HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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Draft Minutes of Henstridge Parish Council's Open Spaces Committee meeting on Tuesday 26th October at 7.30pm at Henstridge Village Hall

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

Also Present: Frazer Cooke – Possible new PPLO
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 July 2021:**

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

4. **Action: To review Action List**: It was noted that all actions on the Action List had been undertaken.

5. **Parish Paths Liaison Officer: To welcome new PPLO and receive any path updates:** Carolyn Nichols welcomed Frazer Cooke and thanked him for attending the meeting and for his interest in becoming the new PPLO. Frazer stated that before taking on the role he would like further information on current footpath issues within the parish and also a handover list. The Clerk agreed to arrange a meeting with Eve Wynn SCC Rights of Way Officer.
   Action: OSC261021/1 Parish Clerk

6. **Allotments: To receive an update from the Parish Council allotments representative, receive report following inspections, consider allotment improvements and formation of Allotments Association and National Allotments Society renewal:**
   Barry Howlett reported that inspections had taken place in September and the Clerk had sent relevant letters. Barry stated that there were no pressing concerns. The Clerk reported that the Ranger would be picking up the fruit trees from SSDC for planting. It was agreed not to renew membership of the National Allotments Society at the current time. Barry asked for the hedge within the allotments to be cut and it was agreed the Clerk would arrange this. It was agreed that a new effort to form an Allotments Association would start again in the New Year.
   Action: OSC261021/2 Parish Clerk

7. **Cemetery and Burial Ground: To receive any updates and consider a new wheelie bin and bin notices and to consider moving forward with repairs of the Lych Gate:**
   The committee agreed to order a new wheelie bin for metal waste from wreaths to be placed adjacent to the compost heaps. It was further agreed to proceed with looking at revised quotes for the repairs of the Lych Gate and once three were received start looking at grant funding providers. ***Action: OSC261021/3 Parish Clerk***

8. **Ranger & Handymen: To receive an update on the Ranger scheme and Handymen:**
   Carolyn Nichols reported that the Handymen had both received their appraisals and confirmed revised work patterns. Carolyn reported that one Handyman required a new lightweight strimmer and that the SSDC Ranger would be taking on more work with increased hours in November.

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9. **Play Area: To receive any update on the new play area project and consider relocation of bins:**
   Carolyn Nichols reported the bins had already been installed. The Clerk stated the play area should be finished by the end of November and all being well it was hoped an official opening could take place on Saturday 4th December. The Clerk and Carolyn shared their ideas for the opening and these were supported by the committee. The location of the picnic bench and the need for slabs under the feet was considered.

10. **Leylandii Hedge and Memorial Trees: To consider specification for new planting and memorial trees:**
    Simon Cullum referred committee members to a news article from The Economist which provided guidance and ideas for the new planting. Carolyn Nichols stated that as yet no quotes had been received for the new planting but two contractors had been approached and met on site. Carolyn reported that weather permitting the works would be taking place to remove the current hedging and trees on 27th November. Simon suggested the committee consider the suggestion of an avenue of trees and the idea of sponsorship and memorial trees was discussed. The committee discussed irrigation and watering of the new trees and hedging once planted.

11. **Talking Bench: To agree expenditure for arch at the Talking Bench:**
    Carolyn Nichols reported that the arch was under construction and that the total cost would be around £400 with £310 being paid from grant funding. The committee agreed to pay the remaining costs.

12. **Highways: To receive any Highways matters:**
    Carolyn Nichols stated that the issues at Marsh Lane and Camp Road were finally being rectified by SCC and that despite being reported and investigated SCC had found nothing wrong with the dip in the road by the Virginia Ash and India Cottage. Barry Howlett reported a pot hole in Yenston and the Clerk informed him how this could be reported online. John Graham reported that the issues at Furge Lane and Lime Kiln appeared to have been resolved.

13. **Oak Vale Wood: To consider plans and management of Oak Vale Wood:**
    Simon Cullum stated that he felt the ideas suggested at the last Full Council Meeting were not suitable for the site and raised concerns about the use of volunteers using dangerous mechanical equipment. Ken Courtenay commented that the use and purpose of the wood needed to be established and Barry Howlett specified a management plan would be required. The committee agreed that The Woodland Trust be invited for a site visit and to discuss the future of the wood. ***Action: OSC261021/4 Parish Clerk***

14. **To receive reports from the Clerk on: Allotments, Recreation Ground, and Burial Ground, Fly Tipping, Highways issues and grit bins:** No report received, all relevant items already discussed within the meeting. The Clerk confirmed she would be asking the Ranger to make sure the grit bins were topped up and the grit loose and ready for use. Ken Courtenay asked if there had been any update on the Glebe Field, the Clerk stated there hadn't and would chase up. Ken also asked that further idea was given to the use of the Furge Lane Field with David Nichols reminding members that a Licence to Occupy could be considered.

15. **Date of the next meeting:** The date of the next Open Spaces Committee meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 23rd November 2021 at 7.30pm.**

The meeting closed at 8.28pm

Emma Curtis
Parish Clerk

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