

# HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER (June 2008, Issue No. 17)

## Update on activities

The Parish Council are now at the start of the Council's year, which runs from May. The Annual Parish Council meeting, which is the May meeting, meant the election of representatives, committees and Chair of the Council.

The role of Chair is to be taken once again by Norman Symcox with the vice-chair role to be filled by Mickey Vincent. The Planning Committee, on which all Councillors serve, will be chaired by Mickey Vincent with Adam Temperton as Vice Chair, and the Finance Committee will be made up of Paul Brighten, Jean Oswick, Malcolm Stobart, Norman Symcox, Adam Temperton and Mickey Vincent

The Council have also elected the following representatives for the year:

<b>Henstridge Airfield Consultative Committee</b>	Norman Symcox
<b>Youth Representative</b>	Mickey Vincent
<b>Village Hall Management Committee</b>	Malcolm Stobart
	Jean Oswick
<b>Somerset Association of Local Councils</b>	Malcolm Stobart
<b>Yenston Representative</b>	Mickey Vincent
<b>Highways/Drains Representatives</b>	Adam Temperton
	Peter Crocker
<b>Footpaths Representative</b>	Adam Temperton
<b>HALT</b>	Paul Brighten

You may notice that two of these roles are newly introduced this year, those of the Footpaths representative and the representative to HALT, as these were felt to be issues which were of ongoing concern to the village. Any of these Councillors will be pleased to receive information with relevance to these matters. In fact all Council members are always pleased to hear views from members of the public in relation to any matters that concern the village. However, please remember that as a Councillor, the individual is a part of a corporate body and they are not able give any kind of decision or even to express an opinion on behalf of the Council unless they have been expressly instructed to do so. Therefore, if you are advised to contact the Clerk then please do not feel that your concern has not been addressed, but do please contact the Clerk as this is the quickest and most effective way of ensuring that your concern is dealt with.

The Parish Council have recently been approached by Wessex Water with regard to the possibility of siting a water booster in the recreation ground car park which should hopefully address some of the difficulties with water pressure at the lower end of the village. Although the recreation ground is owned by the Parish Council, covenants on the land mean that permission has to be sought from the Inwood Estate prior to any development and the Council are grateful that such permission has been granted to allow this work which will be so beneficial to the village to go ahead.



## Mini motorbikes and quad bikes

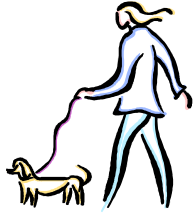
The Parish Council would like to issue a reminder that the **Ash Walk recreation ground and Pip's playground at Furge Lane**, are both Council owned land and **are not for use by any unauthorised motor vehicles.**

Use of the land in this way is not only dangerous to the appropriate users of the recreation grounds but is also antisocial in relation to the damage caused to the land and the noise and fumes created. The Parish Council are keen to liaise with the Police over this matter and will support the Police in any action that they are able to take against the perpetrators. However, in order for any action to be taken the police need to be advised directly at the time when the problem is occurring or they need people to be prepared to give statements in order that the matter can be pursued. The Parish Council welcome any support that members of the public are able to provide in relation to this. Please contact the police on **08454567000**



The Annual meeting for the Parish of Henstridge was held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. Although attendance was lower than in previous years with only 15 members of the public, it was a positive evening that allowed people to come together and celebrate activities that are going on and to discuss matters which affect the Parish, and those present heard reports from the Parish Council, PCC, St Nicholas Singers, Cricket Club, Football Club, Sports Club, Village Hall Management Committee, Loose Ends, Womens Fellowship, Brownies, WI, Cameo Club, St Nicholas Primary School, HALT and the Blackmore Vale Lions. We also heard information about the forthcoming open gardens on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July.

As well as the reports, there is also an open forum session in which comments on Village issues can be put forward. This years issues were a request for more trees within the village and concerns over the problems of dog fouling, particularly in the recreation ground.



## **DOG FOULING**

You may recall that the issue of dog fouling had been raised at the Annual Parish meeting in 2005 and subsequent to this the Parish Council asked the question of whether dogs should be banned in the recreation ground. At that time 32 responses were received with an almost even split, and the decision was taken to provide an additional dog

bin and review the situation in due course. It would now appear that such a review is necessary.

It is unfortunate that it would appear that a small minority of dog owners are letting the side down by acting irresponsibly for as well as being anti-social, the health hazards associated with dog faeces are well known. As well as the obvious risk to people taking part in organised and informal sport, young children regularly play in all areas of the recreation ground. Serious symptoms can develop from infections, that result in vomiting, fever and even blindness.

As the owners of the Recreation ground the Parish Council could be held liable for serious medical conditions caused by the condition of the playing field. The National Playing field association now strongly recommend that domestic animals are prohibited from all playing fields and they advocate that sports areas are actually fenced off to prevent animals fouling. While the Parish Council would be reluctant to resort to such draconian measures as banning dogs and fencing off large areas of the recreation ground, if the current state of affairs continues we will be left with little choice, as we have a responsibility to all of the community who use the recreation ground to be able to do so safely and we are frankly unwilling to run the risk of having to provide a substantial compensation to any person who develops a serious illness due to the current situation being encountered.

Dog fouling is notoriously difficult to police and although the Dog Fouling patrols do their best there is a strong likelihood that the majority will end up suffering for the failings of the minority. We would ask all dog owners to please give due consideration to other users of the rec and use the dog bins that are provided and we would encourage those of you who are responsible pet owners to be vigilant and support us by encouraging other dog owners to behave appropriately or identify them to us in order that we can do so!

## **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 so that you can put forward your views, 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

The Planning Committee would like to remind the village that all planning meetings (held twice monthly) are open to the public, and that public opinion on planning applications is always welcomed by the Parish Council, either at the meetings or in writing. For your information, copies of meeting Agendas are posted the previous week on the Parish Council's Henstridge & Yenston notice boards.

<b>Parish Council Contact details</b>					
<b>Westcombe House, 48, Bowden Road, Templecombe, Somerset, BA8 0LF. Tel: 01963 370388</b>					
<b>Norman Symcox</b> Chairman	Bazeland Hill Farm, Shaftesbury Road	362438	<b>Rachel Walker</b> Parish Clerk Contact for general issues around the Parish <a href="mailto:clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk">clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk</a>		
<b>Michael Vincent</b> Vice Chair, Finance/ Planning Chair	Manor Farm, Yenston	370370	<b>Tracey Watson</b> Planning Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer Contact for planning or finance issues <a href="mailto:planning@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk">planning@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk</a>		
			<b>James Fitch</b>	Fulmar, Marsh Lane, BA8 0TG	364766
<b>Adam Temperton</b> (Planning Vice)	Ashbourne House, Marsh Lane, BA8 0TG	364766	<b>Geoff Jarvis</b>	The Bungalow, Seafire Works, BA8 0TN	363561
<b>Paul Brighten</b>	Kaos, Town's End	362602	<b>David Nichols</b>	Marsh Farm, Camp Road, BA8 0TH	363123
<b>Peter Crocker</b>	36 Ash Walk	363819	<b>Malcolm Stobart</b>	16, Park Road	363281
<b>James Day</b>	6 Station Road, Templecombe, BA8 0JR	364432	<b>Jean Oswick</b>	Greys Cottage, Townsend, BA8 0RQ	363380
<b>Chris Everill</b>	Airfield House, Hen. Airfield, BA8 0TN	363009	<b>Paul White,</b>	The Old Cinema, Marsh Lane, BA8 0TN	0777207 0777