

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 2017 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Cllr Rachel Carter and Paul Sharp.

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept an apology from John Scadding.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Announcements The Chair raised concerns from Harry Crowley regarding damage to the Fair Field wall.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 5 September be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Highways and footpaths Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street sign (Nov 15) Roemead Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16)</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had again raised these with Mendip District Council and had not received a response. She undertook to pursue the matter.</p> <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</p> <p>The meeting noted that neither application had been determined.</p>	DA
6	<p>Local government reports Cllr Rachel Carter reported on the last <i>Parish Forum</i> stating the session had been very useful and had identified the needs of parishes for future sessions. It was agreed that a later start might improve attendance.</p>	
7	<p>Planning applications There were no planning applications for consideration.</p>	
8	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1. Current financial position The meeting received a report and noted the financial position to date.</p> <p>2. Receipts since the last report The meeting noted the following receipts: £74.71 – Western Power - Wayleave £51.90 – J Abbott timber purchased with lych gate</p> <p>3. Standing order payments since the last report: £649.37 - Primrose Garden Services - grass cutting payment (5/7) £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – September salary</p>	

	<p>4. Cheque payments authorised: £240.00 – Grant Thornton – external audit £958.70 – Ministry of Play – supply and installation of slide £11,302.32 – HAGs-SMP – Agen play unit £163.80 – HMRC – income tax</p>	
9	<p>Project updates</p> <p>1. Village name signs and A37 road improvements in Gurney Slade Concerning name signs, the Clerk reminded the meeting that the next step was a meeting with Somerset Highways. She reported that she had invited Mr Chris Betty, Highways Officer to a meeting but had not received a response. She undertook to pursue the matter.</p> <p>The Chair reported public support for the Council's <i>Small Improvement Scheme</i> highway proposal. As it affected Ashwick's part of Gurney Slade, the Chair had consulted that parish council but with no response to date. The meeting agreed that proposal be submitted to County Councillor Mike Pullin.</p> <p>The meeting considered whether it might improve the traffic island to the north of the Post Office and the drainage ditch. Councillors put forward a number of suggestions about the ditch but it was agreed that clearing it of weeds was the first priority both for winter and to understand the best long-term option. Jon undertook to lead this work.</p> <p>On the traffic island, the meeting considered two options presented by <i>Primrose Garden Maintenance</i>. Following discussion, members agreed to proceed with the proposal to clear the island of weeds and topsoil, plant <i>Heuchera</i> over weed suppressing membrane and cover with wood chip. In response to a points raised, the Clerk undertook to seek assurance from <i>Primrose</i> that the plants were salt tolerant and ask when would be the best time to plant.</p> <p>2. Binegar Bottom The meeting received a report on the progress of flood mitigation works and noted that a plan and cost estimate was awaited from R M Penny.</p> <p>3. Public benches It was agreed to defer consideration of benches in the playground until work on the boundary fence was planned.</p> <p>The meeting noted an estimate of £450 to repair the Colbourne Close and Station Road benches and RESOLVED to proceed with the repairs.</p> <p>4. Cemetery improvements The meeting considered the outcome of consultations with parishioners on options for the cemetery boundary fence. It noted the prevailing view favoured an <i>estate fence</i>. Members reviewed a number of prices for the specified work, agreed that <i>Company A</i> best fulfilled the requirements and RESOLVED to proceed with the tender from <i>Company A</i>.</p> <p>Concerning the removal of the existing wooden fence, Philip undertook to lead a work party.</p> <p>5. Churchyard improvements Following negative comments on the state of the yew in the intermediate phase of its maintenance, John and David had undertaken to review the matter. David reported that they needed further arboriculture advice and John had undertaken to arrange this.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the Council deferred further maintenance of the yew.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>RH</p> <p>JA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JS</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>JS</p>

10	<p>Playground</p> <p>The meeting received and noted the playground report for October.</p> <p>The Clerk advised that her negotiation for compensation from HAGS/SMP had led to an offer to supply, free-of-charge, equipment worth some £1,500. In addition, the company had matched the price obtained for supplementing the play train's safer surface and offered to lay a safer surface around the new equipment. It remained for the Council to fund the installation. The Clerk undertook to seek quotations for this.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to accept the HAGS/SMP offer, to authorise £2,650 for safer surface and up to £2,000 for installation of the new apparatus.</p> <p>On behalf of the Council, the Chair offered congratulations to the Clerk for her patient and diligent work over this matter.</p> <p>Concerning urgent maintenance, it was RESOLVED to authorise up to £500 to purchase timber to replace the slide steps.</p> <p>Regarding other maintenance, the Chair asked that members adopt one of the outstanding items from the annual safety report and undertake what was required.</p>	DA JA All
11	<p>Grass cutting contract 2018-19</p> <p>The meeting received and agreed a specification of work.</p> <p>In light of pricing history of the Council's contractor, it was RESOLVED waive normal contract rules and invite a single tender.</p>	DA
12	<p>Half year review</p> <p>The meeting considered progress over the first half of the financial year. Members noted that resolutions at the meeting funded projects up to the Council's financial limit.</p> <p>Members suggested projects and works for 2018-19 including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently planned work at Binegar Bottom and reinstatement of the <i>County Wildlife Site</i> • Culvert and ditch on the A37 • A new website • A notice board in Gurney Slade • Work to the Batch • Improvement to areas around the phone box and public seats and • A new fence, seats and refuse bins for the playground. <p>The Chair asked members to consider other matters to which the Council should attend.</p>	All
13	<p>The Great British Clean Up</p> <p>The meeting noted that arrangements for the weekend of 21-22 October with sessions taking place from 10.30 to 12.00pm on both Saturday and Sunday.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that she had sourced pickers and bags <i>id verde</i> and undertook to create posters to advertise the event.</p>	DA
14	<p>Cemetery safety</p> <p>The meeting received and noted an annual safety report.</p> <p>The Chair recommended a full safety audit in 2018, involving all members.</p>	

15	<p>Somerset County Council: Chairman's awards for services to the community The meeting noted that the ceremony would take place on Wednesday 18 October.</p> <p>Jon and Diane undertook to accompany Kevin on behalf of the Parish Council. Diane undertook to liaise with Kevin about attendance arrangements.</p>	DA
16	<p>Events attended There were no events attended.</p>	
17	<p>Highways and rights of way Kings Lane/Portway Lane junction: demolished road name sign</p>	DA
18	<p>Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting: 7 November 2017 in the Memorial Hall</p> <p>Future meetings 5 December 17, 6 February 2018, 6 March 2018</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:35 pm