

# ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:16 pm.