

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2017 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Paul Sharp, Mike Pullin (7.45pm) and Celia and John Sturgeon

1	<p>Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Announcements The Chair informed the meeting that Sheila Thompson was the new PCSO covering the Shepton Mallet Rural Beat, Nicola Housley having moved to cover the Wells Rural Beat.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 4 and 25 July 2017 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Highways and footpaths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street sign (Nov 15) • Roemead Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16) The Clerk reported that she had again raised these with Mendip District Council and had not received a response. • A37 Marchants Hill, south of Tellis Lane junction: corroded post of road sign (June 17) • Binegar Lane/A37 junction: worn out directional signs to Binegar/Village Hall (June 17) The meeting noted that Somerset Highways had not taken action. • Footpath on Marchant's Hill: fallen tree (Jul 17) The meeting noted that Paul Sharp had undertaken to clear the tree. <p>2. Planning applications 2016/2573/FUL – Alfie's Retreat BA3 4UA – Compliance with planning conditions 2017/1797/FUL – Land to rear of 5 Dalleston – proposed dwelling The meeting noted that neither application had been determined.</p> <p>3. Let's Celebrate The meeting received a report from Jon on the outcome of the weekend. Along with members, the Chair thanked Jon and his team for their hard work, which had made such a success of the weekend.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting received reports from Cllrs Carter who sent their apologies for absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They continued to press for a resolution on Alfie's Retreat • The five authorities grouping was working well with savings are being made • The Mendip Transition Board was looking at investment opportunities • The budget was under control with a small underspend projected 	
7	<p>Planning applications There were no planning applications for consideration.</p>	

8	<p>2016-17 Annual Return The meeting noted that the Council’s auditor, Grant Thornton, had certified that the accounts were satisfactory and complied with proper practices. Members congratulated the Clerk.</p>	
9	<p>Financial matters Current financial position The meeting received a report and noted the financial position to date.</p> <p>Receipts since the last report The meeting noted the following receipts: £3,548.46 – Transfer from playground account £2,249.77 – HMRC VAT reclaim £16,256.54 – Donation for construction of lych gate</p> <p>Standing order payments since the last report: £649.37 - Primrose Garden Services - grass cutting payment (4/7) £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – July and August salary</p> <p>Cheque payments authorised: £180.60 – Play Safety – Annual RoSPA playground inspection £3,050.00 – Mendip Developers – lych gate £4,600.33 – The Woodworker – lych gate</p> <p>Let’s Celebrate payments £140.00 – Little Jack Horner £201.98 – D Abbott £96.12 – R J Croker Cold Meats £450.00 – P R Thompson Entertainment £95.86 – S Stone £257.89 – D Abbott – expenses £110.00 – S Robbins – bouncy castle £50.00 – T Tapner – stage £210.00 – SW Medical Services £512.00 – Great Tastes £44.22 – A Bunting £69.99 – S Lester £372.00 – Passion and Soul £48.97 – D Abbott £225.80 – Mendip Moments £350.00 – Binegar Memorial Hall</p> <p>Consideration of transfer of £5,000 to the NSI bank deposit account The meeting considered the transfer and, after discussion, it was agreed to defer a decision until after potential annual expenditure had been identified.</p>	
10	<p>Project updates 1. Village signposts The Chair reported on possible signposts, wording, locations and costs following a meeting with a supplier. The Clerk stated that she had requested a meeting with Highways to further progress.</p> <p>Highways Small Improvement Schemes (SIS) Councillor Pullin up-dated the meeting, noting that the closing date for SIS was 31 October 2017. He asked that the Council outline a scheme by identifying problems for solution.</p> <p>Traffic island and ditch by Gurney Slade Post Office Members discussed these areas put forward suggestions to improve their appearance. Members agreed to give thought to potential solutions in readiness for the October meeting.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>2. Cemetery lych gate The meeting noted the dedication was to take place at 6.30 pm on Sunday 10 September.</p> <p>Cath raised a parishioner's concern that the gate stop was a trip hazard. The Chair undertook to investigate the matter.</p> <p>3. Binegar Bottom The meeting noted that, whilst no tenders had been received, R M Penny had indicated willingness to submit a tender but wished to consider revisions to the specification. John undertook to pursue progress.</p> <p>4. Public benches The meeting received a report on the condition of the benches in the Parish. The report recommended replacing two benches in the playground and consulting on whether to repair benches at Colbourn Close and Station Road. Following discussion, the meeting agreed to seek costs to replace the playground benches and repair the other two.</p> <p>5. Neville's Batch John informed the meeting that he had been in contact with Mr Gregory regarding the gifting of trees and stones on Neville's Batch and awaited a response. The meeting agreed to defer consideration.</p> <p>6. Cemetery improvements The meeting considered the outcome of consultations with parishioners on options for the cemetery boundary. The prevailing view favoured a plain <i>estate fence</i> and the Council agreed to proceed on this basis.</p> <p>7. Churchyard improvements The meeting noted that John Sturgeon had applied for a <i>Faculty</i> from the Diocese to fell the broken evergreen tree and awaited a response.</p> <p>The meeting considered further maintenance of the yew trees and agreed that John Scadding would lead an assessment of the next stage of pruning with David Stone and Philip Blatchford.</p> <p>The meeting noted that a response regarding capping stones and exterior lighting was awaited from the Parochial Church Council.</p> <p>The meeting considered <i>Tree Preservation Orders</i> for the copper beech. After discussion, it was agreed that the trees had sufficient protection and that TPOs were not needed.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>JS</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JS</p>
11	<p>Playground The meeting received and noted the playground report for September.</p> <p>The Clerk reported the small multiplay was open and had proved a popular addition. She undertook to thank donors. She stated that she had contacted the Chief Executive of HAGS/SMP to discuss the payment, seeking compensation for the shortcomings in service and installation.</p> <p>The Clerk ran through outstanding maintenance and requested assistance to make good. The Clerk stated that the slide on the large multiplay was to be replaced that week and she proposed to ask for help with the mound steps and safer surfacing concerns. Jon commented on vandalism to the Red Train following the latest inspection report.</p> <p>The meeting considered a proposal to replace the roadside fence with one more oriented towards children. After discussion, it was agreed consider the matter at the October meeting.</p>	<p>All</p>

12	<p>The Great British Clean Up The meeting noted that Phil and the Clerk would make arrangements. Jon stated that he would arrange loan of equipment.</p>	JA
13	<p>Policy Reviews The meeting received and considered revised policies on <i>Councillors' Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy</i> and <i>Financial regulations</i> and RESOLVED to adopt both policies.</p>	
14	<p>Training The meeting considered training needs and agreed that none were required.</p>	
15	<p>Events attended There were no events attended.</p>	
16	<p>Highways and rights of way No items were raised and members agreed to report road defects as and when noticed or notified to them.</p>	All
17	<p>Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting: 3 October 2017 in the Memorial Hall</p> <p>Future meetings 7 November 17, 5 December 17, 6 February 2018, 6 March 2018</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.05pm