



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL Annual Report 2018-19

From your parish councillors 2015-19

Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins, Cath Law, Phill Roberts, John Scadding, David Stone

Our big project was natural **flood prevention work** in Binegar Bottom. John and Paul Sharp – who is also our footpaths officer – managed this with a £4,070 grant from *Somerset Rivers Authority*. There is now a “leaky pond” to manage peak surface water flows and so help prevent flooding downstream in Gurney Slade.

2018 saw the **centenary of World War I**. To mark this, Diane, Jon and Phill hosted a charity lunch. It was a great success. We shared the £660 profit between the *Royal British Legion* and *Help the Heroes*.

Improving **A37 road safety** remained a challenge. To make progress, we needed evidence so we monitored traffic in May and February. From this, we have enough to put forward serious proposals to help slow traffic, improve pedestrian safety and prevent the frequent demolition of the post office wall.

Our **new village signs** tell drivers clearly they are entering a residential area. Our crest (above) is on one. It is two chevrons, intertwined to symbolise vale and hill, Gurney Slade’s in gold for mineral riches, Binegar’s in white for the sacred sites around us. The blue background is for the Mendip Hills sky and nods to our long history as a part of Wells Cathedral.

Phill and Colin Maidment started the planting of cheerful daffodils on Marchants Hill to welcome drivers to the village. We want to plant many more but need help. Will you plant some?

This year, it became clear that **air quality** on parts of the A37 further towards Bristol was not safe. Hearing that, we arranged for Mendip to monitor levels of nitrogen dioxide – the harmful gas from vehicle exhausts – at the location in Gurney Slade where air pollution is most likely to gather. We need a full year’s results to be clear about air quality but we have been encouraged by the first month’s low reading.

An achievement – and Philip deserves credit here – was to keep **bus 173** running through the village. Without troubling to ask us, Somerset agreed to cut us out of the route. Happily, *First Bus* listened. There was, though, lots to do to get double decker buses through, so thanks to residents who cut back their trees.

Binegar **Cemetery** is ours and we maintain **Holy Trinity churchyard**. Here, we are on the way to reclaiming the yew, have felled the damaged conifer and replaced the missing pier caps on the gate, matching them to the fine ones at the cemetery. This has opened up the churchyard to light for the beautiful cherry tree and fine views of the church. In the Cemetery, a kind donor has planted a shrub to soften the view.

In the **playground** this year, Jon and his team replaced the flight of steps up to the slide. We monitor safety carefully and must thank the volunteers who help. Will you help and join our rota?

You gave your time to the **Great British Clean up** collecting more litter than you could imagine.

Our aim is to improve where we live. Often this means **small things**. This year, David and John cleared churchyard undergrowth, Jon replenished the road salt bins and Philip and Gus Halfhide sprayed roadside weeds with herbicide. We got potholes fixed, mowed lots of grass, cleared Gurney Slade drainage ditch and Alban Bunting repaired our park benches,

Mendip District Council consult us on **planning applications** and we consider about one a meeting. Where a proposal is controversial, we ask for your help. Together, we fought off an unwelcome big development.

Looking after your interests means scrutinising plans, like Somerset’s one for **Shepton Mallet library**. We supported the Town Council’s plan to keep it. No civilised society sets out to destroy its cultural assets.

Finally, we must thank Diane, our Parish Clerk, without whom none of this would have happened and Richard, our Chair, for leading the Council for the last four years.

8	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>1. Financial position The meeting received and considered accounts for the year to 31 March 2018. It was RESOLVED that the Chair and Clerk sign the accounts.</p> <p>2. Receipts noted since the last report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £260.00 – J Saunders – land rent (2 years) ▪ £906.50 – P Coombs – land rent ▪ £100.00 – J E Emery – T Burr <p>3. Standing order payments noted since the last report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – March salary <p>4. Cheque payments authorised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ £163.80 – HMRC – income tax – January to March 2018 ▪ £18.00 – D Abbott – mileage SID briefing ▪ £6.72 – D Abbott – 12 x 2nd class stamps ▪ £50.00 – Mendip Community Transport - donation 	
9	<p>2017-18 Financial year-end arrangements The meeting received and RESOLVED to approve for signature a Statement of Internal Controls for the year.</p> <p>The meeting noted receipt of the statutory <i>Annual Governance and Accountability Return</i>. The Clerk advised next steps were to complete the financial parts of the <i>Return</i>, submit it for internal audit and meet the external auditor deadline for submission of 11 June.</p>	
10	<p>Annual meeting with parishioners – 10 May 2018 The Chair invited members to look back at the Parish Council’s achievements for the year. The Clerk undertook to highlight these in a display at the Annual Meeting.</p>	DA
11	<p>Speed indication devices (SIDs) The meeting received an update from Jon on the options available to continue monitoring traffic speed on the A37. This included an option to create <i>Community Speedwatch Area</i>. After discussion, it was agreed that a meeting be arranged with the police to discuss the <i>Speedwatch</i> scheme, Phil, and Jon undertook to do this.</p>	PR JA
12	<p>Projects</p> <p>1. A37 road improvements for Gurney Slade The Chair informed the meeting that Sara Davis from Somerset Highways had visited and had discussed matters of concern to the village:</p> <p>Speeding along the straight through the village Sara undertook to install a radar for a 10-day period between Tellis and Binegar Lanes. It would measure the vehicle volume and speed. The data would help inform what other measures (SIDs, speed cameras, speedwatch etc.) might be best to control the issue.</p> <p>Village signs Sara viewed the existing signs and confirmed that the County would replace them. She pointed out that signs with gates behind or mounted on decorative posts would incur a cost for the parish both at installation and for maintenance. Sara undertook to supply the relevant legal and cost information. There were additional issues with which to cope including a County rule that signs bear the name of no more than one village and the location of new signs relative to speed limit signs. The position of the current signs was between the 40 and 30 mph limits.</p>	

	<p>Following John Law's advice to avoid pastel shades, the meeting agreed to darken the background blue of the crest.</p> <p>Footpath The meeting noted that no progress had been made in identifying the owner of the field with the broken wall adjacent to the footpath on the A37. David stated that he would check with a local contact about ownership.</p> <p>Following her visit, the Chair stated that Sara Davis undertook to consider how to manage the issue of lorries mounting the pavement.</p> <p>2. Binegar Bottom John informed the meeting that the provisionally scheduled date for start of drainage improvement works was 16 April.</p> <p>The meeting agreed the suggestion from Ann Langdon of the <i>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</i> that, to help prevent vandalism, an explanatory sign be put in place.</p>	JS
13	<p>Playground The meeting received and noted the playground report.</p>	
14	<p>Five-year inspection of cemetery and churchyard memorials The Chair informed the meeting of the Council's policy to carry out an inspection once every five years (giving the public 28 days' notice) and to keep records of inspection results. He suggested a brief training session preceding the inspection and agreed to circulate dates to members.</p>	
15	<p>First bus: route 173 The meeting discussed concerns raised by parishioners. Cllr Mike Pullen undertook to follow up with Somerset County Council, as did the Clerk.</p>	
16	<p>Events attended Jon and the Clerk attended the Speed Indicator Device briefing in Somerton.</p>	
17	<p>Highways and rights of way The following were reported: Car regularly parked on the pavement adjacent to the A37. The Clerk undertook to inform the local PCSO and provide Phil with her contact details.</p>	
18	<p>Staff appraisal The meeting received a report from the Chair (circulated to members) and RESOLVED to alter the Clerk's remuneration as set out in the Chair's report.</p>	
19	<p>Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meetings were 1 and 10 May 2018 in the Memorial Hall</p> <p>Future meetings 2018-19: 10 May Annual Parish Meeting, 5 June, 3 July, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 5 February, 5 March</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.30pm

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting with Parishioners held on 10 May 2018 in the Memorial Hall

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Councillors Rachel and John Carter and thirty two parishioners.

1.	Welcome The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed parishioners.	
2.	Councillors' Annual Report The Chair summarised the annual report which was made available.	
3.	Parishioners' suggestions The following suggestions were received: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parking in front of the recreation field• Remind parishioners when clean-up and working parties for the playing field are taking place• Twice yearly road sweeping• Makeover of the area around the phone box on Turners Court Lane• A tap in the church yard near to the lych gate	



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 1 May 2018 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Cllr Rachel Carter, Cllr Mike Pullen, Bryan Rich and Paul Sharp.

The Council heard concerns from Bryan Rich regarding a letter received from Somerset County Council concerning pruning of trees along Whitnell Lane in preparation for the *First's* route 173 double-deck bus coming through the village.

1	Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept an apology for absence from Cath Law.	
2	Chair's Announcements The Chair announced that the Annual Parish meeting would take place on Thursday 10 May and that the July meeting would take place on Tuesday 17 July. He undertook to take Item 6.5 after Item 5.	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Elections of officers and annual reviews 1. Election of Chair Jon nominated and John seconded Richard for Chair; the meeting elected Richard. 2. Election of Vice Chair John nominated and Phil seconded Jon for Vice Chair; the meeting elected Jon. 3. New Committees The Council appointed no new committees. 4. Policy review Jon volunteered to review the <i>Freedom of Information Act: Information available to the public</i> .	
	Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 3 April 2018 be signed as a correct record.	
5	Matters arising from the Minutes 1. Planning applications 2016/2573/FUL – Alfie's Retreat BA3 4UA The meeting noted that the status remained 'awaiting decision' and considered correspondence with the Chief Executive of Mendip District Council. Richard undertook to reply expressing the views raised by the Parish Council and to prepare a referral to the Local Government <i>Ombudsman</i> . The meeting agreed to accept the decision made by the District Councillors regarding taking the matter to the Mendip District Council Planning Board. 2018/0255/OTS – Development of 15 dwellings west of Flowerstone The meeting noted that Mendip refused the application.	RH



	<p>2018/0225/FUL – Detached dwelling, The Batch, Highcroft Lane, Binegar, BA3 4PT The meeting noted that the application had been withdrawn.</p> <p>2. Proposed permissive footpath between Binegar Bottom and footpath SM3/16 The meeting agreed to carry this item forward to the June meeting.</p> <p>3. Protection of verges The meeting agreed to carry this item forward to the June meeting.</p> <p>4. A37 street cleaning Phil reported it was the road sweeper (not the washer) that no longer worked. Richard undertook to raise the question with the quarry.</p> <p>5. Bus route 173 Philip informed the meeting that he had communicated with Mr Hanson at <i>First</i> and would meet with him on Wednesday 9 May with Neal Corp from County Highways to decide which trees along the 173 route through the village required lopping to permit passage of a double deck bus. The meeting thanked Philip for his efforts to resolve the ongoing situation.</p> <p>6. Five-year inspection of cemetery and graveyard – 2 June 2018 The meeting noted that Richard, Jon and Phil had undertaken to carry out the safety inspection of memorials. Public had been invited to attend at 11.00am. Richard stated that, in case of inclement weather, the inspection would be on Saturday 9 June.</p>	PB RH RH PB
6	<p>Local government reports Cllr Rachel Carter commented on the improved format of Mendip's Parish Forum and encouraged attendance.</p>	
7	<p>Planning applications and issues There were no planning applications for consideration.</p>	
8	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>1. Financial position The meeting noted the financial position to date and received an update on the presentation of the variances and the budget for the financial year.</p> <p>2. Receipts noted since the last report: £9,000.00 – Mendip District Council – Precept 2018-19 £60.00 – G Fuzzey – <i>The George</i> sign wayleave 2018-19 £100.00 – A Matthews – interment fee - Matthews</p> <p>The meeting noted the these receipts listed on the agenda had been duplicated from last month £260.00 – J J Saunders – Land rent 2018-20 £906.50 – P Coombs – Land rent first half 2018-19 £100.00 – E Emery & Sons – interment fees (Burr and Young families)</p> <p>3. Standing order payments noted since the last report: £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – April salary</p> <p>4. Cheque payments authorised: £648.94 – Zurich Municipal – Parish Council insurance 2018-19 £146.88 – AED Locator Ltd – Defibrillator replacement battery</p>	



	<p>The meeting noted the these payment listed on the agenda had been duplicated from last month £163.80 – HMRC – Income tax (January – March 2018) £24.72 – D Abbott – Out of pocket expenses £50.00 – Mendip Community Transport – Parish Council donation</p>	
9	<p>2017-18 Financial year-end arrangements The meeting noted that the internal audit of compliance with relevant procedures and controls was underway and that public right to inspect the accounts would be from 4 June to 13 July.</p>	DA
10	<p>Insurance The meeting noted that the Council was in the final year of a three-year policy with Zurich Municipal and an additional £76.37 had been added to the premium to cover the cemetery fence.</p>	
11	<p>Annual weed control programme Philip informed the meeting that he would be undertaking two sessions of weed control with Gus Halfhide.</p>	PB
12	<p>Projects</p> <p>1. A37 road improvements for Gurney Slade</p> <p>Village name plates The meeting discussed the style, location and cost of village signs and it was agreed to accept the County's prescribed village nameplates. The Chair undertook to make further arrangements and believed that Highways had agreed to incorporate the new village crest.</p> <p>Pedestrian safety Phil informed the meeting of the identity of the owner of the field with the collapsed wall. It was agreed to contact him to organise repairs.</p> <p>Further action on pedestrian safety would be assessed once traffic speed data were received.</p> <p>Traffic speed and volume information The meeting noted arrangements were in hand to erect a radar to collect the data.</p> <p>2. Binegar Bottom John informed the meeting that contractors would commence work once the weather improved. He discussed further plans for the north side. The meeting discussed and agreed that an information board would be a good addition to Binegar Bottom. Richard and Jon undertook to liaise with the company that manufactured boards.</p> <p>3. Projects to plan or consider subject with funds The meeting discussed potential projects for the financial year and agreed to include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Playground fence – (Clerk and Chair to seek funding)• Daffodils on verges and village entrances• Churchyard – tree felling, yew tree pruning and pier cap replacement• Ditch by Gurney Slade stores – (Jon and John to clear)• Historic sites in the villages• New website• A37 road improvements• Events to promote a dementia friendly community• Works to Binegar Bottom north side and south side interpretative board <p>The meeting agreed to set aside work on a lit Christmas tree, church floodlighting and rainwater goods for the lych gate.</p>	<p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p>



13	Playground The meeting received and noted the playground report. Jon requested a work party get together to undertake maintenance tasks. It was agreed that this would take place on 15 May at 10.30am.	
14	General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) 2018 The Chair gave an update on GDPR regulations and informed the meeting that he and the Clerk would be attending a training session later in the month. The Clerk informed the meeting that there was no longer a government requirement for Parish and Town Councils to nominate a Data Protection Officer.	
15	Powers for dealing with unauthorised development and encampments The meeting did not consider it could contribute to this consultation.	
16	Honorary awards The meeting discussed and noted potential nominees. The Clerk stated that a box would be available at the Annual Parish Meeting for parishioners to post suggestions.	
17	Events attended There were no events attended.	
18	Highways and rights of way The following were reported: Tellis Lane – trees on the disused railway bridge	DA
19	Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting would take place on 5 June 2018 in the Memorial Hall Future meetings 2018-19: 17 July, 4 September, 2 October, 6 November, 5 February, 5 March	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.00pm



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford (7.40pm), Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone.

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

1	Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.	
2	Chair's Announcements The Chair reported interest from three broadband providers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Truespeed</i> – with a presentation on Thursday 7 June at 7:00pm in the Memorial Hall ▪ <i>Gigaspeed</i> - working in partnership with Connecting Devon & Somerset. ▪ <i>Voneus</i> – fibre broadband to Holy Trinity Church with wireless service from this hub with income to the church as a result <p>No councillor expressed interest in joining the Association of Local Councils members' committee.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the July meeting of the Parish Council would take place on Tuesday 17 July.</p>	All
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 1 and 10 May 2018 be signed as a correct record.	
5	Matters arising from the Minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning applications - 2016/2573/FUL – Alfie's Retreat BA3 4UA The meeting noted approval of this application. The Chair stated that Mendip's Chief Executive Officer had not replied to the 8 May letter. Cllr Carter urged pursuit of a response. 2. Proposed permissive footpath between Binegar Bottom and footpath SM3/16 Philip put forward five options for the future status of the footpath. After discussion, the meeting agreed to write to the owner with a proposal. 3. Protection of verges The meeting agreed that this item required no further consideration. 4. A37 Street Cleaning Phil informed the meeting that he had received clarification of the street cleaning regime undertaken by the quarry and that no further action was required. Phil reported A37 residents' expressed concern over dust and pollution levels. The meeting supported their proposal to seek monitoring. 5. Bus route 173 Philip informed the meeting that trees along the route had been cutback and that he would partake in a further run with <i>First Bus</i> for any final trimming. He reported that <i>First Bus</i> proposed to phase in the double deck buses. 	RH DA



	<p>6. Five-year inspection of cemetery and graveyard – 2 June 2018 The Chair circulated the audit results. He stated that two memorials required immediate temporary support and a further eleven required annual monitoring. The Chair thanked Jon, Phil and David for their assistance.</p> <p>7. Annual weed control programme Philip informed the meeting that he and Gus Halfhide planned to undertake the annual weed control programme on Friday.</p> <p>8. Highways: trees on Tellis Lane railway bridge The Clerk stated that she had contacted <i>Historical Railways Estate</i> that confirmed it inspected trees on bridge decks annually. It noted that trees growing along bridge wing walls were the responsibility of the landowners.</p> <p>9. Matters arising from the Annual Meeting The meeting considered five suggestions that had been made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of parking in front of the playground In discussion, members drew attention to the Hall's car park with its access the playground. The meeting agreed that a car park on the verge of Binegar Lane would detract from the area's amenity and pose a risk to children leaving the playground. The meeting also noted that the Hall's management planned to enlarge its carpark. • Reminders to parishioners when clean-ups and playground maintenance work parties take place It was publicise these earlier in future. • Twice yearly road sweeps Cllr Carter suggested parishioners should be encouraged to maintain their road frontages. The Clerk undertook to include this suggestion in the next Parish magazine report. • Make over the area around the Turners Court Lane phone box Philip undertook to clean the phone box. • Install a water supply to the cemetery After discussion, the meeting agreed to seek a cost to supply mains water and compare this with a proposal from Philip to install a larger container to collect rainwater and pipe this closer to the cemetery. 	<p>PB</p> <p>DA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>PB</p> <p>DA RH</p>
6	<p>Police report The meeting received and noted a report from PCSO Sheila Thompson.</p>	
7	<p>Local government reports Cllr John Carter informed the meeting of plans to access the field at the end of Dalleston, owned by Mendip District Council, in order to tidy up the field and its boundary.</p>	
8	<p>Planning applications and issues The meeting noted there were no planning applications for consideration.</p>	
9	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>1. Financial position The meeting noted the financial position to date. The Clerk reported that she had submitted the annual VAT reclaim.</p> <p>2. Receipts since the last report: £1,000.00 – Land rent – Mr A Selway £100.00 – Adams Memorials – engraving for the Matthews family £50.00 – K Hanmer – engraving for the Burr family</p>	



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2018 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

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

1	Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.	
2	Chair's Announcements The Chair had three announcements: Mendip District Council consultation: Housing Enforcement Policy The meeting agreed that the Council had nothing relevant for a response to this consultation. Police Report – June The Chair highlighted four incidents relevant to the Parish. Parish Forum The Chair informed the meeting he would be speaking on "Making your Parish Richer" at the Mendip Parish Forum on Thursday 19 July.	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 5 June 2018 be signed as a correct record.	
5	Matters arising from the Minutes 1. Planning applications - 2016/2573/FUL – Alfie's Retreat BA3 4UA The Chair stated that a further letter sent to Mendip's Chief Executive Officer had also met with no response. Councillors noted that an additional building was now being erected on the site. The meeting agreed to ask Cllr Carter to pursue a reason for the absence of a response. 2. Proposed permissive footpath between Binegar Bottom and footpath SM3/16 The Clerk undertook to draft a letter to owners with Parish Council proposals. 3. Five-year inspection of cemetery and graveyard The Chair reported that, of the two memorials needing immediate attention, one was repaired but there was no known family for the other. Given the location of grave 93, the meeting agreed the Parish Council had to undertake the repair. The Clerk undertook to make arrangements. 4. Annual weed control programme Philip reported this had been done. On the Council's behalf, the Chair thanked Philip and Gus. 5. Cemetery water supply The Clerk reported that she had been unable to obtain a quote for mains water from <i>Bristol Water</i> . In light of that, Philip, who had experience of the process, undertook to obtain a price.	RH DA DA PB
6	Local government reports The meeting noted that Cllrs John and Rachel Carter were unable to attend and had apologised.	



7	Planning applications and issues The meeting noted there were no planning applications for consideration.	
8	Financial Matters 1. Financial position The meeting noted the financial position to date. The Clerk reported receipt of the annual VAT reclaim of £5,872. 2. Receipts since the last report £200.00 – ARN Connock & Son – for the Collins family £5,872.41 – HMRC VAT refund 3. Standing order payments noted since the last report £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – June salary £656.22 – Primrose Garden Maintenance – May grass cutting payment 2/7 £656.22 – Primrose Garden Maintenance – June grass cutting payment 3/7 £35.00 – Community Council Somerset – subscription paid in April 4. Cheque payments authorised £50.00 – Somerset Association of Local Councils – GDPR training £34.80 - D Stone – expenses for paint for playground	
9	2017-18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) The meeting noted that the Clerk awaited receipt of the external audit report.	
10	Playground The meeting noted the monthly report and the annual RoSPA inspection report. Councillors discussed works proposed by Jon who was authorised to purchase timber and other items. The Council agreed to seek professional advice on the safer surfaces beneath both multiplays. The Clerk reported the RoSPA inspector's recommendation to keep all playground reports for 18 years. It was RESOLVED to amend the policy on document retention accordingly. Cath and Philip undertook to supply the Clerk with the past inspection reports they held.	JA DA RH CL PB
11	Projects 1. A37 road improvements for Gurney Slade Phil was pleased to report that <i>Morris & Perry</i> had ordered an additional weekly hour of road washing to clean all the A37 through Gurney Slade. Village nameplates The meeting discussed the options for the village nameplates and agreed to accept the proposal from Somerset Highways. The Chair undertook to notify Highways Somerset. Pedestrian safety and the collapsed field boundary on A37 The Chair reported no further progress made in contacting the owner and matter was ongoing. Traffic speed and volume information The meeting noted an analysis of A37 traffic speeds and volume during the radar installation in May. Phil reported that he had spoken with Cllr Mike Pullin who suggested the Parish Council install a speed indicator device. Jon undertook to obtain costs.	RH RH JA



	<p>Phil undertook to maintain contact with Cllr Pullen and press him to assist in providing a police safety camera.</p>	PR
	<p>The meeting considered the possibility of relocating the existing (but defunct) police safety camera into the village or erecting a dummy camera.</p>	RH
	<p>2. Binegar Bottom</p> <p>John reported progress with works on the first leaky pond. He and <i>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group's</i> Ann Langdon planned to meet with R M Penny to discuss reducing the height of the bund, raising the floor of the pool and lowering the leak pipe.</p>	JS
	<p>Concerning the clearance of the drainage pipe under Highcroft Lane, the Chair reminded John that Ann Langdon had undertaken to organise Highways to do this.</p>	JS
	<p>The Chair advised the meeting that an interpretation board would cost some £500.</p>	RH
	<p>3. Drainage ditch by Gurney Slade Stores</p> <p>The meeting discussed how to keep the ditch permanently clear of brambles. The meeting agreed the first step was to clear the ditch and the Clerk undertook to seek a quotation from the Council's horticultural contractor.</p>	DA
	<p>Once cleared, the Chair undertook to arrange for interested parties to consider next steps.</p>	RH
	<p>4. Daffodils on verges</p> <p>The meeting agreed the suggestion to publicise planting of 500 daffodil bulbs on the southbound verge at the north end of the village.</p>	RH
	<p>5. Holy Trinity Churchyard</p> <p>Though there had been no formal contact from the Parochial Church Council (PCC), David reported that the Diocese had approved repair of the gate pier caps.</p>	
	<p>Having consulted the PCC on its specification, the Council RESOLVED to invite tenders for the yew tree pruning. The Clerk undertook to send out tenders to local contractors.</p>	DA
	<p>6. Historic village sites / interpretative panels</p> <p>The meeting noted it covered this item in the Binegar Bottom project.</p>	
	<p>7. Dementia-friendly community events</p> <p>Cath notified the meeting of plans for a monthly, themed event aimed at bringing people together. Cath and Diane stated that they would publicise the plan to seek volunteers. Cath agreed to draft a budget.</p>	CL DA
	<p>8. New website</p> <p>The meeting noted that this was an ongoing project.</p>	
	<p>9. Projects without parish funds</p> <p><i>Playground fence on Binegar Lane</i></p> <p>The Chair reported awaiting the outcome of a <i>National Lottery</i> grant application. The Clerk undertook to apply to the Sperring Trust for additional financial assistance with the project.</p>	DA
12	<p>The Great British Clean up</p> <p>Phil informed the meeting this would take place the weekend of 13–14 October 2018. The Clerk undertook to publicise the date in the September parish magazine.</p>	DA



13	Somerset consultation: <i>Improving lives</i> strategy The meeting noted this consultation, previously circulated by the Clerk. Cath undertook to consider the strategy and respond on behalf of the Parish Council.	CL
14	Archived records The Clerk informed the meeting there were no records for archiving in 2018.	
15	Nomination for awards The meeting considered nominations and Jon undertook to conduct a vote with councillors.	JA
16	Events attended There were no events attended	
17	Highways and rights of way There were no reports.	
18	Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting would take place on 4 September 2018 in the Memorial Hall Future meetings 2018-19: 2 October, 6 November, 5 February, 5 March	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.40pm



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 September 2018 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Philip Blatchford (19.45), Richard Higgins (Chair), Phil Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone.

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

1	Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Jon Abbott and Cath Law	
2	Chair's Announcements There were no announcements.	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 17 July 2018 meeting be signed as a correct record.	
5	Matters arising from the Minutes 1. Planning applications - 2016/2573/FUL – Alfie's Retreat BA3 4UA The meeting noted receipt of notice of enforcement and John Carter gave an update on the position. 2. Proposed permissive footpath between Binegar Bottom and footpath SM3/16 The meeting discussed two options and noted possible legal expenses. It was agreed to write to the owners with the Parish Council's proposals. 3. Five-year inspection of cemetery and graveyard The meeting noted a repair to the memorial of grave 93 had been ordered. 4. Cemetery water supply The meeting considered that <i>Bristol Water's</i> cost to install a mains supply to the boundary - £1,800+VAT – was too high to justify proceeding. After discussion, it was agreed to write to the Parochial Church Council proposing a plan to take water from the church roof. 5. Somerset consultation – Improving lives strategy In the absence of Cath, the meeting agreed to defer this item. 6. Truespeed broadband to villages The meeting noted connection was to proceed and that the church and village hall would receive free WIFI.	
6	Local government reports John Carter commented on recently announced cuts at Somerset County Council. He was pleased to report that Mendip District Council did not face financial difficulties.	
7	Planning applications and issues The meeting noted: 2018/1837/PAA – Glebe Acres, Station Road, BA3 4UG – Prior approval for barn conversion 2017/1797/FUL – 5 Dalleston –Appeal against refusal of consent for new dwelling	



8	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>1. Financial position The meeting noted the financial position to date.</p> <p>2. Receipts since the last report £50.00 – B Bishop – for the Crockett family £120.00 – Exclusive Memorials – for the Coombs family £200.00 – N Maggs – for the Bishop family £200.00 – N Maggs – for the Bishop family</p> <p>3. Standing order payments noted since the last report £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – July and August salary £1,312.44 – Primrose Garden Maintenance –grass cutting payments 4 and 5 of 7</p> <p>4. Cheque payments authorised £193.20 – HMRC – income tax £193.20 – Play Safety – Annual safety inspection £60.00 – D Abbott – Contractual expenses– April-September £13.95 – D Abbott – Out of pocket expenses £58.80 – HeartSafe – Smart tag monitoring service</p>	
9	<p>Agricultural Land The meeting noted the issue of Michaelmas bills. The meeting considered the rent of the 0.86 acres at Old Down and agreed not to seek a review.</p>	
10	<p>2017-18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR) The meeting noted that the Clerk awaited receipt of the external audit report.</p>	
11	<p>Playground The meeting received and noted the monthly report. Philip raised concerns over mower damage to the safe surfacing around the small multi-play and strimmer damage to timber posts. The clerk undertook to speak to the contractors.</p>	
12	<p>Air quality The meeting considered a response to Somerset’s draft <i>Air Quality Strategy</i> and agreed to recommend greater attention be given to main roads through the county.</p> <p>The meeting noted that Mendip District Council had offered to monitor air quality through Gurney Slade. A residential facade close to the road would be required for the monitor and the chair requested members forward suggestions.</p>	
13	<p>Projects</p> <p>1. Gurney Slade A37 <i>Pedestrian safety</i> The meeting noted that the owner of field with the broken wall had undertaken to examine the wall and consider what action to take.</p> <p>The meeting additionally considered options for further physical protection for pedestrians and the chair undertook to speak to the highways officer. Concerns were raised about the new road markings and, after discussion, it was agreed to seek the results of safety advisory committee.</p> <p><i>Traffic speed and volume information</i> The meeting considered options for traffic speed. It was agreed to pursue a police safety camera and the chair undertook to write to the Police and Crime Commissioner.</p>	



	<p>The meeting considered the purchase and installation of a speed indicator device and agreed to seek advice from Highways and consider costs and details at the October meeting.</p> <p>2. Binegar Bottom John informed the meeting that work on the North side would commence when the growing season ends.</p> <p>3. Drainage ditch by Gurney Slade Stores The meeting acknowledged the work carried out to clear the ditch and discussed how to keep the area free of brambles. Philip stated that a permit could be obtained to use a herbicide despite being close to watercourses. It was agreed to pursue this.</p> <p>The meeting noted and discussed a number of sources of surface water and after discussion agreed to seek advice from the highways officer.</p> <p>The chair reported Ashwick Parish Council's offer to help and undertook to follow this up.</p> <p>4. Daffodils on verges The meeting discussed and agreed to purchase 500 daffodil bulbs for planting on the verge of the southbound village entrance. The chair undertook to purchase the bulbs and arrange for planting. The meeting agreed this could be the start of wider activity in the villages.</p> <p>5. Holy Trinity Churchyard The meeting noted receipt of one tender for £1,100+VAT to prune the yew and RESOLVED accept the tender. It also note issue of invitations to tender for the churchyard pier capstones.</p>	
14	<p>Village clean up The meeting noted that the Autumn weekend clean-up on 13 and 14 October and agreed the Spring clean-up should coincide with the National Day date or the first weekend in March.</p>	
15	<p>Remembrance Day lunch The meeting considered and agreed to host a Remembrance Day lunch on Sunday 11 November.</p>	
16	<p>AED HeartSafe training The meeting considered and agreed a training session should be arranged and include business owners and residents.</p>	
17	<p>Events attended There were no events attended.</p>	
18	<p>Highways and rights of way Philip complained of overgrown hedges in the village. The clerk suggested a reminder to cut back hedges be included in the Parish Councils news.</p>	
19	<p>Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting would take place on 2 October 2018 in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>Future meetings 2018-19: 6 November, 4 December, 5 February, 5 March.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.25pm



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2018 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford (19.35), Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts, John Scadding and David Stone.

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

1	Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.	
2	Chair's Announcements There were no announcements.	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes of the 4 September 2018 meeting as a correct record.	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. Planning application 2018/1837 – Glebe Acres, Station Road, BA3 4UG The meeting noted grant of a certificate of lawfulness for this barn conversion.</p> <p>2. Planning appeal 2017/1797/FUL – 5 Dalleston, BA3 4UA The meeting noted dismissal of the appeal against refusal of permission to build a dwelling.</p> <p>3. Cemetery water supply The meeting noted that John had installed a water butt to the shed at the rear of the church. Since this brought a supply of water for cemetery users considerably closer, Councillors agreed it fulfilled the public request for better access to water for memorial plants.</p> <p>4. Air quality in Gurney Slade The meeting discussed potential locations for a monitoring station. The Chair undertook to relay these to Mendip's Environmental Protection Officer.</p>	RH
6	Local government reports The meeting noted that Cllrs John and Rachel Carter sent apologies for being unable to attend.	
7	<p>Planning applications and issues</p> <p>1. 2018/2245/PAA – Highcroft Lane - prior approval for barn conversion. The meeting noted the application and that it hinged on technical issues.</p> <p>2. 2018/2277/HSE - Southview Farm BA3 4UG – single storey extensions. The meeting agreed to support the decision of the Planning Officer.</p> <p>3. Enforcement notice - to cut back beech tree in Holy Trinity churchyard. The meeting noted the Council's response to Highways that the trees had been cut back to allow passage of double decker buses. Councillors noted the Assistant Area Highways Manager's request to <i>First Bus</i> to close the matter for this year.</p>	RH



8	<p>Financial Matters</p> <p>1. Financial position The meeting received and noted a report on the financial position to date.</p> <p>2. Receipts since the last report £200.00 – Emery – for the Selby family £74.71 – Western Power – wayleave £490.00 – Trotman – for the Mears family £50.00 – Pritchard Jones – for the Selby family</p> <p>3. Standing order payments since the last report £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – September salary £656.22 – Primrose Garden Maintenance – grass cutting payment 6/7</p> <p>4. Cheque payments authorised £175.00 – Primrose Garden Maintenance – bramble clearance £360.00 – PKF Littlejohn – external audit fee</p>	
9	<p>2017-18 Annual Governance and Accountability Return The meeting received the external auditor's report and certificate. It stated that the Council's accounts complied with <i>Proper Practices</i> and relevant laws and regulations. It drew no matters to the Council's attention.</p>	
10	<p>Playground The meeting received and noted the monthly report.</p>	
11	<p>Grass cutting The meeting considered a specification for grass cutting. Councillors asked the Clerk to add clearance of brambles along the playground Hall and rear boundaries. Members noted ingress of vegetation, including brambles, on the third side, adjacent to <i>The Galleons</i>. David undertook to seek permission to access the garden of <i>The Galleons</i> and the meeting asked the Clerk to obtain a price to cut back the vegetation.</p>	DS DA
12	<p>Projects</p> <p>1. Gurney Slade A37 Pedestrian safety and traffic speed and volume information Phil reported contact with the Leader of Somerset County Council regarding pedestrian safety and traffic speed. Having received no response, he undertook to pursue the matter further with County Councillor Pullin.</p> <p>Static and mobile speed cameras The Chair reported that District Councils had authority to erect static speed cameras like those in Temple Cloud and Pensford. He stated that the role of the police was only to issue penalty notices. The meeting asked the Chair to pursue the option of a static camera with ward councillors.</p> <p>The meeting noted that the police still deployed a motorbike speed camera at a location 100m north of <i>The George</i>. The police ceased use of a speed camera van when the (last) <i>George</i> landlord refused it permission to park. Phil undertook to discuss options with the Police.</p> <p>Vehicle activated speed indicator devices (SID) The meeting considered options for SIDs. After discussion, members agreed to defer the matter until completion of the exploration of static and mobile speed camera options and the cost of radar traffic monitoring.</p>	PR RH PR



	<p>2. Binegar Bottom John updated the meeting on flood prevention works. He noted various outstanding works and undertook to arrange for the lowering of the drainage pipe to allow surface water to escape from a low level. In addition, John undertook to arrange payment of the <i>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group's</i> grant.</p> <p>3. Drainage ditch by Gurney Slade Stores and flood prevention The meeting noted a site visit with Ashwick Parish councillors: 5.00 pm on Thursday October 25. The Clerk invited members to attend the meeting.</p> <p>4. Daffodils on verges The Chair reported receipt of 250 daffodil bulbs. Phil undertook to arrange planting of the bulbs at the northern entrance to Gurney Slade.</p> <p>5. Holy Trinity Churchyard Yew tree pruning The meeting noted a site meeting with the contractor: 9:30 am on Wednesday October 3 and a provisional date to start work on October 22.</p> <p>Conifer felling The meeting noted preparation of a tender specification that retained, at the Parochial Church Council's request, 450-500 mm of tree stump as a seat. The meeting discussed the risk of future fungal growth but concluded no felling option removed the risk. The Chair reported that Rev. Priestley requested 1000 mm of stump be retained for use as a seat back rest. The Chair stated he had asked the PCC to reconsider this request and note the future risk of fungal growth. At that stage, the Council could issue invitations to tender.</p> <p>Churchyard gate pier cap replacement The meeting noted receipt of two tenders. There was discussion on price and affordability. Councillors questioned whether to abandon or defer the work. A vote produced a tied result. The Chair used his casting vote and the meeting RESOLVED to proceed with the lowest tender.</p> <p>6. Projects without parish funds Footpath at Binegar Bottom The meeting noted sending of a letter to the landowner with a response awaited.</p> <p>Playground fence to road The meeting noted that the Clerk had obtained a grant towards this project. Following discussion, the Clerk undertook to obtain a price for installation of a 'playtime' fence and consider funding options.</p>	<p>JS JS</p> <p>All</p> <p>PR</p> <p>DA</p>
13	<p>Village clean up Phil informed the meeting that arrangements were in hand.</p>	
14	<p>Remembrance Day lunch Phil informed the meeting that the event had been publicised in the Parish Magazine. He requested that the Council make a donation towards to the charities targeted by the event. Members undertook to consider local aspects of <i>Help the Heroes</i> and the <i>Royal British Legion</i>.</p>	All
15	<p>Cardiopulmonary resuscitation and defibrillator use and health connectors Jon and Cath undertook to investigate training opportunities for each of these subjects. They undertook to consider how to arrange training.</p>	JA/ CL



16	Parish News The meeting considered a request for sponsorship of the Parish magazine and RESOLVED to make an annual payment of £350.00.	
17	Events attended There were no events attended.	
18	Highways and rights of way Phil informed the meeting that he had spoken to Ashwick Parish Council regarding the condition of the path up to Kingscombe.	
19	Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting would take place on 6 November 2018 in the Memorial Hall. Future meetings 2018-19: 4 December, 5 February, 5 March.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 November 2018 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Cllr John Carter, Harry Crowley, Mike Morgan and Paul Sharp.

1	<p>Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.</p>	
2	<p>Chair's Announcements The Chair welcomed residents. He undertook to take item 11 after item 4 and proposed to exclude members of the public for item 17.</p> <p>He informed the meeting that the nameplates were nearly complete and thanked Somerset Highways. Phil thanked the Chair for all the work he had put into the project.</p> <p>On behalf of the Parish Council, the Chair thanked Paul Sharp for his help to John on the Binegar Bottom flood prevention work and Colin Maidment for his help to Phil planting daffodil bulbs.</p> <p>The Chair reported that he had joined District Councillor John Carter to meet PCSO Rob Nell, who was keen to work with the Parish Council and locally.</p> <p>The Chair stated that Debbie and Steve Rawlings proposed to invite people to decorate the tree on Neville's Batch for Christmas. The meeting considered this a good idea.</p> <p>The Chair referred to correspondence from the Citizen's Advice Bureau requesting funding in light of Somerset County financial cuts. He undertook to assess the overall likely financial impact of County cutbacks for discussion at the December meeting. The Clerk undertook to circulate the correspondence.</p>	
3	<p>Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes It was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes of the 2 October 2018 meeting as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2018/2245/PAA – Highcroft Lane - prior approval for barn conversion The meeting noted that a certificate of lawful development had been refused. 2. 2018/2277/HSE - Southview Farm BA3 4UG – single storey extensions The meeting noted that a decision was awaited. 3. Enforcement notice - to cut back beech tree in Holy Trinity churchyard The meeting noted no further correspondence and agreed to remove this from the agenda. 4. Footpath at Binegar Bottom The meeting noted no response from the owner and that David undertook to pursue this. 5. Air quality in Gurney Slade The Chair reported that air quality monitoring would commence in December. 6. Grass cutting contract The meeting considered and RESOLVED to approve the quotation received from J & K Primrose Garden Maintenance for £3,955+VAT. 	DS



	<p>7. Village clean up Phil reported that the Autumn clean-up had been successful. It was agreed that to undertake a Spring 2019 clean-up.</p> <p>8. CPR/AED and Community Connector training Cath undertook to obtain a price for CPR/AED training and it was agreed to hold training events for this, Community Connections and Dementia Awareness in Spring 2019.</p>	CL
6	<p>Local government reports John Carter reported plans to improve the Mendip <i>Parish Forum</i> to encourage attendance.</p>	
7	<p>Planning applications and issues</p> <p>1. 2018/2376/CLE – Application to allow continuous occupation at Old Down Caravan Site Following consideration, the meeting RESOLVED to recommend refusal.</p> <p>2. 2018/2417/FUL – Demolition of detached garage and erection of 2 bed bungalow Following consideration, the meeting RESOLVED to recommend approval with a proviso that Mendip District Council assesses the potential flood risk created by this development.</p>	
8	<p>1. Financial position The meeting received and noted a report on the financial position to date.</p> <p>2. To consider a budget for 2019-20 The meeting considered a draft budget for 2019-20. After discussion, it was agreed to adjust it to include a number of projects.</p> <p>3. Receipts since last the report The meeting noted the following receipts: £906.50 – P Coombs land rent £230.00 – Maggs for the Foxwell family £230.00 – Maggs for the Foxwell family</p> <p>4. Standing order payments since the last report The meeting noted the following standing order payments: £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – October salary £656.22 – Primrose Garden Maintenance – grass cutting payment 7/7</p> <p>5. Approval of cheque payments The meeting approved the following cheque payments £175.00 – J Scadding – expenses - cemetery £4,764.00 – RM Penny – Flood works Binegar Bottom £350.00 – Annual sponsorship Parish Magazine £1,320.00 – Cemetery yew tree pruning £100.00 – Donation to Royal British Legion</p>	
9	<p>Parish Council elections The Clerk informed the meeting of planned arrangements for the May 2019 elections. The meeting noted key dates.</p>	
10	<p>Gritting and salting roads The meeting noted Somerset's reduction in precautionary gritting did not have local impact. It considered the supply of rock salt for which payment was now required. It was agreed there was a sufficient local supply and Jon undertook to fill the bin at Neville's Batch.</p>	JA



11	<p>Lorry and speed restriction signs</p> <p>The meeting heard residents' complaints about the installation of lorry restriction signs on Bennett's Lane. The meeting also discussed requests to relocate the 30mph signs on Bennett's and Turners Court Lane so they included Portway House and Lea Farm. It was agreed to enquire why the lorry signs had been erected and raise the speed sign issues with Highways.</p>	RH
12	<p>Playground</p> <p>The meeting received and noted the monthly report. Jon stated he had been unable to make a single toddler swing unit from spares and the meeting agreed to purchase a new unit.</p> <p>In light of his commitments, it was agreed to relieve Philip of inspection duties in winter.</p> <p>The Clerk reported a meeting with Jackson's Fencing where she requested a quotation for a Jackson's playground fence.</p>	JA DA DA
13	<p>Projects</p> <p>1. Gurney Slade A37</p> <p>Pedestrian safety and traffic speed and volume information</p> <p>The meeting noted that radar traffic monitoring was available at a cost of £145 per week.</p> <p>It was noted that neither the police nor the highway authority now installed speed cameras. The Chair reported that Somerset had produced a road safety strategy, which included possible new installations for speed cameras at dangerous points or ones where there was local pressure.</p> <p>The Chair undertook to review the overall position for consideration at the December meeting.</p> <p>2. Binegar Bottom</p> <p>John suggested placing boulders along the south verge to prevent vehicle access. The meeting accepted this advice and John undertook to pursue the matter.</p> <p>3. Drainage ditch by Gurney Slade Stores and flood prevention</p> <p>The Chair informed the meeting that he and David had met with Ashwick's Chair and councillors to discuss options for the ditch. It had been agreed to consider dredging the watercourses, removing stones and shaping the banks to take weed suppressing membrane. The Chair stated that he had drafted a specification for this work and that David Barlow was to discuss the proposal with J&K Primrose. The meeting agreed to review the matter following feedback from Ashwick Parish Council.</p> <p>4. Daffodils on verges</p> <p>Phil informed the meeting that 250 bulbs was about the right number for the area planted. He recommended planting more areas in future seasons.</p> <p>5. Holy Trinity Churchyard</p> <p>Yew tree pruning</p> <p>The meeting noted that the latest phase of pruning was complete.</p> <p>Conifer felling</p> <p>David stated that the PCC had agreed the Parish Council's conditions and would confirm this in writing.</p> <p>Churchyard gate pier cap replacement</p> <p>The meeting noted that this work had been ordered.</p>	RH JS RH



14	Remembrance Day lunch The Clerk and Phil gave an update stating that food donations had been received and tickets were selling well.	
15	Remembrance Poppies The meeting RESOLVED to donate £100 to the Royal British Legion.	
16	Somerset libraries: recommendation for change The meeting noted that a decision on the location of Shepton Mallet library had been deferred but it had been agreed to retain a library in the town.	
17	Correspondence The meeting RESOLVED that, in accordance with Section 100a (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded during the discussion of the matters referred to in the items listed below, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information, as defined in the respective paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12a of the Act, and the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information. Reason for exclusion – Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.	
18	Events attended Jon stated that he, the Clerk and Richard had attended the Mendip Parish Forum on 18 October. The Clerk undertook to circulate notes from the evening.	DA
19	Highways and rights of way Phil requested Clarke's Pool locate a litterbin. The clerk undertook to include the cost for consideration on the 2019-20 budget.	DA
20	Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting would take place on 4 December 2018 in the Memorial Hall. Future meetings 2018-19: 5 February, 5 March.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.05pm



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 December 2018 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Cllr John Carter, Michael Hall and Paul Sharp.

1	Apologies for absence The meeting RESOLVED to accept an apology for absence from Cath Law.	
2	Chair's Announcements The Chair welcomed Michael Hall, Paul Sharp and John Carter to the meeting.	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes of the 6 November 2018 meeting as a correct record.	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1. 2018/2277/HSE - Southview Farm, Station Road – proposed extensions The meeting noted approval of the application</p> <p>2. 2018/2376/CLE – Application for continuous occupation at Old Down Caravan Site The meeting noted that a decision was awaited</p> <p>3. 2018/2417/FUL – Demolition of detached garage and erection of two-bed bungalow The meeting noted approval of the application</p> <p>4. Footpath at Binegar Bottom David informed the meeting he had received no further updates from the owners. The Chair undertook to write to make a further enquiry.</p> <p>5. Winter gritting and salting of roads The meeting noted that Jon had replenished the grit bin on Neville's Batch.</p> <p>6. Speed restriction signs on lanes The meeting noted that the Chair awaited responses from consulted residents prior to contacting Highways.</p> <p>7. Remembrance Day Centenary Lunch Phil reported that the lunch had been a huge success with much positive feedback.</p> <p>He anticipated a profit of some £500 for sharing between the <i>Royal British Legion</i> and <i>Help for Heroes</i>.</p>	RH
6	Local government reports The meeting welcomed Cllr John Carter who reported on the District Councils positive financial situation.	
7	Planning applications and issues 18/00034/ENF – The Portway, Turner's Court Lane, BA3 4UA The meeting noted an appeal lodged against an enforcement notice	



	<p>2018/2835/HSE - 4 Dalleston BA3 4UA - side and rear extensions Following discussion, the meeting agreed to recommend approval of the application. It agreed to comment on car parking and the planning authority's policy on rooflines.</p>	
8	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1. Financial position The meeting received and noted a report on the financial position to date. The Clerk drew attention to the income and expenses of the charitable Remembrance Day lunch and the meeting delegated to the Clerk authority to arrange payments to the nominated charities.</p> <p>2. Somerset's budget cuts and a funding request from the <i>Citizen's Advice Bureau</i> The Chair stated that, having reviewed the position, the only assistance the Council might offer was to the <i>Citizen's Advice Bureau</i>, which asked for £1,000. After discussion, David proposed, Philip seconded and the meeting RESOLVED to donate £150.</p> <p>3. Budget for 2019-20 The meeting received and considered a budget proposal, which showed Council expenditure of some £20,000 to meet its obligations against an income of some £11,500, leaving a shortfall of some £9,000. Following discussion, Jon proposed, John seconded and the meeting RESOLVED to approve the budget and set the precept at £9,000.</p> <p>4. Receipts since last the report The meeting noted: £4,070.00 – Somerset Rivers Authority – grant for Binegar Bottom flood prevention works £710.00 – Income from Remembrance Day lunch</p> <p>5. Standing order payments since the last report The meeting noted: £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – salary November</p> <p>6. Cheque payments The meeting approved: £147.53 – D Abbott - out of pocket expenses Remembrance Day lunch and stamps £2,683.20 – Wells Cathedral Stonemasons – churchyard gate pier caps</p>	DA
9	<p>Playground The meeting received and noted the monthly report.</p>	
10	<p>Projects Gurney Slade A37 The meeting heard concerns regarding road safety from Michael Hall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A marked increase in vehicles overtaking since the installation of the pedestrian crossing• Speeding of empty, returning quarry lorries• Overgrown vegetation adjacent to Broadhurst and Lambras causing obstruction <p>On lorries, the meeting noted that Morris & Perry asked for registration numbers in order to discipline drivers. On vegetation, Phil undertook to ask if the quarry owned the land in question.</p> <p>The Chair stated that Somerset County Council had a new road safety strategy based on "safe system" techniques. The meeting agreed that its future approaches for A37 improvements be based on "safe systems". Jon, John and Phil undertook to examine Somerset's strategy, meet and plan safety and other improvements to present to the February 2019 meeting.</p>	PR JA



	<p>Drainage ditch by Gurney Slade Stores and flood prevention The meeting noted that the Chair had liaised with Ashwick's Chairman to establish the best option to improve and maintain to the ditch. The current proposal included dredging the watercourses and sculpting the banks to accept weed suppressing membrane. Philip suggested removing the banks might also remove most perennial weed roots and offer a better option. In light of the parish boundary (along the centre of the flow from Binegar Bottom), Councillors considered 25% represented a fair contribution from Binegar to any joint project.</p> <p>Holy Trinity Churchyard Conifer felling The meeting agreed to invite tenders in the New Year. Churchyard gate pier caps The meeting noted completion of the work.</p>	RH
11	<p>Great British Spring Clean The meeting noted the <i>Keep Britain Tidy</i> 2019 plan and agreed Saturday 13 and Sunday 14 April for the <i>Village Spring Clean</i>.</p>	
12	<p>Traveller site on Highcroft Lane The meeting noted that the landowner had granted permission for the temporary occupation of the land.</p>	
13	<p>Parish Path Consultation The meeting considered the <i>County Rights of Way Team's</i> review of path categories and clearance schedule. The Chair thanked Gus Halfhide for preparing a response, which was agreed. Paul Sharp drew attention to paths SM3/1 and SM3/3 that terminate at the A37 close to the viaduct south of Old Down. He pointed out that these paths were inaccessible because of the dangers of the A37 and were clearly unused. The Chair undertook to seek the County's advice.</p>	RH
14	<p>Events attended There were no reports of events attended.</p>	
15	<p>Highways and rights of way Philip drew attention to the A37 viaduct and its blocked drains. He stated that he had made several reports, none of which resulted in action. The Chair undertook to pursue the matter.</p>	RH
16	<p>Dates for the next and future meetings To note the next meeting would take place on 5 February 2019 in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2019 meetings 5 March, 2 April, 7 May, 4 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.35pm



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2019 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

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

The Council welcomed Police Community Support Officer Rob Nell who outlined his activities and reported on recent incidents in Gurney Slade and Binegar.

1	Apologies for absence The meeting RESOLVED to accept an apology for absence from David Stone.	
2	Chair's Announcements There were no announcements.	
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes of the 4 December 2018 meeting as a correct record.	
5	Matters arising from the Minutes <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2018/2376/CLE – Old Down Caravan site – Application to allow continuous occupation The meeting awaited a decision. 2. 2018/2835/HSE – 4 Dalleston BA3 4UA - side and rear extensions The meeting noted that Mendip had approved this application. 3. 18/0034/ENF – The Portway, BA3 4UA – Appeal against enforcement order The meeting noted that this appeal awaited a decision on 2019/0035/OTA. 4. Footpath at Binegar Bottom The Chair reported he had not received replies to his two letters to the owner of the land. Without that support and with regret, the meeting agreed to take no further action. 5. Speed restriction signs on lanes After discussion, the meeting agreed to request relocation of the 30 mph speed limit signs on Turner's Court Lane and Bennett's Lane to a point beyond the last houses. 	RH
6	Local government reports Cllr John Carter reminded the meeting that the <i>Mendip Parish Forum</i> was on 28 February. He stated that the <i>SHAPE</i> lottery had raised a substantial sum and grants were now available. Finally, he reported the appointment a new Group Manager (Planning and Growth Services).	
7	Planning applications and issues <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2018/2950/HSE – The Old Post Office, BA3 4TY – Second and ground floor extensions The meeting noted that Mendip had granted permission. 	



	<p>2. 2018/3078/FUL – The Batch, Highcroft Lane BA3 4PT – Erection of house The meeting confirmed its support for the decision of the planning officer.</p> <p>3. 2019/0035/OTA – Outline planning permission to erect an agricultural workers dwelling. The meeting agreed to support the decision of the planning officer.</p> <p>4. 2019/0161/PAA – The Batch, Highcroft Lane, BA3 4PT – Barn conversion The meeting noted that the crux of this application for a certificate of lawful development was a technical issue. It agreed to make no comment.</p> <p>5. 2019/0111/LBC – Marchants Hill House, Portway Lane, BA3 4TZ – Listed building changes The meeting noted that the application had addressed conservation issues and agreed to recommend approval.</p>	RH RH
8	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1. Financial position The meeting received and noted the financial position to date. The Clerk reported that one tenant's Michaelmas land rent was outstanding and that she was dealing with this matter.</p> <p>2. Precept 2019-20 The meeting noted Mendip's confirmation of precept for 2019-20</p> <p>3. Annual internal controls risk assessment Cath volunteered to undertake this duty.</p> <p>4. Receipts since last the report The meeting noted the following receipts: £55.54 – Interest capitalisation – NS&I Investment account £330.00 – JE & MC Emery – In respect of Mr J & Mrs S Morris</p> <p>5. Standing order payments since the last report The meeting noted the following standing order payments: £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – December and January salary payments £-656.22 – J & K Primrose – TSB failure to make final standing order payment</p> <p>6. Approval of cheque payments The meeting approved the following cheque payments £656.22 – J & K Primrose – Final garden maintenance payment for 2018-19 £150.00 – Donation – Citizens Advice Mendip £281.23 – Donation – Help for Heroes – (Remembrance lunch) £281.24 – Donation – Royal British Legion – (Remembrance Lunch) £175.00 – Room hire – Binegar Memorial Hall £76.00 – D Abbott – SLCC membership subscription £60.00 – D Abbott – Office & lap top rental – 6 months</p>	CL
9	<p>Playground The meeting received and noted the monthly report.</p> <p>The Clerk updated councillors on the replacement of the roadside fence. She reported that <i>Jackson's Fencing</i> had reduced its tender price significantly to below £7,000 and that a local donor had offered to match council funds. She noted that the Council had received an undertaking from a charitable trust of £1,000 and Councillors agreed to put £2,500 towards the fence. In light of this, the meeting agreed that the Clerk should proceed with the project.</p>	DA



10	<p>Projects</p> <p>1. Gurney Slade A37 Phil informed the meeting that he would make a request to the quarry for further trimming of vegetation on the A37 beside Broadhurst.</p> <p>The meeting considered Jon and Phil's precis of Somerset's <i>Road Safety Strategy</i> in relation to A37 safety improvements. It implied that further data collection and analysis was required to ascertain risk. The Chair noted that <i>Highways</i> had undertaken to install a radar traffic monitor, which would supply data to interpret. Once done, he undertook to arrange a meeting with <i>Highways</i> to discuss road safety and the issue of speed limits on village lanes.</p> <p>2. Drainage ditch by Gurney Slade Stores Councillors considered options for improving the condition and view of the ditch and its streams. The meeting considered that the best alternative was regular cutting back of the vegetation to weaken weeds and encourage grass growth. This option allowed the parish councils to consider the state of the ditch over the seasons and come to a view on a possible, more permanent solution to weed congestion. The Chair undertook to relay this view to Ashwick Parish Council.</p> <p>3. Holy Trinity Churchyard The Clerk advised that she expected tenders to fell the conifer.</p> <p>4. Binegar Bottom John and Paul drew attention to continued abuse of the land by 4x4s and a local farmer. They recommended enclosing the south side and reported an offer of rocks to do this. Councillors agreed to visit and consider how to safeguard the land.</p>	PR RH RH DA All
11	<p>Membership of outside organisations Following consideration, the meeting RESOLVED to continue subscriptions to <i>The Community Council for Somerset</i> and <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i>.</p>	DA
12	<p>June 2019 meeting The meeting agreed to hold the June Parish Council on Tuesday 11 June 2019.</p>	All
13	<p>Events attended There were no reports of events attended.</p>	
14	<p>Highways and rights of way The following were reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Potholes on Portway Lane• Condition of Binegar Bottom tarmac	PB DA
15	<p>Staff appraisal Councillors approved arrangements for the Clerk's annual performance appraisal.</p>	RH
16	<p>Dates for the next and 2019 meetings 5 March then 2 April, 7 May, 11 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.20pm



BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2019 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

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

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

1	Apologies for absence There were no apologies for absence.	
2	<p>Chair's Announcements</p> <p>1. Police report The Chair relayed PCSO Nell's report for February. The meeting agreed to circulate future reports to parish councillors.</p> <p>2. May meeting date In light of local elections, councillors agreed to move the May meeting date to Tuesday 14 May.</p> <p>3. Completion of village name plates The Chair informed the meeting that outstanding electrical work was scheduled for 15 March.</p> <p>4. Fingerposts The Chair stated he was seeking a cost to refurbish the finger post on the B3135 at the junction with Whitnell Lane. He stated that it had not proved possible locally to fit a new finger post and that professional attention was required.</p> <p>5. A37 radar monitoring The Chair reported he had received traffic volume and speed data from the recent monitoring.</p>	DA All
3	Declarations of interest There were no declarations of interest.	
4	Minutes It was RESOLVED to sign the Minutes of the 5 February 2019 meeting as a correct record.	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2018/2376 – Old Down Caravan site – Application to allow continuous occupation Determination pending 2. 18/0034 – The Portway, BA3 4UA – Appeal against enforcement order Appeal pending outcome of 2019/0035 3. 2018/3078 – The Batch, Highcroft Lane BA3 4PT – Erection of house Application refused 4. 2019/0035 – Outline planning permission to erect an agricultural workers dwelling. Determination pending 5. 2019/0111 – Marchants Hill House, Portway Lane, BA3 4TZ – Listed building changes Determination pending 6. 2019/0161 – The Batch, Highcroft Lane BA3 4PT – Barn conversion application Determination pending 	
6	Local government reports Cllr John Carter stated that there was no matter of note to report.	



7	Planning applications and issues There were no applications to consider.	
8	Financial matters 1. Financial position The meeting noted the financial position to date. 2. Receipts since last the report The meeting noted the following receipts: £1,000 – Selway – Land rent £1,000 – The Sperring Charity – Playground fence 3. Standing order payments since the last report The meeting noted the following standing order payments: £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – February salary payment 4. Approval of cheque payments The meeting approved the following cheque payments £ 247.62 – R Higgins expenses £13.92 – D Abbott – 24 x 2 nd class stamps	
9	2018-19 financial year-end arrangements Cath reported that she had undertaken the annual risk assessment of internal controls and that she had identified no risks. Accordingly, it was RESOLVED that the Chair and Clerk might sign the Statement of Internal Control for 2018-19.	DA
10	2019-20 financial year plan The Clerk presented an asset register for 2019-20. Following consideration, the meeting RESOLVED to approve the asset register	
11	Leased land and wayleaves The meeting noted that the Clerk had prepared bills for land rent and wayleaves.	DA
12	Annual meeting with parishioners – May 2019 The meeting agreed to hold the annual parish meeting on Thursday 16 May from 18:00 to 19:30. Councillors agreed the format of an exhibition, engagement with parishioners and refreshments.	DA
13	Playground The meeting received and noted the monthly report. Jon reported concerns about ash die back and asked playground inspectors to be vigilant of any change to the large ash tree in the playground. The Clerk informed the meeting that, following successful funding raising, she had placed an order for the replacement fence to Binegar Lane.	All
14	Projects 1. Gurney Slade A37 The Chair reported receipt of traffic monitoring data from 31 January to 11 February. He undertook to analyse the data and compare it with data from May 2108. The meeting could then consider the issue at the April meeting.	RH



	<p>2. Drainage ditch by Gurney Slade Stores The Chair informed the meeting that Ashwick Parish Council was to consider this matter at its March meeting. The meeting discussed options and suggested shared maintenance with Ashwick funding a programme of weed control in the interior ditch and Binegar funding a planting and maintenance scheme for the roadside verge.</p> <p>3. Holy Trinity Churchyard The Clerk stated that felling the churchyard conifer was scheduled for Friday 8 March.</p> <p>4. Binegar Bottom conservation John tabled a report on Binegar Bottom with proposals for protecting the southern area from vehicular intrusion and starting to develop the northern area. David undertook to engage once again with the owners of the railway line and attempt to secure agreement for the creation of a public footpath.</p>	DS
15	<p>Death of a member of the Royal family or a similar national figure</p> <p>The Chair reported that Mendip District Council had shared its protocol for the event of the death of a senior national figure. It had invited each parish to consider if there were arrangements for it to make. The meeting considered the possibility of opening a book of condolence and creating a place for floral tributes. After discussion, the meeting agreed to advise parishioners of the arrangements available in Wells or Shepton Mallet.</p> <p>The meeting also agreed to draw the matter to the attention of the parochial church council.</p>	DA
16	<p>Events attended</p> <p>The meeting heard reports from Diane, Richard and Jon on the <i>Mendip Parish Forum</i> of 28 February.</p>	
17	<p>Highways and rights of way The following were reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broken road sign and pot holes on Tellis Lane (already reported)• Broken sign on Roemead Lane• Damaged reflectors on Station Road	
18	<p>Staff appraisal</p> <p>Councillors noted the Clerk's annual performance appraisal and the recommendations arising from it. The meeting RESOLVED to approve the resulting changes to the Clerk's terms and conditions of service.</p>	
19	<p>Dates for the next and 2019 meetings To note the next meetings were 2 April then 14 May, 16 May (annual meeting with parishioners), 11 June, 2 July, 3 September, 1 October, 5 November, 3 December.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.12pm