

# BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2016 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk) and Paul Sharp.

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's announcements</b> The Chair reminded members of urgent tree work in the churchyard. The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept single tender action and the tender for £650 from Somerset Tree Surgery.</p> <p>Members joined the Chair and thanked Cllrs John and Rachel Carter for their dedication in monitoring and following through contentious planning applications.</p> <p>The meeting heard that Mendip was 37/121 in the Halifax Rural Areas Quality of Life Survey.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declaration of interest.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 1 March 2016 public and confidential meetings be signed as a correct records.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Binegar Cemetery lych gate [May 15]</b> The Chair stated that Mendip District Council had advised withdrawal of the planning application. He noted that Cllr Carter was arranging a meeting with the planning department that the Chair and Jon would attend.</p> <p><b>5.2 Highways and footpaths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><i>Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street name (Nov 15)</i></b> The Clerk reported this item was on order from Mendip District Council.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>Station Road: gully down west side requires filling (Feb 16)</i></b> The Clerk reported that a site visit had taken place and no action was required.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>Bennett's Lane: loose phone wire hanging from telegraph pole (Feb 16)</i></b> The Clerk undertook to notify BT.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>Turner's Court Lane: footpath sign (Nov 15)</i></b> The Clerk reported this was on order from Somerset County Council.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>Marchant's Hill: footpath sign (Feb 16)</i></b> The Clerk reported this was on order from Somerset County Council.</li> </ul> <p><b>5.2 Planning applications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b><i>2014/2684/FUL – Alfie's Retreat, Turner's Court Lane</i></b> The meeting noted there was still no published decision.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>2016/002/TPO – Coombe End, Binegar Lane, Gurney Slade, BA3 4TR</i></b> The meeting noted that Mendip had refused this application.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>2016/0237/HSE – 2 Flowerstone, BA3 4UQ</i></b> The meeting noted that Mendip had approved this application.</li> <li>▪ <b><i>2016/0274/FUL – Bennett's Lane BA3 4UG – Barn</i></b> The meeting noted this application was outstanding.</li> </ul>	<p>RH</p> <p>DA</p> <p>CL</p>

	<p><b>5.4 Dementia Friendly Community</b> Cath advised that she and the Clerk were planning <i>Dementia Friends</i> training.</p> <p><b>5.5 Binegar Bottom land improvement and planting</b> [Mar 16] John informed the meeting he had been in touch with various agencies seeking advice on moving the project forward. A number of agencies had provided information on grants available and John undertook to progress the project.</p> <p><b>5.6 Clean for the Queen</b> [Feb 16] Phil informed the meeting that the campaign had been very successful and supported by a loyal team of villagers. He thanked all who had taken part. The meeting discussed making it a regular event and agreed to consider autumn and spring clean ups.</p> <p><b>5.7 The Fair Field</b> [Mar 16] Cath stated that there was no progress to report.</p> <p><b>5.8 Somerset &amp; Dorset Railway – event management</b> [Mar 16] The meeting discussed plans for the event and asked the Clerk to finalise arrangements, including optional events. Members volunteered to take part in a rota to cover opening times, etc. The Clerk undertook to circulate the arrangements and publicise the event.</p> <p><b>5.9 The Council’s Annual Meeting with parishioners on 12 May</b> [Mar 16] The meeting discussed the format of the meeting and agreed that it should be an interactive meeting highlighting the work of the Council and projects for the future. The Clerk undertook to publicise the event and co-ordinate with councillors supporting exhibition material as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Lych gate and churchyard tree work – RH with JA</li> <li>▪ Village signs - PR with Clerk</li> <li>▪ Binegar Bottom woodland management plan - JS with PB</li> <li>▪ Dementia Friendly Community - CL with Clerk</li> <li>▪ The Fair Field Project – CL with DS</li> <li>▪ Local Plan – JA with RH</li> <li>▪ 2015-16 projects – RH with Clerk</li> </ul>	<p>JS</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>RH PR JS CL CL JA RH</p>
6	<p><b>Local government reports</b> There were no reports.</p>	
7	<p><b>Police reports</b> There were no reports.</p>	
8	<p><b>Planning Applications</b> The Chair stated that investigation had revealed four unresolved planning applications.</p> <p>Phil Roberts raised the concerns of a number of parishioners about the status of <i>The Portway</i> off Turner’s Court Lane. The question was why no enforcement had followed a refusal ten months previously. Philip stated that the applicant was to submit another application but that the appointed agent had made slow progress. Philip reported that he had personally discussed this delay with Mr David Woodridge, Senior Enforcement Officer and did not consider it a problem.</p> <p>The meeting discussed three other unresolved applications: <i>Alfie’s Retreat</i>, Marchant’s Hill Barn and Land South of Ann’s Cottage, Turners Court Lane.</p> <p>John outlined the issues surrounding land south of Ann’s Cottage. The Chair requested that John, on behalf of the Parish Council, make contact with Cllrs Carter to start resolving the issues.</p> <p>The Chair stated he would keep in touch with the District Councillors on all the cases.</p>	<p>JS</p>

9	<p><b>Financial Matters</b></p> <p><b>9.1 Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016</b> The Clerk explained that she wished to complete all bank reconciliations before presenting the accounts. At her request, the item was deferred until the May meeting. Meanwhile, the Council received and noted a summary of budget variances on the council's accounts to 31 March.</p> <p><b>9.2 Risk Assessment of Internal Controls</b> John presented the risk assessment of internal controls that he had prepared with assistance from the Clerk. He reported that he had identified no risks from the checks done. He noted that that the form needed updating to replace references to the dissolved <i>Binegar Playing Fields Group</i>. The Chair thanked John for his work and the meeting noted his assessment.</p> <p><b>9.3 Insurance</b> The Clerk reported that the three-year contract with Came &amp; Co. ended in 2016. She stated that the Council had no additional risks to insure. She undertook to seek quotations to compare with the renewal notice expected from Came &amp; Co. The meeting approved these proposals.</p> <p><b>9.4 Receipts since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £105.84 BT Openreach wayleave</li> <li>▪ £1,500.00 Somerset County Council grant</li> </ul> <p><b>9.5 Standing order payments since last reports</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Private Clerk's March salary</li> </ul> <p><b>9.6 Approval of cheque payments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £12.96 Mrs D Abbott – 24 x 2<sup>nd</sup> class stamps</li> <li>▪ £280.00 Somerset Tree Surgery – Churchyard emergency tree works</li> <li>▪ £574.04 Cerdic Foundries Ltd – fingerposts</li> <li>▪ £114.81 Cerdic Foundries Ltd – VAT on previous payment</li> <li>▪ £276.00 RoSPA - Play area inspection training – R Higgins</li> <li>▪ £216.00 Primrose Garden Maintenance – Clarke's Pool seating area improvements</li> </ul>	DA  DA
10	<p><b>Playground</b> The meeting received and considered a report from the Clerk on playground inspection and maintenance. It noted that the gate by the Hall required a closing mechanism and the meeting agreed a purchase within delegated limits.</p> <p><b><i>Nest Swing</i></b> The Clerk reminded the meeting that Cllr. Siggs' <i>Health and Wellbeing Fund</i> had contributed £1,500 towards this apparatus. The Clerk stated that she had received three quotes, the lowest of which required an additional £800. Following discussion, it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to purchase and install the swing and safety surface topping up the grant from the Playground fund.</p> <p><b><i>Swing Seat</i></b> Philip stated that he hoped weather conditions would permit removal of the seat in week ahead.</p> <p><b><i>Large Multiplay</i></b> The Clerk advised this apparatus required a safety inspection. Before that, the condition of the surface around it needed attention. The Clerk suggested that Councillors could do this work or she could seek quotations for it. Following discussion, John and Jon undertook to assess the situation. On the safety inspection, the Clerk offered two options: (a) arrange a special inspection for this apparatus; (b) include it in the annual safety inspection in June. The Clerk reported that option (a) entailed a cost of some £300 while (b) required keeping the apparatus closed until June. It was agreed to include the safety inspection in RoSPA's annual inspection.</p> <p><b><i>Inspection Arrangements</i></b></p>	JA  DA  PB  JS JA

	The Chair reported on the RoSPA routine playground inspection course he had attended on 1 March. He informed the meeting he was reviewing inspection procedures with the Clerk and would present revised arrangements and training.	RH
11	<p><b>Projects for 2016-17</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The meeting discussed and agreed the following projects for 2016 – 2017:</li> <li>▪ Village signposts (with DA)</li> <li>▪ Cemetery lych gate and churchyard tree works (with JA)</li> <li>▪ Binegar Bottom planting, clearing and woodland management plan (with PB)</li> <li>▪ The Fair Field (with DS)</li> <li>▪ Dementia-friendly villages (with DA)</li> <li>▪ Village history plaques</li> </ul>	PR RH JS CL CL RH
12	<p><b>Events Attended</b></p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting he had attended the District Council's March <i>Parish Information Surgery</i>.</p>	
13	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tellis Lane: pot holes along length</li> <li>▪ Bennett's Lane: pot holes at flood ditch to west of double bend</li> <li>▪ Turner's Court/Portway Lanes: sunken trench</li> <li>▪ A37 west side, Kingscombe to Gurney Slade: bramble patch on verge</li> <li>▪ Write to First bus about arrangements for buses to pass each other</li> </ul>	DA
14	<p><b>Correspondence received</b></p> <p>No correspondence received.</p>	
15	<p><b>Next meeting and future dates</b></p> <p>The Council noted the next meeting would be on 3 May 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2016: 12 May, 7 June, 5 July, 6 September, 4 October, 1 November, 6 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm.