

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

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

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

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| 8 | <p>Planning applications and issues</p> <p>8.1 2014/1783LBC Marchants Hill House, Portway Lane, Gurney Slade, BA3 4TZ Following discussion it was RESOLVED to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses.</p> <p>8.2 2014/1749/HSE High Banks, Binegar Lane, Gurney Slade, Wells, Radstock Following discussion it was RESOLVED to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses.</p> <p>8.3 2014/1750/APP Turners Court Lane traveller pitch reserved conditions The Chair informed the meeting he had been in contact with Mendip District Council. He had been informed that the Parish Council were no longer able to comment on the application; it was now in the hands of the planning authority. Gus questioned why the Parish Council were not able to comment on behalf of parishioners. Rachel Carter agreed that she would approach James Udell (Planning Officer Mendip District Council) on behalf of the Parish Council and raise the concerns presented.</p> <p>8.40pm – Richard Higgins and Rachel Carter left the meeting.</p> | DA DA |
| 9 | <p>Financial matters</p> <p>9.1 Financial Control The meeting received a summary of budget, spending and variances (previously circulated) for Binegar Parish Council, Binegar Playing Fields Group and National Saving & Investment accounts.</p> <p>9.2 Budget The meeting received a draft budget for 2015/16 (previously circulated) for consideration. Philip questioned why an amount was not allocated for the second cemetery gate. Diane to review for November meeting. Diane confirmed to Cath that a budget had been agreed for life support skills and training at the September meeting. Philip requested consideration in the budget for replacement batteries; it was agreed this should be accounted for in the annual budget.</p> <p>9.3 National Savings and Investment Bank authority Because not all appropriate Councillors were present the authority could not be concluded.</p> <p>9.4 Clerks Salary The meeting RESOLVED unanimously to set up a standing order for the Clerks salary.</p> <p>9.5 Receipts since the last report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Crane Staples Solicitors (Interment Mrs Burton) £100.00 2. F Blacker & Son (Inscription Mrs Burton) £30.00 3. F Blacker & Son (Memorial Chloe Wilcox) £180.00 4. Western Power (Wayleave) £72.27 5. Peter Coombs Limited (Rent) £906.50 6. Village Day income £467.60 (£613.00 less float £50.00 less cash payments £95.40) <p>9.6 Standing order payments since the last report</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Primrose Garden Maintenance for grass cutting: (£1267.20 5/7 payments) <p>9.7 Cheque payments Gus queried the Clerks expenses. Diane gave a breakdown confirming an amount of £112.99 was for pinboard and stain for the refurbishment of the Parish's noticeboards. It was RESOLVED to authorise the following payments and the cheques were signed:</p> | |

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

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