



# HENSTRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL

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## Minutes of the meeting of Henstridge Parish Council held on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January at 7.00pm at Henstridge Village Hall

**Present:** Cllrs - Ken Courtenay (Chair), Barry Howlett, Any Scard, Christine Steel, John Graham, Elspeth Graham, Adrian Gaymer, Deborah Petheram, Jane Rose, Peter Thompson

**Also Present:** Locum clerk

### Public Open Session:

There were no members of the public present.

### 19:00 - Meeting opened.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Dennis Finch sent his apologies.
2. **Declarations of interest:** Cllr Howlett declared a non-pecuniary interest in items 7a and 7b, Cllr Rose declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7b.
3. **To approve as a correct record the minutes of the previous meeting held on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023:**  
**RESOLVED:** To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 as a true and accurate record of the meeting.
4. **To note circulation of the Actions from Meeting list and discuss any matters arising:**  
4/10/22 – 8g: To inspect Parish tree's in spring. ACTION: Cllrs Steel /Gaymer. **Ongoing.**  
4/10/22 – 8b: To investigate VH PV solar panels. ACTION: Cllr Howlett. **Ongoing.**  
6/12/22 – 9e: To loan SID to Charlton Horethorne PC. ACTION: Cllr J Graham. **Complete.**  
6/12/22 – 9g: Flooding issues in Oak Vale Wood. ACTION: Cllr Thompson. **Ongoing.**  
3/01/23 – 7a: Planning comments submitted. ACTION: Clerk. **Complete.**  
3/01/23 – 8d: Precept request of £73,447 submitted. ACTION: Clerk. **Complete.**  
3/01/23 – 9a: Review VHMC fees. ACTION: E Graham, J Graham, Steel, Courtenay. **Ongoing.**  
3/01/23 – 9b. Furge Lane grass keep. Superseded by this agenda item 8f. **Complete.**
5. **Reports**
  - a) **To receive any police matters:** None.
  - b) **To receive County and District Councillor reports:** There were no Cllrs present at this time.

### 6. Planning

#### a) To consider the following Planning Applications:

Application number	Proposal	Applicant Details
22/03560/OUT	Outline planning permission with all matters reserved except for access, for up to 140 dwellings (use class C3), public open space, landscape planting and biodiversity enhancements, vehicular access from Bowden Road, community use (flexible use class E, F1 and/or F2), and associated infrastructure works	Land OS 6975 South Of Bowden Road Templecombe Somerset

**RESOLVED:** To OBJECT to the application, with the following comments:

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Chairman

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Henstridge Parish Council strongly objects to this application for the following reasons:-

Firstly, as already stated in our response to the pre application stage this proposal ignores the cumulative effect of extra traffic generated by this new development, coupled with other large developments on the A357 in Henstridge, Templecombe and Stalbridge doing significant harm to our village, in particular our narrow High Street. With further housing developments either being built out or approved, it is already having a considerable impact.

In 2018 as part of the Appeal for 130 houses at Townsend Green, Henstridge ref 17/03029/OUT and APP/R3325/W/18/3197690, a TA was commissioned by Somerset County Council and was produced by James McKechnie of Hydrock. Henstridge Parish Council would like to draw your attention to section 1.5 of that report which refers to the traffic lights at the junction of the A357/A30 having "very limited remaining capacity at the junction in 2022 with forecast development traffic". At peak times traffic is now considerably queued as we stand at the moment.

Since this report was compiled, in the adjacent authority of North Dorset (Stalbridge), much of the housing mentioned in the report has been completed with more waiting, totalling over 400 homes all of which will at some point, be using this road.

Our own development at Townsend Green remains under intense discussion concerning the A357 following the above mentioned Appeal hearing.

Secondly, the Local Authority has a duty to protect the intrinsically environmental benefits of the open countryside. This application would have a serious impact on the visual amenity of the landscape from the PROWs at Windmill Hill, Yenston which currently have 360 degree views of the beautiful Blackmore Vale area and are well used in particular by the residents of the aforementioned hamlet which sits within this Parish. The current ridge line of housing at Bowden Lane sits distant and does not significantly affect these views, however, should the new development be allowed to proceed, then this landscape would change forever bringing urban development right up to our Parish Border and perhaps setting a precedent for the future.

Thirdly, whilst appreciating that this is not a material planning matter and notwithstanding the response from the NHS consultee confirming capacity at Milborne Port and Templecombe surgery for this particular development, when considering our Parish uses the same surgery, Henstridge Parish Council has concerns that the medical services in this area were not designed for an exponential increase in housing cumulatively (there is already a marked decline in accessibility of appointments) and we urge you to consider this in any decision regarding long term sustainability for both the residents of Templecombe and ourselves.

**ACTION: Clerk**

**b) To note recent SSSDC Planning Decisions:**

<b>Application number</b>	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>Applicant details</b>	<b>Decision</b>
<a href="#">22/03412/P3RPA</a>	Notification for Prior Approval for a proposed change of use of an agricultural area at Lower Bowden Farm to a flexible commercial use.	Lower Bowden Farm Bowden Henstridge Templecombe Somerset BA8 0PQ	Application Refused

**Noted.**

**7. Finance**

- a) To consider a grant application for £570 from the Explorers Pre-School Committee.  
**RESOLVED:** To approve a grant application for £570 from the Explorers Pre-School Committee (Cllr Howlett abstained)

- b) To consider a grant application for £3,135 from Henstridge Youth Club

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**RESOLVED:** To approve a grant application for £3135 from the Henstridge Youth Club (Cllrs Howlett and Rose abstained)

- c) To consider the Cricket Club charges for mowing the Recreation Ground.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Cricket Club charges of £1513.78 for mowing the Recreation Ground

- d) To agree a budget for advertising the Parish Clerk vacancy.

**RESOLVED:** To approve a budget of £500 for advertising the Parish Clerk vacancy.

- e) To report on bank transfer between parish council accounts.

Cllr Howlett reported that a £5000 transfer had been actioned in December 2022 and a further £6000 would need to be transferred to cover payments going out of the current account. Total transfer between PC accounts reported was £11,000.

- f) To agree a statement on the 2023/24 budget for the Council's website.

Cllr Courtenay had present 2 options for publicising on the parish council website, a full budget line detail and a simplified version. It was agreed that both would be beneficial, depending on the level of detail that members of the public required, but a 'commentary' would be useful to go along with the figures.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Howlett agreed to produce the additional text for the budget sheet and to present at the next meeting for approval

**ACTION: Cllr Howlett**

- g) To approve the following accounts for payment to be paid via internet banking and agree two signatories to authorise

Supplier/Contractor	Narrative	Amount
J Ferguson	Locum Fee	£1650.00
Starboard Systems Ltd	SCRIBE Annual Accounts S/W License	£673.92
SSDC	Ranger Dec 22	£384.14
Henstridge Cricket Club	Grass cutting Apr22 – Mar23	£1513.78
Henstridge Pre-School	Grant	£570.00
Henstridge Youth Club	Grant	£3135.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>Feb-23</b>	<b>£7926.84</b>

**RESOLVED:** To approve the payments, totalling £7926.84 as presented with Cllr Howlett and Cllr Graham agreeing to authorise.

**ACTION: Cllr Howlett and Cllr J Graham**

## 8. Council Matters

- a) To consider any proposals for the Kings Coronation celebrations. (Cllr E Graham)

Cllr Graham gave an outline of parish celebrations that were being planned and explained that she had written a piece about the King's Coronation for the next edition of 'Wot's On'. There were arrangements for bunting and flags to be put up throughout the parish and Cllr Graham was happy to be a point of contact for any other suggestions for the celebratory weekend.

- Sat 6<sup>th</sup> May - The King's Coronation.
- Sun 7<sup>th</sup> May – The Big Lunch: Street parties, Cricket and picnics on the Rec.
- Mon 8<sup>th</sup> May – The Big Help Out: Village games and music on the Rec.

- b) To consider dates for parish summer activity days and other parish events. (All)

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Cllr Courtenay offered the following dates for publishing in 'Wot's On':

- Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Annual Parish Council Meeting (7pm). Agreed.
- Tues 16<sup>th</sup> May – Annual Parish Meeting (not before 6pm). Agreed.
- Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Aug – Parish family activity day. Provisionally agreed.

It was agreed that this would remain as a regular agenda item, enabling the minutes to record dates for parish activities provided by Cllr Elspeth.

**ACTION: Cllr E Graham**

- c) Village communications - To consider any measures to be taken to improve the sharing of information between the PC and the village residents. (Cllr Gaymer)

All Cllrs contributed their thoughts to additional methods of parish communications. Points raised included:

- No noticeboards in certain areas of the parish (Yenston & parts of Henstridge)
- New Parish Community Noticeboard(s) – to consider costs, location and permissions
- Scatter effect needed
- FaceBook – Cllr Scard agreed to investigate
- Nextdoor – improve the 'banner' for PC notices – Cllr Scard agreed to investigate.
- Need for a dedicated communications person
- Other prominent old noticeboards (walls) in the parish – Cllr Howlett to investigate

**ACTION: All Cllrs to consider**

- d) Village communications - To consider publicity for future events, including cricket matches and events on the Recreation Ground, celebration of the Coronation and the date of the Annual Parish Meeting.

This had been covered by a previous agenda item.

- e) Upcoming Events - To note upcoming events in the parish.

This had been covered by a previous agenda item.

- f) Furge Lane Field - To note that horses are grazing the field without agreement.

It was acknowledged that the grazing license previously granted had expired and therefore the horses should have been removed from the parish council field, however the PC agreed to make an offer permitting continued use to the parish resident. Cllr Courtenay had received guidance and advice from both Symonds & Sampsons and Cooper & Tanner who advised that the horses should be removed for a month. As it was understood that the previous tenant wished to continue their use of the field for the foreseeable future, it was decided to offer them a rolling lease agreement.

**RESOLVED:** To instruct Symonds and Sampsons to prepare a rolling lease with an annual rent of (£310 – tbc) at a one-off cost of £400 + VAT.

**ACTION: Cllr Courtenay**

- g) Furge Lane Field - To consider short term use of the field, such as annual grass keep and grazing agreements or short periodic tenancies.

This had been covered by a previous agenda item.

- h) Furge Lane Field - To consider appointing an agent to manage the letting or other use of the field and to instruct the unauthorised user to vacate.

This had been covered by a previous agenda item.

- i) To consider requesting the Cricket Club to submit for approval a single application for the use of the Recreation Ground for matches on pre-notified dates.

**RESOLVED:** It was agreed that a single annual application on the preferred Recreation Ground booking form would be requested from the Cricket Club.

**ACTION: Cllr E Graham**

- j) To consider an email received from the Village Hall Management Committee concerning surface water flooding and measures to be taken.  
It was agreed that a drainage expert would need to advise of the best solution to the flash flooding that had occurred recently, causing damage to the carpet around the patio doors.  
Cllr J Graham agreed to source quotes.

**ACTION: Cllr J Graham**

- k) To receive updated reports on the Village Hall water supply works and repair of the car park. (Cllr Scard).  
Cllr Scard reported that the approved contractor had completed his work and inspection had been approved. Wessex Water were connecting the new supply on 9<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023.

- l) To consider restarting the campaign to recruit a new clerk and confirm members of the Recruitment Panel (Cllrs Courtenay, Scard, E Graham, J Graham, Steel), to confirm Terms of Reference agreed on 15 August 2022.  
Cllr E Graham agreed to set up a meeting of the recruitment panel to plan the next steps in the recruitment campaign.

**ACTION: Recruitment Panel**

- m) To receive any update on the A357/High Street. (Cllr Gaymer)  
Cllr Gaymer presented a revised plan for the junction, received just prior to the meeting and everyone agreed that there was no improvement from the existing scheme. It was agreed to send additional comments along with the existing submission provided on the 7<sup>th</sup> Dec 22.  
**RESOLVED:** To submit the following comments in addition to the previous submission for application L22/02240/S73 - Land Os 5439 Part Townsend Green Henstridge (MOAK):  
The amended proposal moves the northern Give Way location slightly south, but the applicant (Jonathan Ingsley's email 19 January, 10:19) concedes that the adjusted vehicle tracking is "very tight". There is no assurance that through traffic can pass stationary traffic waiting at the Give Way while maintaining a satisfactory level of pedestrian safety.  
Therefore Henstridge Parish Council does not believe, based on this assessment, that the object of Condition 10 iii (to make the High Street a safer place for pedestrians) would be met by the S73 proposal, as amended.

**ACTION: Clerk**

- n) To receive reports from representatives (VHMC, Footpaths, Tree Warden, CSW, Youth, Other) and provide guidance as appropriate  
There were no reports at this time.

- 9. Date of Next meeting** – The next Parish Council meeting was confirmed as **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2023 at 7.00pm**. All items for inclusion on the agenda and all items to be listed under issues arising from the previous meetings must be received by the **Clerk by 9.00am on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

**21:00 – Meeting closed.**

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Chairman

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Date