

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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The weather has been a focus for us all over the past few weeks.

There have been some awful cases of flooding in the area and the parish council is trying to ensure that essential maintenance work is carried out by Somerset County Council to minimise recurrences.

There is often confusion over which agency should be contacted for which kind of problem. Please read the information inside for guidance.

You will also find a report from the council's tree warden, information on how to keep informed of local issues and the usual meeting dates and council information on the back page.



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TREWARDEN'S REPORT

There are some things in life that everyone has an opinion on, and one of those is trees. Personally I am a fan, but I recognise that the wrong tree in the wrong place can have unfortunate and expensive repercussions: such is the case with regard to the Lleylandii edging the lower part of the park. These trees were planted at a time when their growth habits were not well known; since then they have been legislated on as to height and shade, and the ones in the park are costing you, the taxpayer, some considerable expense in on-going maintenance.. After wide consultation we have decided to take down the first 50 meters, since this part has already caused damage to a boundary wall and was over-shadowing a garden. Once down we are planting a mix of indigenous trees to eventually form a hedge similar to the hedges around the rest of the field. Not only will this help to reduce the cost of maintenance, but it will give everyone a chance to see how an "alternative "hedge can work. The remaining Lleylandii hedge will remain for the time being; despite being expensive to maintain it does help to shield the two or three neighbouring houses from errant footballs and cricket balls.

The grand London Plane in the park has warranted a bit of attention. It is probably 200-300 years old, and beginning to show its age. Accordingly the Council had an expert Arborist examine it; the result was that, with a little TLC, the tree should stay healthy for the foreseeable future. It will require mulching on a regular basis (postponed this month due to rain) and the grass under the canopy should not be cut by heavy machinery or below a height of 1.5 inches. The outline of this superb specimen has also been used as a background to the new signage around the village.

Lastly, on to Ash Dieback. This is very hard to uncover at the moment; it is Autumn, when trees die back, and it is doubtful if the disease has got this far yet, but the Council Tree Officers and local Arborists are keeping a close eye on the situation. If you want to know more, be very doubtful of anything you read in the Press, but do follow www.forestry.gov.uk for updates.

Simon Cullum



REPORTING PROBLEMS

If you have a problem to report, the best way to get results is to contact the correct agency. Don't assume that someone else has reported a problem. They may not have done. Also, the more people that report a problem, the more likely it is that action will be taken. The parish council will help if you are having problems getting the correct agency to take action. Please contact the clerk if we can be of assistance.

Who to contact	Type of problem	Contact details
South Somerset District Council	Dog fouling, Litter, Graffiti, Fly Tipping, Fly Posting, Damaged Bins, Abandoned Vehicles, Street Cleaning	01935 462838 or esgenforcement@southsomerset.gov.uk
Somerset County Council	Road Signs (not street name signs), Potholes, Road Closure information, Flooded Roads, Blocked Drains	0845 345 9155 or roadsandtransportSD@southsomerset.gov.uk
fixmystreet.com	Any of the problems listed above. The website directs your problem to the correct agency.	www.fixmystreet.com

KEEP INFORMED, GET INVOLVED

From time to time we receive calls and emails from parishioners upset or even irate about some event in the village that has upset them, or they have missed.

Everything that is pertinent to the Council and goes on in the village is discussed at the regular Council meetings. These are open to the public, and we welcome your presence.

If you are unable to come to a specific meeting then the minutes are posted on the noticeboard by the "Bird in Hand" and in Yenston; please read them. Agendas and minutes are also available on the parish council's website:

www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk. We also endeavour to display interesting or useful notices and information on the website, including links to other websites.

It is not possible for the council to appraise every household of every event, although there are a few parishioners who always want to know "Why wasn't I told about this?". Information is often included in "Wots On" and the Parish News letter, but, as rate payers, you simply cannot afford the cost of numerous individual mailings to each

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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

MEET THE COUNCIL!

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

Adam Temperton—Chair, HACC and Youth representative
Dave Nichols—Full Council Vice Chair, SALC representative
Simon Cullum—Footpaths representative, Tree Warden
Pete Crocker—Highways representative
Paul Brighten—HALT Representative
Sue Place —Youth Representative
Jean Oswick—VHMC Representative
Carolyn Nichols
Caroline Rowland—Yenston representative
Micky Vincent
Jim Fitch
Geoff Jarvis
Paul White

Administration for the Council is dealt with by the Clerk and Proper officer to the Council, Zöe Godden.

In the first instance all queries should be made to the Clerk.

The District Councillor is William Wallace. The County Councillor is Tim Ingfield.

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 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 applications are considered at the beginning of each meeting 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.

The meeting dates for first quarter of 2013 will be:

MAIN COUNCIL MEETINGS:

Monday 7th January
Monday 4th February
Monday 4th March

INTERIM MEETINGS, ONLY IF NECESSARY

Monday 21st January
Monday 18th February
Monday 18th March