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Minutes of Henstridge Parish Council Open Spaces Committee Meeting Held in the Village Hall at 7.30 pm 23 January 2024

- 1. Welcome from the Chair:** Cllr Scard welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Mr Fraser Cooke Volunteer Warden of Footpaths for the Parish.
- 2. Apologies:** Cllr C Steel, Cllr K Courtenay
- 3. Present:** Cllr A Scard (Chair) Cllr R Smith, Cllr J Graham, Cllr D Finch,
In Attendance: Mr Fraser Cooke Volunteer Parish Footpath Warden, Ann Lee Clerk
- 4. Declaration of interests:** None Declared
- 5. To receive minutes of previous meeting:** Reports from previous meetings have been circulated by Cllr Scard and received by the Full Council.
- 6. To receive reports:** Cllr Scard invited Mr Cooke to update the position on footpaths since the last meeting. Concerns were expressed about the state of access to footpaths and the serious deterioration in one of the bridges and other stiles over several landowner's property. Consequently rights of way have been significantly obstructed and some landowners have compromised safety by leaving rotten bridges broken and dangerous. Mr Cooke illustrated 19 issues relating to access and risks to the public and their respective locations on the Parish map. He stated he had been in touch with the Council but had been unsuccessful in gaining any support to get the Unitary Authority to contact landowners to resolve the issues reported. Some issues were outstanding since 2016. He stated that 80% of footpaths were unusable. Issues varied from vegetation overgrowth, trees and branches compromising passage. This included misuse of barbed wire, fencing used to obstruct routes and broken bridges and stiles. He reported that he has a meeting with Eve Wynn scheduled for the 11th of March. Cllr Finch asked if he has the details of landowners so that the PC can write to them. He advised that he had requested this information from the Unitary Authority but had been told that for reasons of GDPR, he had been refused this information even though landownership is registered by Land Registry. He has been advised by Eve Wynn that no work can be undertaken without the landowner's permission, but that she has not resolved to contact the owners despite his requests.

ACTION: Clerk to write to Eve Wynn at the Unitary Authority expressing concerns about the duty of care by the Council for public safety and formal request for Council to take action to support health and safety issues and address public safety. **COMPLETED**
- 7. To receive update on Defib purchase following funding campaign:** Cllr Finch reported that the application to Somerset Prepare has been submitted. If there is no match funding there

will be a conversation with Henstridge Defib Project (HDP) to decide what to do next. HDP only has funds for battery & pad replacement for the existing 3 machines.

8. **South West in Bloom Entry 2024:** Cllr Steel has advised the Committee by email that she will be submitting a request for funding to facilitate the entry of South West in Bloom by the Parish: Entry costs £30. All Cllrs present supported this initiative. **COMPLETED**
9. **Funding for plants:** Cllr Scard reported that receipts for the bags of mature were required for Mrs Susannah Donaldson to receive £178 for reimbursement. The Clerk stated that the RFO would require receipts to facilitate this from Mrs Donaldson from the source of the supplier. **ACTION: Cllr Scard to liaise with Cllr Steel and Mrs Donaldson to advise her following discussion with the RFO. COMPLETED**
10. **Jubilee Border progress update Greenways** Cllr Scard reported that he had been advised by Cllr Steel that work would commence week commencing the 22 January 2024. Cllr Pertheram will facilitate access to the recreation ground gate. Greenways will also facilitate the planning of the Christmas tree near the green shed to ensure it has the best chance of survival. **ACTION: Cllr J Graham to contact Cllr Petheram to ensure recreation ground damage is minimised by use of boards to prevent traffic damaging the ground. COMPLETED**
11. **Oak vale wood scheme of works and quotes:** Cllr Thompson was absent from the meeting. **ACTION: ONGOING**
12. **Cemetery maintenance and damaged memorial head stone update** Cllr Scard reported that the resident concerned does not want reimbursement for the damaged stone but needs to learn where the plot of his deceased mother is located within the Parish Cemetery in order to replace the memorial. **ACTION: Clerk to locate the plot and advise Cllr Scard. COMPLETED**
13. **Verges and hedge cutting – Blackmore Lane ABRI** letter of support for resident: **ACTION: Clerk to write a letter on behalf of the Chair to ABRI housing expressing concerns about the state of the work and complaint received from a resident of the Parish.**
14. **Allotment allocations and maintenance plan for 2024 annual meeting date schedule with allotment tenants.**
ACTION: The Clerk to ask Cllr Howlett to contact allotment tenants to see if they wish to create an Allotment Association for the Parish. COMPLETED
15. **Litter pick dates and marketing:** Cllr Finch advised the Committee that the next Litter Pick is scheduled for Saturday the 16th of March. **ACTION: Cllr Finch will liaise with Cllr E Graham and Wot's On for advertising the event.**
16. **Unitary Authority decision to suspend new bins – purchase decision:** Cllr Graham.
ACTION: Clerk to order the bins for delivery to Cllr Graham. Bins to have liners and locks with ballast compartments. COMPLETED
17. **Grit bin winter provision update:** Cllr Scard. **ACTION: CLERK to write to Highways requesting a new grit bin for Yenston. COMPLETED**

18. **CCTV failure.** Cllrs concluded that the Village Hall has responsibility for maintenance and cleaning. **ACTION: Cllr Smith to discuss with VH Chair.**
19. **Post box Village Hall update Cllr Courtenay.** **ACTION: Clerk to purchase the post box selected by Cllr Courtenay. Cllr J Graham to arrange fitting to a post near the entrance attached to the gate at the Hall away from the building.** **COMPLETED**
20. **Drinking Fountain installation.** **ACTION: Cllrs to Check with Wessex Water to understanding any outstanding inspection notices from September 2022.**
21. **Impact of recent rain and improvements post installation to improvements to patio area Village Hall Cllr Graham.** Cllr Graham reported that recent drainage work had been effective and that despite a lot of severe weather and rain there had been no flooding. No further action required.
22. **Update to recreation ground pavement damage at the entrance to Park Road Cllr Smith.** Cllr Graham reported that this pavement was outside of the Parish Councils recreation boundary and a matter for the Unitary Authority to address. **ACTION: Clerk to contact Highways to seek repair.** **COMPLETED**
23. **Henstridge Stink Pipes: ACTION: Cllr Finch to establish if the pipes are registered/protected with preservation orders.**
24. **Bus Campaign: ACTION: Clerk to send Cllr J Graham a copy of the Graphics and timetable for inclusion in the Wot's On publication.** **COMPLETED**
25. **Hedgehog signs:** Cllrs reported that hedgehog signs had been vandalised in the village. **ACTION: Clerk to purchase two roadside slow signs and Cllr J Graham to install.** **COMPLETED**
26. **Footpath Warden: ACTION: Clerk to contact Jimmy Flynn for an email domain for Fraser Cooke and recognition on the website as the Footpath Warden.** **COMPLETED**

Cllr Andy Scard
Ann Lee
Clerk