

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 September 2013 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present: Gus Halfhide (Chair), Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins, Cath Law, Jude Robbins, David Stone,

1	<p>Apologies for absence An apology was received from Roger Anderson</p> <p>Declarations of interests David declared an interest as a Parochial Church Councillor in item 14.4: suggestion to extend Binegar Cemetery.</p>	
2	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting The Minutes of the 2 July 2013 meeting were approved and signed by the Chair</p>	
3	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Cover for the Clerk's duties (Min 3.1) The meeting agreed to continue the temporary arrangements for Clerk (Philip) and Responsible Financial Officer (Richard). Richard agreed to take the minutes.</p> <p>2 Somerset County Council weed sprayer proposal (Min 3.3) Philip stated that he had discussed this pilot with the County. He noted that the County would supply most aspects of the project but not insurance. Philip undertook to arrange a meeting with the County to conclude arrangements.</p> <p>3 Erection of notice board at Binegar Green (Min 3.4) Philip reported that this work had been completed satisfactorily.</p> <p>4 Tree condition assessments: cemetery and playing field (Min 3.5) David stated that he had invited condition assessments from a tree surgeon and hoped to receive an opinion shortly. Philip expressed concern over an ash tree that had dropped branches in the playing field. Following discussion, it was agreed to seek the opinion of the Playing Field Group on whether to fell the tree.</p> <p>5 Incursion on Council land at Emborough (Min 3.6) Richard stated that the owners of the neighbouring house had been instructed to move their property from Council land but had not done so. Following discussion, it was agreed to obtain estimates to fence the land, giving notice to the neighbours that their property would be moved at that stage.</p> <p>6 Proposal for a community defibrillator (Min 7) Cath updated the meeting on the launch of an appeal for this project at the Village Day. Between them, Councillors undertook to deliver leaflets to residents.</p> <p>7 Community gardening/Binegar Bottom planting (June Mins 10.1 & 14) This item was deferred.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>RH</p>

	<p>8 Electricity backing board replacement (Min 13 refers) David reported that this work had been completed satisfactorily.</p>	
4	<p>1st North Mendip Scout Group The meeting welcomed Sandra Pennyfather, Scout Leader. Sandra said that the scout group had grown sufficiently to be independent and had been established as the <i>1st North Mendip Scout Group</i>.</p> <p>Sandra stated that this gave the Group greater flexibility and responsiveness. She said that the Group wished to work with the Council offering help and suggesting ways in which the Council might assist the Scouts. Sandra said they had several ideas already that she would put formally to the Parish Council.</p> <p>Sandra was thanked for attending and congratulated on the Group's achievement.</p>	
5	<p>Local government reports A written report from Cllr. Siggs was noted. It was agreed to apply for a <i>Small Improvement Schemes Grant</i> towards the community defibrillator.</p>	RH
6	<p>Police report No report was received.</p>	
7	<p>Confidential matters The Council RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable, in the public interest, that the public be temporarily excluded since information about an individual was likely to be disclosed.</p>	
8	<p>Planning issues 1 2012/3033 Emborough Grove Richard reported that the Council's further comments had been sent to the Planning Inspector adjudicating this appeal which had yet to be determined.</p> <p>2 The Batch, Neville's Batch Gus reported that the owner had not complied with the Planning Inspector's specific conditions for the site and had been given to 19 November to do so.</p>	RH
9	<p>Financial matters 1 Annual Return Gus reported that this statutory Return had been submitted to the external auditor.</p> <p>2 Financial report Richard gave an oral report for the months to 31 July noting that most of the year's income had been received and that about one-third of the budget had been spent. He drew attention to the sum set aside for projects at the cemetery which remained untouched.</p> <p>3 Payments It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments: Playsafe Ltd for annual playground inspection: £128.40 P N Milverton (Construction) Ltd for Binegar Green notice board: £117.60 EDF Energy for electricity supply: £25.01 P Blatchford for book <i>Arnold Baker Local Government Administration</i>: £60.00</p>	

10	Parish records Gus reported that he had lodged various records with the Somerset Archive.	
11	Structure, style and standards for Parish Council agendas and minutes The meeting received, considered and agreed reports recommending standards for these communications. It was agreed to post them on the website.	RH
12	Somerset County Council: Chairman's award for Services to the Community Notice of this award had been received too late for action. To avoid such difficulty in future, it was agreed to consider award nominations each year in June.	RH
13	Parish Council website Richard proposed a policy for website updates. It was agreed that routine items (e.g. minutes) would be added without further authorisation but that Councillors would be consulted on other changes to the website. If a Councillor objected to a change, it would be removed from the website pending further consideration.	
14	Binegar cemetery 1 Request to reserve a plot Following consideration, it was RESOLVED to approve a request to reserve a plot for burial. Gus undertook to update the cemetery records. 2 Request for the burial of Miss Chloe Wilcox It was RESOLVED to endorse the Chair's approval of the sale of a plot and a funeral. Gus undertook to update the cemetery records. 3 Grave spoil bunker It was noted that the spoil bunker was full. David undertook to organise emptying. 4 Parochial Church Council (PCC) suggestion to extend the cemetery The meeting welcomed the Revd. Captain Richard Priestley, Mr Grenville and Mrs Molly Reakes. Councillors heard that the Church Commissioners proposed the sale of the Glebe Land (<i>The Fair Field</i>) beside Holy Trinity Church and Binegar cemetery. It was reported that the PCC had considered what local needs might be met by use of all or part of the field. Considering the disruption caused to traffic on Station Road when there were weddings or funerals, etc., the PCC intended to suggest that the Church Commissioners reserve some land for church parking. Were the field sold, there would be no future opportunity to extend the cemetery. The PCC, therefore, considered that the Parish Council might wish take the opportunity to seek reservation of part of the field for an extension to the cemetery. Following discussion, the Parish Council agreed to support the Parochial Church Council's approach to the Church Commissioners to set out the local needs that could be met by use of part of the Glebe Land, including a cemetery extension.	GH GH DS
15	Events attended Gus reported on a <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i> meeting in which a principal item had been hydraulic fracturing recovery of gas.	
16	Binegar Playing Fields Group The Minutes of the meetings held on 23 July and 13 August were received and noted.	

17	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>1 Parish Paths Liaison Officer report</p> <p>Philip stated that he had almost completed his walk of all parish paths and reported them to be in remarkably good order. Gus stated that this did not include the footpaths running behind the School and between Turner’s Court and Tellis Lanes about which complaints had been received. Philip undertook to walk the paths and clear any obstructions.</p> <p>2 Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane junction: drainage and ditch</p> <p>It was noted that Somerset County Council had taken no action to date.</p> <p>3 Kings Lane: potholes</p> <p>It was noted that these had been filled.</p> <p>4 Station Road, street light 15</p> <p>David reported that this was lit 24 hours a day. Philip undertook to report this.</p>	PB PB
18	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Amongst correspondence of an ephemeral character, Philip reported consultation on the siting of a pedestrian crossing over the A37 at Gurney Slade. He stated that Somerset County Council offered two options. The preferred option, which the Council RESOLVED to support, crossed from between <i>The George</i> and Underhill. The Council noted with some surprise that the estimated cost was £83,000. Philip undertook to respond to the consultation.</p>	PB
19	<p>Items for the next or a future agenda</p> <p>It was agreed to add Emborough Pond footpaths and electricity supply to the playing field to the October agenda.</p>	RH
20	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 1 October 2013 at 7 30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 25 pm