

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2016 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

**Present:** Jon Abbott, Richard Higgins (Chair), Philip Blatchford, Phil Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone.

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), John Carter, Rachel Carter and Paul Sharp.

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept an apology from Cath Law.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> There were no announcements.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 1 December meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery - Proposal to build a lych gate</b> Jon reported that Mendip had acknowledged receipt the Parish Council's planning submission but required further information. The Chair proposed approaching a number of timber framers for designs and prices and the meeting agreed.</p> <p><b>5.2 Finger sign-posts</b> The Clerk updated the meeting on the progress and stated that she had received quotations and would place an order for the missing fingers.</p> <p><b>5.3 Highways</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Binegar Lane/A37 junction: sight line obstruction from fence</b>(Sep 15) The Clerk reported no response and undertook to pursue with Somerset Highways.</li> <li>▪ <b>Tape Lane: broken footpath sign</b> (Oct 15) The Clerk reported this work was completed.</li> <li>▪ <b>Binegar Lane/A37 Junction: missing street name</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk noted this work was outstanding and undertook to progress it with Mendip.</li> <li>▪ <b>Turner's Court Lane: broken footpath sign</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk stated that she had spoken with the Somerset Footpath Officer and sent photos and further details of location.</li> <li>▪ <b>Woodside Terrace: broken street lamp</b> (Nov 15) The Clerk reported this work was completed.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.4 Planning applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>2014/0045/FUL – Turner's Court traveller's site – reported breach of conditions</b> The Chair noted that a further application was for discussion later in the meeting.</li> <li>▪ <b>2015/2204/FUL – Bennett's Lane – proposed barn</b> The meeting noted the withdrawal of this application.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.5 Pedestrian controlled crossing A37</b> [Jun 13] The Chair reported that Somerset County Council advised that a recommendation was to be put to the Highways Improvement Schemes Programme Board early in 2016. He undertook to monitor progress.</p>	<p>JA RH</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>RH</p>

	<p><b>5.6 Refurbishment of large multiplay</b> [Aug 14] Philip stated he would install the slide weather permitting and that the ground needed levelling.</p> <p><b>5.7 'Get up to Speed' internet and computer skills programme</b> [Jul 15] The Clerk informed the meeting that the training would take place at The George on 16 February and interested parties had been notified. Places were still available if members knew of anyone who might be interested.</p> <p><b>5.8 Flood prevention</b> [Jul 15] The Chair up-dated the meeting on the issue of sewage capacity and groundwater drainage. He stated that Mendip District Council was aware that Wessex Water opposed any new houses without there being a groundwater strategy but that Mendip felt unable to place a ban on new permissions meanwhile. After discussion, the meeting asked the Chair to pursue this issue with Mendip. He also undertook to pursue flood prevention with Somerset County Council.</p> <p><b>5.9 Mendip District Council Local Plan part II consultation</b> [Nov 15] The Chair informed the Council that its response had been submitted to Mendip District Council and that a further consultation on firm proposals was due in Autumn 2016.</p> <p><b>5.10 Village beautification – Schedule of herbicide spraying</b> [Dec 15] The Chair proposed and the meeting agreed that herbicide spraying should take place in April and July and cover the following areas: Station Road down from Tellis Lane; Binegar Lane; A37 (West side) to Clarke's Pool and around Clarke's Pool. Philip stated that he was progressing the provision of a sprayer with Somerset County Council.</p>	<p>PB</p> <p>All</p> <p>RH RH</p> <p>PB</p>
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> The District Councillors commented on a number of current items.</p>	
7	<p><b>Police reports</b> <b>December 2015</b> 3 car collision on B3135 near Bennetts Lane junction(29/12) <b>January 2016</b> 1 vehicle collision, Emborough pond (8/1) 2 vehicle collision, Emborough pond (19/1) 2 sheep hit and killed on A37 near the bridge on Marchants Hill (26/1) Explosives at Highcroft Quarry (26/1) More loud explosives at Highcroft Quarry (27/1)</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning</b> <b>2015/2684/FUL – Alfie's Retreat, Turners Court Lane, Binegar</b> The Chair stated that this was a retrospective application to remedy breaches of planning conditions. He informed the meeting that there had been much local interest and that strong objections had been sent to Mendip District Council. After discussion, the Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to recommend refusal of the application.</p> <p><b>2016/002/TPO – Coombe End, Binegar Lane, Gurney Slade, BA3 4TR</b> Following discussion, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Parish Council would support the decision of the Planning Officer but requested assurance that the Tree Conservation Officer was content that further felling would not compromise the Meadwood Tree Preservation Order Group.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>
9	<p><b>Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal</b> The Chair stated that Cath had suggested a change to the appraisal process by including a second councillor to observe and so gain experience. He reported that the Clerk was happy with this and the meeting approved his proposal to invite Cath to observe. As before, the Chair undertook to prepare a report and recommendation for the March meeting.</p>	<p>RH RH</p>

10	<p><b>Arrangements to manage health and safety risks</b></p> <p>The meeting considered a draft policy from the Clerk on managing health and safety risks. After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to adopt the policy.</p>	RH
11	<p><b>Dementia aware and dementia friendly community</b></p> <p>In Cath's absence, the Clerk up-dated the meeting on progress. She reported that, with Cath, she had attended the newly established <i>Avon and Somerset Dementia Forum</i>. The next steps included establishing a village committee, registering with the <i>Dementia Action Alliance</i> and arranging a local Dementia Friends session.</p>	CL
12	<p><b>Clean for the Queen</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that she had registered the Council's interest and that the national event would be taking place on the weekend of the 4–6 March. Phil agreed to lead the project supported by the Clerk.</p>	PR
13	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>13.1 Financial control</b></p> <p>The meeting received and noted a summary of budget variances for the Council's accounts.</p> <p><b>13.2 Precept 2016-17</b></p> <p>The Clerk reported that Mendip District Council the confirmed the precept.</p> <p><b>13.3 Internal audit preparations</b></p> <p>The Clerk stated that annual accounts would be prepared for internal audit ready for year-end.</p> <p><b>13.4 Receipts since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Exclusive memorials, Eva Robbins - £210.00</li> <li>• Co-op Bank, Mary Young - £100.00</li> <li>• Cash donation, Horse &amp; Jockey - £93.00</li> <li>• Not Pointless – playground - £250.00</li> <li>• Anonymous donation – playground - £5.00</li> <li>• Cash quiz night – playground - £153.00</li> <li>• NS&amp;I interest – investment account - £35.27</li> </ul> <p><b>13.5 Standing order payments since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – salary – December and January – confidential</li> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance – November payment - £633.60</li> </ul> <p><b>13.6 Approval of cheque payments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NS&amp;I savings account – transfer - £2,500.00</li> </ul>	DA
14	<p><b>Playground</b></p> <p>The Clerk gave her first report within the interim management arrangement.</p> <p>She reported that a bid against the county Health and Wellbeing Fund had been sent to Councillor Harvey Siggs for a birds nest swing and safety surfacing. The outcome was awaited.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that Richard had agreed to attend a RoSPA playground inspection course and that he and she would then review inspection arrangements and arrange training for inspectors.</p> <p>The Clerk stated that routine inspections had been undertaken and reports received. She summarised maintenance points raised and actions taken.</p>	
15	<p><b>Memberships of outside organisations</b></p> <p>The meeting noted current subscriptions to the <i>Community Council for Somerset</i> (£35) and <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i> (£84). The Clerk recommended continuing these and adding the <i>Society of Local Council Clerks</i> (£77). The Council <b>RESOLVED</b> to subscribe to the three organisations.</p> <p>Philip asked about <i>Somerset Playing Fields Association</i> and the Clerk undertook to check membership.</p>	DA DA

16	<p><b>Events attended</b></p> <p>Jon informed the meeting that he and the Clerk had attended the Mendip Rural Forum and that the next meeting would be taking place on 14 April 2016.</p>	
17	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <p>The Parish Paths Liaison Officer reported a broken footpath sign on Merchants Hill. The following were also reported and the Clerk undertook to report to the appropriate agency:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Station Road: two street lights out below Binegar Green</li> <li>• Kings Lane: pot holes</li> <li>• Bennett's Lane: loose phone wire from telegraph pole</li> <li>• Station Road: deep gully down from Binegar Green</li> <li>• Highcroft Lane: mud running off quarry entrance</li> </ul>	DA
18	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>The Clerk informed the meeting that she had received a funding request from Mendip Community Transport. Philip proposed and David seconded a proposal to donate £50. After discussion, the meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to agree a donation of £50.00.</p>	
19	<p><b>Items for the next or a future agenda.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Binegar Bottom Survey</li> <li>• Somerset &amp; Dorset Railway Trust Exhibition</li> </ul>	JS DA
20	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 1 March 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2016: 5 April, 3 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.41pm.