

# *BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL*

## Chair's report, 2015-16

This year saw a new Council elected. John Scadding joined the previous six Councillors.

This year also saw consultation on Mendip's *Local Plan to 2029*. The Parish Council is keen to engage with residents, though this is not always easy. We were delighted, then, that 90 parishioners came to our events and shaped our response to Mendip's consultation.

Local people also turned out in force to events to make our communities *dementia friendly*. Cath Law leads this programme, which continues to develop.

We celebrated Holy Trinity's 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We planted three trees and installed a seat for quiet reflection in the cemetery. We are grateful to the donors. Our plan to build a lych gate for shelter and rest hit the buffers of Mendip's planners but we continue to fight for this popular proposal.

A main theme was how we could improve our environment. We made a start by brightening up our historic finger signposts. We made plans for new village signs to make clear the boundary and character of the villages and to help encourage responsible driving. We made plans for woodland management of Binegar Bottom, churchyard tree improvements and plaques to describe historic village assets, like the Church. We shall take these forward in 2016-17.

Parishioners prompted all this with concerns about weedy verges and litter. We have listened. On litter, *Clean for the Queen* saw a transformation. Your response to Phil Roberts' call for help was quiet – you got on with it – but magnificent.

Paul Sharp joined us as Footpath Officer and has done an excellent job.

A major piece of work, led by John Scadding and Jon Abbott, was dredging Clarke's Pool for the first time in 30 years. We thank R M Penny and Bryan Rich. Last winter, there was no Tellis Lane flood.

Preventing other floods, we must also thank residents who cleared their parts of the Binegar Lane culvert. John and Jon cleared the ditch by the Post Office. There were no winter floods.

Sadly, the *Playing Fields Group* disbanded. The Council now directly manages the playground. It built a new fence on the west boundary opening a gate to the Hall car park.

To prepare for better broadband, the Council organised a session to make the most of tablet computers. Good news also came about the Gurney Slade pedestrian crossing. It is to go ahead.

The County bestowed on our nominees, Molly and Grenville Reakes, the County Chair's *Services to the Community* award for much deserved and tireless work.

The Council has to do some rather mundane things that rarely receive mention. We are the eyes and ears of Somerset Highways on potholes. We get good service with filling them.

We also have to recommend approval or refusal of planning applications. This year saw some controversial, unpopular applications and we fought them with villagers' help. Some we won, some we lost but we did make a difference.

In all our work, Rachel and John Carter, our able and hard-working District Councillors, help and support us. Every parishioner owes them a vote of thanks.

Keep in touch with us through our website and use it to let us know your views. We want them.

I hope you can see that, as Chair, I have a great group of Councillors who care about the Parish, roll up their sleeves and get things done. I cannot thank them enough. There is one other person to acknowledge, our Clerk, Diane Abbott, without whom none of this would be possible.

Richard Higgins  
May 2016

# ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

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

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford (7.40pm), Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts and David Stone.

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Paul Guatieri, Kim Richards, Mandy Robertson and Paul Sharp.

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of interests</b> There were no declarations of interests from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> The Chair informed the meeting that this would be the last formal meeting for Gus. He acknowledged and thanked him for all his contributions as a member, district councillor and Chair. The Chair stated that he would move to Item 13 on the arrival of Philip.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes of the previous meetings</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 3 March meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery</b></p> <p><b>Celebration of Holy Trinity anniversary</b> The Chair reported that the Parochial Church Council (PCC) was content with the suggestion of the Bishop planting a tree in celebration of the anniversary to take place on 31 May 2015. The meeting agreed to the Chair's suggestion to plant three silver birch trees (representing the Holy Trinity) and the siting of a bench. The Chair agreed to take a proposal to the PCC. David Stone suggested that it would be nice to see the Chair involved.</p> <p><b>Cemetery Improvement Waste Disposal and Cemetery Spoil</b> The Chair informed the meeting he had researched the disposal of waste at local cemeteries and most had two bins. After discussion, it was agreed to adopt Judy Bailey's suggestion to post a sign that requested visitors to take waste home and place the wheelie bin in the churchyard.</p> <p>On the spoil heap in the cemetery and it was agreed to accept Philip's offer to remove it. Diane undertook to instruct local undertakers that excess spoil from graves was to be removed from the cemetery.</p> <p>David stated that he had received an offer to replace the cemetery gate. The meeting agreed that David should advise the benefactor that the Parish Council was considering a Lych Gate but in principle would like to accept their kind offer.</p> <p><b>5.2 Highways: requested works outstanding</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Bennett's Lane potholes, damaged verges and mud accumulation</b> [Feb 15] Diane advised that work had been completed.</li> <li>2. <b>Whitnell Lane drainage</b> [Feb 15] Diane advised that drains had been cleared.</li> <li>3. <b>Station Road damaged verge by Horse and Jockey</b> [Feb 15] Diane advised that work had been completed.</li> <li>4. <b>Tellis Lane accumulated mud</b> [Feb 15]</li> </ol>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DS</p>

	<p>Diane advised that work had been completed.</p> <p>5. <b>King's Lane potholes</b> [Feb 15] Diane advised that work had been completed</p> <p>6. <b>Flowerstone potholes</b> [Feb 15] Diane advised that work had been completed.</p> <p>7. <b>Repair and maintenance of (3) finger signposts</b> [Mar 15] Diane advised that she had received information to pursue an action plan to repair and maintain the finger signposts.</p> <p><b>5.3 Planning issues</b></p> <p>1. <b>2015/0016/FUL – High Banks – 2 detached houses</b> The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions.</p> <p>2. <b>2011/2124 – Turners Court Lane – temporary caravan consent</b> It was noted that Mendip District Council was considering an application to extend use.</p> <p>3. <b>2015/0088/HSE – Casa Mia</b> The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions.</p> <p><b>5.4 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery</b> [Jun 14] The meeting noted there were no further up-dates.</p> <p><b>5.5 The Batch</b> [Sept 14] Jon reported that he had met with parishioners and no further details on ownership had become known. He suggested that the Parish Council should apply for Village Green status. The meeting agreed this should be the next step.</p> <p><b>5.6 Emborough Pond</b> [Nov 14] The Chair advised that no further report had been received from Mendip District Council. Philip stated that he had submitted an appeal against the downgrading of risk of Emborough Pond dam and had heard from the Environmental Agency that an independent reservoir engineer would carry out an assessment.</p> <p><b>5.7 Clarke's Pool</b> [Dec 14] The Chair reported that he had contacted Crestmore and a cost estimate to dredge the pool was expected.</p> <p><b>5.8 Binegar Memorial Hall</b> Jon informed the meeting that Phil Bridges had checked the electrical supply to the defibrillator and would be looking at the warranty and making good. The Heras fencing would be moved subject to any requirement to fence the large multi-play during repair.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>RH</p> <p>JA</p>
6	<p><b>National and local elections 2015</b> Members completed nomination forms which Diane undertook to submit to the Electoral Registration Officer.</p>	DA
7	<p><b>Annual Parish Meeting – Monday 11 May 2015</b> The Chair proposed that invitations be sent to local organisations to attend the Annual Meeting.</p>	DA
8	<p><b>Local government reports</b> The meeting noted that there were no local government reports.</p>	
9	<p><b>Police report to 4 April 2015</b> The meeting noted that Nikki Housley had sent in the following reported incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 March - Suspicious vehicle driving up Binegar Lane, appearing to look at properties.</li> <li>• 15 March – Report of an air gun being fired along the King's Lane area.</li> <li>• 17, 18, 20, 23, 24 March – Calls about explosions at Highcroft Quarry.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>28 March – A fallen tree on the Bristol side of Gurney Slade.</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>Planning applications and issues</b>  <b>2015/0309/FUL – 4 Dalleston BA3 4UD – Bungalow</b>  <b>2015/0500/OTS – 5 Dalleston BA3 4UD – 2 storey house</b></p> <p>The Chair reported that the Emborough Parish meeting had objected to both these applications and due to their close proximity to Binegar Parish that a response should be made by the Council too. After discussion, the meeting voted to recommend refusal for both applications.</p> <p>Members of the public in attendance raised concerns over the traveller's site and potential breach of conditions. The Chair advised they write directly to Mendip District Council.</p>	DA
11	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>11.1 Annual account for the year to 31 March 2015</b>  The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the annual accounts and for the Chair and Clerk to sign.</p> <p><b>11.2 Annual <i>Statement of Internal Control</i></b>  The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the <i>Statement of Internal Control</i> and for the Chair and Clerk to sign. Gus noted that the Council needed to adopt a policy on data protection.</p> <p><b>11.3 Annual Return</b>  The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the <i>Annual Return</i> (and explanation of variances) and for the Chair, Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer to sign sections 1 and 2.</p> <p><b>11.4 Receipts since last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Not Pointless donation - £250.00</li> <li>Mr P Coombes – agricultural land rent £906.50</li> <li>Mr J J Saunders – agricultural land rent £130.00 (not £65.00 as on agenda)</li> </ul> <p><b>11.5 Bank standing orders for the year to 31 March 2016</b>  The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to make salary payments to Mrs D Abbott by standing order and noted that the grass-cutting contract would be paid by standing order from May to November.</p> <p><b>11.6 Standing order payments since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>March Salary Mrs D Abbott (confidential)</li> </ul> <p><b>11.7 Cheque payments</b>  It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Somerset Tree Surgery £180.00</li> </ul> <p><b>11.8 Rents and wayleaves</b>  Diane reported that she had raised bills as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mr A G Selway – agricultural land rent: £1,000.00</li> <li>Mr P Coombes – agricultural land rent: £906.50</li> <li>Mr J J Saunders – agricultural land rent: £130.00 (not £65.00 as on agenda)</li> <li>Mr J Wareham – wayleave for sign at Clarke's Pool: £60.00</li> <li>Mr G Fuzzey – wayleave for sign at Clarke's Pool: £60.00</li> </ul>	
12	<p><b><i>Fallopia japonica</i> at Emborough</b></p> <p>The Chair stated that, from evidence of regrowth late in 2014, further treatment was needed. Philip reported that he had visited the site and that there were signs of shoots. Philip offered to undertake the treatment for £100 plus the cost of chemicals. The meeting invited Philip to submit a tender for the work.</p>	PB
13	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b></p>	

	<p>Philip stated that no March meeting had taken place.</p> <p>The meeting heard a request from Mandy Robertson and Kim Richards for use of the Playing Field for a charity fundraising event. Philip stated that the Playing Field Group had no objection and suggested that one or two stalls could raise money for the Playing Field. Diane undertook to liaise with Mandy and Kim to ensure that the Council's insurance covered the event.</p> <p>Philip also confirmed that the Group had no objection to Kim Richards using the Playing Field for early morning 'Boot Camp' sessions.</p> <p>Philip up-dated the meeting on the condition of the large multi-play, advising that it had deteriorated further. He stated that he would be meeting with Big Wood Play Systems on 9 April to assess the situation and formulate a plan to rebuild the equipment. After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to delegate authority for any action to Philip and two councillors David and Jon.</p> <p>Philip stated that the condition of the small multi-play would also be reviewed on 9 April.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>PB</p>
14	<p><b>Binegar Playing Field</b></p> <p>The meeting received a draft specification (previously circulated) to tender for repair of the boundary fence. It was agreed members would consider options and the necessity for rabbit proof fencing.</p>	All
15	<p><b>Report of the Parish Paths Liaison Officer (PPLO)</b></p> <p>Philip thanked Gus for assisting him in the PPLO role. The meeting heard concerns from members of the public regarding conditions of stiles and missing gates. Diane informed the meeting that an advert for a new PPLO had been placed in the Parish magazine. Paul Sharp offered to take on the role and Philip agreed to hand over to Paul. The Chair thanked Paul for volunteering</p>	PB
16	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>Cath and Jon informed the meeting they had attended a new councillors' course. The Chair informed the meeting that he and the Clerk had attended a course on the new financial arrangements, which are to change current procedures for smaller Councils.</p>	
17	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
18	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>Diane reported correspondence from Not Pointless and a donation to the Playing Fields and correspondence from Came and Company. Philip requested details of Came and Company newsletter.</p>	
19	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda</b></p> <p>Policy on allocation of grave and cremation plots</p>	
20	<p><b>Next meeting and dates for 2015</b></p> <p>To note the next meeting will be held on 11 May 2015 at 7:00 pm (Annual Meeting) and 7 30pm (Ordinary meeting) in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2015 meetings: 2 June, 7 July, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8:54 pm.

# BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk) and twelve parishioners.

1	<p><b>Elections of Council officers, acceptance of office and registration of interests</b></p> <p>1.1 <b>Election of Chair</b> - Philip nominated and Cath seconded Richard for Chair. There were no other nominations and the meeting elected Richard.</p> <p>1.2 <b>Election of Vice Chair</b> - John nominated and Phil seconded Jon for Vice Chair. David nominated and Cath seconded Philip for Vice Chair. A paper ballot took place with four votes to Jon and three votes to Philip; Jon was declared Vice Chair.</p> <p>1.3 Councillors received and signed <i>Declarations of Acceptance of Office</i>.</p> <p>1.4 Councillors received <i>General Notice of Registerable Interests</i> forms along with guidelines for completion. Diane requested that these forms be returned to her by Friday 22 May for forwarding to the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>1.5 Councillors received the <i>Members' Code of Conduct</i> of the Parish Council.</p> <p>1.6 The Clerk advised dates for "Being a Good Councillor" courses. Phil and John agreed to attend a course. Diane agreed to make the necessary arrangements.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of 7 April 2015 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
3	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b></p> <p>The Chair congratulated John and Rachel Carter on their election as District Councillors and welcomed John Scadding to the meeting as a newly elected Parish Councillor.</p>	
4	<p><b>Declarations of Interest</b></p> <p>Philip declared an interest in item 10.2.</p>	
5	<p><b>Council Committees</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Playing Field Group</b></p> <p>The Council reviewed and <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the terms of reference for the Committee. Philip and David agreed to continue serving on the committee, which would report its election of Chair to the following meeting.</p> <p><b>5.2 New committees</b></p> <p>No new committees were appointed.</p>	
6	<p><b>Review and adoption of Standing Orders, policies and like arrangements</b></p> <p>6.1 The meeting considered arrangements to review all standing orders and policies over a four year cycle and <b>RESOLVED</b> to adopt the plan. For 2015-16, the meeting agreed that the Chair the Clerk would review the burial policy and that the Clerk and Cath would consider health &amp; safety and data protection policies.</p>	

	<p>6.2 The meeting received and accepted the agenda year planner, which scheduled reviews of the Asset Register, of membership of external bodies and insurance cover.</p>	
7	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>7.1 Binegar Cemetery</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Celebration of Holy Trinity anniversary</b> The Chair reported purchase of trees that he and Phil would plant at the weekend. The Clerk stated that the stonemason would be making good headstones over the coming weeks.</li> <li>• <b>Cemetery Improvement Waste Disposal and Cemetery Spoil</b> Diane informed the meeting that a disposal of waste sign had been purchased and the meeting agreed that it should be situated on a stake just inside the cemetery gate. The Chair thanked Bryan Rich for kindly removing the majority of the cemetery spoil. The Chair and Jon offered to level the remaining spoil.</li> </ul> <p><b>7.2 Highways</b> Diane informed the meeting that Highways had been contacted regarding the repair and maintenance of (3) fingerposts and awaited a call from the relevant department.</p> <p><b>7.3 Planning issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2015/0309/FUL – 4 Dalleston BA3 4UD - Bungalow</b> Withdrawn.</li> <li>• <b>2015/0500/OTS – 5 Dalleston BA3 4UD – 2 storey detached house</b> Withdrawn.</li> <li>• <b>2015/0622/TPO – Meadwood House BA3 4TS – Felling oak tree</b> Pending consideration</li> <li>• <b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner’s Court traveller’s site – reported breach of conditions</b> The Chair stated that the Parish Council had reported breaches of planning to Mendip’s Enforcement Team on 9 April, 3 May and 10 May 2015. Parishioners were assured that complaints were confidential and that they should contact Mendip District Council direct if they had further concerns.</li> </ul> <p><b>7.4 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14]</b> It was agreed that this item was concluded.</p> <p><b>7.5 Ownership of The Batch [Sept 14]</b> The Chair informed the meeting that there had been continued complaints about the work at High Banks and the continued misuse of the Batch. The Clerk reported a request that the Council remove tree branches that had been dumped by High Banks’ contractors. Jon and John undertook to clear the debris.</p> <p>Jon reported that he had continued work on the application for Village Green status. It was agreed “Neville’s Batch” should be used on the application as it had historic relevance.</p> <p><b>7.6 Emborough Pond [Nov 14]</b> The Chair informed the meeting of an application to put two caravans on the foundations of the boathouse. The application was not open to consultation but there was the opportunity to comment. After discussion, the meeting agreed that the Council would seek a joint approach with the Emborough Parish Meeting.</p> <p><b>7.7 Clarke’s Pool [Dec 14]</b></p>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH JA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>All</p> <p>JA JS</p> <p>JA</p> <p>RH</p>

	<p>The Chair thanked Mr Harnell, Mr Maidment and Mr Gait who had tidied up the pool and for the before and after photos they had kindly shared with the Council. The meeting discussed possible further actions to improve the pool and agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John and Kevin would approach contacts who may be able to assist with clearance of silt</li> <li>• Approach Somerset County Council for help with funding</li> <li>• Seek quotations for the removal of the ash tree growing in the pool</li> <li>• Approach Somerset Highways to clear the drains on Kings Lane</li> </ul> <p><b>7.8 Binegar Memorial Hall</b> Jon informed the meeting that Phil Bridges had delivered a new meter for the defibrillator and it would be fitted as soon as possible. Advised that the Heras fencing would be used for work on large multiplay or removed.</p> <p><b>7.9 Fallopia japonica treatment at Emborough</b> Tender still awaited.</p>	<p>JS RH DA DA</p> <p>PB</p>
8	<p><b>Local government reports</b> Diane circulated a report from County Councillor Harvey Siggs.</p>	
9	<p><b>Police report to 4 April 2015</b> The meeting noted that PPLO Nikki Housley had sent in the following reported incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 07/04 explosions at Highcroft quarry</li> <li>• 08/04 accident on the crossroads at Emborough</li> <li>• 14/04 accident near the Mendip Inn</li> </ul>	
10	<p><b>Planning applications and issues</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2015/0632/HSE – 7 Flowerstone, BA3 4UQ – Rear Extension and new garage</b> After discussion, the meeting agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation and responses.</li> <li>• <b>2014/2742/FUL – The Portway, BA3 4UA – Maintain agricultural dwelling</b> After discussion, the meeting agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation and responses.</li> </ul>	
11	<p><b>Burial Policy</b> The meeting considered a request from the family of the late Mr Peter and Mrs Beryl Manders to waive the Council's policy of allotting the next available cremation plot for interment of ashes and for the family to choose the location of the cremation plot. After discussion and consideration, the Council concluded that such a precedent could not be set and that the policy should not be waived.</p>	
12	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>12.1 Financial control</b> The meeting noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for the Parish Council's three accounts. Diane advised that the year-end accounts remained with the internal auditor.</p> <p><b>12.2 Bank Mandates</b> The meeting considered bank mandates and <b>RESOLVED</b> to continue with existing arrangements and signatories.</p> <p><b>12.3 Receipts since last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The George – wayleave - £60.00</li> <li>• Class Motor Services – wayleave - £60.00</li> <li>• Thornhill Farm – agricultural land rent - £1000.00</li> <li>• Mendip District Council – Parish precept - £8,500.00</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mendip District Council – Council Tax Support Grant - £337.55</li> <li>• E Emery and Sons – Betty Selway plot - £50.00</li> </ul> <p><b>12.4 Standing order payments since last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs D Abbott - April salary – confidential</li> </ul> <p><b>12.5 Cheque payments</b></p> <p>It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binegar Memorial Hall – Room Hire April 2014 to March 2015 - £232.50</li> <li>• J Abbott expenses – mileage and land registry search fee - £49.39</li> <li>• D Abbott contracted expenses Nov 14 to May 15 - plus salary adjustment confidential</li> <li>• Somerset Association of Local Councils – Affiliation fees - £84.42</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b></p> <p>The meeting received and noted the Minutes of 21 April 2015. Philip gave an up-date on the refurbishment of the large multi-play and asked for volunteers to assist. Philip also raised a further concern over the condition of the small multi-play. Finally, Philip advised there was to be a fund-raising quiz night and undertook to advise members of the date.</p>	PB
14	<p><b>Binegar Playing Field</b></p> <p>The meeting considered a tender previously circulated for the repair of the boundary fence. It was agreed that after small amendments approaches could be made to potential contractors.</p>	DA
15	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>No events attended.</p>	
16	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p>David reported potholes in Tellis Lane.</p>	
17	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>A request had been received from Lynn Emery for removal of fallen tree debris on the Batch.</p>	
18	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dementia awareness and action</li> <li>• Training on responsibilities with planning applications</li> </ul>	CL DA
19	<p><b>Next meeting and dates for 2015</b></p> <p>To note the next meeting will be held on 2 June 2015 at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2015 meetings: 7 July, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:15 pm.

# *BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL*

Minutes of the Annual Meeting with Parishioners held on 11 May 2015 in the Memorial Hall

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

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk) and fifteen parishioners.

1.	<b>Introduction</b> The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming parishioners to the Annual Parish Meeting.	
2.	<b>Minutes of the previous meeting</b> The meeting noted the Minutes of the 13 May 2014.	
3.	<b>Annual Report of the Chair</b> The meeting received a report from the Chair highlighting the year of 2014 to 2015.  For Councillors, the major event of the year was appointing Diane Abbott. Diane quickly took up the reins of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer and we now benefit from her hard work, organisation and enthusiasm.  Perhaps the most visible event was felling the cypress trees in the cemetery. When we asked parishioners, views were mixed. Most favoured felling and, given the age of the trees, this was what the Council decided. Since then, we have been asking how we can improve the cemetery. Ideas include a Lych gate, a seat to rest and trees to shelter the boundary.  Not all was well in the cemetery this year. When the Council did its safety check and laid unstable headstones down on the ground, there were huge protests. We accepted that we had not followed best practice and apologised for distress caused. This next year, we shall review how we put our policy into practice.  The churchyard of Holy Trinity Church, which celebrates its 950 <sup>th</sup> birthday this year, is also a Parish Council responsibility and we replaced the gate. The old gate had done sterling service for 60 years.  <i>Binegar Playing Fields Group</i> , led by Philip Blatchford, runs the playground, which continues to be a popular attraction. What you may not know is what this involves. There has to be a weekly safety check, regular maintenance and replacement of old apparatus. Volunteers, including Councillors, do this. The <i>Group's</i> efforts raised £1,540 this year that it put towards a new seesaw and swings.  Mendip District Council routinely asks parish councils about planning applications. There have been several controversial ones brought on by relaxed planning rules. Among these was one for a housing estate behind Flowerstone. The applicant withdrew this application in the face of opposition. Most parishioners were relieved. Developers, however, continue to challenge Mendip's planning rules and the parish council must do all it can to secure orderly development in Gurney Slade and Binegar.	

	<p>There has been a less happy outcome at Emborough Pond where the owner has wrecked the view, built fences and planted hedges to keep local people out. Mendip has allowed this to happen even though Emborough Pond is one of its protected <i>Special Landscape Features</i>. Mendip's enforcement has been weak. Sadly, that has just helped a free-for-all development culture to run riot.</p> <p>Kath Newman received the <i>Award for Services to the Community</i> from Somerset County's Chairman. Kath is an inspiration and has, for 40 years, worked tirelessly to make our villages better places in which to live. The Council salutes Kath.</p> <p>As part of its quest for better communication with parishioners, we have put up new notice boards and we keep a full record of all we do on our website at <a href="http://www.binegar-pc.org.uk">www.binegar-pc.org.uk</a>. This included installing a bin for dog waste and training a number of local people in basic life support.</p> <p>Finally, three Councillors retired in the year: Jude Robbins, Roger Anderson and Gus Halfhide. They all volunteered and contributed to making a difference locally. On behalf of the Council, I thank them. In their place, Phil Roberts and Jon Abbott joined us. With other Councillors, they continue, after the election, to give freely of their time and energy to help our community.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Parishioners' questions</b> Discussion followed on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The planned pedestrian crossing on the A37 – the Chair gave an up-date from Somerset County Council.</li> <li>• Emborough Pond - in particular the unregistered footpath raised. Anne Caley agreed to look at forms for applying to have the footpath registered.</li> <li>• Clarke's Pool – the Chair advised Clarke's Pool was an agenda item for the following Council meeting.</li> <li>• Cemetery trees – Richard Priestley thanked the Council for the tree improvements in the cemetery.</li> <li>• The Batch – concerns were raised regarding the increased parking on the Batch. The Chair gave an overview on the current situation and stated the Council were currently powerless to act.</li> </ul>	
5.	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b> It was agreed to hold the next Annual Meeting with Parishioners on <b>3 May 2016</b></p>	

# ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), Geoffrey Small (*Old Down Touring Park*), John Carter and Rachel Carter (District Councillors).

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence and Chair’s announcements</b> There were no apologies for absence.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Jon and John for their work on starting to clear waste from the Batch and pruning and tidying around Binegar Green bus stop. He thanked Phil and Philip for planting <i>Betula utilis</i> var. <i>jacquemontii</i> ‘Snow Queen’ in the cemetery.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Geoffrey Small and gave a summary on the current situation regarding the removal of a section of hedging between <i>Old Down Touring Park</i> and adjacent Parish land. He stated he would take the matter in Item 8 of the agenda after Item 4.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed Councillors John and Rachel Carter and Members introduced themselves.</p> <p>The meeting noted the tornado through Binegar on the morning of Friday 29 May 2015.</p>	
2	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 11 May 2015 Annual Meeting with parishioners and the ordinary meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
4	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>4.1 Binegar Cemetery</b> The Chair reported the repair of headstones in the cemetery and noted that the headstones laid down in the churchyard would be re-erected soon. He stated that Bishop Peter had formally planted and blessed the commemorative trees and that there was to be a bench beneath them. The meeting noted the Chair’s proposed financial arrangement between the Council, himself and bench donor to preserve anonymity. The Chair shared images of a local Lych-gate and it was agreed that he could research any need for planning consent and take the idea forward. The Clerk told the meeting that Sue Stone had sent a “thank you” to the Parish Council from the Parochial Church Council for the planting of the three new cemetery trees saying that they looked splendid and helped to make the 950<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Sunday such a successful day. Phil informed the meeting that Andy Wrintmore, stonemason, had kindly offered to engrave a piece of granite to commemorate the event.</p> <p><b>4.2 Highways</b> <b>Repair and maintenance of finger sign posts (Mar 15)</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that Highways had stated there was no budget to maintain finger posts and had advised the Parish Council to find a contractor to carry out the work. The Clerk undertook to investigate any grants available and to check with the Clerk at Ashwick on how it had refurbished its own finger posts.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>DA</p>

<p><b>Cleaning of surface water drains, Kings Lane (May 15)</b> The Clerk informed the meeting this was Highways' task number 288955.</p> <p><b>Repair of potholes, Tellis Court Lane (May 15)</b> The Clerk informed the meeting this was Highways' task number 288954.</p> <p><b>4.3 Planning applications</b></p> <p><b>2015/0622/TPO – Meadwood House, BA3 4TS – Felling 1 oak tree</b> The meeting noted this application was pending consideration.</p> <p><b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner's Court traveller's site – reported breach of conditions</b> The Chair stated that Mendip District Council had advised the applicant that the additional works carried out were not approved and had invited the applicant to submit a further planning application to regularise deviations from the original planning permission. It was noted this would trigger further public consultation. The meeting discussed concerns of parishioners regarding foul water drainage of the site as well as general enforcement of conditions by Mendip. John and Rachel Carter stated they would continue to follow this up with Mendip District Council.</p> <p><b>2015/0632/HSE – 7 Flowerstone BA3 4UQ – Rear extension and new garage</b> The meeting noted this application had been approved with conditions.</p> <p><b>2014/2742/FUL – The Portway, BA3 4UA – Maintain agricultural dwelling</b> The meeting noted this application was pending consideration.</p>	
<p><b>4.4 Ownership of Neville's Batch</b> [Sept 14] Jon informed the meeting that work on the application for registering <i>Neville's Batch</i> for Village Green status was almost complete. David reported news from <i>Western Power Distribution</i> that no wayleaves were paid for apparatus on Neville's Batch. It was considered that this helped the Village Green application.</p>	JA
<p><b>4.5 Emborough Pond</b> [Nov 14] The Chair informed the meeting that the application to put two caravans on the foundations of the boathouse had been deemed invalid by Mendip District Council and that Anne Caley had taken on the task of registering the footpath.</p>	
<p><b>4.6 Clarke's Pool</b> [Dec 14] The meeting noted quotes from <i>Crestmoor</i> and, courtesy of Mr Richard Emery, from <i>R. M. Penny</i>. John reported meeting Mr Christopher Penny to discuss the works. He reported, with pleasure, that Mr Penny was prepared to dredge the Pool for the cost of hiring a digger for a day. This would require access to the pool from the adjacent field and arrangements for disposal of the silt. John stated that he and Jon would work on these arrangements.</p>	JS
<p>The Council agreed there was urgency to this project that it wished complete before the end of the summer. The first step was to fell the ash tree growing in the Pool and the Clerk confirmed she had a quotation for this work but required a second. John stated he would obtain a further quotation. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to proceed by accepting the lower quotation. Philip advised he might have a contact who could remove the tree at no cost.</p>	JS DA
<p>Since the Council was unable to proceed with <i>Crestmoor</i>, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to obtain the chemical analysis of the silt from <i>Crestmoor</i> and pay their fee of £161.</p>	RH
<p><b>4.7 Binegar Memorial Hall</b> [Mar 15] <b>Removal of Heras fencing and electrical supply to defibrillator</b> With no further reports, it was agreed to remove these items from the agenda.</p>	DA

	<p><b>4.8 Fallopia japonica treatment at Emborough</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that Philip had provided a tender to carry out the work for £100 per treatment. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to award the tender to Philip who was asked to undertake the work when plant growth was at the appropriate stage.</p> <p><b>4.9 Binegar playing field boundary fence</b> The meeting approved a tender invitation to replace the boundary fence with the Memorial Hall and to insert a pedestrian gate. It was agreed to keep a fence around the disused electrical intake for safety purposes. The Clerk undertook to approach potential contractors with a view to selecting a contractor at the July meeting.</p>	DA PB
5	<p><b>Local government reports</b> There was no report.</p>	
6	<p><b>Police reports</b> There was no report.</p>	
7	<p><b>Dealing with planning applications</b> The Clerk gave a short briefing on dealing with planning applications and circulated notes.</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning applications and issues</b> <b>Old Down Touring Site – hedge breaches</b> The meeting received an update from the Clerk on the current situation regarding boundary issues and hedge removal between <i>Old Down Touring Park</i> and Parish land. Mr Geoffrey Small addressed the meeting and apologised for the removal of the hedge and any possible incursion on Council land. He told the meeting that he would replace hedge. To assist, the Council undertook to write with advice. The Chair thanked Mr Small for attending the meeting.</p>	DA
9	<p><b>Dementia awareness and action</b> Cath spoke about the importance of raising awareness of health and wellbeing in the community and drew particular attention to the launch of <i>Health Connections Mendip</i>. It was agreed that the Council would promote and display posters on the subject.</p> <p>Cath continued that, during the course of the year, there would be further ideas progressing towards becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. Members supported the proposal.</p>	DA CL
10	<p><b>Financial Matters</b> <b>10.1 Financial control</b> The meeting noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for the Council's accounts. <b>10.2 Year-end audit</b> Diane advised that the internal audit of the year-end accounts had been completed and that the accounts had been sent to Grant Thornton, the external auditor. <b>10.3 Receipts since last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusive Memorials – Bown inscription and Hill memorial - £120.00</li> <li>• J E Emery – Selway interment fee - £100.00</li> </ul> <p><b>10.4 Standing order payments since last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs D Abbott - May salary – confidential</li> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – June payment - £633.60</li> </ul> <p><b>10.5 Cheque payments</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HMRC – Salary Income Tax Jan to Mar – confidential</li> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – May payment - £633.60</li> <li>• Exclusive Memorials – Attwood repairs - £150.00</li> <li>• J Abbott – Cemetery signage - £18.00</li> </ul>	

11	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b></p> <p>The Council received and noted the Minutes of the 19 May meeting and noted the quiz night on 7 June at 7 00 pm in <i>The George Inn</i>.</p> <p>Philip stated that the Group needed new members. Councillors undertook to spread this news while Philip stated that the Group would work to attract new people.</p> <p>The meeting noted that timber for the multiplay repair had still not arrived. John stated that twice he had had to stand down <i>Morris &amp; Perry</i> as dates scheduled were cancelled as short notice. It was agreed to set a date for work only after receipt of the timber. Philip raised concerns over the safety of the large multi play and requested that it should be withdrawn from . The meeting agreed it should be taken off-line and fenced off.</p> <p>Philip advised that the Group had agreed the Memorial Hall could use the Playing Field free for an event in August and requested that the Memorial Hall reciprocate for Village Day. Jon asked Philip to put a request in writing to the Village Hall Committee.</p> <p>Philip asked playground inspectors to ensure their reports were sent to both Cath and Val.</p>	PB PB PB
12	<p><b>Awards for local people</b></p> <p>The meeting discussed potential nominees for future awards. Members put the names of several local people forward.</p>	DA
13	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
14	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p><b>14.1 Potholes</b></p> <p>Philip reported potholes midway up Bennett's Lane and David on Tellis Lane.</p> <p><b>14.2 Parish Paths Liaison Officer</b></p> <p>The Chair asked Philip if he had handed over to the new officer. Philip stated that he had not but promised to do so. The Clerk undertook to contact the County to arrange for the registration of Paul Sharp and to supply him with tools.</p>	DA PB DA
15	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p><b>15.1 Somerset &amp; Dorset Railway Trust</b></p> <p>The meeting discussed details of a travelling exhibition previously circulated and David agreed to investigate further.</p> <p><b>15.2 Shepton Mallet United Charities</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting of an invitation from Shepton Mallet United Charities to inspect the newly refurbished Breadroom Alms house. Jon agreed to attend.</p> <p><b>15.3 Kingscombe speed indicator device results</b></p> <p>The meeting discussed the results (previously circulated). Jon undertook to clarify with Highways some points about the results.</p>	DS JA JA
16	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 7 July 2015 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2015: 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December; 2016: 2 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 07 pm.

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

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

**Present:** Jon Abbott (Chair), Philip Blatchford, Cath Law, John Scadding and David Stone.

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), John Carter (District Councillor).

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept apologies for absence from Richard Higgins and Phil Roberts.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> The Chair informed the meeting that Paul Sharp was now officially the Parish Paths Liaison Officer.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 2 June 2015 be signed as a correct record subject to substituting 'Turner's Court Lane' for 'Tellis Court Lane' in item 4.2.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery</b> The Chair reported the repair of headstones in the cemetery was now complete.</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that Richard had applied to Mendip for pre-planning application advice because the proposed gate is in the view of two Grade II listed buildings. Mendip District Council's service standards required the offer of a meeting by 14 July. The Chair asked if any members would like to attend with Richard. All members expressed an interest in attending.</p> <p><b>5.2 Finger sign posts</b> The Chair informed the meeting that he and the Clerk had met with "Hyperblast" with a view to having the finger signposts professionally renovated.</p> <p>Members expressed concerns over the project costs. John Scadding suggested the work be carried out by member; David informed the meeting that he was aware that Pilton Parish Council are in the process of renovating their finger posts. After further discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should seek a further quotation and that David would speak with Roger Nobel at Pilton.</p> <p>Philip requested that the Clerk produced a list of proposed projects and predicted costs.</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways</b> <b>Cleaning of surface water drains, Kings Lane (May 15)</b> To be monitored following the next substantial fall of rain. <b>Repair of potholes, Tellis Lane (May 15) -Complete.</b></p> <p><b>5.4 Planning applications</b> <b>2015/0622/TPO – Meadwood House, BA3 4TS – Felling 1 oak tree</b> The meeting noted this application was approved with conditions.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>DS DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>All</p>

<p><b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner’s Court Lane Traveller’s Site – reported breach of conditions</b>  The Chair informed the meeting that Cllr John Carter had pressed the issue with the Senior Enforcement Officer (SEO), David Woodridge, who had paid a visit to the site on 3 July 2015 but was unable to see the owner. No response had been received with respect to an invitation to submit a new planning application. Cllr John Carter advised the meeting that the matter was to be discussed at an internal planning meeting on 9 July 2015 with a view to formal enforcement action being taken.</p> <p>The SEO has also commented that he believed the requisite waste water disposal system had been installed.</p>	
<p><b>2014/2742/FUL – The Portway, BA3 4UA – Maintain temporary agricultural dwelling</b>  The meeting noted this application was refused.</p>	
<p><b>5.5 Ownership of Neville’s Batch</b> [Sept 14]  The Chair informed the meeting that work on the application was now completed.</p>	JA
<p><b>5.6 Emborough Pond</b> [Nov 14]  The Chair stated that Cllr Killen had reported that Mendip was preparing to take enforcement action. The meeting asked Cllr John Carter to request an update from Cllr Killen. The meeting noted that a large mobile home had been positioned at the end of the causeway.</p>	DA
<p><b>5.7 Clarke’s Pool</b> [Dec 14]  The Chair informed the meeting that the ash tree had been removed and that access, a digger and means of disposing of the spoil had been arranged and proposed that work should commence on Monday 27 July 2015.</p>	
<p><b>5.8 Fallopia japonica treatment at Emborough</b>  Philip informed the meeting that the plant shoots were not very big and that he is waiting for an improvement in the weather to carry out the required treatment.</p>	PB
<p><b>5.9 Binegar playing field boundary fence</b>  The Chair informed the meeting that of the seven tenders sent out only one quote had been received which was not compliant to the tender requirements. Three other companies had declined to submit a bid. After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should send out additional tenders.</p>	DA
<p><b>5.10 Boundary Hedge with Old Down Touring Site</b> [Jun 15]  The Chair informed the meeting that a letter confirming the Parish Council’s wishes to accept Mr Small’s offer to replace the hedge had been hand delivered to Mr Small.</p>	
<p><b>5.11 Parish Paths Liaison Officer – Induction of Paul Sharp</b> [Apr 15]  The Clerk informed the meeting that all appropriate paperwork had been completed with Somerset County Council and that tools from Gus had been handed over to Paul.</p>	
<p><b>5.12 Somerset &amp; Dorset Railway Trust 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition</b> [Jun 15]  David informed the meeting that he and Philip had completed the form and that it had been handed to the Clerk.</p>	DA
<p><b>5.13 Kingscombe speed indicator device (SID) results</b> [Jun 15]  The Chair informed the meeting that he had spoken to David Grabham, Traffic Engineer, to clarify the questions raised at the June meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SID is not the fixed speed camera but an auxiliary device and the team that position and operate the SID are not directly related to the speed camera enforcement team.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On this occasion, the SID was positioned just south of the fixed camera and recorded only traffic approaching Binegar from Shepton Mallet and the results showed 15% of vehicles were above the intervention limit.</li> <li>Results are sent to a number of groups for information including the fixed camera and mobile camera teams; it is they who decide if further action is to be taken.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.14 Pedestrian controlled crossing of A37</b> [Jun 13] The Chair informed the meeting that this matter is held up by a dispute over compensation. There was a report that the owner of the property had initiated contact with County. Richard had approached Cllr Harvey Siggs requesting an up-date on the current position but no response had been received. The meeting asked Cllr John Carter if he could approach Cllr Harvey Siggs for an up-date.</p> <p><b>5.15 Refurbishment of large multiplay</b> [Aug 14] Philip informed the meeting that the wood had arrived and that timings for work would be confirmed shortly. After discussion, it was agreed that an Auger would be supplied from a contact of Phillip's.</p>	RH
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> The meeting agreed that Cllr Carter had already covered points regarding item 5.4 – Turners Court Traveller's Site.</p>	
7	<p><b>Police reports</b> There was no report.</p>	
8	<p><b>Dementia awareness and action</b> Cath and the Clerk spoke to the meeting about becoming a Dementia Friendly Community. Cath encouraged members become a Dementia Friend by signing up on the website. It was agreed that further research would be made in preparation for the September meeting. Members <b>RESOLVED</b> to allocate a fund of £200 to support the activity – proposed Philip, seconded David.</p>	DA CL
9	<p><b>Get up to speed campaign</b> The clerk up-dated the meeting on the campaign and the free events on offer. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should gauge interest within the Parish.</p>	DA
10	<p><b>Flood prevention – preparation and applications for the flood mitigation fund</b> The Chair briefed the meeting on areas of flood risk, referring to a document prepared by Richard (previously circulated). After discussion the meeting agreed the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>That the deadline date of 27 July 2015 to apply for funding was very tight and it would be challenging to research accurate costs.</li> <li>That a site meeting at the junction of Roemead Lane and Binegar Bottom should be arranged with Highways as soon as possible .</li> <li>Make an approach to Cllrs Rachel and John Carter requesting they establish the ownership of the culvert under Woodside Terrace.</li> <li>That the ditch by the post office be cleared of vegetation.</li> <li>That a meeting be arranged with Ashwick councillors regarding flooding concerns on the two parish boundaries.</li> <li>That parish boundaries between Binegar and Ashwick are checked.</li> <li>A notice be placed in the Parish magazine asking parishioners to keep culverts clear.</li> </ol>	JA JA JS JA DA DA
11	<p><b>Chairman's Award for services to the community</b> The Chair stated that the closing date for nominations is 4 September 2015 and asked members for nominations. After discussion, it was agreed to make a nomination. The meeting requested that the Clerk check criteria with SCC to ensure the agreed choice was viable.</p>	DA

12	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>12.1 Financial Control</b> The meeting noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for the Council's accounts.</p> <p><b>12.2 To note the position of the year-end audit</b> The Clerk advised that the year-end audit had been completed and notices posted.</p> <p><b>12.3 To note list of expenditure over £100 required for transparency code</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that a list had been published on the website to meet with the requirements of the new transparency code.</p> <p><b>12.4 To note insurance cover for 2015-16</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that the annual insurance cover was in place.</p> <p><b>12.5 Receipts since last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Abbott – Refund on Land Registry Search fee - £5.00</li> <li>• J E Emery – Interment Mr and Mrs Brittain - £100.00</li> <li>• Exclusive Memorials – Memorial Godney - £90.00</li> <li>• Donation – Cemetery bench £377.71</li> </ul> <p><b>12.6 Standing order payments since last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs D Abbott - June salary – confidential</li> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – July payment - £633.60</li> <li>• Community Council Somerset – Annual subscription - £35.00</li> </ul> <p><b>12.7 Cheque payments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Somerset Tree Surgery – Felling of ash tree Clarke's Pool - £300.00</li> <li>• P &amp; G Browning – Internal audit fee - £175.00</li> <li>• Broker Network Limited – Annual insurance - £625.35</li> <li>• Community Council Somerset – Balance of annual subscription - £5.00</li> <li>• HMRC – Salary income tax April to June – Confidential</li> <li>• R Higgins – Supply and installation of cemetery bench - £447.24</li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b></p> <p>Philip informed the meeting that no meeting had been held in June and that a meeting would take place in July. He confirmed that the annual Village Day would take place on Sunday 6 September and requested support from members.</p> <p>Philip stated that the large multi-play would be re-jigged and it was planned to re-use the decking board.</p> <p>The Clerk confirmed that the ROSPA inspection had taken place and the report received and circulated. The Clerk to re-send the report to Philip.</p> <p>David asked Philip if "Bigwood" had a contact who may be interested in looking at the playground fencing.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>DA</p> <p>PB</p>
14	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
15	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p>Councillors reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potholes at the south west end of Binegar Lane (in St Cuthbert Out Parish)</li> <li>• Hedge obscuring highway at Highcroft Lane junction with A37 (Ashwick Parish)</li> <li>• Garden shrubs obscuring highway on Highcroft Lane opposite quarry (Ashwick Parish)</li> <li>• Blocked gully and drains on A37 viaduct north of Portway Lane</li> <li>• Verge obscuring sight line at Portway Lane junction with A37</li> <li>• Verge obscuring sight line at Whitnell Lane junction with B3139 (Emborough Parish)</li> <li>• Failed street light on Neville's Batch</li> </ul>	<p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>

16	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p><b>16.1 Notification of road closure</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that notification of road closure on Binegar Lane had been received and that notification had been posted on notice boards.</p> <p><b>16.2 Somerset County Council's – Adopt a path</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that details on adopting a path had been received and interested parties should go to the County Council website to request further information.</p> <p><b>16.3 Police newsletter</b> Philip informed the meeting he had received a newsletter and information from the police.</p>	
17	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b> The Council noted the next meeting would be on 1 September 2015 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2015: 6 October, 3 November, 1 December; 2016: 2 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 16 pm.

# ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 September 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

**Present:** Jon Abbott, Richard Higgins (Chair), Philip Blatchford (for items 5.8 and 5.12), Cath Law, John Scadding and David Stone.

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), Councillors John Carter and Harvey Siggs.

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept apologies for absence from Phil Roberts.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair’s announcements</b> There were no announcements.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 7 July 2015 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery - Proposal to build a lych gate</b> Jon informed the meeting that he and Philip had visited the planning and conservation officers at Mendip District Council. The meeting accepted Jon’s recommendation to take the proposal forward as an “authorised development” (that would not require planning consent).</p> <p><b>5.2 Finger sign-posts</b> The Clerk stated that she had asked a second company for a quotation for the work. After discussion, the meeting agreed that refurbishment should be done professionally. The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Clerk should accept the lower of the two tenders and arrange for the works to be done.</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways</b> It was noted that the following works had been completed: pothole repairs on Binegar Lane; overgrown hedges and shrubs cut back on Highcroft Lane; gully on A37 cleared; sightlines improved on Whitnell and Portway Lane junctions; and streetlight repaired on Neville’s Batch.</p> <p>The Clerk undertook to report again clearing surface water drains, Kings Lane.</p> <p><b>5.4 Planning applications</b> <b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner’s Court traveller’s site – reported breach of conditions</b> The Chair stated there was no further progress to report. Cllr Carter undertook to progress the matter with Mendip District Council.</p> <p><b>5.5 Ownership of <i>Neville’s Batch</i></b> Jon reported that Somerset had acknowledged the application for Village Green status but did not expect to consider it for 2-3 years. After discussion, Jon undertook to explore and progress any other avenues available to the Council.</p> <p><b>5.6 Emborough pond</b> The chair informed the meeting that an enforcement notice had been issued to the owner to remove the causeway. It was agreed to close this item.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JC</p> <p>JA</p>

	<p><b>5.7 Clarke's Pool</b> John and Jon reported on the successful clearance of Clarke's Pool. Richard thanked them for their work and informed the meeting that letters of thanks had been received from residents. The meeting agreed that a payment be made to Mr Rich for fuel used in transporting the dredged spoil. Cath raised a safety concern about the fence and Richard undertook to carry out a risk assessment.</p> <p><b>5.8 Fallopi japonica treatment at Emborough</b> Philip reported that a second treatment had been carried out and that he would continue to monitor further growth but only charge for one treatment. He was invited to submit his bill.</p> <p><b>5.9 Binegar playing field boundary fence</b> The Clerk stated that four tenders had been received for this work. Following consideration, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the lowest tender from Southern Fencing. The Council asked the Clerk to organise the works.</p> <p><b>5.10 Somerset &amp; Dorset Railway Trust 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary exhibition</b> The clerk informed the meeting that the Trust's exhibition would be staged in the Memorial Hall on 11-12 June 2016. It was agreed to close this item.</p> <p><b>5.11 Pedestrian controlled crossing of A37</b> John relayed a message from Phil who had met Mr Robinson, owner of Mary Rose Cottage. Phil was told that an agreement on compensation had been reached with Somerset County Council removing the obstacle to laying the crossing. Richard undertook to report this information to the Councillor Fothergill, Head of Roads, at the County.</p> <p><b>5.12 Refurbishment of large multiplay</b> Philip reported that it was not possible to reuse wood from the demolished apparatus to build the replacement. New timber would be required. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received one quote for timber and sundries for less than £500. After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> that authority be given to Philip to spend up to £500 on new timber and sundries.</p> <p><b>5.13 Get up to speed internet and computer skills programme</b> The clerk informed the meeting that an advertisement had been placed in the next Parish magazine in order to ascertain interest to progress further.</p> <p><b>5.14 Flood prevention</b> The Chair stated that residents had been asked to clear the main culvert in an article in the Parish Magazine.</p> <p>Jon reported that Highways had agreed to dig the ditch at Roemead Lane junction with Binegar Bottom. He undertook to arrange a site meeting to progress the work. He awaited further advice on responsibility for the culvert under Woodside Terrace footpath.</p> <p>John informed the meeting that he had spoken to the owner of the Post Office regarding clearance of the ditch and that they were happy for work to take place. After discussion, John and Jon volunteered to do this work.</p> <p><b>5.15 Somerset County Council Chair's award for services to the community</b> The clerk informed the meeting that she would be completing the nomination.</p>	<p>JA RH</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>RH</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>JS</p>
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> Cllr Harvey Siggs reported on County Council issues. He suggested the Council prepare a plan to clear the culvert in readiness for a bid against future flood funds. He also drew attention to a forthcoming health and wellbeing fund. The Clerk undertook to obtain papers from Cllr. Siggs' office.</p>	<p>DA</p>

7	<p><b>Police reports</b> There was no report.</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning</b>  <b>2015/1764/FUL – Proposed house - land adjacent to Holy Trinity Church</b>  Following discussion, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend refusal of this application.</p> <p><b>2015/1830/OTS – Proposed house - 5 Dalleston, Turners Court Lane</b>  Following discussion, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend refusal of this application.</p>	
9	<p><b>Dementia aware and dementia friendly community</b>  Cath reported that a meeting had been held to progress how to become a Dementia Friendly Community. It was proposed to register with the <i>Dementia Action Alliance</i>. An action plan had been drawn up and a Cath suggested a public meeting in November to inform residents and businesses. Cath undertook to take this project forward with the Clerk.</p>	CL
10	<p><b>Financial Matters</b>  <b>10.1 Financial Control</b>  The meeting noted a summary of budget spending and variances for the Council's accounts.</p> <p><b>10.2 Agricultural land rent</b>  The meeting noted that bills for agricultural land rent had been raised</p> <p><b>10.3 Receipts since last report</b>  The meeting noted the following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J E Emery – Emery, Selway and Brittain - £250.00</li> <li>• HMRC – VAT refund - £1,765.39</li> </ul> <p><b>10.4 Standing order payments since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – August payment - £633.60</li> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – July salary – confidential</li> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – August salary – confidential</li> </ul> <p><b>10.5 Cheque payments were authorised to</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andy Wrintmore Memorials – cemetery repairs - £920.00</li> <li>• Grant Thornton – Annual return - £120.00</li> <li>• Play Safety – ROSPA inspection - £124.80</li> <li>• Valley Sawmills – Wood large multi play - £371.81 (Playground account)</li> <li>• Diane Abbott – Office and Computer – May to Sept - 2015 - £40.00</li> <li>• Diane Abbott – Expenses – 24 x 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Stamps - £12.96</li> <li>• Binegar Memorial Hall – Hall hire deposit for families day - £37.50 (Playground account)</li> <li>• Cash – float for Village Day - £52.00 – (Playground account)</li> </ul>	
11	<p><b>Mendip District Council – Consultation on Local Plan, part II, sites and policies</b>  The meeting discussed the importance of the local plan. Cath and Jon undertook to complete the self-assessment on the special characteristics of Gurney Slade and Binegar. The chair encouraged members to attend the consultation sessions to be held by Mendip District Council.</p>	CL All
12	<p><b>Verges and hedges</b>  The meeting discussed concerns raised by a parishioner about the untidy look of roadside weeds. Jon reported that Somerset Highways considered verges were the responsibility of property owners. The meeting agreed this was a vexed matter asking how much parishioners could expect of the Parish Council and vice versa. The chair asked members to consider what the scope of a project might be and how it might be made into a success.</p>	All

13	<p><b>New fencing at Casa Mia</b></p> <p>The Chair reported complaints of a sight line hazard at the junction of Binegar Lane and the A37 from a newly erected fencing at Casa Mia. After discussion, it was agreed to report the hazard to Somerset Highways and advise the resident of this.</p>	DA
14	<p><b>Tape Lane – mud on road</b></p> <p>It was agreed to defer this item until Phil Roberts was present.</p>	
15	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b></p> <p>In Philip's absence, it was agreed to defer this item.</p>	
16	<p><b>Training for councillors and clerk</b></p> <p>The chair reported that no new training was on offer from <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i>. Cath requested training on health and well-being and Jon on planning. The clerk undertook to investigate if Mendip District Council offered such training.</p>	DA
17	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
18	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
19	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>Jon stated that he had received correspondence from James Heapey, MP.</p>	
20	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda</b></p> <p>Jon requested the Memorial Hall car park extension be included on the next agenda.</p>	
21	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 6 October 2015 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2015: 3 November, 1 December; 2016: 2 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 13pm.

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

**Present:** Jon Abbott, Richard Higgins (Chair), Philip Blatchford (7.40pm), Cath Law, Phil Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone.

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), Tony Griffin and Paul Sharp.

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> There were no announcements.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 1 September 2015 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery - Proposal to build a lych gate</b> Jon reported that he had completed form FR1 and that a fee of £97.50 was required. The meeting RESOLVED to pay the fee to secure 'authorised development' approval. The meeting agreed to give thought to the design and who should build it.</p> <p><b>5.2 Finger sign-posts</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that a second company had carried out a site visit and that she awaited their quotation. The Chair stated that he would investigate sourcing SCC finials.</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways</b></p> <p><b>Kings Lane cleaning of surface water drains</b> [May 15] The Clerk informed the meeting that she had reported again the drains in Kings Lane.</p> <p><b>Sight line obstruction fence at Binegar Lane /A37 junction</b> [Sep 15] The Clerk reported that Highways had been informed of the potential obstruction, that an inspection of the site had been arranged and details forwarded to Mendip District Council.</p> <p><b>5.4 Planning applications</b></p> <p><b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner's Court traveller's site – reported breach of conditions</b> The Chair informed the meeting of recent correspondence between District Councillors and planners. It was noted that a councillor had requested a meeting the planning enforcement team. The Chair stated he would continue to keep in touch with Councillors Carter.</p> <p><b>2015/1764/FUL – Proposed house – land adjacent to Holy Trinity</b> The meeting noted this application had been refused.</p> <p><b>2015/1830/OTS – Proposed house – 5 Dalleston, Turners Court Lane, Binegar</b> The meeting noted this application was pending consideration.</p> <p><b>5.5 Ownership of Neville's Batch</b> [Sept 14] Jon reported that further discussions had taken place with Somerset County Council and that he would act on their guidance.</p> <p><b>5.6 Binegar playing field boundary fence</b> [May 15] The Clerk informed the meeting that the fencing project work was completed.</p> <p><b>5.7 Pedestrian controlled crossing A37</b> [Jun 13] The Chair informed the meeting of correspondence with Cllr Fothergill which stated that a settlement had now been agreed and consideration was now been given to the design. The meeting agreed to seek an update at the end of October.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">JA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA RH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">JA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RH</p>

	<p><b>5.8 Refurbishment of large multiplay</b> [Aug 14] Philip informed the meeting that work would be completed within two weeks.</p> <p><b>5.9 'Get up to Speed' internet and computer skills programme</b> [Jul 15] The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been a good response and that a date, location and decision on modules would be progressed.</p> <p><b>5.10 Flood prevention</b> The Chair stated that a site visit had taken place with himself, Jon and Josian Lebrun, Somerset's Flood Engineer, to discuss the culvert and flooding concerns at Binegar Bottom. After discussion, it was agreed that Ashwick Parish Council should be up-dated on the culvert and a meeting arranged. Additionally, Jon undertook to arrange to meet Neil Corp about Binegar Bottom. Jon and John undertook to consider whether to clear the ditch beside the Post Office.</p> <p><b>5.11 Somerset County Council Chair's Award for Services to the Community</b> The Clerk stated that the Council's nomination had been accepted and that an invitation had been made to Molly and Grenville Reakes to attend an awards ceremony on 22 October. The Chair confirmed he would be taking Molly and Grenville.</p> <p><b>5.12 Clarke's Pool safety risk assessment</b> [Sep 15] The Chair presented the meeting with a risk assessment for the pool. After discussion, the meeting agreed to accept the assessment and that the Clerk should purchase an appropriate hazard warning sign. The Chair agreed to post the risk assessment on the website.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>RH JA JS</p> <p>RH</p> <p>DA RH</p>
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> No reports received.</p>	
7	<p><b>Police reports</b> The Clerk read out a report received from Nicola Housley for September: 01 – Cows in road on Marchants Hill. 02 – 2 calls reference a car in ditch near Roemead Farm. 03 – An accident between a car and lorry on the junction of A37 and B3739 no injuries. 06 – Cow in road in Emborough. 13 – Suspicious activity involving an air gun and animal poison in Bennetts Lane area.</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning</b> There were no planning applications to consider.</p>	
9	<p><b>Dementia aware and dementia friendly community</b> Cath updated the meeting on progress made on joining the Dementia Action Alliance and stated that two awareness sessions would take place for residents on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November; one in the afternoon and one in the evening. Penny Ford from the <i>Dementia Action Alliance</i> would conduct the sessions. It was agreed that the event should be advertised in the parish magazine, website and on noticeboards.</p>	CL
10	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>10.1 Financial Control</b> The meeting noted a summary of budget spending and variances (previously circulated) for the Council's accounts.</p> <p><b>10.2 Preliminary budget</b> The meeting received a preliminary budget for 2016-17 (previously circulated). Members agreed to examine the draft and prepare for discussion at the November meeting.</p> <p><b>10.3 Receipts since last report:</b> The meeting noted receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter Coombs – Land rent - £906.50</li> <li>• Western Power – Wayleave - £74.71</li> <li>• Village Day takings - £457.90</li> <li>• Village Day repayment of float - £52.00</li> </ul>	

	<p><b>10.4 Standing order payments since last report</b> The meeting noted standing order payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – September payment - £633.60</li> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – September salary – confidential</li> </ul> <p><b>10.5 Cheque payments</b> The meeting approved the following cheque payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RM Penny – Clarks Pool – Clarks Pool clearance - £240.00</li> <li>• P Blatchford - <i>Fallopia japonica</i> spraying - £100.00</li> </ul>	
11	<p><b>Mendip Local Plan part II</b> The Chair ran through issues relevant to the Parish and spoke of the importance of sharing details with residents. After discussion, it was agreed that members should hold an informal meeting to consider issues and consultation questions prior to holding a public meeting in November.</p>	DA RH
12	<p><b>Beautifying our villages</b> The meeting considered ways to improve the appearance of the village, including discussion on issues raised by residents including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roadside hedges</li> <li>• Roadside verges</li> <li>• Clarke’s Pool</li> <li>• Beautification ideas</li> </ul> <p>After discussion it was agreed the following:</p> <p><b>Roadside hedges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft a letter to owners of overgrown hedges</li> <li>• Establish what action Somerset County Council takes in relation to overgrown hedges</li> </ul> <p><b>Roadside verges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider which roadsides need herbicide spraying and prepare to spray in spring</li> <li>• Initiate a campaign to tidy village verges with a Parish magazine article</li> </ul> <p><b>Clarke’s Pool</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor growth on banks around Clarke’s Pool and consider weed management after Spring growth</li> <li>• Obtain a quote for weed suppression in the seating area</li> <li>• Accept an offer of free planting from Primrose Garden Maintenance</li> </ul> <p><b>Ideas</b> Members to consider ideas to beautify the village and bring suggestions to the November meeting.</p>	RH DA  PB RH  All DA DA  All
13	<p><b>Health and well-being fund</b> The meeting discussed potential projects suited to applying for the Mendip Health and Well Being Fund. Jon suggested a walking / jogging track around Binegar quarry. Philip suggested creating a footpath from a field adjacent to the Horse and Jockey through to Binegar Bottom. After discussion, it was agreed to explore the possibility a track around the quarry.</p>	DA
14	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b> The meeting considered the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accident’s annual safety report. After discussion, the meeting agreed the following actions:</p> <p><b>Climber – A frame shelter</b> The Clerk (and Philip) to obtain separate quotations to replace planks covering the roof</p> <p><b>Small multiplay</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bull clamps to be adjusted so that the bolts face inwards (with Richard)</li> <li>• Obtain opinion and cost for remedial work required to overcome problem of timber decay</li> </ul>	DA  JA DA

	<p><b>Swing bench</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take down and store swing bench (with Richard)</li> <li>• Take temporary measures to fill gaps in safety surface</li> <li>• Obtain opinion on work required to make good safety surface</li> </ul> <p><b>Table tennis table</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build up ground levels to remove trip hazard</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk undertook to forward details of equipment value from the asset register to John.</p>	<p>JA DA DA</p> <p>RH</p> <p>DA</p>
15	<p><b>The Memorial Hall</b></p> <p>Jon reported on the Memorial Hall Committee's consideration to extend the hall car park and asked if the Parish Council had any interest. After discussion, it was agreed that the Council would support such a project in principle.</p>	<p>JA</p>
16	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that he had attended the Mendip Rural Forum on 23 September. The Chair, Jon and John reported they had attended the presentation on consultation on Mendip's Local Plan, Part II.</p>	
17	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King's Lane – pursue highways to clean surface water drains.</li> <li>• Binegar Lane – await A37 sightline hazard report from highways.</li> <li>• Tape Lane – alert quarry owners to build up of sediment on roadsides.</li> <li>• Turners Court Lane – report pothole by finger post near old railway bridge.</li> <li>• A37 – report blocked gully on viaduct south of Old Down.</li> </ul>	<p>DA DA DA DA DA</p>
18	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>Somerset Highways letter notifying provision of ten 20kg bags of de-icing material for the village.</p>	
19	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda</b></p> <p>There were no future agenda items</p>	
20	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 3 November 2015 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2015: 1 December; 2016: 2 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 25pm.

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

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

**Present:** Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford (7.35pm), Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone.

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), Val Blatchford, John Carter, Rachel Carter, Tony Griffin, Ann Morgan, Michael Morgan and Harvey Siggs.

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> The Chair welcomed visitors and announced that the meeting would take Item 8 first.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> Philip declared an interest in Item 8.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 6 October 2015 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery - Proposal to build a lych gate</b> Jon reported that he had submitted Form FR1 to Mendip District Council. The Chair circulated a possible design and asked members to give it consideration.</p> <p><b>5.2 Finger sign-posts</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received a second quotation. Following discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to place an order for refurbishment with the lower tenderer. The meeting asked the Clerk to obtain costs to replace the missing finger arms.</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kings Lane: cleaning of surface water drains</b> [May 15] The Clerk stated that Highways had informed her that the drains had been cleared but that a further inspection would take place (ref 291046)</li> <li>• <b>Binegar Lane /A37 junction: sight line obstruction fence at</b> [Sep 15] The Clerk reported that there was no further up-date.</li> <li>• <b>Tape Lane: quarry dust deposits on roadsides</b> [Oct 15] The meeting agreed there had been improvement but with room for more.</li> <li>• <b>Tape Lane: broken footpath sign</b> (below the old chapel) The Clerk stated she had reported this to the Rights of Way Officer. In addition, she had reported the broken sign on Turners Court Lane.</li> <li>• <b>Turners Court Lane: pot hole by finger post near old railway bridge</b> The Clerk reported an inspection had been arranged (ref 291047)</li> <li>• <b>A37: blocked gully on viaduct south of Old Down</b> Philip told the meeting that the blocked gully had been cleared but was again blocked. The Clerk undertook to report this.</li> <li>• <b>Station Road: land owners' overgrowing hedges</b> The Clerk reported great improvement with this area and the Council thanked those who had been involved in making such a difference.</li> <li>• <b>A37: land owners' overgrowing hedges (south of Clarke's Pool)</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that there was no progress to report.</li> </ul>	<p>All</p> <p>DA DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>

<p><b>5.4 Planning applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner’s Court traveller’s site – reported breach of conditions</b> The Chair reported no further progress. Cllr’s Carter undertook to pursue progress with the planning enforcement officers.</li> <li>• <b>2015/1830/OTS – Proposed house – 5 Dalleston, Turners Court Lane, Binegar</b> The meeting noted this application was pending decision.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.5 Pedestrian controlled crossing A37</b> [Jun 13] Following disappointing reports from the Chair and Phil, Cllr Siggs undertook to pursue progress with the County Council.</p>	RH
<p><b>5.6 Refurbishment of large multiplay</b> [Aug 14] Philip informed the meeting that work would continue on 6 November (weather permitting). He stated that work completion would be delayed without a new slide. For this, the meeting asked Philip to supply a written quotation to the Clerk. The meeting also asked Philip to discover what certificate of compliance or similar assurance would be issued on completion of the project.</p>	PB
<p><b>5.7 ‘Get up to Speed’ internet and computer skills programme</b> [Jul 15] The Clerk informed the meeting that there had been high demand to run courses and with this in mind would be looking to arrange courses in January. The Clerk had spoken to Graham Fuzzey in the George Inn who had Wi-Fi and could accommodate the course.</p>	DA
<p><b>5.8 Flood prevention</b> Jon informed the meeting he had spoken to Somerset County Council about drainage of Binegar Bottom and had received a works reference number (378278). After discussion, Cllr Siggs requested a brief on issues and concerns. He undertook to assess how it might be possible to address the issues raised.</p>	RH
<p><b>5.9 Health and Well Being Fund: walking/jogging track at Binegar Quarry</b> [Oct 15] Jon informed the meeting that there was no further progress.</p>	
<p><b>5.10 Playground Safety Issues</b> [Oct 15] Jon informed the meeting that he and Richard had taken down the swing bench. After discussion, the meeting agreed that the bench be offered to Bigwood for a possible donation.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that she had advice from a third party as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The safety surface of the swing bench should be renewed rather than patch repaired.</li> <li>• The small multiplay had not reached a condition where it required replacement. The council should, though, continue to monitor its condition.</li> <li>• To make good the planks on the Climber - A frame – shelter, to shorten four poles on the multiplay to manage the timber decay and fix the bolts below the bridge, the Clerk reported a quotation of £80.</li> </ul> <p>Philip informed the meeting that he had not received a quote for comparison.</p> <p>Richard asked for suggestions to replace the swing bench. A swing basket was suggested but no decision taken.</p> <p>There was further discussion on plans for playground apparatus. At the conclusion of this, Philip, as Chair of the Binegar Playing Fields Group, started to read a statement protesting about the treatment of the Group by the Council and certain councillors. Part way through, some members raised objections to the tone and content of the statement and Philip was not allowed to continue. He concluded by resigning as Chair of the Committee and reported that three other</p>	PB

	members had also resigned. It was noted that David remained the only member of the Committee.	
6	<b>Local government reports</b> District and County councillors gave reports covered in other agenda items.	
7	<b>Police reports</b> The Chair read out a report from PCSO Nicola Housley for October: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highcroft Quarry noise and smoke reported on four occasions.</li> <li>• Lynch Hill – sheep on road.</li> </ul> <p>He advised the meeting that a Beat Surgery would take place on Thursday 5 November between 10.00 and 11.00am in the Memorial Hall car park.</p>	
8	<b>Planning</b> <b>Planning application 2015/2204/FUL – Bennetts Lane – proposed barn</b> Philip retired from the room. The meeting heard presentations from Mrs Val Blatchford in support and from Mr Michael Morgan opposing the planning application.  There was discussion on material planning considerations. After this, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parish Council would support the planning officer's decision but would comment on the three points of material consideration. Philip re-joined the meeting.	
9	<b>Dementia aware and dementia friendly community</b> Cath updated the meeting on progress of the awareness sessions taking place on Thursday 26 November. Cath informed the meeting that she would circulate a "To Do" list and minutes from the meeting held between Diane and Cath. Cath encouraged members to support the event.	CL
10	<b>Financial Matters</b> <b>10.1 Financial Control</b> The meeting noted a summary of budget spending and variances (previously circulated) for the Council's accounts.  <b>10.2 Agricultural land rent review of one tenancy</b> The Clerk stated that a rent review was due in March 2016 for one of the Council's tenants. She gave an update on the current agricultural rent situation and the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> that the rent should remain unchanged.  <b>10.3 Budget for 2016-17</b> The meeting considered a budget for 2016-17 (previously circulated). Jon questioned the amount allocated for the lych gate stating that he did not believe the amount would cover the cost of the project. The Clerk agreed to ascertain a more accurate cost. Jon asked if £500 for playground maintenance was adequate; the meeting asked the Clerk to review the figure.  <b>10.4 Receipts since last report:</b> The meeting noted receipts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• James Long (Mr A Rydon) - £30.00</li> <li>• Connock's Dignity Funerals (Mr R Hill) - £275.00</li> <li>• Cash – Quiz night (Playground) - £150.70</li> <li>• Mr A Selway – land rent - £1,000.00</li> </ul> <b>10.5 Standing order payments since last report</b> The meeting noted standing order payments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – October payment - £633.60</li> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – October salary – confidential</li> </ul>	DA

	<p><b>10.6 Cheque payments</b></p> <p>The meeting approved the following cheque payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr B Rich – fuel for Clarke’s Pool clearance - £80.00</li> <li>• HMRC Income tax – Salary – confidential</li> <li>• Southern Counties Fencing - £1,950.00</li> <li>• D Abbott – Safety sign for Clarke’s Pool - £11.76</li> </ul>	
11	<p><b>Mendip District Council – Consultation on Local Plan, part II, sites and policies</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that 2 sessions had been arranged to take place on Thursday 3 December at 3.00pm and 7.00pm in the Memorial Hall.</p>	
12	<p><b>Beautifying our villages</b></p> <p>In view of the length of discussion on playground issues, the meeting agreed to defer this item.</p>	
13	<p><b>Binegar Playing Fields Group</b></p> <p>There was no report since this item had been covered in item 5.10.</p>	
14	<p><b>Events attended</b></p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that he had attended the community awards presentation with Mrs Molly and Mr Grenville Reakes and that they had been overwhelmed and delighted to have received the award.</p>	
15	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Woodside Terrace: street light out adjacent to no 15</li> <li>• Binegar Lane/A37 junction: street sign missing and needs replacing</li> <li>• A37 south of Old Down: blocked gully on viaduct</li> </ul>	DA DA DA
16	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>There was no correspondence.</p>	
17	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda</b></p> <p>Planning applications outside the parish boundary.</p>	PB
18	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>It was noted the next meeting was on 1 December 2015 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2016: 2 February, 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 31pm.

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), John Carter, Rachel Carter, Tony Griffin and Paul Sharp.

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> An invitation was extended from the Chair and Clerk for drinks after the meeting.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 3 November 2015 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery - Proposal to build a lych gate</b> Jon reported that he had no news on the planning submission. The Chair stated that the Parochial Church Council has indicated its support. In discussion of the design, members suggested an all wood construction and space for seating. It was agreed that the design should be considered in light of this and that prices and possible funding should be explored.</p> <p><b>5.2 Finger sign-posts</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that work would commence on refurbishment when weather permitted and that she had sought costs for finger posts from three companies.</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sight line obstruction fence at Binegar Lane /A37 junction</b> [Sep 15] The Clerk reported that there was no further up-date.</li> <li>• <b>Tape Lane: broken footpath sign</b> (below the old chapel) (Oct 15) As this work was not complete, the Clerk undertook to monitor progress.</li> <li>• <b>Turners Court Lane: pot hole by finger post near old railway bridge</b> (Oct 15) The Clerk reported this work was completed.</li> <li>• <b>A37: land owners' overgrowing hedges (south of Clarke's Pool)</b> (Oct 15) Jon stated that clearance had taken place.</li> <li>• <b>A37: blocked gully on viaduct south of Old Down</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk reported this work was completed.</li> <li>• <b>Binegar Lane/A37 Junction: missing street name</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk stated this she had reported the matter and would monitor progress.</li> <li>• <b>Turner's Court Lane: broken footpath sign</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk stated that she had reported this matter and would monitor progress.</li> <li>• <b>Woodside Terrace: broken street lamp</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk stated that she had reported this matter and would monitor progress.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.4 Planning applications</b></p> <p><b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner's Court traveller's site – reported breach of conditions</b> Cllr John Carter admitted that there had been delays with enforcement. Councillors and members of the public expressed anger at this. In discussion Cllr Carter reported that</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>

	<p>Mendip had doubled its planning enforcement team in strength to four officers. Cllr Carter undertook to monitor progress closely, ensuring no further delays.</p> <p><b>2015/1830/OTS – Proposed house – 5 Dalleston, Turners Court Lane, Binegar</b> The meeting noted this application had been refused and then withdrawn.</p> <p><b>2015/2204/FUL – Bennett’s Lane – proposed barn</b> The meeting noted that the closing date for comments was 26 November 2015.</p> <p><b>5.5 Pedestrian controlled crossing A37</b> [Jun 13] The meeting noted that there had been progress and the Chair drew attention to a report from the Programme Implementation Officer. He undertook to monitor the matter.</p> <p><b>5.6 Refurbishment of large multiplay</b> [Aug 14] Philip stated that refurbishment was complete, except for a slide. After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to spend £160.00 on a slide. Philip undertook arrange purchase and installation.</p> <p>The Clerk and several members pressed Philip about written assurance of standards from the maker. Philip stated that there was no such written assurance and that the maker should not be asked to pay for a safety assessment. After discussion, the meeting agreed that the Clerk should arrange a safety assessment by the Royal Society for Prevention of Accidents.</p> <p><b>5.7 ‘Get up to Speed’ internet and computer skills programme</b> [Jul 15] The Clerk informed the meeting that training was planned for 16 February 2016. She undertook to arrange a venue and notify interested parties.</p> <p><b>5.8 Flood prevention</b> Jon reported no further progress on works at Roemead Lane/Binegar Bottom. He stated that he and John had cleared the ditch by the Post Office for which the Chair thanked them. The Chair stated that Cllr Siggs had pursued the general matter at the County with a report expected soon.</p> <p><b>5.9 Somerset Health and Well Being Fund:</b> walking/jogging track at Binegar Quarry Jon advised there was too little time to bid to the 2015-16 fund and suggested working up a project in 2016. He proposed that this year’s bid was for playground apparatus.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>RH</p>
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> Cllr Carter gave a report on the debriefing from the 2015 Glastonbury Festival.</p>	
7	<p><b>Police reports</b> No reports received.</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning</b> There were no planning applications to consider.</p> <p>Phil raised concerns from parishioners about The Portway on Turner’s Court Lane where there had been no enforcement of the refused planning application. Cllr Carter advised that the applicant proposed to submit a new application to remedy this planning breach.</p>	
9	<p><b>Creating a dementia friendly community</b> Cath informed the meeting that the public sessions went well and were well attended.</p> <p>She gave a summary of suggestions on how to move the project forward, which included the creation of a steering group and linking with other local groups. She undertook to develop and progress the project.</p>	<p>CL</p>



	<p>David drew attention to some defects in the Churchyard and it was agreed to ask Primrose Garden Maintenance to attend to these.</p> <p><b>Beautification ideas</b>  The meeting discussed beautification ideas for the villages and agreed to pursue the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Churchyard and cemetery work</li> <li>• New village signs</li> <li>• Binegar Bottom woodland management</li> <li>• Village heritage signs</li> </ul> <p>John undertook to look at the south side of Binegar Bottom with a view to tidying it up.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>JS</p>
13	<p><b>Playground</b>  The Chair proposed and the meeting agreed to record a vote of thanks to all who had helped Binegar Playing Fields Group (BPFGB) to upkeep the playground.</p> <p>The Council received a report on interim management arrangements and immediate maintenance. After discussion, the Council agreed the interim management arrangements.</p> <p>The Council also agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain junior multiplay and do remedial work to it and climber-A frame.</li> <li>• Write off and dispose of the swing seat.</li> <li>• Prepare and submit a bid for a swing to the Health and Well Being Fund</li> </ul> <p>Philip stated that there were still fund raising events for the Playground.</p>	<p>DA DA DA</p>
14	<p><b>Planning applications that fall outside the boundary of the Parish</b>  Philip gave his thoughts on dealing with planning applications outside the Parish boundaries. He expressed concern about consistency. After considerable discussion, it was agreed to include such applications on the agenda on a case-by-case basis.</p>	
15	<p><b>Events attended</b>  There were no reports of events attended.</p>	
16	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b>  No reports were received.</p>	
17	<p><b>Correspondence received</b>  No correspondence received.</p>	
18	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda</b>  There were no future agenda items.</p>	
19	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b>  The Council noted the next meeting was on 2 February 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2016: 1 March, 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.51pm.

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2016 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

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

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept an apology from Cath Law.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> There were no announcements.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 1 December meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery - Proposal to build a lych gate</b> Jon reported that Mendip had acknowledged receipt the Parish Council's planning submission but required further information. The Chair proposed approaching a number of timber framers for designs and prices and the meeting agreed.</p> <p><b>5.2 Finger sign-posts</b> The Clerk updated the meeting on the progress and stated that she had received quotations and would place an order for the missing fingers.</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Binegar Lane/A37 junction: sight line obstruction from fence</b>(Sep 15) The Clerk reported no response and undertook to pursue with Somerset Highways.</li> <li>▪ <b>Tape Lane: broken footpath sign</b> (Oct 15) The Clerk reported this work was completed.</li> <li>▪ <b>Binegar Lane/A37 Junction: missing street name</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk noted this work was outstanding and undertook to progress it with Mendip.</li> <li>▪ <b>Turner's Court Lane: broken footpath sign</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk stated that she had spoken with the Somerset Footpath Officer and sent photos and further details of location.</li> <li>▪ <b>Woodside Terrace: broken street lamp</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk reported this work was completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.4 Planning applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner's Court traveller's site – reported breach of conditions</b> The Chair noted that a further application was for discussion later in the meeting.</li> <li>▪ <b>2015/2204/FUL – Bennett's Lane – proposed barn</b> The meeting noted the withdrawal of this application.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.5 Pedestrian controlled crossing A37</b> [Jun 13] The Chair reported that Somerset County Council advised that a recommendation was to be put to the Highways Improvement Schemes Programme Board early in 2016. He undertook to monitor progress.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">JA RH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RH</p>

	<p><b>5.6 Refurbishment of large multiplay</b> [Aug 14] Philip stated he would install the slide weather permitting and that the ground needed levelling.</p> <p><b>5.7 'Get up to Speed' internet and computer skills programme</b> [Jul 15] The Clerk informed the meeting that the training would take place at The George on 16 February and interested parties had been notified. Places were still available if members knew of anyone who might be interested.</p> <p><b>5.8 Flood prevention</b> [Jul 15] The Chair up-dated the meeting on the issue of sewage capacity and groundwater drainage. He stated that Mendip District Council was aware that Wessex Water opposed any new houses without there being a groundwater strategy but that Mendip felt unable to place a ban on new permissions meanwhile. After discussion, the meeting asked the Chair to pursue this issue with Mendip. He also undertook to pursue flood prevention with Somerset County Council.</p> <p><b>5.9 Mendip District Council Local Plan part II consultation</b> [Nov 15] The Chair informed the Council that its response had been submitted to Mendip District Council and that a further consultation on firm proposals was due in Autumn 2016.</p> <p><b>5.10 Village beautification – Schedule of herbicide spraying</b> [Dec 15] The Chair proposed and the meeting agreed that herbicide spraying should take place in April and July and cover the following areas: Station Road down from Tellis Lane; Binegar Lane; A37 (West side) to Clarke's Pool and around Clarke's Pool. Philip stated that he was progressing the provision of a sprayer with Somerset County Council.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>All</p> <p>RH RH</p> <p>PB</p>
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> The District Councillors commented on a number of current items.</p>	
7	<p><b>Police reports</b> <b>December 2015</b> 3 car collision on B3135 near Bennetts Lane junction(29/12) <b>January 2016</b> 1 vehicle collision, Emborough pond (8/1) 2 vehicle collision, Emborough pond (19/1) 2 sheep hit and killed on A37 near the bridge on Marchants Hill (26/1) Explosives at Highcroft Quarry (26/1) More loud explosives at Highcroft Quarry (27/1)</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning</b> <b>2015/2684/FUL – Alfie's Retreat, Turners Court Lane, Binegar</b> The Chair stated that this was a retrospective application to remedy breaches of planning conditions. He informed the meeting that there had been much local interest and that strong objections had been sent to Mendip District Council. After discussion, the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend refusal of the application.</p> <p><b>2016/002/TPO – Coombe End, Binegar Lane, Gurney Slade, BA3 4TR</b> Following discussion, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parish Council would support the decision of the Planning Officer but requested assurance that the Tree Conservation Officer was content that further felling would not compromise the Meadwood Tree Preservation Order Group.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>
9	<p><b>Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal</b> The Chair stated that Cath had suggested a change to the appraisal process by including a second councillor to observe and so gain experience. He reported that the Clerk was happy with this and the meeting approved his proposal to invite Cath to observe. As before, the Chair undertook to prepare a report and recommendation for the March meeting.</p>	<p>RH RH</p>

10	<p><b>Arrangements to manage health and safety risks</b> The meeting considered a draft policy from the Clerk on managing health and safety risks. After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to adopt the policy.</p>	RH
11	<p><b>Dementia aware and dementia friendly community</b> In Cath's absence, the Clerk up-dated the meeting on progress. She reported that, with Cath, she had attended the newly established <i>Avon and Somerset Dementia Forum</i>. The next steps included establishing a village committee, registering with the <i>Dementia Action Alliance</i> and arranging a local Dementia Friends session.</p>	CL
12	<p><b>Clean for the Queen</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that she had registered the Council's interest and that the national event would be taking place on the weekend of the 4–6 March. Phil agreed to lead the project supported by the Clerk.</p>	PR
13	<p><b>Financial Matters</b>  <b>13.1 Financial control</b> The meeting received and noted a summary of budget variances for the Council's accounts.  <b>13.2 Precept 2016-17</b> The Clerk reported that Mendip District Council the confirmed the precept.  <b>13.3 Internal audit preparations</b> The Clerk stated that annual accounts would be prepared for internal audit ready for year-end.  <b>13.4 Receipts since last report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusive memorials, Eva Robbins - £210.00</li> <li>• Co-op Bank, Mary Young - £100.00</li> <li>• Cash donation, Horse &amp; Jockey - £93.00</li> <li>• Not Pointless – playground - £250.00</li> <li>• Anonymous donation – playground - £5.00</li> <li>• Cash quiz night – playground - £153.00</li> <li>• NS&amp;I interest – investment account - £35.27</li> </ul> <b>13.5 Standing order payments since last report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – salary – December and January – confidential</li> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – November payment - £633.60</li> </ul> <b>13.6 Approval of cheque payments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NS&amp;I savings account – transfer - £2,500.00</li> </ul> </p>	DA
14	<p><b>Playground</b> The Clerk gave her first report within the interim management arrangement.</p> <p>She reported that a bid against the county Health and Wellbeing Fund had been sent to Councillor Harvey Siggs for a birds nest swing and safety surfacing. The outcome was awaited.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that Richard had agreed to attend a RoSPA playground inspection course and that he and she would then review inspection arrangements and arrange training for inspectors.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that routine inspections had been undertaken and reports received. She summarised maintenance points raised and actions taken.</p>	
15	<p><b>Memberships of outside organisations</b> The meeting noted current subscriptions to the <i>Community Council for Somerset</i> (£35) and <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i> (£84). The Clerk recommended continuing these and adding the <i>Society of Local Council Clerks</i> (£77). The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to subscribe to the three organisations. Philip asked about <i>Somerset Playing Fields Association</i> and the Clerk undertook to check membership.</p>	DA DA

16	<p><b>Events attended</b></p> <p>Jon informed the meeting that he and the Clerk had attended the Mendip Rural Forum and that the next meeting would be taking place on 14 April 2016.</p>	
17	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p>The Parish Paths Liaison Officer reported a broken footpath sign on Merchants Hill. The following were also reported and the Clerk undertook to report to the appropriate agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station Road: two street lights out below Binegar Green</li> <li>• Kings Lane: pot holes</li> <li>• Bennett's Lane: loose phone wire from telegraph pole</li> <li>• Station Road: deep gully down from Binegar Green</li> <li>• Highcroft Lane: mud running off quarry entrance</li> </ul>	DA
18	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received a funding request from Mendip Community Transport. Philip proposed and David seconded a proposal to donate £50. After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree a donation of £50.00.</p>	
19	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binegar Bottom Survey</li> <li>• Somerset &amp; Dorset Railway Trust Exhibition</li> </ul>	JS DA
20	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 1 March 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2016: 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.41pm.

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2016 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), Val Blatchford, Ann Caley, John Carter, Rachel Carter, Michael Morgan and Richard Priestley.

1.	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> The Chair reported dismissal of the appeal by the owner of Emborough Pond against Mendip's enforcement notice to remove the unlawful causeway. This ended a battle lasting several years. The Chair stated that he would take agenda items 8 and 13 after item 4.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> Philip declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 8, planning application 2016/0274/FUL and Jon declared a personal interest in agenda item 9.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 2 February meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>1 Binegar Cemetery lych gate</b> [May 15] The Chair informed the meeting that work had started on looking into designs and costs.</p> <p><b>2 Finger sign-posts</b> [Jun 15] The Clerk stated that restoration was almost complete and that an advance payment was required to purchase the replacement fingers. The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to make the payment.</p> <p><b>3 Highways and footpaths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Binegar Lane/A37 junction: sight line obstruction</b> (Sep 15) Noted no jurisdiction over obstructions within the boundary of a property - no further action</li> <li>• <b>Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street name</b> (Nov 15) Noted as outstanding (Mendip District Council)</li> <li>• <b>Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane: ditch</b> (Dec 15) The Clerk reported that Jon had dug a water cut and ditch</li> <li>• <b>Station Road below Binegar Green: two street lights broken</b> (Feb 16) Noted as complete</li> <li>• <b>Station Road: gully down west side requires filling</b> (Feb 16) Noted as reported and acknowledged (Somerset Highways)</li> <li>• <b>Highcroft Lane: mud on road</b> (Feb 16) Noted as cleared</li> <li>• <b>Kings Lane: potholes</b> (Feb 16) Noted as complete</li> <li>• <b>Bennett's Lane: loose phone wire hanging from telegraph pole</b> (Feb 16) Noted as reported and acknowledged (BT)</li> <li>• <b>Turner's Court Lane: footpath sign</b> (Nov 15) Noted as outstanding (Somerset County Council)</li> <li>• <b>Marchant's Hill: footpath sign</b> (Feb 16) Noted as outstanding (Somerset County Council)</li> </ul>	<p style="text-align: right;">RH</p> <p style="text-align: right;">DA</p>

	<p><b>4 Planning applications</b>  <b>2014/2684/FUL – Alfie’s Retreat, BA3 4UA – planning breach remedy</b>  <b>2016/002/TPO – Coombe End, BA3 4TR – tree felling</b>  The meeting noted that there was no decision to report on either application.</p> <p><b>5 Pedestrian controlled crossing A37 [Jun 13]</b>  The Chair reported that the County Council had approved the scheme; programming the work was the next step.</p> <p><b>6 ‘Get up to Speed’ internet and computer skills programme [Jul 15]</b>  The Chair informed the meeting this was an excellent event and encouraged attendance at future events. Philip requested the availability of tutorials on building websites.</p> <p><b>7 Flood prevention [Jul 15]</b>  The Chair stated that he considered the Parish Council had done all it could to mitigate risk. It had dredged Clarke’s Pool, cleared drains, dug water cuts, asked villagers to inspect culverts and liaised with Mendip District Council and <i>Wessex Water</i>. It had pressed the County for action on the great risk of surface water flooding but without success. The meeting agreed to raise the matter again when Mendip next consulted on its <i>Local Plan</i>.</p> <p><b>8 Dementia Friendly Community</b>  Cath informed the meeting that plans were ongoing.</p>	DA
6.	<p><b>Local government report</b>  District Councillors reported Mendip had agreed a Council Tax rise of 1.75% and they commented on a number of current items.</p>	
7.	<p><b>Police report</b>  There was no police report.</p>	
8.	<p><b>Planning Applications</b>  <b>2015/2651/CLE – Church of the Holy Trinity BA3 4UG</b>  <b>Application for a Certificate of Lawfulness for an existing use of land to establish that the land is within the curtilage of the church</b>  Jon reported that Mendip had changed the wording of the Parish Council’s application (see above). He believed this new wording was incorrect, had spoken with the case officer to obtain clarification and would be seeking further advice.</p> <p><b>2016/0237/HSE – 2 Flowerstone BA3 4UQ – house extension</b>  After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to support the decision of the planning officer.</p> <p><b>2016/0274/FUL – Bennett’s Lane BA3 4UG – barn</b>  Philip retired from the room. The meeting heard from Mr Michael Morgan opposing the planning application and Mrs Val Blatchford answered questions in support of the application.</p> <p>There was discussion on the application and the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parish Council would support the planning officer’s decision but would comment on a number of material considerations. Philip re-joined the meeting.</p>	JA RH RH
9.	<p><b>Binegar Bottom</b>  The meeting received and considered a report from John. John told the meeting that he had identified a potential grant that might fund planting and fencing.</p> <p>After discussion, the meeting agreed to accept John’s recommendation for grants and move the project forward. John asked that the Clerk and Chair review the potential grant.</p>	JS DA RH

10.	<p><b>Clean for the Queen</b> Phil reported a modest response from parishioners to support the initiative. The Chair noted that many parishioners had already tidied parts of the villages.</p> <p>Phil stated that a group would meet at 9 00 am on Saturday 5 March and start cleaning. The Clerk informed the meeting that she had a supply of "Clean for the Queen" litter bags.</p> <p>The Clerk invited Councillors and volunteers to meet for a photo-shoot by the refurbished fingerpost at the Binegar Green crossroads at 3 00 pm on Saturday 5 March.</p>	
11.	<p><b>Noticeboard by Colborne Close on Binegar Lane</b> Jon reported that he had the board and would refurbish it in the near future. There was discussion about whether the board required weather protection and the meeting agreed to review this later in the year.</p>	JA
12.	<p><b>The Fair Field</b> The meeting received and considered a report from the Chair who welcomed Rev Capt. Richard Priestly to the meeting. Rev Priestley outlined the options for the future of the Fair Field and proposed a partnership between the Parochial Church Council and the Parish Council to plan, manage and maintain the field as a community resource.</p> <p>In discussion, the meeting noted that most expenses would fall to the Parish Council but, in return, the Council might assure the future of the field as green, open space.</p> <p>After discussion, the meeting agreed to explore the options further with a view to preparing a plan to submit to the Diocese. As a Parochial Church Councillor, David was already involved and Cath undertook to represent the Parish Council and assist in the preparation of the plan.</p>	CL
13.	<p><b>Somerset &amp; Dorset Railway Trust</b> The Clerk outlined plans for the Trust's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. She reminded members of the exhibition in the Memorial Hall on the weekend of 11/12 June. The Clerk asked members to save the date and be ready to help during opening hours. She undertook to prepare a proposal for the management of the event.</p>	All DA
14.	<p><b>Annual Parish Meeting</b> The Chair stated that the Annual Parish Meeting was when the Council met its parishioners. In the past, it was held for 30 minutes immediately before the May meeting. The Clerk proposed that this year the Annual Parish Meeting move to a different evening, close to the May meeting. In discussion, members suggested that refreshments be offered alongside exhibitions, consultations, information and a formal report to parishioners. The meeting agreed the proposed change and Thursday May 5 was provisionally set aside.</p>	All
15.	<p><b>Financial Matters</b>  <b>1 Financial Control</b> The meeting received and noted a summary of budget variances for the Council's accounts.  <b>2 Asset Register</b> The meeting received, considered and <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the 2016 asset register.  <b>3 Internal Audit Plan</b> The Clerk stated that she would engage Petherick and Gillard to conduct the internal audit.  <b>4 Internal Controls</b> John undertook to carry out the Annual Risk Assessment of Internal Controls.  <b>5 Rents and wayleaves</b> The Clerk reported that she had raised bills for agricultural land rent and wayleaves.  <b>6 Receipts since the last report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Anonymous donations Aug to Nov 2015 – (playground account) £20.00</li> </ul> </p>	DA JS

	<p><b>7 Standing order payments since the last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – salary – February – confidential</li> </ul> <p><b>8 Approval of cheque payments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• J Abbott expenses – beverages "Getting up to Speed" - £27.30</li> <li>• Greensward Consultancy – Play area repairs - £96.00</li> <li>• Mendip Community Transport – donation - £50.00</li> <li>• Diane Abbott Office and Computer October to February - confidential</li> </ul>	
16.	<p><b>Playground</b></p> <p>The meeting received and noted a report from the Clerk. The Chair stressed to Councillors the importance of carrying out routine playground inspections.</p> <p>Philip informed the meeting of a plan to install the large multiplay slide on Sunday 6 March. He also undertook to arrange collection of the redundant swing seat though he stated he might require help to move it.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>PB</p>
17.	<p><b>Events attended</b></p> <p>The Chair stated that he had attended RoSPA <i>Play Area Inspection Training</i> that day.</p>	
18.	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binegar Lane – Underhill footpath: overhanging shrubs from <i>The George</i></li> <li>• Ditto: overhanging shrubs from 4 Underhill (Phil to advise of householder name)</li> <li>• Bennetts Lane – Station Road public footpath: stile broken (Philip to advise of exact location)</li> <li>• A37 viaduct north of Portway Lane, south of Old Down: gullies blocked</li> </ul>	<p>DA</p> <p>PR</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA</p>
19.	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that she had received a letter of thanks from <i>Mendip Community Transport</i> for the Council's donation. She also reported that the County Council, in line with its policy on use, had withdrawn the mobile library stop at the Memorial Hall.</p>	
20.	<p><b>Parish Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal</b></p> <p>The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to exclude the press and public from the meeting since the discussion was likely to divulge information of a personal and confidential nature. The Clerk and Jon retired from the room.</p>	
21.	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 5 April 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2016: 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.01pm.