

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting with Parishioners held on 13 May 2014 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Roger Anderson, Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, David Stone

In attendance: Mr Brian Perry and 25 members of the parish

1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting by relaying the sad news of the death of Douglas Hill on 1 May. He said that Douglas had made great contributions to the villages and church as parochial church councillor, as chair of governors of Binegar School and as a parish councillor.</p> <p>The meeting kept a minute of silence to respect Douglas Hill's memory.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 7 May 2013 meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
3.	<p>Annual Report of the Chair</p> <p>Richard gave an apology for absence from Gus Halfhide who had been Chair for almost all of 2013-14. He read to the meeting the report prepared by Gus:</p> <p>"My 3rd and, as it turned out, my last year as chairman proved to be the most challenging of all.</p> <p>"Our clerk resigned in January 2014 (I'll say a some more of that later), Roger Anderson was absent through illness for much of the year and Jude Robbins resigned in March 2014. I resigned as chair at the meeting in February and Richard Higgins has since been elected chair.</p> <p>"The Parish Council's regular business consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance of the village open spaces• Upkeep of the churchyard and cemetery• Running the children's playground through the Binegar Playing Field Group• Chasing up highways in respect of village roads and rights of way• Consideration of planning applications referred to the council• Ensuring we are properly insured• Keeping abreast of various national and local issues affecting the parish <p>"In the past year there have also been some significant activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of a new website for the council• Computerising the burial records and the implementation of a Burial Policy• Continuing to provide an excellent playground, which won a bronze award during the year• Obtaining funds and donations for a defibrillator (special thank to Cath Law for hard work) <p>"The most significant and regrettable aspect of the past year however was the long absence, through illness, and subsequent resignation of the clerk Rachel Thompson. There were irreconcilable differences between the council and Rachel towards the end. Nevertheless, on behalf of the council I would like to thank Rachel for her many years of service.</p> <p>"The clerk's absence meant that workload had to be shared amongst all councillors but notably Philip Blatchford who became the acting clerk and Richard Higgins who became responsible for</p>	

	<p>the council's financial matters. Their excellent work made my life as chair a lot easier than it might have been.</p> <p>"We had 6 applications for the post of clerk and this has resulted in the appointment of Diane Abbott who will take up the position from 1st June 2014.</p> <p>"My thanks to my fellow councillors for their time and support during the year."</p> <p>Richard added that he would like to thank a number of residents who had been Good Citizens: For work to reduce the threat of flooding: Chris Burr, Paul Milverton, Karen and Paul Weller; For masterminding the appeal to get a defibrillator: Cath Law.</p>	
4.	<p>Mr Brian Perry, Director, Gurney Slade Quarry The meeting welcomed Brian who addressed the meeting.</p> <p>Brian said that he knew that the Quarry had to work with its neighbours and be responsible about the environment. At the same time, stone was needed and it had to be dug where it was. Though business had picked up, the past five years had been poor for business.</p> <p>Brian mentioned that the ready-mix plant had been relocated into the quarry and away from the road – an improvement for residents and road users.</p> <p>He stated that, in the next 5-10 years, it was planned to move the quarry entrance so it was directly off the A37 rather than off Tape Lane. He promised that, before any planning application was made, he would consult the Parish Council, which represented local people who were the ones who lived with the quarry.</p> <p>Philip asked whether the daily water dousing of Tape Lane could also include the entrance to Francis Flowers' plant. Brian stated he had received no request and suggested the Parish Council write to Francis Flower.</p> <p>Brian ended asking that any problems be reported. If it were about a lorry, he asked that a note of date, time and registration number be taken.</p> <p>Richard thanked Brian for his contribution to the meeting.</p>	PB
5.	<p>Parishioners' questions There was discussion about the planned pedestrian, which Philip stated would be installed in the current financial year.</p> <p>On traffic speed through Gurney Slade, Sister Anne suggested residents use speed guns. Following discussion, it was agreed to consider this proposal further.</p>	RH
6.	<p>Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to hold the next Annual Meeting with Parishioners on 5 May 2015</p>	