

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present:

Roger Anderson, Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair), Jude Robbins, David Stone

In attendance: PCSO Nicola Housley and 25 members of the parish

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept an apology for absence from Cath Law.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests David declared an interest concerning the wayleave of agenda item 9.3.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's remarks The Chair stated he would take item 8 (planning) first and item 5.9.4 (Highcroft Quarry) next.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 4 March meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Cover for the Clerk's duties (Min 5.1) The meeting agreed to continue the arrangement for Clerk (Philip) and Finance Officer (Richard).</p> <p>2 Tree works (Min 5.2) David stated that some work in the graveyard had been undertaken. The tree surgeon had suggested a meeting on site to consider how to manage the yews and fir trees.</p> <p>3 Council land at Emborough (Min 5.3) Philip reported that fencing was complete and that he would obtain a gate lock. He stated that as the <i>Fallopia japonica</i> had started growth he would order the first eradication treatment.</p> <p>4 Community defibrillator (AED) (Min 5.4) The meeting received a written report from Cath stating that the AED was fully functional. Philip agreed to liaise with Cath about inspections of the AED and allied matters. The Council agreed to Cath's suggestion of CPR training for residents who expressed an interest.</p> <p>5 Electrical supply to defibrillator and playing field (Min 5.5) It was noted that this work had been completed.</p> <p>6 Binegar Bottom (Min 5.6) Philip reported re-erection of the byelaw sign and noted the gatepost was yet to be replaced. Philip undertook to request low bridge warning signs to prevent lorries using Binegar Bottom and finding an impassable bridge. Philip reported theft of a trunk, leaving the fallen tree in a dangerous condition. He asked for reports of any such action observed in future.</p> <p>7 Cemetery: burial policy (Min 5.7) The Council received a final draft of the policy and comments from Mr Grenville Reakes and</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB CL</p> <p>PB</p>

	<p>Richard. Following discussion, the final form of the policy was agreed. In light of a comment from Mr Reakes, it was agreed to seek confirmation from the Parochial Church Council that it was the <i>Burial Authority</i> for Holy Trinity Church graveyard.</p> <p>8 Highways (Min 5.8) <i>Requested works outstanding</i> Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road sign (from Nov 13)</p> <p>9 Planning issues <i>1 Emborough Grove</i> (Min 5.9.1) Richard stated that he was to meet the owner the following day about reinstating public access.</p> <p><i>2 2013/2289 Proposed conversion of Binegar School to a single dwelling</i> It was noted that this application had been approved.</p> <p><i>3 2013/2360 Proposed erection of single dwelling by Holy Trinity Church</i> It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.</p> <p><i>4 Highcroft Quarry</i> (taken as the second item on the agenda) The meeting reviewed the events of the previous weekend when the quarry had had been used for shooting all day Saturday and Sunday creating unacceptable noise levels and duration.</p> <p>Philip stated that, as Parish Clerk, had alerted both police and Mendip environmental health. The latter reported that it had received numerous complaints, that the quarry owner had not been aware that the event would create so much noise and that he had given an undertaking that there would not be a repeat of this incident.</p> <p>PCSO Nikki Housley reported that police had responded to calls but had found licences in order and no unlawful activity.</p> <p>There was extensive discussion on the noise nuisance. It was concluded that everyone affected needed to play a part in preventing future problems by complaining and raising the issue with Mendip District Council, local councillors and the police. It was agreed that the Council would write to Mendip's Chief Executive to demand action. (Members of the public remaining for this item now departed leaving only PCSO Housley.)</p>	GH PB RH RH
6	<p>Local government reports No reports were received.</p>	
7	<p>Police report Nikki reported a number of incidents: 3/3 - Highcroft Quarry explosions; 7/3 - Tractor lost wheel on A37; 19/3 - suspicious male selling fish, Slade Bottom; 25 & 26/3 - notice from film company of plan to use Highcroft Quarry for explosions; 29 & 30/3 – four complaints about shooting at Highcroft Quarry; 30/3 – youths throwing items into Lechmere Water; 31/3 – accident at Burnt Wood crossroads.</p>	
8	<p>Planning application 2014/0045 for change of use of land to one traveller's pitch at Turner's Court Lane (taken as the first item on the agenda) The Chair stated that a decision to approve or refuse a planning application lay with Mendip District Council. The Parish Council was able only to make a recommendation. He advised, therefore, that members of the parish with strong views should organise their own responses.</p> <p>The Parish Council's recommendation, to have any weight, needed to focus on planning</p>	

	<p>arguments for and against an application. In this case, there was government policy on gypsy and traveller sites and Mendip's <i>Local Plan</i>.</p> <p>Gus added that an applicant was allowed an appeal against refusal of a planning application by a district council. Mendip's <i>Local Plan</i> had yet to identify how to provide the number of traveller pitches required (93 pitches by 2020). Should this application be appealed, this would count against Mendip and the planning inspector would be likely, other things being equal, to approve the application.</p> <p>The Chair invited comments from Councillors and then from members of the parish. The following points were made in relation to planning criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was no mains sewer and so no adequate arrangement for sanitation ▪ Guidance stressed the need for a safe play area for children. There was none ▪ There was an alternative site but the application failed to consider it ▪ There was no public transport to the nearest school or GP surgery ▪ There was inadequate access and provision for manoeuvring of vehicles ▪ Access had been moved to the centre of the site and at right-angles to the Lane ▪ The caravan measured 8x2.5 m – almost the width of the single track Turner's Court Lane ▪ Site access was not possible without damaging verges and neighbouring boundaries ▪ High fences and gates segregated the site from the community against planning guidance ▪ The application noted manufacture of items but the site should be exclusively residential <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend refusal of this planning application. (Some members of the public present for this item now departed.)</p>	PB
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1 Insurance 2014-15</p> <p>Gus stated that extra cover would be needed for playground equipment and the defibrillator. He estimated this would add around £25 to the annual premium of £580. This change was agreed and Philip undertook to contact the Council's insurer.</p> <p>2 Internal audit</p> <p>Richard reported that Petherick & Gillard would undertake the internal audit.</p> <p>3 Land rent and payments</p> <p>The Council noted the issue of bills for land rents. On wayleaves, it was agreed to rebate charges to <i>The George</i> and <i>Class Motor Services</i> as they were young businesses.</p> <p>4 Planned bank debits (standing orders) for 2014-15</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to set up standing orders of £35 for <i>Somerset Community Council's</i> annual subscription and £633.60 for seven months for <i>Primrose Garden Maintenance</i>.</p> <p>5 Annual accounts 2013-14</p> <p>The Council received, considered and RESOLVED to approve the draft annual accounts.</p> <p>6 Annual Return 2013-14</p> <p>The Council received, considered and RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement for 2013-14.</p> <p>7 Payments</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payment:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">P Bridges for electrical installation of AED and playground power supply: £1,059.60</p>	PB

10	<p>Consultation on a draft transparency code for councils with a turnover of <£25,000</p> <p>The Council received and considered a report which explained that the code would replace external audit. Richard noted that the Council had all the information required by the Code and would have no difficulty in meeting its requirements. In light of this, it was RESOLVED to note the consultation.</p>	
11	<p>Hinckley C nuclear power station</p> <p>The meeting received a letter from Glastonbury Town Council seeking support for expressions concern and opposition to Hinckley C. Gus led the discussion, examining each of the claims in the letter. He disagreed that there would be a huge impact on local roads, that there was evidence of lack of safety that might lead to a catastrophe and that the proposed management of nuclear waste was negligent. He concluded that the arguments were not valid. Roger added that the power station was vital to maintaining supplies. It was RESOLVED to note the letter.</p>	
12	<p>Parish footpaths</p> <p>Philip reported he had laid woodchip on the path crossing his land and was given support to pursue opening a path along the disused brewery railway line. Gus offered to assist Philip with inspecting paths.</p>	PB
13	<p>Events attended</p> <p>Richard reported on a meeting of Somerset Association of Local Authorities which had outlined the financial regime required if councils adopted electronic banking.</p>	
14	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March were received and noted.</p>	
15	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>Philip undertook to report potholes on Tellis Lane, Portway Lane and Binegar Bottom.</p>	PB
16	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence to receive.</p>	
17	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <p>None were listed.</p>	
18	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 13 May 2014 at 7 30 pm.</p>	
19	<p>Councillor Jude Robbins</p> <p>The meeting bid a sad and fond farewell to Jude and thanked her for her contributions during the time she had been a councillor.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 15 pm.