

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 December 2013 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

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

In attendance: Nikki Housley (Avon & Somerset Police), Councillors Carter and Siggs

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Roger Anderson and Jude Robbins.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests Philip declared an interest in agenda item 5.6.2. There were no other disclosures of interest from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair stated that the local government and police reports would be taken immediately following the affirmation of the accuracy of the minutes.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meeting It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 5 November 2013 meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from previous Minutes</p> <p>1 Cover for the Clerk's duties (Min 5.1) The meeting agreed to continue the temporary arrangements for Clerk (Philip) and Responsible Financial Officer (Richard).</p> <p>2 Tree condition assessments: cemetery and playing field (Min 5.3) David stated that, when the contractor undertook the work already agreed, he would seek a quotation for felling the conifers lining the path of the cemetery. It was RESOLVED to delegate authority to David to agree works up to a cost of £500.</p> <p>3 Council land at Emborough (Min 5.4) Philip reported <i>Ecosulis</i> quoted £305+VAT per treatment of the <i>Fallopia japonica</i> invading the land (with nothing received from the other company asked to quote). It was noted that two annual treatments would be required over three years and that the price required that a person be in attendance for safety.</p> <p>Philip stated that access should be prevented to avoid spread of the plant. It was noted that fencing the site had been deferred but it was agreed that this should now be done. Philip undertook to ascertain the access route that <i>Ecosulis</i> required and arrange for a quote for fencing in light of that.</p> <p>4 Community defibrillator (AED) (Min 5.5) Cath reported that her application to Tessa Munt MP had been successful and that the Plymouth Brethren were to donate an AED. She awaited the donor's approach. Cath undertook to discover if monitoring of the AED required a telephone line.</p>	<p>DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>CL</p>

	<p>5 Electrical supply to defibrillator and playing field (Min 5.6) Philip stated that a quotation for the work was awaited. In light of the agreed work, it was RESOLVED to arrange disconnection of the playing field electrical supply.</p> <p>6 Binegar Bottom 1 Tree planting (<i>The other Min 5.6</i>) It was noted with pleasure that the tree whips had been planted along Binegar Bottom. Gus reported a comment that some planting was too near the road. 2 Horticultural management (<i>Min 5.7</i>) Philip reported that a meeting with <i>Somerset Wildlife Trust</i> was being arranged.</p> <p>Philip outlined an arboriculture management proposal to clear fallen trees and rotationally coppice others. He stated that he would carry out this work at no expense to the Council or profit to himself and with proper insurance. He noted that vehicle access to the site would be required and undertook to supply Councillors with the full written proposal. It was RESOLVED to accept Philip's proposal.</p> <p>Philip confirmed that any access for teaching by <i>Radstock Technical College</i> would be subject to formal request to the Council. 3 Maintenance (<i>Min 14.3</i>) Philip stated that he had purchased the sundries required to re-erect the bye-law sign and he and Gus would do this work.</p> <p>Gus undertook to supply a specification for <i>squeeze stiles</i> and Philip undertook to obtain prices to make the necessary replacements.</p> <p>Philip gave a report of the condition of the entry gate and posts and undertook to obtain prices for replacement gate posts.</p> <p>7 Cemetery information for website (Min 11) Gus stated that he and Richard would bring forward a proposal in February 2014.</p> <p>8 Highways 1 Outstanding works noted (<i>Mins 14.1, 14.2, 14.3</i>) Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane drainage and ditch (from Jul 13) Clearance of drainage channel by Gurney Slade post office (from Oct 13) Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road sign (from Nov 13) 2 Completed works noted (<i>Min 14.3</i>) Clearance of leaves from the A37 footpath Cut-back of trees to prevent lorries mounting the pavement</p>	<p>PB RH</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>GH PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>GH</p>
6	<p>Local government reports Cllr Carter suggested that the parish might wish to do any small maintenance tasks, for example, signpost repainting, which would not attract priority from Mendip.</p> <p>The Councillors announced the opening of an innovative reception <i>The Hub</i> at Shepton Mallet. It would serve police, district and county offices using volunteers to steer callers to the right service first time. Gus indicated he would be attending the opening on Friday 6 December.</p>	

7	<p>Police report</p> <p>PC Nikki Housley gave an oral report of incidents locally in November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mud on road at Burnt Wood crossroads (well signed, not serious) (5/11) ▪ Road traffic accident by Mendip Golf Club (no injuries) (6/11) ▪ Slow carnival procession on A37 (organiser notified) (11/11) ▪ Explosions at Highcroft Quarry without warning (13/11) ▪ Injured deer (not found, usual to despatch wounded animals) (18/11) <p>Cllrs Carter and Siggs and PC Housley departed.</p>	
8	<p>Planning issues</p> <p>1 2012/3033 Emborough Grove</p> <p>It was noted that this appeal had been dismissed. Richard reported that the Emborough Parish Meeting had voted to support to Binegar Parish Council's attempts to enforce the planning decision. Richard agreed to write to Mendip District Council in particular about reinstatement of the northern bank where the causeway had been built.</p> <p>2 Emborough Grove: proposal to seek statutory recognition of footpaths</p> <p>It was noted that Richard had taken on this task.</p>	RH RH
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1 Budget 2014-15</p> <p>Richard presented a budget based on the latest projected out-turn for 2013-14. Lower than estimated spending for tree works and defibrillator had raised the estimated carry forward to £3,925. Budgeted expenditure totalled £16,368. This implied setting the precept at £7,275.</p> <p>In discussion, it was noted that higher costs had been identified for notice boards and churchyard gates and a budget would be required for felling the conifer trees in the cemetery. In light of these and other uncertainties, Richard suggested lifting the contingency sum from £1,500 to £2,000 and this was agreed.</p> <p>It was noted that these changes brought the expenditure total to £17,743 implying a precept of £8,700. It was also noted there was likely to be income from the <i>Support Grant</i> and it was agreed this should be deducted from the precept.</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to agree the budget as amended in the meeting and set the precept at £8,700 less the value of any <i>Support Grant</i>.</p> <p>2 Contract for grass cutting 2014-15</p> <p>A quotation for £3,696+VAT was received from Primrose Garden Maintenance Ltd. The work specified was agreed to be sufficient. The Council noted with thanks that Kit Primrose had held the price of the contract for the third year. It was RESOLVED to accept the quotation from Primrose Garden Maintenance Ltd.</p> <p>3 Payments</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to authorise and make the following payments:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 <i>Corporate Health</i> for occupational health assessment: £285.00 2 <i>Somerset Playing Fields Association</i> annual subscription: £10.00 3 Philip Blatchford for sundries to maintain bye-law notice: £39.71 	RH RH

10	<p>Holy Trinity graveyard and Binegar Cemetery</p> <p>The Council noted the burial of Mrs Josephine Rydon on 6 November 2013. Gus expressed concern that, contrary to the Council's policy set in 1999, Mrs Rydon had purchased the burial plot in advance. He questioned whether there were any other such pre-purchased plots. It was noted that the question would have to wait until the Clerk resumed work. It was noted that the headstone fee was outstanding and Philip undertook to follow this up.</p>	PB
11	<p>Events attended</p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
12	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>It was noted that there was no meeting held in November 2013.</p>	
13	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>There were no matters reported.</p>	
14	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Planning application 2011/2357: From Mendip District Council - approvals and refusals of details reserved by condition; land adjacent to <i>The Beechings</i>.</p> <p>Planning application 2013/2289: Philip reported an email seeking comments on this application which had not been received. Gus undertook to investigate.</p>	GH
15	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <p>Cemetery information for posting on website: February 2014</p>	
16	<p>Confidential matters</p> <p>The Council RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable, in the public interest, that the public be temporarily excluded since information about an individual was likely to be disclosed.</p>	
17	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 4 February 2014 at 7 30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 50 pm.