

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Zöe Godden, Corbins, St Martins Square, GILLINGHAM. SP8 4DP

Tel: 01747 826722

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www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Draft minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held at St Nicholas Church, Henstridge on Monday 8th October 2012.

Present

Councillors: Adam Temperton, Geoff Jarvis, Jim Fitch, Jean Oswick, Paul Brighten, Caroline Rowland, Paul White, Simon Cullum and Sue Place.

District Councillor: William Wallace

Clerk: Zöe Godden

There were 12 members of the public in attendance for the beginning of the meeting

The meeting began at 19:00

1. Apologies and to approve reasons for apology as seen fit.

Apologies had been received from Dave and Carolyn Nichols.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the reasons of absence as reported.

2. Declarations of Interest.

Jean Oswick declared a personal interest in item 8d); Geoff Jarvis declares a personal interest in item 4a).

3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 03.09.12.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes from the meetings held on 03.09.12.

4. To consider the following planning applications:

	Application Number	Proposal	Applicant
a)	12/03476/FUL	Demolition of existing bungalow and the erection of 2 semi-detached houses with parking spaces and vehicular access. AMENDED PLANS RECEIVED 28/08/12 - ADDITIONAL DRAWINGS	Mr R Taylor, High Furlong, Lime Kiln Lane, Henstridge BA8 0RY
<p>The council discussed the application. Concerns were raised regarding the ability of the highway infrastructure to cope with the increased volume of traffic that would be produced by doubling the number of dwellings on the site. It was noted that the area already has problems with speeding vehicles and traffic density due to the narrowness of the surrounding roads and the recent completion of the Woodhayes development.</p> <p>Councillors also pointed out that, having visited the site and examined the plans, there was no doubt that neighbouring properties would suffer a significant loss of privacy and light. Even the use of frosted glass would not prevent overlooking.</p> <p>The meeting was then opened to the public. The council noted public comments, which mirrored the council's previous observations. It was also noted that surrounding roads are well used by pedestrians, especially children, and that there are no pavements. Increased danger to pedestrians was raised as another problem with this development. The meeting was closed to the public.</p> <p>In terms of the proposed properties themselves, it was pointed out that there is not a large enough pathway to the side of the buildings to accommodate a wheelchair, negating the installation of disabled access at the rear.</p> <p><u>RESOLVED:</u> It was proposed and agreed that the parish council strongly recommends refusal of this application on the grounds that it represents over-development of the site, that light and privacy of neighbouring properties will be greatly compromised and that the road infrastructure is inadequate. It is further proposed and</p>			

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agreed that, as parishioners also share these objections, the parish council will send a councillor to speak on behalf of the council and parishioners should this application be considered at an Area East meeting.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Item 7h) be brought forward to this point in the meeting.

h)	20/09/12	John Edney, Chairman, SCC	Invitation to attend the 'Chairman's Award for Services to the Community' presentation evening on 18 October. To decide a councillor to write a 60 word citation on our nominee, Linda Jones; to decide a representative of the council to go with Linda to the presentation evening.
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RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the clerk would write the 60 word citation and attend the award ceremony.

District Councillor William Wallace informed the council that the two grant applications he has made for highways improvements in Henstridge are going through due process. The two grants are for the relocation of a section of the traffic calming scheme at Townsend and to make the area outside the school a 20mph zone.

b)	12/03329/LBC	Partial demolition of boundary wall.	Mr Peter Rosling, Sundial House, Vale Street, Henstridge. BA8 0SQ
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RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the council recommends refusal of this application on the grounds that the wall is very old and is located within the conservation area. Also, previous planning applications have restricted the requirement for highways improvements to within the confines of the site and these improvements should not encroach on the boundary wall in the conservation area.

5. Recent South Somerset District Council Area East decisions

	Application Number	Proposal	Applicant	Current status
a)	12/02607/COL	Application for a lawful development certificate for the existing use of outbuildings for domestic purposes ancillary to the use of the main dwellinghouse	Mr Colin Fisher, Cavokay House, Marsh Lane, Henstridge. BA8 0TQ	Certificate of lawfulness not required
The clerk informed the council that she had made a mistake on the agenda. The correct current status of this application is that a Certificate of Lawfulness has been granted.				
b)	12/02565/FUL	Provision of fourth bedroom in existing roof/storage space including the provision of a new Juliette Balcony	Mr & Mrs Raymond, New House At Cherry Bolberry Farm, Furge Lane, Henstridge	Accepted with conditions
c)	12/02884/FUL	Erection of Parlour/dairy building and creation of collection yard	RCI & L Hunt, Elm Farm, Common Lane, Yenston. BA8 0NB	Accepted with conditions

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d)	12/03141/FUL & 12/03142/LBC	Demolition of rear extension, amalgamation of Westwood with Larksleaze, formation of new windows and internal doorways, removal of modern staircase, modification of internal partitions, erection of an extension comprising changing rooms, swimming pool and garage and the relocation of a driveway.	Mr H DePelet, Westwood and Larksleaze, Bowden, Hesntridge, BA8 0PQ	Accepted with conditions
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6. Matters deferred and arising from previous meetings:

a) To discuss and adopt the new Code of Conduct as advised by SALC.

The matter was discussed. Councillors felt that the requirement to leave the room in the event of a disclosable pecuniary interest (DPI), without the chance to make their representations, was unfair as it meant that councillors would be treated less favourable than a member of the public. The clerk confirmed that this could be addressed by agreeing a dispensation in advance of any meeting where this would be an issue. The clerk confirmed that councillors are not required to register their interests under the new code until after elections in May 2015. The chairman confirmed that SALC have advised that any relevant interests can simply be declared at meetings as necessary. The requirement to declare relevant interests of a councillor's spouse or partner was discussed. Councillors felt that this was an imposition and that it would deter people from wanting to be councillors in the future. There was a general discussion on the flaws and difficulties of adopting the code without knowing all of the legal implications.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the council should adopt the SSDC Code of Conduct; that the new code is reviewed in 2015 to determine if this is the code the council would like to retain.

b) To agree any questions for the chairman to take to the HACC meeting on Wednesday 17 October.

There were no suggestions for questions to put to HACC.

7. Correspondence

a)	04/09/12	Gill Barnwell, SSDC	Licencing Act draft policy. To discuss the draft policy; to agree a councillor to comment on the draft policy.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Adam Temperton would comment on behalf of the council.			
b)	14/09/12	Ken Maddock, Conservative Candidate for Police and Crime Commissioner	Request for councillors to complete a survey. HOWEVER, see advice from SALC below in item 7c).
Noted.			
c)	25/09/12	Peter Lacey, Somerset Association of Local Councils	Advice regarding the letter from Ken Maddock (see above item 7b) requesting councillors complete a questionnaire.

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The clerk informed the council that SALC has advised councillors not to respond to the Ken Maddock survey referred to in item 7b) as the matter is "highly party political". Councillors should respond as individuals but not on behalf of the council or in their role as councillors.			
d)	17/09/12	John Nicholson, Acting Assistant Highway Service Manager, SCC	Response to the various highways issues raised at the last meeting. To decide any further action to be taken.
The clerk was instructed to follow up some of the items in question, namely; blocked drain in Brook Street, condition of verge at Woodhayes Way, overgrown branches outside village hall obscuring the road sign and grass cutting on verges in Marsh Lane. The clerk had received a report regarding an overgrown beech hedge running from the lower end of Vale Street and round into Oak Vale Lane obstructing the road. At the end of Station Gardens, off the A30, fir bushes on the left are obscuring the pavement and the street light is overgrown. People are jumping the lights at the Virginia Ash crossroads.			
e)	17/09/12	Steve Barnes, Young Peoples Officer, SSDC	Request for nominations for the South Somerset Gold Star Awards 2012. To decide if the council wishes to make a nomination.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the clerk should nominate Jane Jeans for her work with the Brownies, Rainbows and in the wider community.			
f)	18/09/12	Bridget Hallett, Henstridge	For the council to note the letter regarding Glebe Field and to decide on a response.
The letter suggests acquisition of the said field to be used for the provision of a community building. It was noted that the land is in a geographically central position but that Furge Lane already has problems with traffic. Use of the land as an extension for the cemetery was suggested. District Councillor William Wallace informed the council that he may be able to access some funds for the village hall and asked the clerk to inform the village hall management committee. RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the clerk should write to the diocese to establish the availability and value of the land, to inform them that the parish council has an interest in acquiring the land for community use.			

William Wallace left the meeting 20:12.

g)	19/09/12	Martin Woods, Assistant Director – Economy, SSDC	Invitation to workshops on the subject of Neighbourhood Plans (various dates); to decide if a representative of the council should attend.
RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Sue Place will attend on behalf of the council. The clerk is to forward details to Sue.			
h)	20/09/12	John Edney, Chairman, SCC	Invitation to attend the 'Chairman's Award for Services to the Community' presentation evening on 18 October. To decide a councillor to write a 60 word citation on our nominee, Linda Jones; to decide a representative of the council to go with Linda to the presentation evening.
See above. Dealt with after item 4a).			
i)	21/09/12	Nigel Rea, Customer and Communities Director, SCC	Invitation to a Local Choices event on 29 November. To decide a councillor to attend.
No councillor will attend. The clerk was instructed to forward the details to Caroline Rowland.			
j)	21/09/12	Vega Sturgess, Strategic Director, Operations and Customer Focus	Invitation to a consultation afternoon on 9 October to develop a South Somerset response to the Somerset Health and Wellbeing Strategy. To inform the council that Sue Place has agreed to attend.

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Noted.			
k)	29/09/12	Sarah Hooper, Senior Road Closure Technician, SCC	To inform the council that the A357 Templecombe Road; High Street, Yenston will be closed between Sally Lovells Lane and Whitechurch Lane for 3 days from 14 November.
Noted. The clerk was instructed to ask highways if they would be repairing the pothole in Templecombe dip at the same time as this road closure.			
l)	03/10/12	Sarah Hooper, Senior Road Closure Technician, SCC	To inform the council that the A357 High Street; Church Hill and Throop Road will be closed between Vine Street and Station Road for 4 days from 5 November.
Noted.			
m)	03/10/12	Donna Parham, Assistant Director of Finance, SSDC	Information regarding a consultation that councillors can complete regarding 'Localising Support for Council Tax'. To agree a councillor to complete the consultation.
The clerk was instructed to reply regarding the short timescale and highlighting this as the reason no councillor could take part in the consultation.			

8. Council Matters

a. To receive a visit/report from a local police representative.

A representative did not attend.

b. To discuss the current status of the Henstridge Parish Plan; to talk about the importance of having a parish plan; to decide on future steps to forward this project.

Original enthusiasm for a parish plan had faded. There was some discussion about issues that may be of importance to the parish now. The clerk went over some methods of gathering the thoughts of the wider community. It was suggested that the plan would need to consider the long-term needs of the parish.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the idea of a parish plan would be put on the agenda for the next annual parish meeting; that councillors would bring questions and ideas to the next council meeting.

c. PROPOSAL FROM CAROLINE ROWLAND: That the council takes steps to bring about the extension of the 30 mph zone from Templecombe lights to the existing zone; to decide on a course of action.

Caroline explained the reasons for her proposal. Traffic speeds are very high in the area. Two houses, owned by Yarlington, do not have driveways so occupiers have to park their cars on the road. The A357 is very busy and quite narrow at this point. There is no pavement and the houses referred to are positioned just after a bend in the road. All of these points together create a danger to road users and are likely to result in an accident soon.

It was noted that driveways had been added to the Yarlington properties but that they had to be removed because proper planning permission was not sought.

It was suggested that residents of the Yarlington houses should take up any traffic problems with the police or PCSO.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the clerk should write to PCSO John Winfield to highlight the problem and ask for advice.

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- d. To discuss any further information received regarding repairs to the village hall; to decide any further action to be taken.**

There had been no further developments to discuss.

- e. To discuss any outstanding highways issues or highways matters which Councillors wish to raise and agree any actions arising.**

See above. Dealt with under item 7d).

Geoff Jarvis and Jim Fitch left the meeting at 20:02.

- f. Playground and Skate Park Inspection reports.**

The clerk reported that she had spoken to Paul White regarding one of the ramp lips which has lifted. He advised contacting Monsterplay to ask them to make the repair as it has been caused by a design flaw.

- g. To receive reports from Representatives (VHMC, HALT, Footpaths, Tree Warden, Other) and provide guidance as appropriate.**

Footpaths – Lots of rain and lack of budget means SCC footpaths are getting overgrown.

Tree Warden – School pupils will be going to the wood to plant bluebells.

The recreation ground and play area were 'Highly Commended' in the Somerset Playing Field Association awards.

The London Plane is not in great shape. To improve its condition, the grass around the base of the tree needs to be mown less closely. Mulching also needs to be carried out around the base of the tree in order to replicate woodland conditions. Andy Strickland has offered to donate the mulch to the council. Volunteers are needed to transport the mulch to the recreation ground and to spread it to a depth of approximately four inches. It is important to look after the tree as it is old and a feature of the recreation ground. Also, felling it would be costly, so it is important to maintain its good health for as long as possible.

The project to replace the 60 meter section of the boundary hedge at the recreation ground that has suffered damage is now at the consultation stage. Mr de Pelet, the landowner, agrees that the hedge needs replacing and is fully supportive of changing the species to native trees. The next step is to write to all direct neighbours to ask their opinion. It is important to consider the long-term implications of the roots damaging neighbouring properties.

9. Finance

- a. To approve the cashbook and bank account reconciliation for September 2012 as presented.**

RESOLVED: The Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for September 2012 as verified by Simon Cullum were approved and signed by the Chair.

- b. To agree and approve transfers of funds between Parish Council accounts as presented.**

There were no transfers to report.

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c. To approve the following accounts for payment and two signatories for cheques:

Information Commission	Data Protection Register Entry Fee	£35.00
Madasafish	Broadband & Internet charge - 24.09.12 to 23.10.12	£43.08
George Edwards	Salary September 2012	[REDACTED]
Terry Pulling	Salary September 2012	[REDACTED]
Zöe Godden	Salary September 2012 and mileage 07/09/12 to 05/10/12 (81 miles at 45p)	[REDACTED]
HMRC	Tax	£18.40
Black Cat Bindary	Binding of parish council minutes	£180.00
CLP Ltd	Stationery	£41.80
GB Sports and Leisure	Bank fee incurred	£7.20
Moore Stephens	External audit fee	£204.00
Simon Cullum	Mileage for Somerset Playingfield Awards (96 miles at 45p)	£43.20
Heartwood Arboricultural Consultants	Tree safety inspection (Large London Plane at recreation ground)	£225.00
Wicksteed	New play equipment - S106 Woodhayes funded	£7,188.00
SSDC	Post installation inspection on new play equipment (required to release S106 Woodhayes funding)	£150.00
Oakland Landscapes	Strimming and rotivating plot 3b (new plots)	£25.00
WS Scrap Metal	Cemetery skip exchange	£652.04
Henstridge Cricket Club	Grass Cutting - First installment	£756.89
Oakland Landscapes	Strimming and rotivating plot 3b (new plots)	£30.00

The cheque values were verified against the invoices presented by Adam Temperton and the invoices signed as a correct match.

RESOLVED: The above accounts were approved for payment and Jean Oswick and Adam Temperton agreed as signatories. The clerk was instructed to research other skip providers as the costs above are not sustainable.

- d. To discuss offering a refund of pitch rental to the football club as they have been unable to use the recreation ground due to the changing rooms being out of action as a result of the fire at the village hall; to agree an amount to refund.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to offer 50% of the pitch rental back to the football club.

- e. To hear quotes for various signs required around the village; to decide which quote to accept.**

The council considered all the quotations.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to accept the quotation from Alpha signs; that the clerk looks into banning dogs in cemetery.

- f. To hear a request for a grant from Victim Support; to decide if the council will donate and how much.**

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to donate £35.

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g. Income

06-Sep-12	C J Memorials	Biss memorial plot B19	£107.07
06-Sep-12	SSDC	Lewis Diffey - residual cash from youth grant	£47.19
24-Sep-12	S Folkes	John Hunt memorial fee J24	£105.44
14-Sep-12	SSDC	S106 funding for new play equipment paid into deposit account	£6,325.00
10-Sep-12	Int 02544609	Interest	£0.74
10-Sep-12	Int 07698809	Interest	£1.34

Noted.

Date of Next meeting – The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Monday 5th November 2012**. All items for inclusion on the agenda and all items to be listed under issues arising from previous meetings must be received by the Clerk by **9.00am on Thursday 25th October.**



**Zöe Godden
Parish Clerk**