

# ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts and David Stone.

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Jane and Nigel Gibbons, Colin Maidment, Kevin Harnell, John and Celia Sturgeon, Rachel Carter and Graham Fuzzey.

1	<b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.	
2	<b>Declarations of interests</b> Jonathan declared an interest in item 9 and Philip in item 8.3.	
3	<b>Chair's announcements</b> The Chair thanked Cath for arranging an excellent evening of defibrillator training, which was beneficial to all who attended.	
4	<b>Minutes of the previous meetings</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 2 December 2014 meeting be signed as a correct record.	
5	<b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b>  <b>5.1 Tree works and churchyard [May 13]</b> The Chair reported that the cemetery tree works were almost completed and it was agreed that Somerset Tree Surgery had provided a good service. The Council agreed that parishioners should be asked to make suggestions with respect to replacement planting.  <b>5.2 Highways: requested works outstanding</b> <b>1. Binegar Bottom road name at the end of Roemead Lane</b> It was noted that the sign had been replaced. <b>2. Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane</b> It was noted that the work has been carried out. <b>3. Missing street lamp (no 9), Binegar Lane [Dec 14]</b> Diane advised that a task order (number FM11012) had been received from Highways. <b>4. Broken street lamp at junction Tellis Lane and Station Road [Dec 14]</b> Diane advised that a task order (number FM14029) had been received from Highways. <b>5. Controlled pedestrian crossing of A37 in Gurney Slade [Oct 13]</b> A report from Councillor Harvey Siggs was noted and Phil reported that he had received the news that the crossing was scheduled for installation in May  <b>5.3 Planning issues</b> <b>1. 2014/1750/APP Turner's Court Lane: Traveller pitch reserved conditions</b> The Chair reported approval of conditions 5 (landscaping) and 6 (lighting, refuse storage and disposal of foul and surface water) with 15 March as the deadline for completing works.  <b>5.4 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14]</b> The Chair stated that the Clerk had written to owners of the two unrepaired graves, that the Parochial Church Council had applied for a faculty to do work in the churchyard and that he had attended a course on safety checks and would train councillors at the 2015 annual check.	RH

	<p><b>5.5 Dog fouling [Jun 14]</b> Jon informed the Council that the dog bin had been installed adjacent to the playing field. The Clerk stated that Mendip District Council had been advised it was now in place.</p> <p><b>5.6 The Batch [Sept 14]</b> Jon reported the Council that he had approached <i>BT Openreach</i> to identify who was receiving the wayleave payment for the telegraph pole on the Batch. As with <i>Western Power</i>, the information request was declined. The Council agreed Jon's suggested approach to the Land Registry and approved expenditure of £30 for the search.</p> <p><b>5.7 Projects for Sustaining Healthy Lives [Nov 14]</b> After discussion, the meeting agreed that the item should be reviewed in March and considered for the Annual General Meeting agenda.</p> <p><b>5.8 Emborough Pond [Nov 14]</b> The Chair reported recent correspondence with Councillor Harvey Siggs. In discussion, it was agreed to pursue the matter, Cath undertook to raise safety issues with Councillor Siggs, and the Chair undertook to respond about the causeway.</p> <p><b>5.9 Clarke's Pool [Dec 14]</b> Colin Maidment and Kevin Harnell, parishioners living close to Clarke's Pool, were welcomed to the meeting. Colin and Kevin reiterated the concerns they had previously raised and asked what action the Council was taking. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Mr Garnet Banwell regarding potential dredging of the pool.</p>	JA           CL RH           DA
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> Councillor Rachel Carter was welcomed and spoke about the High Banks' planning application (2015/0016/FUL). Rachel stated that she had recommended it was considered by the Planning Board and Gus strongly encouraged parishioners to attend that meeting.</p>	
7	<p><b>Police report</b> No report was received</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning applications and issues</b></p> <p><b>8.1 2015/0016/FUL – High Banks, BA3 4TR</b> A number of parishioners joined the meeting and expressed views about this planning application. There was discussion in depth which concluded that road safety and drainage were the main concerns. The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend refusal of permission on these grounds and set out its reasons in its response to Mendip District Council.</p> <p><b>8.2 2014/2676/TPO – Coombe End, BA3 4TR – Tree felling and coppicing</b> It was noted that this application fell within Ashwick Parish.</p> <p><b>8.3 2011/2124 – Turner's Court Lane – temporary caravan siting– expiry of consent</b> The Chair advised that the planning officer had reported the alleged breach of planning control to the enforcement team.</p>	RH
9	<p><b>Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal</b> The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to exclude the press and public from the meeting since discussion was likely to divulge information of a personal and confidential nature. Without participation from the Clerk or Jon, the meeting then agreed the process of the performance appraisal.</p>	RH
10	<p><b>Asset Register 2015-16</b> The Council received and approved the 2015-16 Asset Register.</p>	

11	<p><b>Defibrillator security</b></p> <p>The Council considered the security of the defibrillator in light of reported thefts to the north of Bristol. It was noted that neighbours had been alerted and, after discussion, it was agreed that no further action was indicated for the present.</p>	
12	<p><b>Transparency Code and Audit</b></p> <p>The Council considered revised year end accounting arrangements taking into consideration the new <i>Transparency Code</i> for smaller authorities. It was noted that the Clerk and Chair were to receive training. It was agreed that the Clerk should appoint an internal auditor.</p>	DA
13	<p><b>Freedom of Information Act</b></p> <p>The meeting received, considered and approved a publication scheme for Parish Council information. The Chair stated that the scheme was as approved by the Information Commissioner.</p>	
14	<p><b>Financial matters</b></p> <p><b>14.1 Financial Control</b></p> <p>The meeting received and noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for Binegar Parish Council, Binegar Playing Fields Group and National Saving &amp; Investment accounts.</p> <p><b>14.2 Precept</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had not to date received confirmation of the Precept from Mendip District Council but did not anticipate a problem.</p> <p><b>14.3 To note receipts since the last report</b></p> <p>The meeting noted the following receipts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr Hares – memorial (Mrs Jill Hares) £121.00</li> <li>2. Unwins – Interment (Mrs Q Crockett) £100.00</li> </ol> <p><b>14.4 To note standing order payments since the last report</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diane Abbott January salary – confidential</li> </ol> <p><b>14.5 Cheque payments</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Diane Abbott December salary – confidential</li> <li>2. HMRC Income tax for third quarter: £126.00</li> <li>3. Diane Abbott – expenses – stamps and memory sticks: £34.07</li> <li>4. Jon Abbott – expenses – wood stain and postcrete £17.78</li> <li>5. Ollie Hibbert – cemetery tree felling: £1,700.00</li> </ol>	
15	<p><b>Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2</b></p> <p>Gus summarised this report and highlighted issues on which the Council might comment. The Council agreed the comments and Gus undertook to respond to the plan for the Council.</p>	GH
16	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b></p> <p>The meeting received and noted the Minutes of the 13 January meeting. Philip stated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The safety surface for the see-saw area had been ordered</li> <li>2. The condition of the large multiplay had deteriorated but the apparatus was stable</li> <li>3. While not agreeing a budget for income, the Group proposed to retain a £1,000 contingency</li> </ol> <p>In reply to a question in the Minutes, the Group's status as a Council Committee was clarified. It was noted this allowed the Group to benefit from the Parish Council's insurance and conferred the right to reclaim VAT.</p>	

	The Group's terms of reference were discussed and Diane undertook to forward a copy to Philip.	DA
17	<p><b>Subscription membership</b></p> <p>The meeting reviewed current subscriptions and recommended continuing with <i>The Community Council for Somerset</i>, <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i> and <i>Somerset Playing Fields Association</i>. It was agreed that <i>South West Councils</i> had supplied invaluable HR advice but that membership was no longer warranted. It was agreed to advise <i>South West Councils</i> of this and thank them for their services.</p>	DA
18	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
19	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p>The following reports were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bennetts Lane - pot holes, damaged verges, mud accumulation (Philip)</li> <li>Street light not working behind the George, Phil to advise Diane of the number (Phil)</li> <li>Station Road verge by the Horse and Jockey needs clearing back from the road (Gus)</li> <li>Whitnell Lane drains need clearing to prevent flooding (Gus)</li> </ul>	DA DA DA DA
20	<p><b>Correspondence</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence to report.</p>	
21	<p><b>Items for the next or future agenda</b></p> <p>No items received</p>	
22	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 3 March 2015 at 7:30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:11 pm.