



HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Emma Curtis, 14 Everlanes Close, Milborne Port, SHERBORNE, DT9 5FT

Tel: 01963 250015 **Mob:** 07745 270285

e-mail: clerk@henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

www.henstridgeparishcouncil.org.uk

Draft Minutes of Henstridge Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee meeting on Tuesday 27th July at 7.30pm at the Village Hall

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

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 24th March 2021:

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to approve the minutes as presented. The Chair duly signed the minutes.

4. **Allotments: To receive a report from the Parish Council allotments representative:**
Barry Howlett reported that all plots are currently let and in decent condition. Barry stated that two allotmenters were members of the forestry commission and had experience with trees so may be happy to help with the fruit orchard once established. Barry narrated there had been an incident of antisocial behaviour recently which had been reported to the police and that he would like to see plans for a community cabin, allotments association, tree planting, raised beds, youth club involvement and possible community equipment come to fruition. The Clerk stated she would confirm a date for annual inspections for August/September.

Action: OSC270721/1 Parish Clerk

5. **Cemetery and Burial Ground: To agree a management and maintenance plan for the closed churchyard and consider request for a memorial bench at the burial ground:**
Committee members considered the draft maintenance plan for the closed churchyard and made a few amendments. Members supported the request for the memorial bench at the burial ground and the maintenance of the bench was considered.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to adopt the amended maintenance plan and for the Clerk to proceed making arrangements with SSDC. It was also proposed and agreed to approve the installation of the memorial bench.

Action: OSC270721/2 Parish Clerk

6. **Glebe Field: To receive report following meeting with GTH on behalf of the Diocese:**
Carolyn Nichols reported that she, David Nichols, Ken Courtenay and the Clerk had met with a representative from GTH on behalf of the Diocese and it had been a fruitful meeting. Potential plans for the site were discussed with consideration given to land being gifted to the parish for extra burial space. The requirement for a safe footpath for pedestrians through the site was also considered. Carolyn had presented a draft plan which the representative appeared quite amendable to. Attention was also given to possible overcrowding in terms of new building and a possible parish building on site. The Clerk was requested to follow up with the representative to source any feedback from the Diocese following the meeting.

Action: OSC270721/3 Parish Clerk

7. **Play Area: To receive any play area updates:**

David Nichols reported that a piece of equipment had been damaged in the play area last Sunday. A wooden post had been broken which appeared to be rotten below ground level. The damaged post had been removed for safety. David stated that it appeared to have been damaged following vigorous activity and could possibly have been an act of vandalism. No

reports had been made from concerned parents or members of the public. The Clerk stated that following the incident a further inspection had been undertaken and there didn't appear to be any issue with the other existing structures. The Clerk reported she had spoken with the annual play area inspection company and an urgent inspection would cost £250 with lead time of around three weeks and the report being produced around ten days after. With the imminent closure of the existing play area and commencement of works for the new play area the committee and Clerk felt it was not financially viable or feasible to proceed with an urgent inspection. The Clerk confirmed that the site would be closed from 1st September for removal of the current equipment and erection of new fence with the new play area being installed from 13th September. Carolyn Nichols stated that parking could be an issue for the Village Hall and it was agreed to erect notices stating that parking would be restricted for a period of time. The site would be secured off with Harris fencing.

- 8. Leylandii Hedge: To consider quotations received for removal:** Committee members considered quotes already received. The Clerk stated she was still waiting for two further quotes and the project would be an agenda item for the September meeting. The committee deliberated notes received from Tree Warden Simon Cullum providing sound reasoning for the removal and discussed concerns from some residents.

Action: OSC270721/4 Parish Clerk

- 9. Furge Lane Field: To discuss way forward regarding various options suggested:**

The Clerk confirmed that all documentation had been submitted to the Secretary of State for disposal of the field as allotments land and that part of the process was to consult with The Allotments Society. David Nichols suggested that the field and its current tenant could be issued with a "License to Occupy" once the agreement ceases in March and the Clerk was tasked with finding out the ramifications. Suggestions for the usage of the field were considered. It was agreed to form a working party meeting at the end of August and to ask a local planning consultant to join the meeting.

Action: OSC270721/5 Parish Clerk

- 10. South West in Bloom: To receive a report following judging and consider purchase of tickets to consider purchase of tickets to awards ceremony:**

Carolyn Nichols, Barry Howlett and the Clerk provided feedback following the judging. Members considered attendance at the awards ceremony and it was agreed that Carolyn Nichols and the Clerk should attend. Carolyn suggested that the Council may wish to consider a budget for the Henstridge Heroes Volunteer group and it was agreed to consider this in due course.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed that Carolyn Nichols and the Clerk attend the SWIB awards ceremony.

Action: OSC270721/6 Parish Clerk

- 11. Highways: To receive any Highways matters:** The Clerk reported that newly co-opted Councillor Michael Player had expressed interest in being part of the SID team and Speedwatch. The Clerk suggested that as some grant funding remained for the SID project that Michael attend Chapter 8 training. This was agreed by all. John Graham and Barry Howlett both provided negative feedback following their Chapter 8 training and its relevance to the SID scheme and the Clerk stated she would report this back to Somerset Highways. John Graham reported a problem with parking along Furge Grove and stated he would forward the Clerk images so she could follow up accordingly. It was agreed to commence the SID scheme in September.

RESOLVED: It was proposed and agreed to arrange Chapter 8 training for Cllr Michael Player

Action: OSC270721/7 Parish Clerk

- 12. To receive reports from the Clerk on: Allotments, Recreation Ground, and Burial Ground, Fly Tipping, Highways issues and grit bins:** No reports received. Ken Courtenay asked if litter picking would be recommencing, Carolyn Nichols confirmed it would in the next few months.

- 13. Action Sheet: To task the Clerk to carry out an Action Sheet for Open Spaces Meetings:** The Clerk confirmed she would be happy to carry out an Action Sheet for the Open Spaces Committee.

Action: OSC270721/8 Parish Clerk

14. Date of the next meeting: To confirm the date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting: The date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting was confirmed as Thursday 23rd September at 7.30pm at the Village Hall.

The meeting closed at 9:41pm



Emma Curtis
Parish Clerk

Draft