

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present:

Roger Anderson, Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair), Jude Robbins, David Stone

In attendance: PCSO Nicola Housley and 25 members of the parish

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept an apology for absence from Cath Law.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests David declared an interest concerning the wayleave of agenda item 9.3.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's remarks The Chair stated he would take item 8 (planning) first and item 5.9.4 (Highcroft Quarry) next.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 4 March meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Cover for the Clerk's duties (Min 5.1) The meeting agreed to continue the arrangement for Clerk (Philip) and Finance Officer (Richard).</p> <p>2 Tree works (Min 5.2) David stated that some work in the graveyard had been undertaken. The tree surgeon had suggested a meeting on site to consider how to manage the yews and fir trees.</p> <p>3 Council land at Emborough (Min 5.3) Philip reported that fencing was complete and that he would obtain a gate lock. He stated that as the <i>Fallopia japonica</i> had started growth he would order the first eradication treatment.</p> <p>4 Community defibrillator (AED) (Min 5.4) The meeting received a written report from Cath stating that the AED was fully functional. Philip agreed to liaise with Cath about inspections of the AED and allied matters. The Council agreed to Cath's suggestion of CPR training for residents who expressed an interest.</p> <p>5 Electrical supply to defibrillator and playing field (Min 5.5) It was noted that this work had been completed.</p> <p>6 Binegar Bottom (Min 5.6) Philip reported re-erection of the byelaw sign and noted the gatepost was yet to be replaced. Philip undertook to request low bridge warning signs to prevent lorries using Binegar Bottom and finding an impassable bridge. Philip reported theft of a trunk, leaving the fallen tree in a dangerous condition. He asked for reports of any such action observed in future.</p> <p>7 Cemetery: burial policy (Min 5.7) The Council received a final draft of the policy and comments from Mr Grenville Reakes and</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB CL</p> <p>PB</p>

	<p>Richard. Following discussion, the final form of the policy was agreed. In light of a comment from Mr Reakes, it was agreed to seek confirmation from the Parochial Church Council that it was the <i>Burial Authority</i> for Holy Trinity Church graveyard.</p> <p>8 Highways (Min 5.8) <i>Requested works outstanding</i> Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road sign (from Nov 13)</p> <p>9 Planning issues <i>1 Emborough Grove</i> (Min 5.9.1) Richard stated that he was to meet the owner the following day about reinstating public access.</p> <p><i>2 2013/2289 Proposed conversion of Binegar School to a single dwelling</i> It was noted that this application had been approved.</p> <p><i>3 2013/2360 Proposed erection of single dwelling by Holy Trinity Church</i> It was noted that this application had been withdrawn.</p> <p><i>4 Highcroft Quarry</i> (taken as the second item on the agenda) The meeting reviewed the events of the previous weekend when the quarry had had been used for shooting all day Saturday and Sunday creating unacceptable noise levels and duration.</p> <p>Philip stated that, as Parish Clerk, had alerted both police and Mendip environmental health. The latter reported that it had received numerous complaints, that the quarry owner had not been aware that the event would create so much noise and that he had given an undertaking that there would not be a repeat of this incident.</p> <p>PCSO Nikki Housley reported that police had responded to calls but had found licences in order and no unlawful activity.</p> <p>There was extensive discussion on the noise nuisance. It was concluded that everyone affected needed to play a part in preventing future problems by complaining and raising the issue with Mendip District Council, local councillors and the police. It was agreed that the Council would write to Mendip's Chief Executive to demand action. (Members of the public remaining for this item now departed leaving only PCSO Housley.)</p>	<p>GH</p> <p>PB</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>
6	<p>Local government reports No reports were received.</p>	
7	<p>Police report Nikki reported a number of incidents: 3/3 - Highcroft Quarry explosions; 7/3 - Tractor lost wheel on A37; 19/3 - suspicious male selling fish, Slade Bottom; 25 & 26/3 - notice from film company of plan to use Highcroft Quarry for explosions; 29 & 30/3 – four complaints about shooting at Highcroft Quarry; 30/3 – youths throwing items into Lechmere Water; 31/3 – accident at Burnt Wood crossroads.</p>	
8	<p>Planning application 2014/0045 for change of use of land to one traveller's pitch at Turner's Court Lane (taken as the first item on the agenda) The Chair stated that a decision to approve or refuse a planning application lay with Mendip District Council. The Parish Council was able only to make a recommendation. He advised, therefore, that members of the parish with strong views should organise their own responses.</p> <p>The Parish Council's recommendation, to have any weight, needed to focus on planning</p>	

	<p>arguments for and against an application. In this case, there was government policy on gypsy and traveller sites and Mendip's <i>Local Plan</i>.</p> <p>Gus added that an applicant was allowed an appeal against refusal of a planning application by a district council. Mendip's <i>Local Plan</i> had yet to identify how to provide the number of traveller pitches required (93 pitches by 2020). Should this application be appealed, this would count against Mendip and the planning inspector would be likely, other things being equal, to approve the application.</p> <p>The Chair invited comments from Councillors and then from members of the parish. The following points were made in relation to planning criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There was no mains sewer and so no adequate arrangement for sanitation ▪ Guidance stressed the need for a safe play area for children. There was none ▪ There was an alternative site but the application failed to consider it ▪ There was no public transport to the nearest school or GP surgery ▪ There was inadequate access and provision for manoeuvring of vehicles ▪ Access had been moved to the centre of the site and at right-angles to the Lane ▪ The caravan measured 8x2.5 m – almost the width of the single track Turner's Court Lane ▪ Site access was not possible without damaging verges and neighbouring boundaries ▪ High fences and gates segregated the site from the community against planning guidance ▪ The application noted manufacture of items but the site should be exclusively residential <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend refusal of this planning application. (Some members of the public present for this item now departed.)</p>	PB
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1 Insurance 2014-15</p> <p>Gus stated that extra cover would be needed for playground equipment and the defibrillator. He estimated this would add around £25 to the annual premium of £580. This change was agreed and Philip undertook to contact the Council's insurer.</p> <p>2 Internal audit</p> <p>Richard reported that Petherick & Gillard would undertake the internal audit.</p> <p>3 Land rent and payments</p> <p>The Council noted the issue of bills for land rents. On wayleaves, it was agreed to rebate charges to <i>The George</i> and <i>Class Motor Services</i> as they were young businesses.</p> <p>4 Planned bank debits (standing orders) for 2014-15</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to set up standing orders of £35 for <i>Somerset Community Council's</i> annual subscription and £633.60 for seven months for <i>Primrose Garden Maintenance</i>.</p> <p>5 Annual accounts 2013-14</p> <p>The Council received, considered and RESOLVED to approve the draft annual accounts.</p> <p>6 Annual Return 2013-14</p> <p>The Council received, considered and RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statements and Annual Governance Statement for 2013-14.</p> <p>7 Payments</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payment:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">P Bridges for electrical installation of AED and playground power supply: £1,059.60</p>	PB

10	Consultation on a draft transparency code for councils with a turnover of <£25,000 The Council received and considered a report which explained that the code would replace external audit. Richard noted that the Council had all the information required by the Code and would have no difficulty in meeting its requirements. In light of this, it was RESOLVED to note the consultation.	
11	Hinckley C nuclear power station The meeting received a letter from Glastonbury Town Council seeking support for expressions concern and opposition to Hinckley C. Gus led the discussion, examining each of the claims in the letter. He disagreed that there would be a huge impact on local roads, that there was evidence of lack of safety that might lead to a catastrophe and that the proposed management of nuclear waste was negligent. He concluded that the arguments were not valid. Roger added that the power station was vital to maintaining supplies. It was RESOLVED to note the letter.	
12	Parish footpaths Philip reported he had laid woodchip on the path crossing his land and was given support to pursue opening a path along the disused brewery railway line. Gus offered to assist Philip with inspecting paths.	PB
13	Events attended Richard reported on a meeting of Somerset Association of Local Authorities which had outlined the financial regime required if councils adopted electronic banking.	
14	Binegar Playing Fields Group The Minutes of the meeting held on 11 March were received and noted.	
15	Highways and rights of way Philip undertook to report potholes on Tellis Lane, Portway Lane and Binegar Bottom.	PB
16	Correspondence There was no correspondence to receive.	
17	Items for the next or future agenda None were listed.	
18	Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 13 May 2014 at 7 30 pm.	
19	Councillor Jude Robbins The meeting bid a sad and fond farewell to Jude and thanked her for her contributions during the time she had been a councillor.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 15 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present: Roger Anderson, Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, David Stone

In attendance: PCSO Nicola Housley, Councillors Rachel Carter and Harvey Siggs and 30 parishioners

1	Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept an apology for absence from Gus Halfhide.	
2	Declarations of interests David declared an interest concerning the planning application of agenda item 8.1. On advice from the Clerk, the Chair ruled that David might not vote on the matter.	
3	Elections, committees and annual reviews 1 Election of Chair and Vice Chair David nominated and Cath seconded Richard for Chair. There were no other nominations and the meeting elected Richard. Roger nominated and David seconded Philip for Vice Chair. There were no other nominations and the meeting elected Philip. 2 Binegar Playing Field Group Philip and David agreed to continue serving on this Committee and Philip agreed to be Chair. The meeting approved the Group's Terms of Reference and agreed to review the bank mandate at the June meeting. 3 Appointment of new committees No new committees were appointed. 4 Annual reviews Gus and Richard undertook to review financial regulations; Richard undertook to review standing orders and the asset register with Diane; the meeting agreed to review membership of outside bodies at the February 2015 meeting. 5 New policies Richard undertook to prepare with Diane the following policies: press and media relations, complaints and requests under the Freedom of Information Act.	
4	Minutes of the previous meeting and Chair's remarks It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 1 April meeting be signed as a correct record. The Chair welcomed Diane Abbott, newly appointed as Parish Clerk. Richard reported that he posted the statutory notice of a councillor vacancy on 28 April. He had now posted a notice inviting applications with 23 May as the closing date. Richard stated he would take item 8 (planning) first.	

5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Cover for the Clerk's duties (Min 5.1) The meeting agreed to continue the arrangement for Clerk (Philip) and Finance Officer (Richard).</p> <p>2 Tree works (Min 5.2) David stated that he awaited a date from the tree surgeon for a meeting on site to consider how to manage the yews and fir trees.</p> <p>3 Council land at Emborough (Min 5.3) Philip reported that the first treatment of the <i>Fallopia japonica</i> was scheduled for June. He requested permission to allow students to view the <i>Fallopia</i>. The Chair suggested this be on the agenda of the June meeting.</p> <p>4 Community defibrillator (AED) (Min 5.4) Cath reported that she had successfully upgraded the defibrillator, which now required monitoring by a roster of <i>Guardians</i>. Richard and Philip agreed to become <i>Guardians</i>. Cath undertook to arrange a cardio-pulmonary resuscitation training session for those who had expressed interest at the defibrillator's launch. David undertook to secure the agreement of the Memorial Hall Committee for a sign to be placed near by.</p> <p>5 Binegar Bottom (Min 5.6) Philip reported he had been unable yet to replace the gatepost.</p> <p>6 Burial policy: Burial policy for Holy Trinity graveyard (Min 5.7) As Gus was not present, this item was deferred. The Council, however, considered and agreed a proposal from David that the fees for Douglas Hill be at the rate for a parishioner.</p> <p>7 Highways (Min 5.8) <i>Requested works outstanding</i> Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road sign (from Nov 13) Placement of low bridge warning signs at Binegar Bottom and Roemead Lanes (from Mar 14) Potholes on Tellis Lane, Portway Lane and Binegar Bottom</p> <p>8 Planning issues <i>1 Emborough Grove</i> (Min 5.9.1) Richard stated that he met the owner about reinstating public access but Nigel Ritchings had said that he was unable to obtain public liability insurance because of the incidents at Emborough Pond. Informal soundings questioned this explanation but also indicated that, without an owner's co-operation, it could be difficult to obtain an order designating a path as a public right of way. Two parishioners had taken on the matter and proposed to refer it back to the Emborough Parish Meeting.</p> <p><i>2 2014/0038 Highcroft Quarry ground remodelling</i> The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions.</p> <p><i>3 2014/0045 Turner's Court Lane travellers' pitch</i> The meeting noted that this application had been due for determination on 12 May.</p> <p>9 Noise nuisance from Highcroft Quarry The Chair reported a further response from Stuart Brown, Mendip's Chief Executive stating that</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>CL CL DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DS</p> <p>PB PB PB</p>
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	<p>the out-of-hours service allowed an environmental health officer to take action on noise (rather than just receive a report) and advising that Somerset County Council be involved in reports of noise. Richard suggested using the website to give advice to parishioners on how to deal with noise nuisance. He was pleased to report that Frome Pistol Club had deleted the last remaining shooting session at Highcroft Quarry from its website.</p>	RH
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting welcomed Councillors Siggs and Carter and received a written report from Harvey.</p>	
7	<p>Police report Nikki reported a number of incidents: 15/4 Road traffic collision with no injured at Batts Lane, 16/4 filming at Highcroft Quarry with fireworks, 26/4 digger set on fire and CCTV cameras stolen at Emborough Pond.</p>	
8	<p>1 Planning application 2014/0492: housing development to rear of Flowerstone The Chair stated that a decision to approve or refuse a planning application lay with Mendip District Council. The Parish Council was able only to make a recommendation.</p> <p>Parishioners and Councillors made a number of observations, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It was a major development increasing housing by 25% ▪ There was no main sewer ▪ There was no school in the village ▪ Access on bends in a narrow lane was dangerous ▪ Parked cars would prevent passage of the 173 bus ▪ There were issues of traffic safety and volume on narrow lanes ▪ Flowerstone's septic tanks soak away into the proposed site ▪ The site was outside the village development zone <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend refusal of this planning application.</p> <p>(Some members of the public present for this item now departed.)</p> <p>2 Consultation on Somerset's 20 year Flood Action Plan The Chair reported a request from Mendip for a response to three questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Did the Council think residents would pay more to reduce the risk of flooding in their area? 2. Would residents pay more to reduce the risk of flooding elsewhere in the County? 3. What did the Council think of the Flood Action Plan? <p>In discussion, it was noted that the County had ceased clearing surface water drains on roads and had now refused to clear culverts that it had always kept clear previously. Members considered that residents were receiving a reduced service but not paying less. It was agreed that there was no enthusiasm to pay more. The Council agreed it was not competent to comment on the Flood Plan but welcomed it. Richard undertook to pass on the Council's views.</p>	RH
9	<p>Financial matters 1 Insurance 2014-15 It was noted that cover had been extended to include new play apparatus and the defibrillator.</p> <p>2 Annual budget and current financial position A report on income and expenditure against budget was noted. It was agreed to receive a statement at each meeting as part of the Council's financial controls.</p>	

	<p>3 Annual Return and audit It was noted that the internal audit section of the Annual Return had been completed.</p> <p>4 Receipts and payments The following receipts were noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mendip District Council: Precept payment: £8,497.00; Council Tax Support Grant: £203.14 2. Peter Coombes Gardens Ltd for Lady Day rent of land at Emborough: £906.50 3. J J Saunders Ltd for annual rent of land at Emborough: £130.00 4. James Long Masons for memorial inscription: £121.00 5. Thornhill Farms (Dorset) Ltd for Lady Day rent of land at Emborough: £1,000 <p>The following standing order payments were noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Somerset Community Council subscription: £35.00 2. Primrose Garden Maintenance for grass cutting: £633.60 (1/7 payments) <p>It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ecosulis for treatment of <i>Fallopia japonica</i> at Emborough: £366.00 2. C G Tovey Tree Services for tree works at cemetery and playground: £600.00 3. T Candy for fencing of land at Emborough: £1,680.00 4. South West Councils for annual membership: £350.00 5. Brunel Media for Wells Journal recruitment advert: £232.50 6. Somerset Association of Local Councils for annual membership: £81.92 7. Gurney Slade & Binegar Memorial Hall for meeting room hire: £114.00 8. Came & Co for insurance cover for 2014-15: £607.14 	
10	<p>Employment policies The Chair stated that he, Philip and Gus – with advice from South West Councils – had prepared an employee’s handbook. He acknowledged it was much abbreviated but considered it right for an organisation with only one, part time employee. The Council adopted the policies in the handbook but agreed that Diane Abbott be consulted on them.</p>	
11	<p>Events attended There were no reports.</p>	
12	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group The Council received and noted the Minutes of the meeting held on 8 April. Philip requested approval for the purchase of a new seesaw. He stated that funds were available in the Group’s budget. The Council approved the proposal.</p>	
13	<p>Highways and rights of way Philip undertook to report blocked drains in Binegar Lane and Station Road and potholes in Binegar Bottom.</p>	PB
14	<p>Correspondence Philip distributed various booklets and other literature received.</p>	
15	<p>Items for the next or future agenda Projects for sustaining healthy lives: June 2014</p>	
16	<p>Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 3 June 2014 at 7 30 pm.</p>	

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting with Parishioners held on 13 May 2014 in the Memorial Hall

Present:

Roger Anderson, Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, David Stone

In attendance: Mr Brian Perry and 25 members of the parish

1.	<p>Introduction</p> <p>The Chair opened the meeting by relaying the sad news of the death of Douglas Hill on 1 May. He said that Douglas had made great contributions to the villages and church as parochial church councillor, as chair of governors of Binegar School and as a parish councillor.</p> <p>The meeting kept a minute of silence to respect Douglas Hill's memory.</p>	
2.	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 7 May 2013 meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
3.	<p>Annual Report of the Chair</p> <p>Richard gave an apology for absence from Gus Halfhide who had been Chair for almost all of 2013-14. He read to the meeting the report prepared by Gus:</p> <p>"My 3rd and, as it turned out, my last year as chairman proved to be the most challenging of all.</p> <p>"Our clerk resigned in January 2014 (I'll say a some more of that later), Roger Anderson was absent through illness for much of the year and Jude Robbins resigned in March 2014. I resigned as chair at the meeting in February and Richard Higgins has since been elected chair.</p> <p>"The Parish Council's regular business consists of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintenance of the village open spaces• Upkeep of the churchyard and cemetery• Running the children's playground through the Binegar Playing Field Group• Chasing up highways in respect of village roads and rights of way• Consideration of planning applications referred to the council• Ensuring we are properly insured• Keeping abreast of various national and local issues affecting the parish <p>"In the past year there have also been some significant activities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementation of a new website for the council• Computerising the burial records and the implementation of a Burial Policy• Continuing to provide an excellent playground, which won a bronze award during the year• Obtaining funds and donations for a defibrillator (special thank to Cath Law for hard work) <p>"The most significant and regrettable aspect of the past year however was the long absence, through illness, and subsequent resignation of the clerk Rachel Thompson. There were irreconcilable differences between the council and Rachel towards the end. Nevertheless, on behalf of the council I would like to thank Rachel for her many years of service.</p> <p>"The clerk's absence meant that workload had to be shared amongst all councillors but notably Philip Blatchford who became the acting clerk and Richard Higgins who became responsible for</p>	

	<p>the council's financial matters. Their excellent work made my life as chair a lot easier than it might have been.</p> <p>"We had 6 applications for the post of clerk and this has resulted in the appointment of Diane Abbott who will take up the position from 1st June 2014.</p> <p>"My thanks to my fellow councillors for their time and support during the year."</p> <p>Richard added that he would like to thank a number of residents who had been Good Citizens:</p> <p>For work to reduce the threat of flooding: Chris Burr, Paul Milverton, Karen and Paul Weller; For masterminding the appeal to get a defibrillator: Cath Law.</p>	
4.	<p>Mr Brian Perry, Director, Gurney Slade Quarry</p> <p>The meeting welcomed Brian who addressed the meeting.</p> <p>Brian said that he knew that the Quarry had to work with its neighbours and be responsible about the environment. At the same time, stone was needed and it had to be dug where it was. Though business had picked up, the past five years had been poor for business.</p> <p>Brian mentioned that the ready-mix plant had been relocated into the quarry and away from the road – an improvement for residents and road users.</p> <p>He stated that, in the next 5-10 years, it was planned to move the quarry entrance so it was directly off the A37 rather than off Tape Lane. He promised that, before any planning application was made, he would consult the Parish Council, which represented local people who were the ones who lived with the quarry.</p> <p>Philip asked whether the daily water dousing of Tape Lane could also include the entrance to Francis Flowers' plant. Brian stated he had received no request and suggested the Parish Council write to Francis Flower.</p> <p>Brian ended asking that any problems be reported. If it were about a lorry, he asked that a note of date, time and registration number be taken.</p> <p>Richard thanked Brian for his contribution to the meeting.</p>	PB
5.	<p>Parishioners' questions</p> <p>There was discussion about the planned pedestrian, which Philip stated would be installed in the current financial year.</p> <p>On traffic speed through Gurney Slade, Sister Anne suggested residents use speed guns. Following discussion, it was agreed to consider this proposal further.</p>	RH
6.	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to hold the next Annual Meeting with Parishioners on 5 May 2015</p>	

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present: Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts, David Stone
 In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Councillor Rachel Carter, Mrs Karen Spence and Mr Keith Robbins

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies for absence from Roger Anderson and Gus Halfhide.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements Richard and the Council warmly welcomed Diane to her first meeting. The Chair stated that he would take the agenda in the following order: items, 4, 5.1 then item 8.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 13 May Annual Meeting with Parishioners and Parish Council meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Vacancy for a Councillor (Min 4) The Chair reported that there had been one application from Mr Phil Roberts who introduced himself to the Council. The meeting RESOLVED to co-opt Phil who signed a <i>Declaration of Acceptance of Office</i> and received copies of the Council's governance documents. Phil undertook to complete and return a <i>Declaration of Interests</i> form to the Clerk.</p> <p>2 Tree works at Holy Trinity graveyard and Binegar cemetery (Min 5.2) Members considered a report from Richard. Following discussion, the meeting agreed to proceed with restoring the four yews in the graveyard. Members noted the estimate was of a day's work at £500+VAT. David suggested removing dead wood and clearing drooping branches from the cemetery cypresses if there was spare time.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion about the cemetery cypresses: whether to leave them or lower their crowns and raise their canopies or fell them. The meeting agreed David's suggestion to consult the Parochial Church Council and parishioners (via the website) to gather opinion.</p> <p>3 Council land at Emborough (Min 5.3) Philip reported that the first treatment of the <i>Fallopia japonica</i> was scheduled for that week.</p> <p>4 Community defibrillator (AED) (Min 5.4) The Council agreed Cath's suggestion to defer training to the autumn to avoid holidays. Cath undertook to arrange this and to organise the volunteer <i>AED Guardians</i> to monitor the defibrillator.</p> <p>5 Binegar Bottom (Min 5.5) Philip reported he had been unable yet to replace the gatepost.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>CL</p> <p>PB</p>

	<p>6 Highways: requested works outstanding (Min 5.7)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road name sign (Nov 13) 2. Moving of low bridge warning signs to Binegar Bottom and Roemead Lane ends (Mar 14) 3. Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane (May 14) <p>7 Planning issues (Min 5.8)</p> <p>1 2014/0045 Turner's Court Lane travellers' pitch The meeting noted that this application had been due for determination on 12 May.</p> <p>2 2014/0492 Housing to rear of Flowerstone, Station Road The meeting noted that this application was due for determination on 1 July.</p> <p>8 Noise nuisance from Highcroft Quarry (Min 5.9) The meeting agreed that, after the noise of the March shooting competition, it should help contain further nuisance. For residents close by, this included scrambling and other events. The Chair stated that, under the <i>General Permitted Development Order 1995</i>, the owner could hold events on 28 days a year and that the enforcement authority was Somerset County Council. He reported a discussion with a resident close to the quarry who thought that putting advice on the parish council website and listing events held would help. The meeting agreed this.</p>	<p>PB PB PB</p> <p>RH</p>
6	<p>Local government reports</p> <p>The meeting welcomed Councillor Rachel Carter who reported that Laura Mackay, planning officer, had been grateful for all the local knowledge received in the responses to the application for housing at the rear of Flowerstone. She said it would be of great help in determining the application.</p> <p>Rachel also reported that Mendip would shortly be consulting on its Local Plan. Rachel departed.</p>	
7	<p>Police report</p> <p>As PCSO Housley was unable to attend, there was no report.</p>	
8	<p>Planning application 2014/0905: proposed new house, Tralee, Binegar Lane</p> <p>The Chair stated that a decision to approve or refuse a planning application lay with Mendip District Council but that the Parish Council was able to make a recommendation. He added that Mendip decided applications on planning law and that the Council took the same approach.</p> <p>Mr Robbins and Mrs Spence joined the discussion. Mrs Spence expressed concern about access and safety as Binegar Lane was narrow at that point. She was also anxious that the trees that screened the Memorial Hall and car park should be retained. The meeting noted that this was a matter for the Hall Management Committee.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses.</p>	<p>RH</p>
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1 Annual Return</p> <p>The Council noted that the Audit Return was complete with notices posted inviting interested parishioners to view the Annual Return, annual accounts and other related documents until 20 June.</p> <p>2 On-line banking</p> <p>Members considered a report from the Responsible Financial Officer on whether to open its accounts to internet banking. It was noted that the majority of transactions would continue to</p>	

	<p>need cheques and a paying-in book. In light of this, the Council agreed to retain the status quo.</p> <p>3 Authority to operate TSB bank accounts The meeting reviewed the bank mandates for its two accounts and agreed to add Richard Higgins as a signatory, removing Gus Halfhide, Heather Wareham and Denise Neville.</p> <p>4 Receipts and payments The following receipts were noted: 1. HMRC 2013-14 VAT refund: £1,211.73 2. Somerset Community Foundation grant for seesaw: £500</p> <p>The following standing order payments were noted: 1. Primrose Garden Maintenance for grass cutting: £633.60 (2/7 payments)</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed: 1. P & G Browning Ltd. For internal audit: £150.00 2. Binegar Playing Field Group for 2013-14 VAT refund: £23.05</p> <p>5 Unpaid wayleave The meeting agreed to issue a final demand to The George for payment within 28 days and, if no payment was received, dispose of the sign. (Members of the public departed.)</p> <p>6 Financial summary to June The meeting received a summary of the accounts and considered actions to take with projects listed. Philip suggested that new churchyard and cemetery gates might use the Lutyens design at Kilmersden. Diane undertook to photograph and circulate a picture of these.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was agreed to: 1. Move £600 from contingency to Cemetery Trees (for works agreed for the graveyard) 2. Reduce the budget for works at Binegar Bottom to £125 3. Research the cost of erecting a notice board in the ex-bus shelter in Gurney Slade 4. Obtain a price for new churchyard and cemetery gates 5. Explore the offer of donation of a seat for the Cemetery</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>DA</p> <p>RH RH DA PB RH</p>
10	<p>Projects for sustaining healthy lives Cath introduced this item noting that, for rural areas, the main issues nationally were access to health and social care. She suggested asking the <i>Village Agent</i> for advice on projects and undertook to do so.</p> <p>Philip suggested outdoor adult exercise equipment. Richard noted that the <i>Mendip Local Legacy Fund</i> was seeking bids (1 August deadline) and might support this. Philip undertook to consider the suggestion with the Binegar Playing Field Group. Philip and Cath agreed to bring forward a project proposal with costs to the July meeting.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>PB CL</p>
11	<p>Binegar Cemetery and Holy Trinity Churchyard In Gus's absence, Members agreed to defer the items on burial authority for the churchyard and ownership of the Cemetery.</p> <p>The meeting considered a report from Gus on safety of memorial stones and RESOLVED to adopt the contents as policy. It also noted that Gus and Philip had would perform a safety audit.</p>	<p>GH</p>
12	<p>Award nominations Councillors suggested to the Chair names of local people who might be nominated for any County of other awards.</p>	

	Richard stated that parish councils now had the right to create Freemen and Freewomen. Following discussion, Richard undertook to research this further.	RH
13	<p>Access to students from Norton Radstock College to land at Emborough</p> <p>Philip requested this permission for students to be acquainted with <i>Fallopia japonica</i> and its treatment.</p> <p>Richard stated that the insurer's conditions were that (1) the Chair receives written confirmation from the College of the acceptance of public liability, (2) assurance that the necessary protocols and procedures for a visit would be carried out and (3) sight of the visit risk assessment. The meeting RESOLVED to authorise a visit provided the insurer's conditions were met in full and in advance of the visit.</p>	PB
14	<p>Events attended</p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
15	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>Philip drew attention to deterioration in the bare wood of certain play apparatus. His enquiries had revealed a prohibition on using tanalised timber leaving wood protected only by brushing.</p> <p>Philip reported that the seesaw was to be installed in June and that the current seesaw had been given in lieu of payment to the person who had undertaken to remove it.</p> <p>Philip stated that the Group suggested installing a gate between the playing field and Hall land to avoid the fence being climbed. It was agreed to make a formal approach to the Hall.</p>	RH
16	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>Cath stated that her attention had been drawn dog fouling on the banks of Station Road and that the Mendip dog warden had offered no assistance. Cath agreed to research what action was available to the Council.</p>	CL
17	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Philip reported closure of the White Posts roundabout on several nights from 9 June and distributed literature received.</p>	
18	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <p>Archiving parish council records (July)</p> <p>Honouring local people (July)</p>	GH RH
19	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 1 July 2014 at 7 30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 01 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present: Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, David Stone, Phil Roberts, Roger Anderson, Gus Halfhide

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Mrs Molly Reakes, Mr Grenville Reakes, Mrs Karen Spence and Mrs Hazel Payne

1	<p>Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests David declared an interest concerning the planning application of agenda item 8.2.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair informed the meeting that Rachel Carter had updated him on the Mendip Local Plan on which Council are invited to respond to changes made. It was agreed that no Extraordinary meeting was required.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 3 June meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Tree works at Holy Trinity graveyard and Binegar cemetery (Min 5.2) [May 13] The Chair reported on the result of village consultation. Following discussion the meeting agreed that tenders should be sought for removal of the cemetery cypresses. Members considered the option of creating a sculpture. Cath provided details of a website (www.robbeckinsale.co.uk).</p> <p>2 Council land at Emborough Philip reported that the first treatment of the <i>Fallopia japonica</i> had been completed. A second treatment would take place once the results of the first were clear. [Nov 13]</p> <p>3 Binegar Bottom land: replacement of gate posts [Nov 13] Philip reported he had been unable yet to replace the gatepost.</p> <p>4 Highways: requested works outstanding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road name sign [Nov 13] 2. Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane [May 14] <p>5 Planning issues</p> <p>1 2014/0045 Turner's Court Lane travellers' pitch The meeting noted that this application is pending consideration</p> <p>2 2014/0492 Housing to rear of Flowerstone, Station Road The meeting noted that this application is pending consideration</p> <p>3 2014/0905 Housing to rear of Flowerstone, Station Road The meeting noted that this application is pending consideration</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p>

	<p>6 Projects for sustaining healthy lives [Jun 14] Cath presented ideas for adult outdoor fitness equipment. In light of discussion on item 10.</p>	
6	<p>Local government reports Richard presented a report on behalf of Cllr Rachael Carter regarding the Local Plan six week consultation.</p>	
7	<p>Police report There was no report.</p>	
8	<p>Planning application 2014/1030/FUL: proposed new house, Hylands off, Binegar Lane The Chair read a letter from Pointcloud Ltd (Planning Agent) Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses.</p> <p>Planning application 2014/1046/PAC: Change agricultural building to dwelling, Roemead Road BA3 4UL It was noted that the application falls in St Cuthbert Out The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access from the highway • Footpath access • Outside of development limits • Justification for change of use <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer.</p>	
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1 Receipts and Payments The following receipts were noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. E Emery & Sons (funeral D Hill): £275.00 2. E Emery & Sons (funeral H Bown): £100.00 <p>The following standing order payments were noted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primrose Garden Maintenance for grass cutting £633.60 (2/7 payments) <p>It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Somerset Association of Local Councils Clerks training: £55.00 2. Philip Blatchford, Acting Clerk's expenses: £73.11 3. Parish Clerk for June Salary – Undeclared for confidential purposes 4. Parish Clerk for July Salary – Undeclared for confidential purposes 5. Parish Clerk for August Salary – Undeclared for confidential purposes 6. HMRC PAYE income tax for June salary <p>It was agreed that the following payments would need to be made prior to the next meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Playsafety Limited £128.40 2. Ecosulis £366.66 <p>2 Unpaid wayleave by "The George" The meeting agreed due to non-payment the sign is to be removed.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>

	<p>3 Financial summary</p> <p>The meeting received a summary of budget, spending and variances for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binegar Parish Council • Binegar Playing Fields Group • National Saving & Investments account 	
10	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>Philip read a letter received from Big Wood Play Systems regarding wood treatment. It was noted that the Annual Safety inspection recommended only minor maintenance for the multiplays. It was therefore agreed that the equipment was safe. It was agreed that Philip would show inspectors the sites of wood rot and how to inspect it and report.</p> <p>The meeting agreed that the Clerk should write to the Council's insurers to seek advice on insurance coverage in light of recent findings.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>DA</p>
11	<p>Binegar Cemetery and Holy Trinity Churchyard</p> <p>1. To note burial authority for Holy Trinity graveyard</p> <p>Gus advised the meeting the old church yard is under the authority of the Parochial Church Council. The Parish Council is however responsible for its maintenance. The new cemetery was bought by the Parish Council on 16 February 1953 and therefore is under the authority of the Parish Council.</p> <p>2. To consider action to take about ownership of the Cemetery</p> <p>It was agreed that the new cemetery ownership should be added to the Councils asset register, noting the conveyance letter Richard has.</p>	<p>RH</p>
12	<p>Archiving parish council records</p> <p>Gus reported that parish council archival activity would be completed in July and requested that paper records formerly held by the Acting Clerk and Acting RFO be passed to Gus for inclusion. He asked that the clerk's computer files be consolidated to be backed up to CD and archived. Councillors who kept their own computer files were asked to ensure those files were included.</p>	<p>GH</p>
13	<p>Honouring local people</p> <p>Richard reported a link to Bickleigh in Devon showing how they honour local people. Richard agreed to prepare a suitable way forward for Binegar.</p>	<p>RH</p>
14	<p>Press and media relations policy</p> <p>To consider notice boards</p> <p>Diane reported on current notice boards and it was RESOLVED that they should be retained and spruced up. It was agreed council would cover the costs of materials; Jonathan Abbott has volunteered to carry out the work. Richard asked for thanks to be passed to Jonathan.</p> <p>To consider press and media policy</p> <p>The meeting received a press and media policy from Diane and it was RESOLVED to adopt the policy.</p>	
15	<p>Events attended</p> <p>There were no reports of events attended.</p>	
16	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>David reported low hanging phone cable across Binegar Bottom. Philip reported low hanging phone cable in front of the playing field.</p> <p>Diane to contact BT</p>	<p>DA</p>

17	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Richard read a letter from the Fielding's regarding Slade Bottom.</p>	
18	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binegar Parish Council Risk Assessment • NS&I bank mandate • Best Village 	
19	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 2 September at 7 30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 13 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on 7 August 2014 in the Playing Fields at 6 30 pm

Present: Richard Higgins (Chair), Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Phil Roberts (from 7.05pm), David Stone,

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Mrs Val Blatchford, Mrs Jenny Eyre, Mrs Heather Wareham

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Roger Anderson and Cath Law</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests There were no disclosures of interest from Councillors</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair welcomed members of the Binegar Playing Fields Group (BPFPG) and gave an overview on the responsibility of the Parish Council for the BPFPG funds.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 1 July 2014 and the extraordinary meeting be considered for signing as a correct record at the next ordinary meeting</p>	
5	<p>Playground new apparatus and repairs 2014 The meeting received and considered a report from Richard.</p> <p>1. Seesaw The meeting considered quotations for a new safety surface. The cheapest quote was to supply but not install a surface. Since it could not be laid by a professional, the quotation was rejected. It was, therefore, RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Soft Surfaces Limited for £1,980 plus VAT.</p> <p>2. Swings Since the playground's wooden apparatus had been susceptible to decay, it was agreed that any replacement timber should be tanalised and carry a warranty. The meeting received details of timber suppliers and prices noting Valley Sawmills and Charlton's Timber were cheapest and similarly priced. It was RESOLVED to authorise up to £250.00 expenditure on timber for a frame from the supplier offering best value.</p> <p>3. Large multiplay Philip reported his concerns regarding the stability of the multiplay, highlighting specific areas of decay and movement. Following discussion, the plan to replace the majority of the structure was agreed and it was RESOLVED to authorise up to £500 expenditure on timber and sundries.</p> <p>In light of Philip's report, the meeting conducted an assessment of risk. It noted that the apparatus had scored as low risk in the June Annual Safety Assessment. With each vertical pole robustly supported by cross members, it was agreed there was no risk of collapse. However, parts of the structure moved with lateral force. Philip stated that he proposed bracing the uprights to reduce such movement. He continued that rebuilding was planned</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p>

	<p>from September 2014. In light of the risk assessment, the meeting agreed that the structure did not present a hazard for which further action was required for the period before it was to be renovated. It was also agreed that close weekly inspection be undertaken to monitor the situation.</p> <p>It was agreed to delegate authority to take any emergency action in the interim to Philip with the agreement secured of any two other Councillors.</p> <p>In light of the rather damp conditions of the area, it was proposed that the apparatus be repositioned on its safety surface with the main structure further from the perimeter trees.</p> <p>4. Small multiplay and slide The meeting noted that decay on the timber of this multiplay was confined to the top of one post. It was agreed that repairs to the small multiplay and slide steps be considered at a later date but that the condition of the timbers continued to be monitored.</p> <p>5. Warranty David asked that arrangements be made to identify the timber used so that its provenance was clear and there would be no disputes should a claim arise.</p> <p>6. Administration It was agreed that the Clerk would place an official order for the seesaw soft surface with either the soft surface supplier or BigWood Play Systems, as advised by Philip. It was also agreed that orders for the timber would be placed by BigWood or Philip, each being able to obtain discount prices, depending on the supplier selected.</p> <p>7. Thank you The Chair thanked Binegar Playing Field Group members for attending the meeting.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>PB</p>
6	<p>Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 2 September at 7 30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 7.43 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present: Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair), and David Stone.

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Anne Caley, Lynne Emery, Molly Reakes and Maxine Romain.

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Cath Law and Phil Roberts.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests David declared an interest concerning the planning application of agenda item 8.1.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair informed the meeting that the Council had received the resignation of Roger Anderson. The Chair stated that he would take the agenda in the following order: items 4, 19, 5.9 and 11.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 1 July and 7 August meetings be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>5.1 Tree works and churchyard [May 13] The meeting received a draft tender document for consideration. Following discussion members agreed that funding was available for tree works to take place in the current financial year. The meeting agreed that Diane and David should finalise the document and invite tenders.</p> <p>5.2 Cemetery Gates [June 14] Philip reported that the frame was complete and anticipated that the gate would be ready in 4 weeks. Philip stated that at some point the old gate would have to be removed to enable completion of the new gate. The Chair requested the Parochial Church Council be notified in advance of the gate removal.</p> <p>5.3 Council land at Emborough [Nov 13] The meeting received an up-date on the treatment of <i>Fallopia japonica</i> from Philip and Richard, after discussion it was agreed the item to be deferred to April 2015.</p> <p>5.4 Binegar Bottom land: replacement of gate posts [Nov 13] Philip reported he had been unable yet to replace the gatepost.</p> <p>5.5 Highways: requested works outstanding Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road name sign – no action yet taken [Nov 13] Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane – no action yet taken [May 14]</p> <p>5.6 Planning issues 2014/0045 Turner's Court Lane: Traveller Pitch The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions. 2014/0492 Housing to rear of Flowerstone, Station Road The meeting noted that this application was still pending consideration 2014/0905 Proposed new house and relocation of parking, Tralee, Binegar Lane The meeting noted that this application was still pending consideration.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB PB</p>

	<p>2014/0905 Housing to rear of Flowerstone, Station Road The meeting noted that this application was still pending consideration</p> <p>5.6.5 2014/1046 Change of use of agricultural building to dwelling The meeting noted this application had approval refused</p> <p>5.7 Projects for sustaining healthy lives [Jun 14] As Cath was not present, this item was deferred.</p> <p>5.8 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] The meeting received a verbal report from Gus on the audit and recommendations for changes to the burial policy. Richard gave an update on the repair of faulty headstones. After discussion, it was agreed that the 25 faulty headstones left standing be classed as priority 2 (not an immediate danger, not fully stable so reviewed in a year) and owners be advised of their condition.</p> <p>5.9 Dog fouling [Jun 14] Maxine Romain asked if it would be possible to have dog waste bins located in the village. The meeting agreed that the cost of bins and disposal of waste be looked into.</p> <p>5.10 Wayleave [Feb 14] The meeting noted that the George Inn sign had been removed from Clarkes Pool and thanked the Abbotts for their work.</p> <p>5.11 Honouring local people [Jul 14] The meeting agreed the item be deferred to 2015.</p> <p>5.12 Notice boards [Jul 14] The meeting noted that materials were in place to undertake renovations. The meeting thanked Jonathan Abbott.</p> <p>5.13 Playground Works [Aug 14] Philip reported on playground works. He stated that he had not received a date for installation of safety matting. Diane to chase the manufacturer.</p> <p>5.14 Archiving Parish Council Records Gus reported that a gap in burial records had been identified by the Somerset Archive. David informed the meeting that records for 1922-56 were in the care of the Parochial Church Council (PCC). It was agreed it was a PCC decision whether to archive the documents. Gus undertook to notify the Archive on the whereabouts of the records.</p> <p>Gus also reported that a bundle of burial information had been refused by the Archive. The meeting RESOLVED that the papers should be collected from the archive office and kept.</p>	<p>CL</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>GH</p> <p>DA</p>
6	<p>Local government reports No reports were received</p>	
7	<p>Police report The Clerk reported that Lucy Bagnowiec was the new beat officer and that PCSO 6987 would attend Village Day. August incidents: 18 - dispute, Kingscombe; 19 - sheep on A37.</p>	
8	<p>Planning applications and issues 8.1 2014/1526 Bennett's Lane: change of use of agricultural building to dwelling Diane read a statement from Mr & Mrs Carter and shared planning papers. Following discussion it was RESOLVED to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses.</p>	<p>RH</p>

	<p>8.2 2014/1287 Marchants Hill: replacement Vodafone masts / dishes – approved The Chair reported that no application had been received prior to confirmation of approval. The meeting agreed Mendip District Council be approached to clarify the situation.</p>	RH
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>9.1 Receipts since the last report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RW Connock & Son (funeral of A Matthews) £275.00 2. Dignity Funerals (funeral of E Wareham) £364.00 3. Binegar School PTA (closing balance paid to Binegar playground account) £489.99 <p>9.2 Standing order payments since the last report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primrose Garden Maintenance for grass cutting: £1267.20 (3 & 4/7 payments) <p>9.3 Cheque payments It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Institute of Cemetery & Crematorium Management training fee: £192.00 2. Playsafety Ltd for annual playground safety inspection: £128.40 3. Diane Abbott for contracted expenses: £74.10 4. Gus Halfhide for travel expenses: £38.70 5. Grant Thornton for Annual Return Fee: £120.00 6. Heather Wareham for Village Fun Day float (from playground account): £50.00 7. Philip Blatchford for travel expenses and playground matting disposal: £160.91 8. C G Tovey Tree Services for churchyard tree works: £600.00 <p>9.4 Annual return The meeting noted the conclusion of the annual audit and the Clerk advised the meeting that notices of this had been posted on notice boards and website.</p> <p>9.5 Financial summary The meeting received a summary of budget, spending and variances for Binegar Parish Council, Binegar Playing Fields Group, National Saving & Investments account.</p> <p>9.6 Financial risk strategy – reserves Following discussion, the meeting agreed to take reserves up held in the NS&I account to £5,000 and review annually.</p> <p>9.7 National Saving and Investment Bank authority Because too few Councillors were present, this authority could not be concluded.</p> <p>9.8 Internal audit review Members received a draft internal audit document from Gus. The meeting agreed to accept the draft and proposed that Diane approached Phil to ask if he would take on responsibility.</p>	DA
10	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group The council noted receipt of the minutes of the meetings held on 8 July and 7 August 2014. Philip reported on the Village Day taking place on Sunday 7 September and encouraged members to attend.</p>	
11	<p>The Batch The Chair outlined options open to the Council to protect The Batch. After discussion it was agreed to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Test the case for registering title by seeking a legal opinion from the <i>National Association of Local Councils</i> 	RH

	<p>2. Research the potential of village green status, investigating guidance from the County Council and <i>Open Spaces Society</i></p> <p>3. Write to the owner of High Banks requesting information about restoring the land used as temporary access</p> <p>4. Investigate if any wayleaves are paid for services located on The Batch</p>	RH DA DS
12	<p>Improving the village environment As Cath was not present this item was deferred.</p>	
13	<p>Speed Indicator Device (SID) The meeting considered a request from Ashwick Parish Council on a 3 Parish SID group. The meeting agreed that the Council would, in principle, be interested and asked that Ashwick be advised of this position.</p>	DA
14	<p>Complaints Procedure The meeting received a complaints procedure document from Diane. Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to adopt the procedure.</p>	DA
15	<p>Service to the community awards The meeting considered making nominations for the Somerset County Council Chairman's award. It was agreed Diane should approach spouses of potential nominees.</p>	DA
16	<p>Parish Paths The meeting received an oral report on footpaths from Gus. He stated that he had walked all footpaths, clearing them obstructions. He noted that path SM3/1 leading onto Coalpits Lane was blocked by a locked gate. The meeting agreed a letter be written to the lessee of the field asking for the gate to be opened for footpath users.</p>	DA
17	<p>Training Gus and Philip reported completion of pesticide spraying courses. The meeting considered and approved a request from Cath for £280.00 for life support skills training.</p>	DA
18	<p>Events attended There were no reports of events attended.</p>	
19	<p>Highways and rights of way Molly Reakes raised concerns over excessive parking in front of the playground and the potential danger to pedestrians. The meeting agreed the Council write to the Memorial Hall Committee requesting permission for playground visitors to use the car park.</p>	DA
20	<p>Correspondence Diane reported on 2 items of correspondence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flyer from Avon & Somerset constabulary • Certificate of membership from SW Councils 	
21	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • October: Old Down Touring Park request to discharge water onto Council land • April: <i>Fallopia japonica</i> 	
22	<p>Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 7 October at 7 30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 20 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law and Phil Roberts.
In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk)

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from David Stone.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vacancy for a Councillor The Chair reported that there had been one application from Mr Jonathan Abbott husband of the Clerk. The Chair stated that following an enquiry from a Councillor he had obtained confirmation from NALC that this would not present a conflict of interests. The meeting RESOLVED to co-opt Jonathan who signed a Declaration of Acceptance. 2. Contact from Diocese The Chair reported on correspondence received from the Diocese of Bath and Wells regarding a potential planning application. 3. Chair's apology for absence The Chair gave apologies for absence for the November Council meeting and departure from the meeting at 8:40pm. 	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 2 September meeting be signed as a correct record with an amendment to Item 16 – delete in July and insert prior to the meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>5.1 Tree works and churchyard [May 13] The Chair informed the meeting that the tender document had been completed. Diane to speak with David and begin the tendering process.</p> <p>5.2 Cemetery Gates [June 14] The Chair informed the meeting that the cemetery gate was in place and how beautiful it looked. Diane advised the meeting that the invoice had been received and processed for payment. The meeting discussed potential PR opportunities and agreed Philip would ask if Dom Michael would be available for a photograph. Diane would approach Rev'd Capt Richard Priestley.</p> <p>5.3 Binegar Bottom land: replacement of gate posts [Nov 13] Philip reported he would try to look at it before the next meeting.</p> <p>5.4 Highways: requested works outstanding Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road name sign – no action yet taken [Nov 13] Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane – no action yet taken [May 14] Diane to contact highways to chase up works.</p> <p>5.5 Planning issues 2014/0492 Housing rear of Flowerstone The meeting noted that this application was still pending consideration</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>

	<p>2014/0905 Proposed new house and relocation of parking, Tralee, Binegar Lane The meeting noted that this application was still pending consideration.</p> <p>2014/1526 Change of use of agricultural buildings to dwelling, Bennetts Lane The meeting noted this application was refused; the scale conflicted with the legal limits on such a change of use.</p> <p>5.6 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] The Council noted the report circulated by the Chair and considered recommendations. After discussion it was agreed to obtain information and cost with respect to repairs to enable an informed decision to be made.</p> <p>5.7 Dog fouling [Jun 14] The meeting received an up-date from Diane on Dog Bins. It was RESOLVED to purchase a single bin at a cost of £260.77 to be located adjacent to the playground.</p> <p>5.8 Somerset County Council Chairman's Award (Sept 14) The meeting received an up-date from Diane on the Parish Council's nomination. Diane to speak with David regarding attending the awards evening with the nominee.</p> <p>5.9 Archiving Parish Council Records Diane reported that the bundle of burial information had been collected from the Somerset archives office.</p> <p>5.10 Internal Audit [Aug 14] The Chair asked Phil if he would lead on reviewing the internal audit review which Phil accepted.</p> <p>5.11 The Batch [Sept 14] The Chair gave an up-date on the Batch including previously circulated correspondence on the right of way claimed, ownership and potential village green status. Wayleave research suggested that there is a current owner. After discussion the meeting agreed Diane would investigate further the ownership through Wayleave information and that a volunteer should lead further research into the possibility of obtaining Village Green status. Jon agreed to research with David and to approach appropriate individuals in the Parish to assist.</p> <p>5.12 Parish Paths The meeting received an up-date from Gus on Parish paths; he stated that the tree had been removed and the back of the school cleared. Gus and Philip were aware that the other blocked path had to be cleared and was on a 'to do' list. The tenant of the locked gate had been sent a written request to unlock the gate, Gus to check.</p> <p>5.13 Parking outside the playground The meeting received an up-date from Diane stating she had spoken to Brian Rich (Village Hall committee) and he had confirmed it was fine for the Memorial Hall car park to be used for parking by people using the playground. The meeting discussed a rear access and fencing. It was agreed that a formal request should be made by the Parish Council to put a gate in allowing access to the Playing Field from the car park. Jon agreed to raise it at the next Village Hall meeting in November.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>GH</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JA</p>
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting welcomed Councillor Rachel Carter who gave a report on rubbish collections in Somerset and issues that have arisen (previously circulated by Clerk). Rachel advised that any concerns should be raised with Mendip District Council.</p>	
7	<p>Police report There were no police reports.</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Diane Abbott Salary September - confidential 3. Diane Abbott Salary October - confidential 4. HMRC for salary income tax – confidential 5. Expenses Diane Abbott £153.49 	DA
10	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>Philip updated the meeting on the status of the soft surface installation. There had been concerns over the preparedness of the site. Gus raised concerns over additional costs that might fall to the Council. Philip informed the meeting that Mark at Bigwood had assured him the site was adequate for installation. Diane to re-check conditions for installation with the supplier. Philip also updated the meeting on the situation regarding other equipment.</p>	DA
11	<p>Old Down Touring Park</p> <p>This item was deferred.</p>	DA
12	<p>Projects for sustaining healthy lives and improving the village environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The item had been deferred due to problems with playground equipment. 2. The meeting discussed ways to enhance the village environment. Cath to consider options for discussion at the next meeting. 3. Diane to update the draft budget in light of comments. 	CL DA
13	<p>Email Etiquette</p> <p>The meeting RESOLVED to adopt the email etiquette advisory note.</p>	
14	<p>Events Attended</p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	DA
15	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>Phil raised concerns regarding the delay in installation of the pelican crossing on the A37. The meeting agreed Diane would correspond with Councillor Harvey Siggs highlighting concerns of parishioners, the safety of children and speeding traffic.</p> <p>Cath raised concerns regarding the wall damaged by a recent road traffic accident. Diane to look into the ownership and repairs.</p> <p>Philip raised concerns over frequent accidents at Burnt Wood & Old Down cross roads and requested Diane write to the council.</p>	DA DA DA
16	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Diane reported on an item of correspondence received from parishioners in the proximity for Clarke's Pool. After discussion it was agreed that Diane should respond asking if they would like to propose to the Council ideas for the pool.</p>	DA
17	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <p>Cemetery Fees</p>	DA
18	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 4 November at 7:30 pm.</p>	

The Deputy Chair closed the meeting at 9:27 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts and David Stone.
In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Nigel and Sarah Gibbons, Harvey Siggs (7:40pm).

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Gus Halfhide and Richard Higgins.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair stated he would take item 8.1 (planning) first. This was followed by the Local Government report from Cllr Harvey Siggs (item 6)</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 2 September meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>5.1 Tree works and churchyard [May 13] Diane informed the meeting that the Tender process had begun and six tenders have been sent out. Further interest had been received and invitations to tender be sent. It was agreed that the tenders would be assessed by: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford and Richard Higgins.</p> <p>5.2 Cemetery Gates [June 14] Philip informed the meeting that PR had taken place with Mark Adler from Mendip Times. An article will be printed in the December issue of the Mendip Times. Mark thanked the Council for a lovely community story. Philip stated that the cemetery gate would be made once the cypress trees are felled.</p> <p>5.3 Binegar Bottom land: replacement of gate posts [Nov 13] Philip reported he would try to look at it this month.</p> <p>5.4 Highways: requested works outstanding</p> <p>1. Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road name sign Diane informed the meeting that she had been advised by highways that Mendip District Council were responsible for signage. Diane to follow up.</p> <p>2. Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane – no action yet taken [May 14] The meeting was informed that highways had confirmed the work would be completed by 8 December. Members were asked to monitor and feedback to Diane.</p> <p>5.5 Planning issues</p> <p>1. 2014/0492 Housing rear of Flowerstone The meeting noted this application had been withdrawn</p> <p>2. 2014/0905 Proposed new house and relocation of parking, Tralee, Binegar Lane The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions.</p> <p>3. 2014/1526 Change of use of agricultural buildings to dwelling, Bennetts Lane The meeting noted this application had prior approval refused</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>All</p>

	<p>4. 2014/1783/LBC Marchants Hill House, Portway Lane, Gurney Slade, BA3 4TZ The meeting noted this application had been approved with conditions.</p> <p>5. 2014/1749/HSE High Banks, Binegar Lane, Gurney Slade, Wells, Radstock The meeting noted this application had been approved.</p> <p>6. 2014/1750/APP Turners Court Lane traveller pitch reserved conditions Philip up-dated the meeting on information previously circulated regarding fencing and waste water. David recommended that the boundaries of the water catchment area should be checked. Philip agreed to look into.</p> <p>5.6 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] Diane advised the meeting that approaches had been made to ascertain information and costs. No information as yet received, Diane to chase.</p> <p>5.7 Dog fouling [Jun 14] The meeting noted the dog bin had arrived. It was agreed that it would be positioned on the grass in front of the playground, Philip and Jon to put in place.</p> <p>5.8 Somerset County Council Chairman's Award (Sept 14) The meeting received an up-date on the awards evening, a press release and copy of the citation were circulated. David stated that Kathleen had been honoured to receive the award.</p> <p>5.9 Internal Audit [Aug 14] The meeting noted Phil and Diane had arranged to meet to review procedures.</p> <p>5.10 The Batch [Sept 14] The meeting received an up-date on progress with Western Power. Diane to continue researching with a visit to the offices in Radstock. Ownership is continuing to be investigated.</p> <p>5.11 Parish Paths The meeting received an up-date forwarded from Gus which stated that the ramblers working party installed a couple of kissing gates off Coalpit Lane on 21 October. The blocked footpath on Coalpit Lane had been cleared. The locked gate of the footpath that joins the northern end of Coalpit Lane remained chained and padlocked. Philip suggested the landowner of the locked gate be approached and asked to install a Bristol Gate or Stile which would offer protection to the land and access to walker. Diane to contact landowner. Cath informed the meeting that the footpath sign on Turners Court Lane had been damaged. Diane to report to Somerset County Council.</p> <p>5.12 Clarke's Pool After discussion it was agreed that members should consider ideas to bring to the December meeting. Diane to re-engage with Somerset highways regarding clearance of the pool following agreement that silting was due to run off from the highway.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>PB JA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA RB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting welcomed Councillor Harvey Siggs and noted receipt of previously circulated report. Cllr Siggs up-dated the meeting on challenges facing Mendip District Council.</p>	
7	<p>Police report There were no police reports.</p>	.
8	<p>Planning applications and issues 8.1 2014/1935/FUL Highbanks, Binegar Lane, Gurney Slade, Wells, Radstock The meeting received written and verbal concerns from parishioners. Following discussion the</p>	DA

	<p>following key points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over development of the site • Access • Water run off <p>The meeting RESOLVED to recommend refusal</p>	DA
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>9.1 Financial Control The meeting received a summary of budget, spending and variances (previously circulated) for Binegar Parish Council, Binegar Playing Fields Group and National Saving & Investment accounts.</p> <p>9.2 National Savings and Investment Bank authority Authority completed with relevant signatures</p> <p>9.3 Receipts since the last report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thornhill Farms Dorset (Rent) £1000.00 2. Exclusive Memorials (Inscription Mrs Wareham) £30.00 3. £467.60 (£613.00 less float £50.00 less cash payments £95.40) <p>9.4 Standing order payments since the last report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primrose Garden Maintenance for grass cutting: (£633.60 6/7 payments) <p>9.5 Cheque payments It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Downside Abbey & School - Cemetery £485.00 2. Glasdon UK Limited – Dog Poo Bin £312.92 	DA
10	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group Philip updated the meeting on the status of the soft surface installation. Soft Surfaces have confirmed the site is not ready for installation and offer two options. After discussion the meeting agreed Diane should contact Star Rubber and ascertain if their quote from July is still valid and check contractual condition with Soft Surfaces.</p>	DA
11	<p>Projects for sustaining healthy lives and improving the village environment The meeting received an update from Cath and Philip on adult fitness equipment. After discussion it was agreed that parishioners should be canvassed to judge the level of support for such a project. Diane to place an article in the Parish magazine and on notice board asking for comments.</p>	DA
12	<p>Emborough Pond Philip up-dated the meeting on concerns raised by parishioners regarding Emborough Pond. After discussion it was agreed that Diane should contact Emborough Parish to voice concerns on behalf of Binegar Parish Council.</p>	DA
13	<p>Events Attended There were no reports.</p>	
14	<p>Highways and rights of way Philip up-dated the meeting on responses Diane had received from Highways.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burnt Wood and Old Down crossroads – traffic engineer notified, awaiting response. • Wall repair – Diane following up information regarding landowner. 	DA
15	<p>Correspondence Philip read out correspondence from Somerset County Council regarding library consultation and</p>	DA

	requested Diane contact Michelle Cussock to suggest details are published in the Parish magazine.	
16	Items for the next or future agenda <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Playing field gate – December 2. Old Down touring park 	
17	Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 2 December 2014 at 7:30 pm.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:32 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 December 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), John and Celia Sturgeon, Maxine Romain and Rachel Carter

1	<p>Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair congratulated Diane for good publicity over Mrs Kathleen Newman's award and the new gate to Holy Trinity Churchyard.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 4 November meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>5.1 Tree works in Binegar Cemetery [May 13] The Chair reported receipt of tenders to fell the trees the recommendation from the Councillors evaluating the tenders to appoint the Somerset Tree Surgery, the lowest priced tender. Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to appoint Somerset Tree Surgery. Diane was asked to appoint the contractor and arrange dates for works.</p> <p>5.2 Binegar Bottom land: replacement of gate posts [Nov 13] On the advice of Philip, it was agreed to take no action about the gate and posts.</p> <p>5.3 Highways: requested works outstanding</p> <p>1. Binegar Bottom road name at the end of Roemead Lane In response to Diane's question, it was noted that the road name sign needed replacement</p> <p>2. Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane It was noted that confirmation that the work has been carried out was required.</p> <p>.</p> <p>5.4 Planning issues</p> <p>1. 2014/1750/APP Turner's Court Lane: Traveller pitch reserved conditions It was noted that this was pending consideration.</p> <p>2. 2014/1749/HSE High Banks, Binegar Lane The meeting noted this application had been refused.</p> <p>5.5 Safety audit of memorials in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] Richard up-dated the meeting on the current status of the cemetery headstones and outlined costs and options for repair. Following discussion, it was agreed to seek Diocesan permission and to fund repair of graves in the Churchyard where owners' burial rights had expired. Concerning the last three of the headstones laid down in the Cemetery, it was agreed to contact the owners offering to make repairs for the price quoted to the Council or exercise the Council's right to remove the memorial to another place in the cemetery.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>

	<p>5.6 Dog fouling [Jun 14] Jon up-dated the meeting on the positioning and requirements to install the dog waste bin. Following discussion, Jon, with Philip's help, was asked to proceed with the installation.</p> <p>5.7 Internal controls review[Aug 14] Phil presented his report on a review that tested the controls in place over the Council's procedures and activities. Phil raised a number of questions concerning custody of deeds, membership of Council's one committee and monitoring of the defibrillator. He expressed satisfaction with the responses given. Phil also raised the issue of back-up of the Council's computer records and recommended purchase of a second memory stick. Following discussion, it was agreed to purchase an additional memory stick.</p> <p>5.8 The Batch [Sept 14] Jon reported that ownership was still being investigated.</p> <p>5.9 Parish paths Gus reported that a kissing gate had been installed on Coalpits Lane and that, on his latest visit, the field gate was no longer locked.</p> <p>5.10 Projects for sustaining healthy lives The meeting discussed the proposal for an outdoor adult gym and Cath's recommendation to seek further feedback from parishioners before carefully considering whether to proceed and where to safely site any apparatus.</p> <p>5.11 Emborough Pond The Chair and Philip reported from the Emborough Parish meeting where the Emborough Chair had undertaken to write to the Leader of Mendip District Council over local concerns about removal of bunds, fencing and continued use of heavy machinery. After discussion, it was agreed that the Chair should also write drawing attention to parishioners concerns.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>ALL</p> <p>RH</p>
6	<p>Local government reports Cllr. Rachel Carter was welcomed and up-dated the meeting on the Turners Court Lane traveller site stating that James Udell, planning officer, sent his assurance that he was taking local concerns seriously. Cllr. Carter also informed the meeting that Mendip's local plan would soon be ratified. Finally, Cllr. Carter advised that grants may be available for projects for healthy lives.</p>	
7	<p>Police report Nikki Housley, unable to attend the meeting, had sent the following report for November: 5/11 – Two males in white van selling generators reported from the entrance to Penny's near the quarry. Police attended and the vehicle was removed. 11/11– A call relating to a possible suspicious vehicle in a layby. 18/11– Explosions in Highcroft quarry.</p>	
8	<p>Planning applications and issues The meeting noted local applications in the neighbouring Parish of St Cuthbert Out: 1. 2014/2347/FUL - Rookery Farm Bungalow BA3 4UL – Change of domestic buildings and agricultural land, construction of buildings and a cesspit to provide kennels and cattery. 2. 2014/2366/PAA - Whitnell House Farm BA3 4UJ – Change of use of barns to two houses.</p>	
9	<p>Financial matters 9.1 Financial Control The meeting received and noted a summary of budget, spending and variances (previously circulated) for Binegar Parish Council, Binegar Playing Fields Group and National Saving & Investment accounts.</p>	

	<p>9.2 Rent review of a tenant's land at Emborough After discussion, the meeting to RESOLVED to keep the rent at the current rate.</p> <p>9.3 Grass cutting contract, 2015 Diane stated that a quotation from <i>Primrose Garden Maintenance</i> had been received. The quote again did not increase the price. After discussion, it was RESOLVED to appoint <i>Primrose Garden Maintenance</i> as contractor.</p> <p>9.4 Parish Council budget 2015-16 The meeting considered the budget for 2015-16 (previously circulated) and RESOLVED to adopt it. On recommendation from Gus, it was agreed to delegate authority to the Chair plus one other councillor to amend the budget should any unexpected issue from Mendip District Council arise.</p> <p>9.5 To agree a precept for 2015-16 The meeting considered a precept arising from the budget and RESOLVED to set the precept at £8,500. Diane undertook to complete and return forms to Mendip District Council.</p> <p>9.6 Budget for Binegar Playing Fields Group Richard stated that, following discussion with Philip, it was recommended that no budget be set for the Group. Since replacement apparatus was usually funded from grants and appeals, a budget was not thought necessary. Councillors, however, expressed concern at this, stating that planning for replacing apparatus required some budgetary plan. Following discussion, it was agreed to review the matter at a future Council meeting.</p> <p>9.7 Receipts The meeting noted there had been no receipts since the previous meeting.</p> <p>9.8 Standing order payments</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primrose Garden Maintenance for grass cutting: £633.60 (7/7 payments) 2. Diane Abbott for salary November - confidential <p>9.9 Cheque payments It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diane Abbott contracted expenses - confidential 	<p>DA</p> <p>RH</p> <p>DA</p>
10	<p>Financial standing orders The meeting considered draft Financial Standing Orders reviewed by the Chair and Gus and RESOLVED they be adopted.</p>	
11	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group Philip informed the meeting that the gate spring was broken and needed replacing. It was agreed that the Parish Council would fund its replacement. Consideration was given to options for resurfacing the see-saw area. After discussion, the meeting agreed that the best solution appeared to be <i>Soft Surfaces</i> rubber mulch. Diane undertook to progress this once Philip had secured the Group's agreement. The meeting agreed that, when replacing the boundary fence, a gate for access to the Hall's car park would be included. The meeting discussed the Harris fencing in the Hall car park and agreed to remove it if a formal request was received from the Memorial Hall Management Committee.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JA</p>
12	<p>Clarke's pool The Chair reported on a discussion with Richard Emery, a long standing local resident. He stated that the pool was primarily functional, receiving run off from Tellis Lane and Kings Lane which then soaked away to a slocker the field beyond.</p>	

	He expressed the view that the first priority was to dredge the pool of accumulated silt. In light of the role of the pool in local road drainage, it was agreed to approach Somerset Highways again to request the pool be dredged. It was agreed that, following this, the aesthetics of the pool surrounds could be considered.	DA
13	Events Attended There were no reports.	
14	Highways and rights of way Mr and Mrs Sturgeon reported a missing street light (Number 9) on Binegar Lane which had been removed from High Banks. Gus reported a street light at the top of Tellis Lane was missing a cover and not working. Diane undertook to report these items.	DA
15	Correspondence Diane read correspondence from the Parochial Church Council (PCC) regarding the new Churchyard gate which expressed appreciation but suggested the need for some adjustments. Philip informed the meeting that Father Michael had stated that the wood need time to settle after which adjustments would be made. Diane undertook to advise the PCC. Diane informed the meeting that a copy of objection to planning application No: 2014/1935/FUL had been received.	DA
16	Items for the next or future agenda 1. Budget plan for Binegar Playing Fields Group	
17	Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 3 February 2015 at 7:30 pm.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:16 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Jane and Nigel Gibbons, Colin Maidment, Kevin Harnell, John and Celia Sturgeon, Rachel Carter and Graham Fuzzey.

1	Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.	
2	Declarations of interests Jonathan declared an interest in item 9 and Philip in item 8.3.	
3	Chair's announcements The Chair thanked Cath for arranging an excellent evening of defibrillator training, which was beneficial to all who attended.	
4	Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 2 December 2014 meeting be signed as a correct record.	
5	Matters arising from the Minutes 5.1 Tree works and churchyard [May 13] The Chair reported that the cemetery tree works were almost completed and it was agreed that Somerset Tree Surgery had provided a good service. The Council agreed that parishioners should be asked to make suggestions with respect to replacement planting. 5.2 Highways: requested works outstanding 1. Binegar Bottom road name at the end of Roemead Lane It was noted that the sign had been replaced. 2. Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane It was noted that the work has been carried out. 3. Missing street lamp (no 9), Binegar Lane [Dec 14] Diane advised that a task order (number FM11012) had been received from Highways. 4. Broken street lamp at junction Tellis Lane and Station Road [Dec 14] Diane advised that a task order (number FM14029) had been received from Highways. 5. Controlled pedestrian crossing of A37 in Gurney Slade [Oct 13] A report from Councillor Harvey Siggs was noted and Phil reported that he had received the news that the crossing was scheduled for installation in May 5.3 Planning issues 1. 2014/1750/APP Turner's Court Lane: Traveller pitch reserved conditions The Chair reported approval of conditions 5 (landscaping) and 6 (lighting, refuse storage and disposal of foul and surface water) with 15 March as the deadline for completing works. 5.4 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] The Chair stated that the Clerk had written to owners of the two unrepaired graves, that the Parochial Church Council had applied for a faculty to do work in the churchyard and that he had attended a course on safety checks and would train councillors at the 2015 annual check.	RH

	<p>5.5 Dog fouling [Jun 14] Jon informed the Council that the dog bin had been installed adjacent to the playing field. The Clerk stated that Mendip District Council had been advised it was now in place.</p> <p>5.6 The Batch [Sept 14] Jon reported the Council that he had approached <i>BT Openreach</i> to identify who was receiving the wayleave payment for the telegraph pole on the Batch. As with <i>Western Power</i>, the information request was declined. The Council agreed Jon's suggested approach to the Land Registry and approved expenditure of £30 for the search.</p> <p>5.7 Projects for Sustaining Healthy Lives [Nov 14] After discussion, the meeting agreed that the item should be reviewed in March and considered for the Annual General Meeting agenda.</p> <p>5.8 Emborough Pond [Nov 14] The Chair reported recent correspondence with Councillor Harvey Siggs. In discussion, it was agreed to pursue the matter, Cath undertook to raise safety issues with Councillor Siggs, and the Chair undertook to respond about the causeway.</p> <p>5.9 Clarke's Pool [Dec 14] Colin Maidment and Kevin Harnell, parishioners living close to Clarke's Pool, were welcomed to the meeting. Colin and Kevin reiterated the concerns they had previously raised and asked what action the Council was taking. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Mr Garnet Banwell regarding potential dredging of the pool.</p>	JA
6	<p>Local government reports Councillor Rachel Carter was welcomed and spoke about the High Banks' planning application (2015/0016/FUL). Rachel stated that she had recommended it was considered by the Planning Board and Gus strongly encouraged parishioners to attend that meeting.</p>	
7	<p>Police report No report was received</p>	
8	<p>Planning applications and issues</p> <p>8.1 2015/0016/FUL – High Banks, BA3 4TR A number of parishioners joined the meeting and expressed views about this planning application. There was discussion in depth which concluded that road safety and drainage were the main concerns. The Council RESOLVED to recommend refusal of permission on these grounds and set out its reasons in its response to Mendip District Council.</p> <p>8.2 2014/2676/TPO – Coombe End, BA3 4TR – Tree felling and coppicing It was noted that this application fell within Ashwick Parish.</p> <p>8.3 2011/2124 – Turner's Court Lane – temporary caravan siting– expiry of consent The Chair advised that the planning officer had reported the alleged breach of planning control to the enforcement team.</p>	RH
9	<p>Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal The Council RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting since discussion was likely to divulge information of a personal and confidential nature. Without participation from the Clerk or Jon, the meeting then agreed the process of the performance appraisal.</p>	RH
10	<p>Asset Register 2015-16 The Council received and approved the 2015-16 Asset Register.</p>	

11	<p>Defibrillator security</p> <p>The Council considered the security of the defibrillator in light of reported thefts to the north of Bristol. It was noted that neighbours had been alerted and, after discussion, it was agreed that no further action was indicated for the present.</p>	
12	<p>Transparency Code and Audit</p> <p>The Council considered revised year end accounting arrangements taking into consideration the new <i>Transparency Code</i> for smaller authorities. It was noted that the Clerk and Chair were to receive training. It was agreed that the Clerk should appoint an internal auditor.</p>	DA
13	<p>Freedom of Information Act</p> <p>The meeting received, considered and approved a publication scheme for Parish Council information. The Chair stated that the scheme was as approved by the Information Commissioner.</p>	
14	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>14.1 Financial Control</p> <p>The meeting received and noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for Binegar Parish Council, Binegar Playing Fields Group and National Saving & Investment accounts.</p> <p>14.2 Precept</p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had not to date received confirmation of the Precept from Mendip District Council but did not anticipate a problem.</p> <p>14.3 To note receipts since the last report</p> <p>The meeting noted the following receipts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr Hares – memorial (Mrs Jill Hares) £121.00 2. Unwins – Interment (Mrs Q Crockett) £100.00 <p>14.4 To note standing order payments since the last report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diane Abbott January salary – confidential <p>14.5 Cheque payments</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diane Abbott December salary – confidential 2. HMRC Income tax for third quarter: £126.00 3. Diane Abbott – expenses – stamps and memory sticks: £34.07 4. Jon Abbott – expenses – wood stain and postcrete £17.78 5. Ollie Hibbert – cemetery tree felling: £1,700.00 	
15	<p>Rights of Way Improvement Plan 2</p> <p>Gus summarised this report and highlighted issues on which the Council might comment. The Council agreed the comments and Gus undertook to respond to the plan for the Council.</p>	GH
16	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>The meeting received and noted the Minutes of the 13 January meeting. Philip stated that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The safety surface for the see-saw area had been ordered 2. The condition of the large multiplay had deteriorated but the apparatus was stable 3. While not agreeing a budget for income, the Group proposed to retain a £1,000 contingency <p>In reply to a question in the Minutes, the Group's status as a Council Committee was clarified. It was noted this allowed the Group to benefit from the Parish Council's insurance and conferred the right to reclaim VAT.</p>	

	The Group's terms of reference were discussed and Diane undertook to forward a copy to Philip.	DA
17	<p>Subscription membership</p> <p>The meeting reviewed current subscriptions and recommended continuing with <i>The Community Council for Somerset</i>, <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i> and <i>Somerset Playing Fields Association</i>. It was agreed that <i>South West Councils</i> had supplied invaluable HR advice but that membership was no longer warranted. It was agreed to advise <i>South West Councils</i> of this and thank them for their services.</p>	DA
18	<p>Events Attended</p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
19	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>The following reports were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bennetts Lane - pot holes, damaged verges, mud accumulation (Philip) Street light not working behind the George, Phil to advise Diane of the number (Phil) Station Road verge by the Horse and Jockey needs clearing back from the road (Gus) Whitnell Lane drains need clearing to prevent flooding (Gus) 	DA DA DA DA
20	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>There was no correspondence to report.</p>	
21	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <p>No items received</p>	
22	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 3 March 2015 at 7:30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:11 pm.

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair) and Cath Law.

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Guy Dury (PCSO), Nicola Housley (PCSO), Rachel Carter and Harvey Siggs (8.30pm).

1	Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Phil Roberts and David Stone.	
2	Declarations of interests Jonathan declared an interest in item 12.	
3	Chair's announcements The Chair stated that he would take the agenda in the following order: Items 7, 5.3.1, 5.3.7, 6.	
4	Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 3 February meeting be signed as a correct record.	
5	Matters arising from the Minutes 5.1 Tree works and churchyard [May 13] In response to requests for ideas, the Chair reported that a parishioner suggested a pergola or arch over the cemetery path to draw the eye to the Church with a seat and small trees for light shade and small to medium trees along the road edge to break the starkness of open space. 5.2 Highways: requested works outstanding <ol style="list-style-type: none">Bennett's Lane potholes, damaged verges and mud accumulation [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287644)Station Road damaged verge by Horse and Jockey [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287645)Whitnell Lane drainage [Feb 15] Following discussion with Bryan Rich, Diane undertook to report the drainage concernsTellis Lane accumulated mud [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287646)King's Lane potholes [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287647)Flowerstone potholes [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287648) 5.3 Planning issues <ol style="list-style-type: none">2015/0016/FUL – High Banks – 2 detached houses The meeting noted this application was pending consideration. Councillor Carter advised that the application was to go to the next Planning Board for consideration. She strongly advised that a representative address the meeting on the Council's concerns.2014/2676/TPO - Coombe End – Felling and coppicing The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions.2011/2124 - Turners Court Lane – Caravan consent The meeting noted that there had been no news of enforcement. 5.4 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] The Chair reported that news of a Faculty for the churchyard work was awaited, that one relative	RH

	<p>had paid for repair work to a headstone and that a memorial mason would be carrying out the work and checking a further three headstones on behalf of a retiring undertaker.</p> <p>5.5 The Batch [Sept 14] Jon reported that The Batch was not registered with the Land Registry. He stated he now understood that a parishioner might own the land. Jon agreed to discuss with David Stone how an approach might be made. After further discussion, Jon undertook to research registering the land to the Parish Council.</p> <p>5.6 Projects for Sustaining Healthy Lives [Nov 14] Cath distributed certificates to attendees of the Basic Life Support and Automated External Defibrillation course. The meeting noted there had been no support for an adult outdoor gym.</p> <p>5.7 Emborough Pond [Nov 14] The Chair reported that Tessa Munt MP visited Emborough Pond on Sunday 15 February and had pursued matters with Mendip District Council. The meeting noted that Somerset County Council had issued an enforcement notice to remove barbed wire from the dam. With respect to the track, members noted that district councillors would press for its removal if officers were unable to obtain written evidence from Bristol Water that track removal would be an environmental hazard. Finally, Philip reported that the removal of the embankments at either end of the dam was contrary to the advice of the engineers report. He stated that the Emborough Parish Meeting had requested he report this matter to the Environmental Agency. It was agreed to await developments.</p> <p>5.8 Clarke's Pool [Dec 14] Jon reported that Mr Garnet Banwell advised he had not dredged Clarke's Pool but, on his suggestion, Jon undertook to contact another local contractor. Richard stated that he had discussed the matter with Mendip District Council, Somerset's Highways and flood management teams. The flooding engineer had listed the project for any potential funding and supplied details of civil engineers for desilting. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for the work.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>DA</p>
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting welcomed Councillor Rachel Carter and Councillor Harvey Siggs who joined in debates on various agenda points and gave reports on current issues.</p>	
7	<p>Police report Nikki Housley reported a number of incidents in February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attempted break in to a shed at Saffron House • Explosions at Highcroft Quarry on two different occasions • Fox hounds on the A37 	
8	<p>National and Local Elections 2015 The meeting received the timetable for district and parish council elections and considered the implications and actions required.</p> <p>It was noted that the new Parish Council would take office from Monday 11 May. As a result, it was agreed to a move the May meeting date in the week of 11 May.</p>	<p>DA</p>
9	<p>Ceremony to celebrate 950 years of Holy Trinity Church The Chair, on behalf of Phil, reported that the Parochial Church Council had sought agreement for the Bishop to plant a commemorative tree in the cemetery at the anniversary celebration on May 31 2015. There was discussion on the types of tree most suitable and how to avoid taking up space for cemetery plots. After discussion, it was agreed that Richard would consider the matter further with the Parochial Church Council and report back.</p>	<p>RH</p>

10	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>2015/0088/HSE – Casa Mia, Binegar Lane, BA3 4TR</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to support the Planning Officer’s decision following consultation responses. It was agreed to comment on the aesthetic acceptability of a pre-cast concrete structure in such a prominent location.</p>	RH
11	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>11.1 Financial control</p> <p>The meeting noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for the Parish Council’s three accounts. Gus commented that the playground account should include a separate line for replacement of apparatus. Diane undertook to include this.</p> <p>11.2 Receipts</p> <p>The meeting noted the following receipts since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BT Open Reach wayleave: £105.84 2. Mr J T Cox (Mrs Attwood’s memorial repair): £160.00 3. Adams Memorials (Mr Matthews headstone): £90.00 4. National Savings and Investment account interest: £27.00 <p>11.3 Standing order payments</p> <p>The meeting noted the following payment since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diane Abbott – February salary: confidential <p>11.4 Cheque payments</p> <p>The meeting approved the following payments to be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Somerset Association of Local Councils – training: £125.00 2. Somerset Tree Surgery – tree stump grinding: £500.00 3. Diane Abbott – back pay: confidential 4. NS&I – transfer of funds from main account: £1,400.00 5. Occupational Training Solutions – basic life support training: £168.00 6. Soft Surfaces – seesaw safety surface: £2,556.00 7. Community Council for Somerset – subscription: £40.00 8. Big Wood Play Systems – see saw, swings and netball hoop: £1,810.00 <p>11.5 Rent and wayleave bills</p> <p>The meeting noted that rent and wayleave bills would be sent out in March.</p>	DA
12	<p>Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting since discussion was likely to divulge information of a personal and confidential nature. The Council then received and approved the performance appraisal and remuneration report from the Chair.</p>	
13	<p>Insurance</p> <p>The meeting considered changes required to insurance cover for 2015-16. Various items were Identified and the Clerk was asked to check these were included on the asset register and insurance schedule.</p>	DA
14	<p>Binegar Memorial Hall</p> <p>Jon reported on behalf of the Memorial Hall Management Committee and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requested the Council to remove the Heras fencing from the car park. This was agreed and Jon undertook to pursue the matter. 2. Reported that the defibrillator’s electrical supply meter needed replacement. 	JA

	<p>The meeting considered this a guarantee issue and Jon undertook to investigate.</p> <p>3. Informed the meeting that the Hall Committee would raise a bill for the estimated electricity used by the defibrillator in light of the broken meter. Cath undertook to investigate typical power consumption.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>CL</p>
15	<p>Binegar Cemetery</p> <p>Cath reported the concerns of a parishioner about waste disposal arrangements at the cemetery. After discussion, it was agreed to investigate the options available and Diane was asked to research arrangements at other small, local cemeteries.</p>	<p>DA</p>
16	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>The meeting received and noted the Minutes of the 17 February meeting.</p> <p>Philip reported that replacement seesaw, swings and netball hoop had been installed, the swings with new chains. For the swings, he noted that the frame timber was tanalised to <i>use class 4</i> – for ground installation - and carried a 15-year warranty. In answer to Gus, Philip stated that this warranty was via the apparatus supplier, <i>Big Wood Play</i>, whose own warranty was for one year. Gus expressed concern that this meant only a one-year warranty for the timber and suggested the issue be taken into consideration for future replacements.</p> <p>Philip reported that the large multiplay had continued to deteriorate but remained sturdy and therefore safe. He stated that he and Mark from Big Wood would be redesigning the item taking into consideration the current damp corner and invited help from members with the work.</p>	
17	<p>Events Attended</p> <p>There were no reports</p>	
18	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>The following reports were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and maintenance of finger signposts • Drainage of Whitnell Lane beyond Coldharbour Farm 	<p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>
19	<p>Correspondence received</p> <p>Gus reported correspondence on parish footpaths.</p> <p>Diane reported that Frank from Occupational Training Solutions had offered further first aid training should there be a demand.</p>	
20	<p>Items for the next or a future agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance of finger sign posts 2. Replacement of parts of the playground fencing 	
21	<p>Next meeting and dates for 2015</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 7 April 2015 at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>2015 meetings: May tbc, 2 June, 7 July, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:20 pm.