

## Chairman's report to Annual Parish Meeting –18<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Welcome to the Henstridge Annual Parish Meeting. I am Norman Symcox and was once again elected to serve as Chairman for the year.

### **Parish Council**

The council remains unchanged from last year. Council representation on other bodies includes myself on the Henstridge Airfield Consultative Committee; Mr Stobart is our representative to SALC and VHMC representative, a role shared with Jean Oswick. Michael Vincent is our Youth representative as well as the representative for Yenston. Adam Temperton is our footpaths representative with Peter Crocker. Paul Brighten is the HALT representative.

The Parish Council continues to strive to improve the amenities of the Village where it is within our remit. To this end, we have funded the planning application for the proposed new Village Hall and in addition have authorised further remedial work at the Ash Walk play area and sent out instructions for the installation of a new seesaw.

I am pleased to be able to report that permission has been granted by SSDC to extend the allotments and that we are currently seeking quotations for the work. I am aware that access to the allotments is an ongoing problem and our clerk is pursuing South Somerset Homes on a weekly basis.

In September the Council sponsored the Big Tidy Up which resulted in the collection of no less than 17 bags of rubbish.

The Parish Council website ([www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk](http://www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk)) continues to be developed. All documents relating to the model publications scheme as defined by the Freedom of Information Act are now on the website and we have recently moved the hosting of the site to give us more space in order to get a gallery of photos published. Please look at the site. We would be grateful for constructive comments and suggestions.

### **Finance**

The financial regulation of the Parish Council is the responsibility of the Finance Committee which is responsible for recommending to the Council what the precept should be and for ensuring that there is an adequate and effective system of internal control and making an annual statement of assurance confirming that such systems are in place.

I am pleased to say that ongoing good housekeeping has enabled us maintain the precept at £20,000. The precept as you are aware is to meet the running costs of the Parish including Insurance, maintenance of the Council Burial ground and recreation areas, machinery, salaries and administration.

It should be noted that the Council have set aside £500 in the 2009/10 budget for donations to local organisations/clubs. During 08/09 the Parish Council have been glad to offer assistance from this fund to the PCC for the production of the WOTS on.

## **Planning**

Planning matters are dealt with by the Planning Committee which meets every two weeks. The committee this year will once again comprise the whole of the Council.

Last year the Committee made recommendations on 46 planning applications, the largest development being Woodhayes Phase 2. Members made representation regarding the traffic routing scheme to change priority at the Woodhayes Furge Lane junction and to make the road from the High Street to the junction one way, entry only from the High Street.

It is the requirement of planning laws for the local Planning authority to consult with Parish Councils. The majority of planning applications for the Parish are dealt with by South Somerset District Council.

It is not the role of this Parish Council to determine any application, however at the meeting the job of the Planning Committee is to agree on what the response should be given to the Planning authority, from a local point of view and to highlight the most important local issues surrounding a particular planning matter. In common with full Council meetings all planning meetings are open to the public and public opinion on planning applications is always welcomed by the Parish Council either at the meeting or in writing. For your information, copies of meeting agendas are posted on the Parish Council's Henstridge and Yenston notice boards and on the Parish Council website.

Finally I would like to thank Adam Temperton for providing the refreshments and particularly our two clerks Rachel and Tracey without whom I don't think the council could function.

Thank you