

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 October 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), Cllr J Carter, Cllr R Carter, Diane and Tim Gregory.

1	<p>Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Announcements The Chair informed the meeting that Richard Emery had been awarded the Somerset County Council Chairman's <i>Award for Service to the Community</i>. Phil Roberts confirmed he would escort Richard Emery to the ceremony. The meeting was delighted with the news.</p> <p>The Chair reminded members of the date of the next Mendip Parish Forum on Tuesday 18 October. A number of members arranged to attend.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 6 September 2016 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>5.1 Highways and footpaths</p> <p>The Meeting noted that the following District Council street signs remained outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street name (Nov 15) ▪ King's Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16) ▪ Roemead Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16) <p>The meeting noted that the following Highways items remained outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Whitnell Lane: flood between Cold Harbour Farm and B3139 (Jul 16); ref 295786 ▪ Turners Court / King's Lane junction: sunken services trench (Jul 16); ref 295786 <p>5.2 Planning applications 2014/2684/FUL - Alfie's Retreat, Turner's Court Lane The meeting noted that a planning application was expected.</p> <p>APP/Q3305/X/16/3155196 - Old Down Caravan Site - Appeal against refused lawful development certificate The meeting noted that the Parish Council had sent comments and other parties had until 17 October 2016 to submit final comments.</p> <p>5.3 Autumn Clean for the Queen - 8 / 9 October Phil informed the meeting that there would be a general clear up over the weekend.</p> <p>5.4 NHS health checks for parishioners The Clerk informed the meeting that an NHS health check would take place alongside a Dementia Friends awareness session that she and Cath would organise one before Christmas.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>DA/ CL</p>

6	<p>Local government report</p> <p>The meeting welcomed Councillors John and Rachel Carter who gave reports on current issues including a review of the <i>Community Infrastructure Levy</i>, the current budget situation and corporate management within the District Council.</p>	
7	<p>Planning Applications 2016/1306/APP – High Banks BA3 4TR – external finish to Neville’s Batch</p> <p>The meeting welcomed Mr and Mrs Gregory and a discussion ensued regarding Neville’s Batch. Following debate, it was agreed that the Parish Council would consider options available and that a separate meeting to discuss these would take place between Mr Gregory and members of the Council. John Scadding and Jon Abbott agreed to meet with Mr Gregory.</p>	JA JS
8	<p>Financial Matters 8.1 Financial Control</p> <p>The meeting received and noted a summary of the Council’s accounts.</p> <p>8.2 External Audit</p> <p>The meeting noted that Grant Thornton had issued its external auditor’s certificate confirming satisfactory accounts. The auditor made two minor comments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To sign the governance statement before the accounting statements. 2. To ensure the correct calculation of days for public perusal of accounts. <p>8.3 Receipts since last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Western Power – Wayleave - £74.71 • Exclusive Memorials (for M W Robertson) - £100.00 • Anonymous donations - £5.00 – Playground <p>8.5 Standing order payments since last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs D Abbott – salary – September – confidential • Primrose Garden Maintenance - £633.60 <p>8.6 Approval of Cheque Payments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMRC – Salary - confidential • J Abbott – Expenses playground paint - £29.97 	
9	<p>Budget 2017 – 18</p> <p>The meeting considered projects likely to require expenditure in the next financial year. The Clerk asked members to consider all ventures for inclusion and estimate sums required.</p>	All
10	<p>Project updates Village signposts (PR/DA)</p> <p>Phil informed the meeting that work was in progress. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had a contact within highways to arrange a site visit to review existing signage and that she had spoken with Exclusive Memorials regarding carving of gateway stones.</p> <p>Cemetery shelter and churchyard tree works (RH/JA)</p> <p>The meeting agreed the project sponsors’ recommendation to submit an application for a lawful development certificate for the shelter as a permitted development. The meeting was delighted to hear that the Chair had received a promise of £5,000 towards the cost of the project.</p> <p>Binegar Bottom planting, clearing and woodland management plan (JS/PB)</p> <p>John updated the meeting on progress and stated that the next steps was to trim and clear scrub and remove the old signage concrete. He informed the meeting that working parties would take place on Saturday 8 and 15 October and requested that volunteers come along and help. He stated that he would be meeting Ann from the <i>Somerset Wetland Trust</i> on Wednesday 5 October to discuss in more detail the left hand side of Binegar Bottom as a wild flower/grass site.</p>	DA RH/ JA JS

	<p>The Fair Field (RH, CL/DS) The Chair reminded the meeting that the Fair Field project was now separated from the project to reorder Holy Trinity Church. He stated that he had met a third party who had offered help to the Parish Council to acquire the Fair Field. The help was to be either a loan or an exchange of land. The Council agreed it was interested in acquiring the Fair Field in order to keep its ownership local and preserve it for future generations.</p> <p>As the Chair had been involved in discussions to date, it was agreed he should continue once he returned from holiday in November.</p> <p>Dementia Friendly Villages (CL/DA) Cath informed the meeting that she would be working with the Clerk to arrange a Dementia Friends session.</p> <p>Village history plaques (RH) Phil updated the meeting on the <i>Blue Plaque</i> celebrating Henry Martin, defender of Rorke's Drift and resident of Belvedere House in Gurney Slade. Phil undertook to arrange for the appropriate military to be involved in the ceremony to unveil the plaque.</p>	RH CL PR
11	<p>Grass cutting contract 2017-18 The meeting considered a contract specification for 2017-18. It agreed that the Clerk should include the removal of brambles from behind the playground fence and keeping clear the pathway from the Village Hall car park to the new playground gate. Members were invited to suggest other areas.</p>	DA
12	<p>Playground The meeting received and considered a report from the Clerk on playground inspection and maintenance. She thanked all who had taken part in inspections and carried out routine maintenance tasks.</p> <p>Birds nest swing The Clerk informed the meeting that the replacement frame and swing had been installed.</p> <p>Replacement of small multiplay The Clerk informed the meeting that applications for funding had been drafted. She stated that more credence might be given to applications if the Parish Council made a financial contribution. Following the Clerk's suggestion, the meeting RESOLVED to contribute £1,000 to the project. John informed the meeting that he awaited a response from another funding request.</p>	DA JS
13	<p>Mobile library The meeting noted with sorrow the withdrawal of the mobile library from the Parish.</p>	
14	<p>Events Attended There were no events attended.</p>	
15	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>The following were reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A37 viaduct south of Old Down: blocked drains • Junction of Turners Court Lane and Emborough Lane: numerous potholes • A37 opposite end of Portway Lane: hole caused by missing cats eye • Binegar Lane junction with A37: pothole • Chapel Hill and Tape Lane junction: pothole. 	DA

16	<p>Correspondence received No correspondence received.</p>	
17	<p>Next meeting and future dates The Council noted the next meeting was on 1 November 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>Further meetings – 2016: 6 December; 2017: 7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm.