

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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

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