

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 June 2017 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Councillors J and R Carter and twenty-three Parishioners.

Public Questions

Parishioners raised concerns regarding the circulation of a letter from Della Valle Architects concerning a neighbourhood consultation for a proposed residential development on land behind Flowerstone. Parishioners described the letter and questionnaire as underhand, misleading, crafty and divisive. Further, they said that the letter had heeded neither responses to the previous planning application nor the preferred options in District Council's *Local Plan II*, which showed a preference for linear development within the village. Parish councillors agreed to discuss points raised at their July meeting.

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept an apology from Cath Law.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Announcements The Chair encouraged members to attend the <i>Mendip Parish Forum</i> on Tuesday 13 June.</p>	All
3	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 2 May 2017 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Highways and footpaths The Clerk undertook to pursue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street sign (Nov 15) ▪ Roemead Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16) <p>The Clerk undertook to report these items again to Highways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Tape Lane/Chapel Lane junction: pot hole (Mar 17) ▪ Station Road/Binegar Lane: Road condition by Horse and Jockey (May 17) <p>2. Planning applications 2016/2573/FUL – Alfie's Retreat BA3 4UA – Compliance with planning conditions Councillor Carter advised that the planning officer had given the applicant a deadline of 5 June to supply plans requested but outstanding.</p> <p>3. Annual Meeting with parishioners The Chair stated that parishioners had raised concerns about the A37. The meeting agreed to discuss these issues in agenda item 18. The Chair thanked the Clerk for organising the exhibition for the Annual Meeting.</p> <p>4. Old Down agricultural tenancy The Chair informed the meeting that the Council's land agent was handling the matter. The meeting agreed to consider the tenancy again when there were further developments.</p>	DA DA
6	<p>Local government reports Councillors John and Rachel Carter said there was little to report as the Council's focus was on the forthcoming general election and the Glastonbury Festival.</p>	

7	<p>Planning applications</p> <p>The Chair noted reports of unauthorised changes to a listed building. He stated that a parishioner had complained to the planning authority, which had undertaken to investigate. The meeting agreed to await any developments.</p>	
8	<p>2016-17 Annual Return</p> <p>The meeting noted that the Clerk had submitted the Annual Return to Grant Thornton for audit. As instructed by the auditor, the Clerk arranged publication of Annual Return sections 1 and 2 on the website.</p> <p>The meeting noted publication of a list of expenditure over £100 on the website.</p>	
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1. Current financial position</p> <p>The meeting received the Clerk's analysis and noted the financial position to date.</p> <p>2. Receipts since the last report</p> <p>The meeting noted there had been no receipts since last the report</p> <p>3. Standing order payments made since the last report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £649.37 - Primrose Garden Services - May grass cutting ▪ £XXX.XX - Parish Clerk salary, May – confidential ▪ £35.00 – Community Council for Somerset – annual subscription <p>4. Approval of cheque payments</p> <p>The meeting noted and approved the following cheque payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £2,031.13 - Yandle's Green Oak – lych gate ▪ £1,154.28 – Windebank – lych gate ▪ £3,001.60 – Mendip Developers – lych gate ▪ £572.57 – Zurich – annual insurance premium ▪ £21.43 - D Abbott – out of pocket expenses ▪ £240.00 – Browning Chartered Accountants – internal audit 	
10	<p>2017 Let's celebrate event</p> <p>Jon reported that plans were going well and that Box Office arrangements for film and lunch tickets were now in place. Marketing literature had been prepared and would distributed shortly. This would include a letter drop to all parishioners.</p>	JA
11	<p>Nominations for awards</p> <p>The meeting received and considered nominations for awards.</p>	
12	<p>The Conservation Volunteers</p> <p>The meeting considered an offer from a Bristol-based group to help with conservation or clearance work. After discussion, John undertook to consider whether to request the volunteers' help with Binegar Bottom or other projects.</p>	JS
13	<p>Project updates</p> <p>1. Village signs</p> <p>Following suggestions from parishioners at the Annual Meeting, councillors agreed to expand this project to include pedestrian and road traffic safety on the A37 through Gurney Slade.</p>	

<p>For the immediate issue of village signs, Phil presented proposals for "gateways" on verges at either end of the village. With these would be a sign naming the village. Councillors heard that, making a clear entrance to a village, cut traffic accidents.</p>	
<p>Members considered various options for "gateways" and signs. They divided over whether the sign should include one or both village names. Other issues included location and prevention of weed growth obscuring the signs. Councillors agreed it was appropriate to consult parishioners on these matters.</p>	
<p>The Chair reminded members that the southern village signs were located in Ashwick Parish. Following discussion, councillors agreed to invite Ashwick Parish to participate and contribute to the project.</p>	RH
<p>In addition, the meeting considered erecting a Parish sign by way of a tourist boundary marker. The Clerk agreed to create a mock up.</p>	DA
<p>To supplement the signs, the meeting discussed concerns raised by parishioners regarding speed control and safer footpaths along the A37. The Chair noted that County Councillor Mike Pullin had asked for an outline proposal. The Chair undertook to forward the work that came out of the Annual Meeting to Councillor Pullin.</p>	RH
<p>2. Cemetery lych gate The meeting noted that work was progressing on the woodwork for the lych gate. The Chair stated that he had received comments about the floor and the meeting agreed to consider paving it. The Clerk agreed to make contact with the contractor.</p>	DA
<p>The meeting also discussed the fence and replacing it with a hedge, perhaps a holly hedge. As a first step, the meeting agreed to clear the bunker and remove the adjacent elder tree.</p>	JA DS
<p>3. Binegar Bottom John informed the meeting that tender documents to build the leaky ponds were ready. He undertook to liaise with the Clerk regarding issuing the tenders. David raised concerns over the gas pipeline that ran near-by. Following discussion, councillors agreed to advise the gas service provider.</p>	JS DA
<p>4. Future projects The meeting gave thought to additional projects and the following suggestions were made:</p>	
<p>Public benches</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review condition of all benches and replace, repair or remove as necessary 	
<p>A37 through Gurney Slade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highway improvement scheme ▪ Daffodil verges on A37 at village entrances ▪ Christmas tree – possible site 	JS
<p>Binegar Bottom</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restore Local Wildlife Site ▪ Manage woodland 	
<p>Neville's Batch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restoration and tidying ▪ Christmas tree – possible site 	

	<p>Cemetery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Hedge around the cemetery ▪ Daffodil verges to path ▪ Christmas tree – possible site <p>Churchyard (with agreement from Holy Trinity Parochial Church Council)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cut yew at gates to 3m high or fell yew at cemetery gate ▪ Fell lopped conifer and create a seat of the stump ▪ Flood light the church ▪ Repair capstones to churchyard gate 	
14	<p>Somerset Remembers</p> <p>The meeting noted 6 November 2018 as the date of the Lord Lieutenant’s event to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1.</p>	
15	<p>Playground</p> <p>The meeting noted the monthly playground report. The Clerk reported delays to the installation of the small multi-play due to a missing piece and notified the meeting that the annual safety inspection was due to take place in June. Phil expressed concern about children running into the carpark and the meeting agreed to raise the matter with the RoSPA inspector.</p>	
16	<p>Events attended</p> <p>There were no events attended.</p>	
17	<p>A37 pedestrian crossing</p> <p>The meeting noted a request for feedback regarding the installation of the pedestrian crossing on the A37 and agreed to forward comments to the Chair.</p>	All
18	<p>Small Highway Improvement Scheme</p> <p>The meeting agreed this had been covered under Item 13.1</p>	
19	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>Members reported the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Binegar Lane adjacent to playground: deep hole at roadside ▪ A37 Marchants Hill, 100m south of Tellis Lane junction: corroded post of road sign ▪ A37 Gurney Slade: puffin crossing warning light out of action ▪ Binegar Lane south of Colbourn Close: rotted litter bin post ▪ Binegar Lane/A37 junction: worn out directional signs to Binegar and Village Hall <p>The Clerk noted that Somerset Highways encouraged reports direct from members of the public in addition to any reports via parish councils.</p> <p>The meeting asked Philip to take forward two items peripheral to the parish:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Bennetts Lane (each end): removal of temporary slippery road warning signs ▪ Whitnell Lane west of Coldharbour Farm entrance: road flood tendency 	DA PB
20	<p>Dates of future meetings</p> <p>4 July 2017, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December, 6 February 2018</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm.