

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2013 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

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

1	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies were received from Roger Anderson and Jude Robbins.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests There were no disclosures of interest from Councillors about matters on the agenda.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 3 September 2013 meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
4	<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 Minutes. It was RESOLVED that the officers might submit claims for out-of-pocket expenses.</p> <p>2 Somerset County Council weed spraying proposal (Min 3.2) Philip reported that the County had offered to supply equipment, training and insurance (for trunk roads) for those involved in the project. Risk assessments and record keeping had also been agreed. Gus noted that those spraying on minor roads were covered by the Council's insurance. It was agreed to proceed with the project.</p> <p>3 Tree condition assessments: cemetery and playing field (Min 3.4) David stated that he had arranged to meet a tree surgeon later in the week.</p> <p>4 Incursion on Council land at Emborough (Min 3.5) Richard reported that he, Philip and David had inspected the site and noted that the neighbours had removed their play equipment. The visit surveyed fencing needs and noted the presence of <i>Fallopia japonica</i>. Following discussion, it was agreed to obtain estimates for dealing with the knotweed, deferring progress with the fence.</p> <p>5 Proposal for a community defibrillator (Min 3.6) The meeting received an update from Cath. Following discussion, Cath undertook to seek funds from national and local charities and potential benefactors</p> <p>6 Community gardening/Binegar Bottom planting (Min 3.7) This item was deferred.</p> <p>7 Binegar cemetery: reservation of plot (Min 14.1) Gus stated that, in seeking approval at the previous meeting, he had omitted to state that the request was for a double plot. The Council noted this and RESOLVED to approve the reservation of a double plot.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>CL</p>

	<p>8 Binegar Bottom: botanical survey (June Min 10.1) The meeting received and considered the survey report which noted deterioration in the diversity of flora on the site. Philip and Richard stated that they would seek advice on management of the <i>Local Wildlife Site</i> and report back.</p>	PB RH
5	<p>Village Agent The meeting welcomed Jackie Smith who outlined progress during her first year. Jackie reported she had helped 50-60 clients in her villages in a variety of ways and established good local contacts. Jackie was thanked for attending and congratulated on her first year's achievements.</p>	
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting welcomed Rachel Carter and Harvey Siggs. There was discussion on licences for unconventional gas exploitation. Harvey stated that extraction of methane from coal seams rather than hydraulic fracturing was likely and explained the position of the District Council as a consultee in any planning application.</p> <p>Rachel undertook to take forward any matters with which the Council needed help and was thanked for this offer.</p>	
7	<p>Police report Reports from Claire Leonard were received: 02/6 sheep loose on A37, 25/6 gunfire heard, 26/6 informed of filming at Highcroft Quarry to include explosions and gunfire, 15/7 possible drink-driver on A37, 28/7 lorry knocked off branches onto A37, 30/7 delivery driver smelling of alcohol, 11/8 road rage incident on A37, 19/8 female driver tailgated by lorry through village, 01/9 cyclist hit by vehicle at Chapel Lane junction receiving minor injuries, 17/9 tree down blocking A37, 24/9 car in ditch near Mendip Inn.</p>	
8	<p>Planning issues</p> <p>1 Pedestrian crossing across A37 at Gurney Slade The Council received and noted Somerset County Council's proposal.</p> <p>2 2012/3033 Emborough Grove Richard reported this appeal had yet to be determined.</p> <p>3 Emborough Grove: proposal to seek statutory recognition of footpaths Philip outlined the background and progress with this issue. Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to pursue statutory recognition of these footpaths.</p>	RH PB
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1 Report for the half-year It was noted that the 2013 Annual Return had been approved by the auditor. A financial report to 30 September was received. It was noted that almost all income for the year had been received and that half the budget had been spent.</p> <p>2 Banking It was noted that the Council's account had been transferred to TSB.</p> <p>3 Budget 2014-15 A draft budget was received and Councillors were asked to consider items of expenditure for 2014-15.</p>	

