

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2016 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Val Blatchford, Ann Caley, John Carter, Rachel Carter, Michael Morgan and Richard Priestley.

1.	<p>Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2.	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair reported dismissal of the appeal by the owner of Emborough Pond against Mendip's enforcement notice to remove the unlawful causeway. This ended a battle lasting several years. The Chair stated that he would take agenda items 8 and 13 after item 4.</p>	
3.	<p>Declarations of interest Philip declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, planning application 2016/0274/FUL and Jon declared a personal interest in agenda item 9.</p>	
4.	<p>Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 2 February meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5.	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Binegar Cemetery lych gate [May 15] The Chair informed the meeting that work had started on looking into designs and costs.</p> <p>2 Finger sign-posts [Jun 15] The Clerk stated that restoration was almost complete and that an advance payment was required to purchase the replacement fingers. The meeting RESOLVED to make the payment.</p> <p>3 Highways and footpaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binegar Lane/A37 junction: sight line obstruction (Sep 15) Noted no jurisdiction over obstructions within the boundary of a property - no further action • Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street name (Nov 15) Noted as outstanding (Mendip District Council) • Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane: ditch (Dec 15) The Clerk reported that Jon had dug a water cut and ditch • Station Road below Binegar Green: two street lights broken (Feb 16) Noted as complete • Station Road: gully down west side requires filling (Feb 16) Noted as reported and acknowledged (Somerset Highways) • Highcroft Lane: mud on road (Feb 16) Noted as cleared • Kings Lane: potholes (Feb 16) Noted as complete • Bennett's Lane: loose phone wire hanging from telegraph pole (Feb 16) Noted as reported and acknowledged (BT) • Turner's Court Lane: footpath sign (Nov 15) Noted as outstanding (Somerset County Council) • Marchant's Hill: footpath sign (Feb 16) Noted as outstanding (Somerset County Council) 	<p style="text-align: right;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p>

	<p>4 Planning applications 2014/2684/FUL – Alfie’s Retreat, BA3 4UA – planning breach remedy 2016/002/TPO – Coombe End, BA3 4TR – tree felling The meeting noted that there was no decision to report on either application.</p> <p>5 Pedestrian controlled crossing A37 [Jun 13] The Chair reported that the County Council had approved the scheme; programming the work was the next step.</p> <p>6 ‘Get up to Speed’ internet and computer skills programme [Jul 15] The Chair informed the meeting this was an excellent event and encouraged attendance at future events. Philip requested the availability of tutorials on building websites.</p> <p>7 Flood prevention [Jul 15] The Chair stated that he considered the Parish Council had done all it could to mitigate risk. It had dredged Clarke’s Pool, cleared drains, dug water cuts, asked villagers to inspect culverts and liaised with Mendip District Council and <i>Wessex Water</i>. It had pressed the County for action on the great risk of surface water flooding but without success. The meeting agreed to raise the matter again when Mendip next consulted on its <i>Local Plan</i>.</p> <p>8 Dementia Friendly Community Cath informed the meeting that plans were ongoing.</p>	DA
6.	<p>Local government report District Councillors reported Mendip had agreed a Council Tax rise of 1.75% and they commented on a number of current items.</p>	
7.	<p>Police report There was no police report.</p>	
8.	<p>Planning Applications 2015/2651/CLE – Church of the Holy Trinity BA3 4UG Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use of land to establish that the land is within the curtilage of the church Jon reported that Mendip had changed the wording of the Parish Council’s application (see above). He believed this new wording was incorrect, had spoken with the case officer to obtain clarification and would be seeking further advice.</p> <p>2016/0237/HSE – 2 Flowerstone BA3 4UQ – house extension After discussion, the meeting RESOLVED to support the decision of the planning officer.</p> <p>2016/0274/FUL – Bennett’s Lane BA3 4UG – barn Philip retired from the room. The meeting heard from Mr Michael Morgan opposing the planning application and Mrs Val Blatchford answered questions in support of the application.</p> <p>There was discussion on the application and the meeting RESOLVED that the Parish Council would support the planning officer’s decision but would comment on a number of material considerations. Philip re-joined the meeting.</p>	JA RH RH
9.	<p>Binegar Bottom The meeting received and considered a report from John. John told the meeting that he had identified a potential grant that might fund planting and fencing.</p> <p>After discussion, the meeting agreed to accept John’s recommendation for grants and move the project forward. John asked that the Clerk and Chair review the potential grant.</p>	JS DA RH

10.	<p>Clean for the Queen Phil reported a modest response from parishioners to support the initiative. The Chair noted that many parishioners had already tidied parts of the villages.</p> <p>Phil stated that a group would meet at 9 00 am on Saturday 5 March and start cleaning. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had a supply of "Clean for the Queen" litter bags.</p> <p>The Clerk invited Councillors and volunteers to meet for a photo-shoot by the refurbished fingerpost at the Binegar Green crossroads at 3 00 pm on Saturday 5 March.</p>	
11.	<p>Noticeboard by Colborne Close on Binegar Lane Jon reported that he had the board and would refurbish it in the near future. There was discussion about whether the board required weather protection and the meeting agreed to review this later in the year.</p>	JA
12.	<p>The Fair Field The meeting received and considered a report from the Chair who welcomed Rev Capt. Richard Priestly to the meeting. Rev Priestley outlined the options for the future of the Fair Field and proposed a partnership between the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council to plan, manage and maintain the field as a community resource.</p> <p>In discussion, the meeting noted that most expenses would fall to the Parish Council but, in return, the Council might assure the future of the field as green, open space.</p> <p>After discussion, the meeting agreed to explore the options further with a view to preparing a plan to submit to the Diocese. As a Parochial Church Councillor, David was already involved and Cath undertook to represent the Parish Council and assist in the preparation of the plan.</p>	CL
13.	<p>Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust The Clerk outlined plans for the Trust's 50th Anniversary celebrations. She reminded members of the exhibition in the Memorial Hall on the weekend of 11/12 June. The Clerk asked members to save the date and be ready to help during opening hours. She undertook to prepare a proposal for the management of the event.</p>	All DA
14.	<p>Annual Parish Meeting The Chair stated that the Annual Parish Meeting was when the Council met its parishioners. In the past, it was held for 30 minutes immediately before the May meeting. The Clerk proposed that this year the Annual Parish Meeting move to a different evening, close to the May meeting. In discussion, members suggested that refreshments be offered alongside exhibitions, consultations, information and a formal report to parishioners. The meeting agreed the proposed change and Thursday May 5 was provisionally set aside.</p>	All
15.	<p>Financial Matters 1 Financial Control The meeting received and noted a summary of budget variances for the Council's accounts. 2 Asset Register The meeting received, considered and RESOLVED to approve the 2016 asset register. 3 Internal Audit Plan The Clerk stated that she would engage Petherick and Gillard to conduct the internal audit. 4 Internal Controls John undertook to carry out the Annual Risk Assessment of Internal Controls. 5 Rents and wayleaves The Clerk reported that she had raised bills for agricultural land rent and wayleaves. 6 Receipts since the last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anonymous donations Aug to Nov 2015 – (playground account) £20.00 	DA JS

	<p>7 Standing order payments since the last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs D Abbott – salary – February – confidential <p>8 Approval of cheque payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J Abbott expenses – beverages "Getting up to Speed" - £27.30 • Greensward Consultancy – Play area repairs - £96.00 • Mendip Community Transport – donation - £50.00 • Diane Abbott Office and Computer October to February - confidential 	
16.	<p>Playground</p> <p>The meeting received and noted a report from the Clerk. The Chair stressed to Councillors the importance of carrying out routine playground inspections.</p> <p>Philip informed the meeting of a plan to install the large multiplay slide on Sunday 6 March. He also undertook to arrange collection of the redundant swing seat though he stated he might require help to move it.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>PB</p>
17.	<p>Events attended</p> <p>The Chair stated that he had attended RoSPA <i>Play Area Inspection Training</i> that day.</p>	
18.	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binegar Lane – Underhill footpath: overhanging shrubs from <i>The George</i> • Ditto: overhanging shrubs from 4 Underhill (Phil to advise of householder name) • Bennetts Lane – Station Road public footpath: stile broken (Philip to advise of exact location) • A37 viaduct north of Portway Lane, south of Old Down: gullies blocked 	<p>DA</p> <p>PR</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p>
19.	<p>Correspondence received</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had received a letter of thanks from <i>Mendip Community Transport</i> for the Council's donation. She also reported that the County Council, in line with its policy on use, had withdrawn the mobile library stop at the Memorial Hall.</p>	
20.	<p>Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting since the discussion was likely to divulge information of a personal and confidential nature. The Clerk and Jon retired from the room.</p>	
21.	<p>Next meeting and future dates</p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 5 April 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2016: 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.01pm.