

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 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
Jean Oswick—VHMC Representative
Caroline Rowland
Paul White

Administration for the Council is dealt with by the Clerk and Proper officer, currently, 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 2011 will be:

FULL COUNCIL:

Monday 10th January 2011
Monday 7th February 2011
Monday 7th March 2011

PLANNING

As above, plus Monday 24th January 2011
Monday 21st February 2011
Monday 21st March 2011.

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 3, ISSUE 4 DECEMBER 2010



The Parish Council wish you all a very Merry Christmas 2010 and a Happy and Prosperous start to the New Year 2011!



A NEW YEAR RINGS THE CHANGES!

It seems odd to be running the same headline in the same edition for two years in a row but once again changes are afoot at your Parish Council!

At the beginning of February the Clerk and Assistant Clerk will be leaving the Council.

Hopefully by this stage, the Council will have managed to appoint a replacement Clerk who will take on the role as a whole. Interviews are to be carried out on 13th December and we will of course update you in

due course as to the appointment that is made.

The Council's intention is that the new Clerk will continue to work from the office at Ashbourne House in Marsh Lane, although there may be some changes to the hours worked which again will be publicised as soon as they are agreed.

The e-mail address and telephone number of course will remain the same so do please always leave a message and someone will get back to you.

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MORE CHANGES AND MORE TO COME! COULD IT BE YOU?

The Council were sorry to receive the resignation of Malcolm Stobart recently. Malcolm has been an active member of the Parish Council and also of the Village Hall Management Committee and he will be greatly missed. As the Council elections are only six months away, it has been agreed not to fill the space at the current time. However this may be a good time to start thinking about whether you may be able to join us in May!

Did you know that your local councillors are consulted on nearly everything that happens in your area? They take an active part in deciding what services are and are not provided and that affects your family! Parish Councils are responsible for many things like: bus shelters, litter bins, parks and footpaths to name but a few. They are also consulted on planning applications, highway improvements, street signs, grant funding and projects that affect where you live and what facilities your community has or receives.

Local councils are delivering more services for residents than ever before and with changes to legislation Parish Councils may be in a position to do even more in the future.

Councillors live side by side with you in your community; they are the most local level of government, being easily contacted and directly answerable to the community every time they walk out of their front doors. They raise money primarily through your council tax to administer their decisions and you need to be sure that you have the right people to look after your community.

It is said 'people get the local council they deserve', so could you be someone who would put themselves forward to provide the village with the Council that you think it deserves?

If this is something that you think that you might be interested in then please contact the Clerk for further information on what is involved.

PLANNING GUIDANCE

At the second November planning meeting, the Council were fortunate to receive a visit from Dave Norris, the Planning Development Manager, who spent some time going through the planning process with the Parish Council, explaining each parties role, and answering any questions or concerns which the Council may have. There were a number of areas which were of particular interest to the Council! He explained that he is aware that Parish Council's believe that they are not listened to but that this is not the case as while the Parish Council are only a consultee, the planning process does not allow the Parish Council to be ignored. He added that the most current government advice is that Parish

Council's should be involved from day 1 even before the application is officially validated. It was also of interest that while retrospective applications must be taken on their merits, the risk lies entirely with the applicant if they have chosen to build without permission. He explained that there are moves afoot to double the application fees for retrospective applications which would hopefully encourage people to complete the process in the proper order. He reassured the Council that under the proposed core strategy currently being consulted upon, local needs would feature far more strongly in deciding the fate of an application and how the village as a whole is developed.



FINANCIAL UPDATE

During the last quarter the Parish Council's accounts for 09-10 were closed and audited.

In November, the Parish Council met to set its budget for 2011-12, 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.

The Parish Council's accounting has

meant that while there was a small increase last year, in real terms this has meant a reduction in the Council tax element. While the Council continue to be in a strong financial position, there will be an increase in the precept to £24,000 this year which reflects the rising costs which the Council have experienced. However, again with the increase in the number of properties in the village this should have no impact on the Parish Council element paid.

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