiate when forced to step off of the pavements, and also for motorists who can have their visibility impaired. The Parish Council would like to remind local landowners, both large and small, that it is their responsibility to ensure that their hedges are maintained in good order and do not impinge on the land outside of your own boundary. Many thanks for your support.

## A POTHOLE DOSSIER FOR HENSTRIDGE— CAN YOU HELP?

In May of this year, the BBC reported that Councillors in North Curry had been so angered by the lack of action to combat the scores of pot holes in their parish, that they had carried out their own survey of the state of the roads which amounted to some 12 pages, including 30 photographs which they had submitted to Somerset County Council and which seemed to have encouraged the County Council to take a more positive role in taking action to resolve the concerns! The Parish Council are very aware of the poor state of some of the roads in the village and it therefore seemed prudent for us to carry out a similar survey of our own roads,



which is a project which we have been working on for some time. The Council are now looking for your support in making sure that we have every pothole covered (if not yet filled!) and if you are aware of any problems which you think should be included then Adam Temperton or the Clerk would be very pleased to hear



### FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the last quarter the Parish Council's accounts for 08-09 were closed and audited.

At a special meeting in November, the Parish Council met to set its budget for 2010-11, and agree the precept amount—the demand issued to the District Council requiring them to pay the Parish Council a specific sum. The precept is added to the Council Tax bill

and collected by the District Council.

In recent years the Parish Council have successfully maintained this amount, which in real terms has meant a reduction in the precept. While the Council continue to be in a strong financial position, there will be an increase in the precept to £23,000 this year which reflects the rising costs which the Council have experienced.

## HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Fax by arrangement  
Email Rachel at: [clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!  
[www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)

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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 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  
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, Rachel Walker. In the first instance all queries should be made to the Clerk. The District Councillors are Tim Inglefield and William Wallace, who is also the County Councillor.

The meeting dates for the first quarter of 2010 will be:

FULL COUNCIL:

Monday 11th January 2010

Monday 8th February

Monday 8th March

PLANNING

As above, plus Monday 25th January

Monday 22nd February

Monday 22nd March 2010.

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.