

# ***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.

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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 interests from Councillors.</p>  |   |
| 3 | <p><b>Chair's announcements</b><br/>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><br/>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><br/><b>Celebration of Holy Trinity anniversary</b><br/>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><br/>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]<br/>Diane advised that work had been completed.</li> <li>2. <b>Whitnell Lane drainage</b> [Feb 15]<br/>Diane advised that drains had been cleared.</li> <li>3. <b>Station Road damaged verge by Horse and Jockey</b> [Feb 15]<br/>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> |

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|   | <p>Diane advised that work had been completed.</p> <p>5. <b>King's Lane potholes</b> [Feb 15]<br/>Diane advised that work had been completed</p> <p>6. <b>Flowerstone potholes</b> [Feb 15]<br/>Diane advised that work had been completed.</p> <p>7. <b>Repair and maintenance of (3) finger signposts</b> [Mar 15]<br/>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><br/>The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions.</p> <p>2. <b>2011/2124 – Turners Court Lane – temporary caravan consent</b><br/>It was noted that Mendip District Council was considering an application to extend use.</p> <p>3. <b>2015/0088/HSE – Casa Mia</b><br/>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]<br/>The meeting noted there were no further up-dates.</p> <p><b>5.5 The Batch</b> [Sept 14]<br/>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]<br/>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]<br/>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><br/>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><br/>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><br/>The Chair proposed that invitations be sent to local organisations to attend the Annual Meeting.</p>   | DA                                      |
| 8 | <p><b>Local government reports</b><br/>The meeting noted that there were no local government reports.</p>   |   |
| 9 | <p><b>Police report to 4 April 2015</b><br/>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>  |   |

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|    | <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><br/> <b>2015/0309/FUL – 4 Dalleston BA3 4UD – Bungalow</b><br/> <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><br/> 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><br/> 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><br/> 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><br/> 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><br/> 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><br/> 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>   |    |

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|    | <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.