



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of Henstridge Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee meeting on Wednesday 24th March at 7.30pm via Zoom Conference Call Facilities

Present: Carolyn Nichols (Chair), David Nichols, Ken Courtenay, Barry Howlett, John Graham, Simon Cullum and Adrian Gaymer

Clerk: Emma Curtis

There were no members of the public in attendance.

1. Apologies for Absence

None received

2. Declarations of Interest:

None received

3. Minutes: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 27th January 2021 to be signed by the Chair at a later date:

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes as presented and for the Chair to sign at a later date.

Carolyn Nichols suggested that the Committee suspend Standing Orders and moved agenda items 7 and 13 to the top of the agenda so that Simon Cullum and Adrian Gaymer could depart the meeting. This was agreed by all.

4. SID: To consider quotations received and involvement of Charlton Horethorne Parish Council: The Clerk referred members to the quotations received and the spreadsheets with data and pricing information circulated prior to the meeting. All devices had been thoroughly analysed over the previous weeks. It was proposed and **RESOLVED** to proceed with the purchase of the Evolis model pending confirmation from Somerset Highways. The Committee **RESOLVED** to include Charlton Horethorne in the scheme and the Clerk was requested to make further contact with them as to their requirements.

Adrian Gaymer departed the meeting at this point.

5. Leylandii Hedge: To consider removal and replacement and email received from neighbouring residents: The Clerk confirmed she had heard back from Inwood Estates regarding the recreation ground conveyancing document and they had confirmed they were happy for the Parish Council to proceed with the removal and replacement of the hedge. The Clerk stated she had received a letter of concern from a neighbouring resident. Content of the email was considered and Simon Cullum agreed to draft a letter of response to the resident. Improvements to the area such as biodiversity and environment were considered and it was **RESOLVED** to proceed to seek tenders for the removal of the current hedge and replace with more appropriate hedging.

Simon Cullum departed the meeting at this point.

- 6. Allotments: To receive a report from the Parish Council allotments representative:** Barry Howlett stated there wasn't much to report but that the new tenancy agreement, renewals and invoices had been circulated by the Clerk. Barry commented that a few plots still hadn't been touched for some time despite letters from the Clerk. The Clerk reported she would send out eviction letters upon receipt of plot numbers. The Clerk stated she had chased up SSDC for some fruit trees and that the installation and planting of raised beds would commence shortly.
- 7. Cemetery: To receive an update on transfer of the closed churchyard and approve agreement of transfer with SSDC, consider replacement of dog fouling signs and discuss request to buy back burial plot:** Committee considered the content of the formal agreement of transfer from SSDC and **RESOLVED** for the Clerk to sign the agreement on behalf of the Council for the transfer to proceed. Committee noted that the new signs at the cemetery has been vandalised and removed and it agreed to gain quotes for new more robust signage. To concluded Committee considered a request to buy back a burial plot. It was **RESOLVED** to buy back the plot and for the Clerk to issue a refund.
- 8. Play Area: To receive play area updates, progress on new play area and fencing and consider grant funding applications:** The Clerk confirmed that a response to the Viridor grant application was imminent and that she had submitted another grant application to SSDC and completed the documents to draw down the s106 funding earmarked for the site.
- 9. Works Schedule: To consider proposed work schedule for the Ranger and Handymen:** Carolyn Nichols referred members to the draft schedule circulated prior to the meeting. It was confirmed that the Clerk and Carolyn would meet to discuss in further detail and report back at the next meeting.
- 10. Furze Lane Field: To receive any updates on the field and consider response from solicitor:** Members noted the response from Cooper and Tanner stating that the field is likely still designated as allotment land. It was **RESOVLED** to proceed with the process to reclassify the land as allotments via the Secretary of State. The Clerk reported that Life for Life Memorial Forests had conducted an analysis of the site confirming that it would be suitable as a memorial forest.
- 11. South West in Bloom: To consider this year's entry into South West in Bloom:** It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with entry into South West in Bloom and to form a Working Party.
- 12. Highways: To consider emails received from Somerset Highways regarding entrance to Camp Road, Christmas Tree and light of War Memorial:** It was **RESOLVED** to proceed with submitting the forms to Highways to gain possible consent for a Christmas Tree and lights at the War Memorial. It was agreed to add a possible flagpole to the application.
- 13. Trees: To consider tree planning in the parish:** The Clerk stated she was yet to speak with Phil Poulton from SSDC but would continue trying. Carolyn Nichols suggested planting of the trees already in possession proceeds within the parish, this was agreed by all.
- 14: To receive reports from the Clerk on: Allotments, Recreation Ground, Burial Ground, Fly Tipping, Highways issues and grit bins:** The Clerk stated she was in possession of a new ground cap for one of the football post holes at the recreation ground which would soon be fitted. Barry Howlett reported some fly tipping along Landshire Lane which the Clerk confirmed she would report.

15: Date of the next meeting: It was agreed that unless any urgent items arise the next meeting would be held on **Wednesday 23rd June at 7:00pm at the Village Hall.**

The meeting closed at 8:30pm.



Emma Curtis
Parish Clerk

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