

# HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

**Clerk:** Zöe Godden, Elvyns, Wavering Lane East, GILLINGHAM. SP8 4NX

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## Approved minutes of a meeting of Henstridge Parish Council held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018

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**Present:** David Nichols (Chair), Ken Courtenay, Peter Crocker, Simon Cullum, Dennis Finch, John Graham, Carolyn Nichols, Jean Oswick, Barry Paginton, Bruce Pike and Michael Player.

**Also present:** District Councillor Hayward Burt, Volunteer Dog and Environmental Warden Linda Jones, District and County Councillor William Wallace and Jan Wardell (White Hart Link)

**Clerk:** Zöe Godden

There were no members of the public present at the start of the meeting.

### **The Public Open Session started at 19:31.**

Jan Wardell introduced the White Hart Link's (WHL) new Business Plan and reported that WHL was looking to make the Stalbridge to Gillingham section more prominent to walkers. It was possible that an information board might be installed at the end of Blackmoor Lane near the restricted byway but funding would need to be obtained. WHL was going to approach Blackmoor Vale Lions Club for funding. Jan said that WHL was looking for any local history groups to contribute to the information for the board. In addition, some direction markers would be put up. The next section of the WHL to be opened would be between Gillingham and Shaftesbury.

The Clerk was instructed to forward the Parish Council's grant application form to Jan Wardell and to provide her with contact details of the local history group.

**Action 180305/1: Parish Clerk**

John Graham said he would introduce Jan Wardell to Steve Burrows, who was familiar with local walks.

**Action 180305/2: John Graham**

**19:37** – Jan Wardell left the meeting.

### **The meeting started 19:37.**

#### **1. Apologies for absence.**

Apologies had been received from Howard Bentley-Marchant, Sue Place and PCSO John Winfield.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed to approve the reasons for absence as reported.

#### **2. Declarations of interest.**

Carolyn Nichols and David Nichols declared disclosable pecuniary interests in item 10i) because David had provided a quote for interior lighting work at the Village Hall.

Peter Crocker declared a personal interest in item 5b.

#### **3. To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on 05/02/18.**

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes as presented.

#### 4. Reports

a) To receive a report from Linda Jones, Volunteer Dog and Environmental Warden  
Linda Jones reported that she had visited the South Somerset District Council (SSDC) office in Yeovil to request that dog bins were emptied more frequently. Linda had noticed that someone had been leaving carrier bags full of dog waste at the dog waste bin at the Playfield Close entrance to the Recreation Ground. Linda said she was trying to find out who might be doing this.

There was a continuing problem of beer cans being left in and around Furge Grove. SSDC had been informed and had put up warning notices.

Linda had dealt with two instances of dog-on-dog biting and resolved the issues. Linda had also been checking the Recreation Ground for dog fouling on days when Stalbridge Youth Football Club used the pitches.

In relation to recent problems with the drains in Furge Lane, Linda reported that County Highways had informed her that a grill would be fitted at the problem area to prevent future blockages.

Linda had contacted Fox Grant to ask them to remove their notice from the post near the Virginia Ash. She had been assured that it would be removed within a week.

Finally, Linda had noticed that bags of dog waste were being left around the Recreation Ground but had addressed this with the dog walker concerned.

Members thanked Linda for her continued support and hard work.

19:45 - Linda Jones left the meeting

b) To receive any Police matters.

No new issues had been reported.

c) To receive County and District Councillor reports.

**District Councillor Hayward Burt** reported that SSDC was running a Housing Fair on 8<sup>th</sup> March at Westlands Leisure Complex, which would be attended by property developers, housing associations and other organisations in order to offer guidance and advice to people looking for housing. Hayward also informed members that a free Tourism Literature Exchange was being held on 20<sup>th</sup> March at Westlands Entertainment Venue, providing tourism businesses the opportunity to obtain new leaflets on visitor attractions and facilities. Finally, Hayward reported that SSDC had set its budget for 2018-2019 and that, as a result, Council Tax bills would go up by 3%. The main reason for this rise was the reduction in grants from central government.

**County and District Councillor William Wallace** reported that a seven point improvement programme for Somerset Children's Services had been updated in line with Ofsted recommendations. William also reported that 97.5% of pupils had been offered secondary school places at one of their first three choices, while 93.5% had been offered their first choice. At the recent full meeting of Somerset County Council (SCC), it had been agreed to begin work towards withdrawing single-use plastics at all SCC sites. William informed members that guidance on reducing plastic waste was available from Somerset Waste Partnership. Finally, William reported that planning application 17/02712/FUL had been refused at a recent Area East meeting.

There was some discussion about the types of plastic that could be recycled via roadside collections and the level of waste collected in Somerset that was incinerated.

#### 5. To consider the following planning application:

	Application number	Proposal	Applicant details
a)	18/00224/FUL	Formation of glazed canopy on rear elevation	Mr & Mrs I Tribe, The Crossing House, Common Lane, Yenston. BA8 0NB

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council supported this application.**

b)	18/00249/FUL	The erection of a front boundary wall.	Mr John Watson, Combedene, Shaftesbury Road, Henstridge. BA8 0PR
<b>RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council supported this application.</b>			

**6. Recent SSDC Area East planning decisions:**

	Application number	Proposal	Applicant details	Current status
a)	17/02712/FUL - amended plans	The erection of 3 No. dwellings along with associated access and parking - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RELATION TO HIGHWAY, ALTERATIONS TO PROPOSED PARKING AREA, ALTERATIONS TO DESIGN AND POSITION OF PROPOSED ACCESS, RESULTS OF TRAFFIC SURVEY	Mr Paul Kellaway-Moore, 52 Ash Walk, Henstridge. BA8 0QA	Refused

**Noted.** Simon Cullum informed members that he, Howard Bentley-Marchant and Michael Player had attended the Area East meeting where this application was considered. Simon thanked Hayward Burt and William Wallace for their support at that meeting.

**7. Matters deferred and arising from previous meetings:**

- a) To consider a response to the Local Government Boundary Commission's ward review.

There was a general feeling that Henstridge had more affinity with the other parishes in the current Blackmoor Vale ward than with Milborne Port. Hayward Burt said that there were three criteria that had to be satisfied when offering alternatives to the Local Government Boundary Commission's (LGBC) proposals. These were: delivering electoral equality for local voters; reflecting the interests and identities of local communities; and promoting effective and convenient local government and reflecting electoral cycles. Hayward said that all of these could be achieved by leaving both Blackmoor Vale and Milborne Port wards as they were at present. William Wallace pointed out that the current Blackmoor Vale ward and the proposed Milborne Port ward were both covered by two district councillors.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council wanted to remain in the current Blackmoor Vale ward and that the Clerk should respond to the consultation showing how the three criteria detailed above could be met without any changes. The Clerk is instructed to forward the report to all members for comment before submission to the LGBC.**

**Eight votes for; two abstentions.**

**Action 180305/3: Parish Clerk**

- b) To hear feedback from a meeting with Stalbridge Town Council concerning the impact of future development on local highways. (DN)

David Nichols reported that he and Carolyn Nichols had met with three Councillors from Stalbridge Town Council with discussions focussing primarily on HGVs. They discussed a possible bypass around Stalbridge and Henstridge that would require the construction of approximately 1.5 miles of new road. Stalbridge Town Council would discuss this matter at their next meeting with a view to forming a joint working party with Henstridge Parish Council. David said government funding had been made available for road improvement schemes in other areas of Dorset.

Ken Courtenay noted that most of the new road would be in Dorset and asked if the route of the possible bypass was close to any of the new housing developments in Stalbridge. David said that the bypass would benefit Stalbridge as well as Henstridge and confirmed that the route of the possible bypass ran along the boundary of one of the developments.

Hayward Burt advised contacting both MPs at the early stages of discussions to ask for their support.

**Action 190305/4: David Nichols**

## 8. Correspondence

a)	07/02/18	SCC	To note receipt of the results of the recent SID installed on the A30 and agree any further action to be taken.
<p>The Clerk said that she had sent the results to PCSO Winfield and asked for the Speed Enforcement team to attend.</p> <p>Michael Player informed members that he would be attending a Speed Indicator Device (SID) briefing on 14<sup>th</sup> March and noted that SID data had been used as evidence in objecting to recent planning applications. Michael went on to say that Avon and Somerset Police had recently employed six additional staff to operate motorcycle speed enforcement cameras. The Police were aware of the speeding problems on the A30 and A357 and positive action was being taken.</p>			
b)	09/02/18	Highways England	Invitation to comment on the proposed A303 Sparkford to Ilchester Dualling Scheme.
<p><b>RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council strongly supported the proposed improvements.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action 180305/5: Parish Clerk</b></p>			
c)	09/02/18	Highways England	Invitation to comment on proposals to improve the A358 between the M5 at Taunton and Southfields Roundabout on the A303 near Ilminster.
<p><b>RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council strongly supported the proposed improvements.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action 180305/6: Parish Clerk</b></p>			
d)	22/02/18	SCC	To note receipt of a road closure notice – Whitechurch Lane from 239m north of the junction with Shaftesbury Road (A30), northwards for a distance of 45 metres from 14 March for 3 days.
<p><b>Noted.</b></p>			
e)	23/02/18	SALC	Invitation to comment on proposals from DEFRA to tackle crime and poor performance in the waste sector, including fly-tipping.
<p>Members <b>agreed</b> that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better publicity was needed to make householders aware of their responsibilities.</li> <li>• Imposing fixed penalty notices (FPN) rather than requiring court proceedings would encourage Local Authorities to take more action and should lead to a reduction in fly-tipping.</li> <li>• Vulnerable people may be disadvantaged if they were not aware of their responsibilities but an appeal process could protect them.</li> <li>• Charges at waste recycling centres were a disincentive and could result in more fly-tipping.</li> </ul> <p><b>RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Dennis Finch would respond to the consultation on behalf of the Parish Council, taking into account the comments above.</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action 180305/7: Dennis Finch</b></p>			

## 9. Council Matters

- a) **PROPOSAL** from Howard Bentley-Marchant – that the Parish Council notes and supports the increase to the policing part of the council tax bill for 2018-19 as this will ensure that Neighbourhood Police teams are funded for the coming year.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed that the Parish Council was in favour of the increase in the Police part of the council tax bill.**

- b) To hear an update on the sale of Common Lane Field.  
The Clerk reported that she had not heard from the solicitor since the last meeting, despite emailing her.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Clerk should write to the solicitor asking for a timetable for the completion of the sale of the field, to be supplied by 15<sup>th</sup> March, and to inform the solicitor that, should the timetable not be supplied, the conveyance work would be handed to another solicitor. The Clerk was further instructed to seek advice from the Law Society.**

**Action 180305/8: Parish Clerk**

- c) To note that the planned meeting with the Diocese of Bath and Wells in relation to the future of the Glebe Field has had to be moved to 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**Noted.**

- d) To consider how to publicise the Housing Needs Survey to maximise the number of surveys returned.

**20:40** – William Wallace left the meeting.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk should produce flyers and ask the School to put these into pupils' book bags. The Clerk was also instructed to take flyers to Loose Ends and to put up posters in the Parish Council notice boards, the two pubs and the village shop. The Clerk was further instructed to write a letter for inclusion in the Blackmoor Vale Magazine's letters page. In addition, the Clerk was instructed to publicise the survey on the Parish Council website.

**Action 180305/9: Parish Clerk**

It was **agreed** that Dennis Finch would publicise the Housing Needs Survey on the Nextdoor website.

**Action 180305/10: Dennis Finch**

The Clerk was instructed to organise an event in the Village Hall to promote the Housing Needs Survey and provide any help required by residents in completing the survey. Simon Cullum and Jean Oswick offered to help run the event.

**Action 180305/11: Parish Clerk, Simon Cullum & Jean Oswick**

- e) To hear feedback from a briefing on the future of the Speed Indicator Device Scheme.

This event had been rescheduled for 14<sup>th</sup> March due to the recent bad weather.

- f) **OPEN SPACES** – To consider allowing the Explorers Pre-School to use the Recreation Ground for an Easter event on Friday 30 March from 2 to 4 pm.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to allow Explorers Pre-school to use the Recreation Ground for their event. The Clerk was instructed to ensure that a copy of the Pre-school's public liability insurance was obtained.**

**Action 180305/12: Parish Clerk**

Peter Crocker informed members that there were some gaps in the boundary hedge at the Recreation Ground. Simon Cullum notified members that this matter had been discussed at the Open Spaces Committee meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February and it had been agreed to monitor the situation.

Peter went on to report that a fence at the top of the Recreation Ground had been damaged. The Clerk was instructed to find out if the fence was the responsibility of the Parish Council or the adjacent landowner.

**Action 180305/13: Parish Clerk**

Ken Courtenay reported that he had recently witnessed someone riding a motorcycle on the Recreation Ground. Ken had asked the person to remove the motorcycle from the Recreation Ground and the rider had become verbally abusive. Soon after, other members of the public, thought to be from the same family as the rider, had also verbally abused Ken. The matter had been reported to the Police.

The Clerk was instructed to refer this matter to the Open Spaces Committee and to ask the Committee to consider erecting signs at both entrances to the Recreation Ground to inform members of the public that motor vehicles were no allowed.

**Action 180305/14: Parish Clerk**

- g) To discuss any outstanding highways issues or highways matters which councillors wish to raise and agree any actions arising.

The Clerk was instructed to report a pot hole in the road outside 12 Ash Walk.

**Action 180305/15: Parish Clerk**

The Clerk was further instructed to follow up on action point 180205/15 regarding water on the road and works in a field on Stalbridge Road.

**Action 180305/16: Parish Clerk**

h) To hear any matters arising from playground, skate park and gym inspection reports. There were no matters arising.

- i) To receive reports from representatives (VHMC, Footpaths, Tree Warden, CSW, Other) and provide guidance as appropriate

**VHMC** – David Nichols reported that the Committee was progressing with the installation of a suspended ceiling and new lighting. An internal painting day had been arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> March. In the main hall, roof insulation would be installed at the same time as the suspended ceiling. Insulation above the kitchen, lavatories and stage area had already been installed.

#### 10. Finance

- a) To approve the cashbook and bank account reconciliation for February 2018 as presented.

**RESOLVED: The Cash Book and Bank Reconciliation for February 2018, as verified by Dennis Finch, was approved and signed by the Chair.**

b) To discuss the recent renovation of a bench at the Recreation Ground, which requires retrospective approval due to miscommunication of instructions. (SC) Simon Cullum explained that Open Spaces Committee had been approached by a resident, Mr Frost, to ask for permission to have one of the benches in the Recreation Ground restored in memory of his late wife. Permission had been granted and the Committee had asked the contractor to quote for restoring the second bench. The contractor had proceeded to restore the second bench at the same time as the first, although the quote had not been considered by the Open Spaces Committee. The work to the bench had been completed to a very high standard. The Clerk had found prices for the timber used and reported that the cost of the wood supplied to the lowest she could find.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and unanimously agreed to approve the payment, as requested.**

The Clerk was instructed to write to Mr Frost, thanking him for restoring the first bench.

**Action 180305/17: Parish Clerk**

- c) To note that Livedrive back up has been purchased for the Clerk's laptop with permission from David Nichols and in line with Financial Regulation 4.1.

**Noted.**

- d) To approve the following accounts for payment and two signatories for cheques:-

Minute ref	Supplier/Contractor	Narrative	Amount
	Staff	Salaries February 2018	£1,053.10
	Staff	Salary Feb 2018	£41.15
	Staff	Expenses February 2018	£122.44
	Milborne Port Computers	General support (email problems)	£30.00
	Milborne Port Computers	LiveDrive Unlimited backup (annual)	£48.00
	Screwfix	Chain and padlock for allotment pedestrian gate	£35.98

OS 11) 19/02/18	The Helping Hand Company	Bag hoops for litter picking	£91.20
	FPL Building Services Ltd	Supply & fit replacement boards to bench at Recreation Ground	£444.60
OS 7a) 14/12/18 & OS 10a) 14/12/18	Ian Davies	Removal of lime tree from cemetery & height reduction to conifer hedge at recreation ground	£2,040.00
	HMRC	Income tax & NICs February 2018	£209.70

All the cheque values were verified against the invoices presented by Michael Player, and the invoices signed as a correct match.

**RESOLVED: The above accounts were approved for payment and David Nichols and Jean Oswick agreed as signatories.**

- e) To consider an amended earmarked reserves sheet, taking into account agreed contributions towards a Village Agent and white gates.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the revised earmarked reserves sheet as presented.**

- f) To consider hosting the next Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting in October 2018 and covering the cost of hiring the village hall.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council would be willing to host the future PACT event and to cover the hall hire costs.**

- g) To note receipt of the agreed Community Benefit Payment of £20,000 from Bowden Solar Park.

**Noted.** It was **agreed** that the sum would be earmarked against a specific project of projects at the next meeting.

- h) To consider a grant request from Explorers Pre-School towards the cost of running an Easter event and to sign a cheque if required.

**RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to give a grant of £50.**

The Clerk was instructed to contact the organisers of this event to say that the proposed £6 entry fee seemed quite high.

***Action 180305/18: Parish Clerk***

It was **agreed** to take item 10 j) next.

- j) To re-consider a grant request from Radio Ninesprings in light of the presentation received during the public open session and to sign a cheque if required.

A representative from Radio Ninesprings had asked to attend the April meeting to describe the project, so it was **agreed** to **defer** this matter until then.

**21:11** – Carolyn Nichols and David Nichols left the meeting due to the previously declared disclosable pecuniary interest in item 10 i). They took no part in discussions or voting. Simon Cullum took over as Chair until the end of the meeting.

- i) To consider a grant request from Henstridge Village Hall towards the cost of improved interior lighting and to sign a cheque if required.

It was **agreed** to request sight of up to date accounts and to **defer** a decision on this matter until these were received.

**11. Date of Next meeting** –The next Parish Council meeting will be held on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2018**. All items for inclusion on the agenda and all items to be listed under issues arising from previous meetings must be received by the Clerk by 9.00am on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018.

**The meeting ended at 21:14.**

**Agreed and signed by the Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_