

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

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*I wandered lonely as a cloud, That floats on high
o'er vales and hills, When all at once I saw a
crowd, A host, of golden daffodils; Beside the
lake, beneath the trees, Fluttering and dancing in
the breeze. (From Daffodils, by William Words-
worth)*

WHAT'S NEW?

It was with great sadness that the Parish Council said "Goodbye" to Rachel Walker and Fiona Parrott, the Clerk and Assistant Clerk, at the beginning of February.

After many years of wonderful service to the Parish, they will be missed.

The new Clerk, Zöe Godden, is now in post, and will continue to work from the office at Ashbourne House in Marsh Lane.

Her usual attendance at the office will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday

mornings, but please call in advance for an appointment in case there has been a need to change these times.

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

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DISTRICT AND PARISH ELECTIONS THURSDAY 5TH MAY 2011

Every four years people are elected to serve on one of the 121 town or parish councils within South Somerset. The parish or town council has an overall responsibility for the well-being of the local community. Parish and town councillors are local people like you who have an active interest in their community and a concern for it. They are elected by their community to represent them on the council. Every community needs people like you who are willing to be the voice of the community, to represent the users of local services and to decide how local resources should be spent. People from all walks of life and backgrounds, with different ideas and beliefs are needed to really represent their communities.

Could I be a parish or town councillor?

As a councillor you can become a real voice for your community and help affect real change. Councillors are community leaders and represent the aspirations of the public that they serve. Parish and town councils are the most local part of our democratic system and are closest to the public. Why don't **you** stand for your local parish or town council and **see what difference you can make?**

How do they make decisions?

Your parish or town council is made up of a number of councillors who meet regularly to make collective decisions on the work and direction of the council. As elected bodies parish and town councils are responsible to the people they represent – that's your local community.

Where do they get their money from?

Each year a sum of money called a 'precept' is collected through your council tax. This money is used by the parish or town council to improve facilities and services for local people. Parish or town councils can also apply for grants and loans and, if they own property can receive money from rents and leases.

How are parish or town councillors elected?

Parish or town councillors are elected to represent a geographical area known as a ward or – mainly in smaller parishes – the parish or town area as a whole. They are elected by the people who live in the area.

For more information contact:

- Democratic Services, South Somerset District Council, The Council Offices, Brympton Way, Yeovil BA20 2HT. Tel: 01935 462462
- e-mail democracy@southsomerset.gov.uk
- www.southsomerset.gov.uk
- Henstridge Parish Council—contact details on the back of this newsletter

SKATE PARK UPDATE

Henstridge Youth Facilities has been successful in raising funds for the Skate Park Youth Zone. Work on site will start near the beginning of March. The major work should be completed by the end of March. The project's construction development is weather dependant, so there may be some variables with the dates. During this time heavy vehicles will need to access the site via the Recreation Grounds main gate, this might cause some disruption to parking and access to the recreation

grounds. We hope that you will be patient during this process as the end result should give enjoyment for years to come.

Henstridge Youth Facilities plan to hold an opening ceremony in April/May and notification of the event will be advertised around the village closer to the time.



OUT AND ABOUT

John Winfield is our **Police Community Support Officer**. He would like to draw our attention to the following:

- Parking at St Nicholas School— Please remember to park with consideration for residents, pedestrians and other road users. Do not park on the zig-zags or too close to the junction.
- High Street pavement—Take care when driving along the section of Henstridge High Street where there is no pavement as pedestrians need to walk on the road at this point.

Our **Parish Environmental Warden** is called **Lynette Osment**. She is the person to contact at SSDC for the following:

Dog fouling, Litter, Graffiti, Fly Tipping, Fly Posting, Damaged Bins, Abandoned Vehicles

You can contact her on 01935 462838 or esgenforcement@southsomerset.gov.uk.

Alternatively, you can report these issues online at: <http://www.southsomerset.gov.uk/environment/streets-and-open-spaces/streetscene>

HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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WE'RE ON THE WEB!
www.henstridgeparish
council.org.uk

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 Oswald—VHMC Representative
Caroline Rowland
Paul White

Administration for the Council is dealt with by the Clerk and Proper officer, currently, Zöe Godden. In the first instance all queries should be made to the Clerk. The District Councillors are Tim Ingfield and William Wallace, who is also the County Councillor.

The meeting dates for the second quarter of 2011 will be:

FULL COUNCIL:

Monday 11th April 2011

Monday 9th May 2011

Monday 6th June 2011

PLANNING

As above, plus Monday 25th April 2011

Monday 23rd May 2011 (also Annual Parish meeting)

Monday 20th June 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.