



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

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

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Cllr. Mike Pullen, Sue Roberts, Paul Sharp, Jo Weller, David Wilson.

Public Forum

The Council heard parishioners' angry concerns about A37 road safety and considered these in item 15.4.

1	Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.	
2	Chairs announcements The Chair welcomed members of the public stating the meeting would take item 15.4 first. The Chair noted that the September police report did not indicate a pattern of crime.	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes of the 1 October 2019 meeting as a correct record.	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Clearance of excess road gravel on Binegar Lane and Station Road The meeting noted that no further action was required for this item. Burnt Wood / Whitnell Corner crossroads Philip informed the meeting that he awaited police data and that the item would be addressed by the Emborough Parish meeting. Parish Council 2019 election invoice The Clerk informed the meeting that she awaited a revised invoice for payment over two financial years. Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service strategic plan The Chair stated that the concerns of the District Council, reported by Councillor Burr, concerned Wells and did not affect Philip's recommendation that the proposals would not affect the Parish. Binegar Bottom dog waste bin The Clerk informed the meeting that Paul Sharp had kindly offered to install the bin adjacent to the flood prevention pond at Binegar Bottom. She undertook to arrange collections. Daffodils The Clerk informed the meeting there were still bulbs that required planting. Phill, John, Paul Sharp, Jon and the Clerk offered to plant areas around the villages. Somerset County Council – Improving Lives - ideas from Members No ideas were presented. Power to your Parish Cath informed the meeting that she and Philip had attended this event and encouraged members to look at the presentation from Frome by Anna Francis, circulated by the Clerk. 	<p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>



	9. 2019/2281/VRC – Old Down Caravan Site – alterations to conditions of use The meeting noted that the application was undecided.	
6	Local government reports There were no reports.	
7	Planning applications 2019/2532/FDN – The Rockies, Binegar Lane – emergency tree felling application The meeting noted that the 5 day notice dated 18 October remained undecided.	
8	Financial matters 1. To receive and note a statement of the financial position to date The meeting noted the financial position to date. 2. To note receipts since last the report £120.00 – Allstone Memorials for Newman family £120.00 – Allstone Memorials for Rabbitts family £1,000.00 – Thornhill Farm – Selway land rent 3. To note standing order payments since the last report £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – November salary payment £714.86 – Primrose Garden Maintenance - Grass cutting (payment 7/7) 4. To approve cheque payments £12.20 – D Abbott – postage £208.29 – R Higgins – HMRC income tax payment June-September 2019 £101.09 - J Scadding – Mileage from training and cemetery tree purchase £350.00 – C & R Tucker – Memorial repair	
9	Grass cutting contract 2020-21 The meeting received and noted the quotation for 2020-21.	
10	Land rents The Council considered rent due for review in April 2020. Following discussion, the meeting agreed to waive a review and the Clerk undertook to inform the tenant.	DA
11	Budget and precept 2020-21 The meeting received a draft budget and considered proposals for change. It noted that the grass cutting contract would consume one-third of the precept. Jon (and John) undertook to consider how that cost might be reduced. The Clerk undertook to consider how to fund playground apparatus and cemetery proposals by including a target for grants and donations. Members undertook to forward any further comments to the Clerk.	JA DA You
12	Playground The meeting received and noted the monthly report. Jon asked if the contractor had carried out its annual perimeter clearance cut. The Clerk agreed to check and, if necessary, order a cut.	DA
13	Somerset County Council snow warden scheme After discussion the meeting agreed to take no further action.	DA
14	Highcroft quarry The Clerk stated that the Council would receive advance notification of quarry events and that a warning flag would be flown on event days. There was concern that the notification was too late to give advance warning to parishioners. The Clerk undertook negotiate advance warning of the programme of events and understand how late booked events could be notified. The meeting discussed how to inform parishioners and agreed that, though the website should be used to advertise future events, information – including late notifications -should also be sent	DA



	by email to the Council's parishioner mailing list.	DA
15	<p>Projects</p> <p>1. Footpaths and walking route maps The meeting noted that this item was dependent on Rev. Priestley's plans for 'Pilgrim' footpath routes. David stated that there was no update but agreed to bring the matter back when there was. Meanwhile, the meeting agreed to remove the item from the agenda.</p> <p>2. Brewery railway footpath to Binegar Bottom David stated that there was no progress but agreed to bring the matter back to the Council when there was. Meanwhile, the meeting agreed to remove the item from the agenda.</p> <p>3. Climate and Ecological Emergency pledge Cath reported that both Mendip District and Somerset County had made <i>Climate and Ecological Emergency</i> pledges. She proposed that the Parish Council should support these.</p> <p>After discussion, Cath undertook to circulate Mendip's pledge for members to read in preparation for agreeing the Parish Council's position at the December meeting.</p> <p>4. A37 and village lanes safety The Chair reported the response to the parish's safety concerns from Councillor John Woodman, the County's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport. Cllr Woodman repeated the reply from Highways' <i>Traffic Engineer (Mendip)</i> that the A37 proposal did not attract priority because there was a record of too few road incidents and because the programme of <i>Small [road] Improvement Schemes (S.I.S.)</i> was closed.</p> <p>The Chair stated that he could not reconcile the safety argument used against Gurney Slade with the 49 S.I.S. schemes listed on the County's website. There were no 'serious' incidents on 70% of roads with S.I.S. projects and no collisions at all in 4-out-of-every-10. Schemes for A roads accounted for only one-third of the total, while projects for minor roads comprising 57% of the programme. He concluded that the 'safety' argument was to cover the real reason: lack priority for priority for road safety leading to lack of funding.</p> <p>County Councillor Mike Pullen reported that he was appointed to implement the back-log of 89 S.I.S. projects and that the S.I.S. programme might re-open in 2021-22.</p> <p>After discussion it was agreed to invite parishioners to write to Somerset regarding their safety concerns and to find out if they wanted a public meeting with Cllr. Pullen.</p> <p>Cllr. Pullen offered also to attempt to arrange a site meeting with Highways.</p> <p>Speed indicator device Phill advised that he had received two-of-three tenders and specifications for a device and would progress the matter as soon as possible.</p> <p>5. Binegar Bottom conservation John gave an up-date on Binegar Bottom.</p> <p>6. Cemetery gate to churchyard lantern The meeting agreed to defer this item to 2020-21 in light of finances.</p> <p>7. Flood lighting Holy Trinity church John informed the meeting he would continue to seek options for flood lighting.</p>	DS DS You RH PR



	<p>8. Binegar cemetery grave repair The meeting noted this repair had been completed.</p> <p>9. Website replacement The Clerk informed the meeting that the update of the website had commenced and undertook to share the link with members when further progress had been made.</p> <p>10. Risk assessment for A37 verge strimming After discussion, the meeting agreed to progress this matter no further.</p>	DA
16	<p>Village autumn clean up Phil informed the meeting that the event had been successful with seven bags of rubbish collected. Cath suggested a banner should be made to publicise future clean ups.</p>	DA
17	<p>Events attended Cath informed the meeting that she had attended the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Love Food Hate Waste training – Somerset Waste Partnership (with the Clerk)• Power to the Parish (with Philip)• Health Connectors Mendip	
18	<p>Highways and rights of way Philip informed the meeting he had spoken to a parishioner regarding overgrown hedges but that his request to cut back the hedge had been refused.</p>	
19	<p>Dates of future meetings To note the next meetings were 3 December, 2020: 4 February, 3 March</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm