

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 4 February 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present:

Gus Halfhide (Chair), Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins, Cath Law, Jude Robbins, David Stone

In attendance: Councillor Rachel Carter and, for item 8.1, Mr Andy Stewart (B&J Haulage), Mrs Molly and Mr Grenville Reakes, Mrs Laraine and Mr David Sheppard and Mr Steve Young

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| 1 | <p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept an apology from Roger Anderson.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Declarations of interests There were no disclosures of interest from Councillors.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Chair's announcements The Chair stated that the Highcroft Quarry planning application would be taken immediately after affirmation of the accuracy of the minutes and cover for the Clerk's duties. He stated that the recruitment of a new clerk would be considered at the end of the agenda.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Minutes of the previous meeting It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 7 January meeting be signed as a correct record.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Matters arising from the Minutes of December 2013 and January 2014</p> <p>1 Cover for the Clerk's duties (Min 5.1) The meeting agreed to continue the temporary arrangements for Clerk (Philip) and Responsible Financial Officer (Richard).</p> <p>2 Tree works (Min 5.2) David stated that start to works at the Cemetery had been deferred due to weather conditions. The Chair stated that two parishioners had written objecting to the plan to fell the conifers lining the Cemetery path. He noted that Philip had responded to them and that the Parish Council had resolved to fell the trees. To rescind that resolution required the written support of five Councillors. Four of the Councillors present voted to rescind the plan. This being short of the required number, the plan to fell the conifers stood. It was noted, however, that the Council's plan was conditional on the cost being under £500. David undertook to seek a cost.</p> <p>3 Council land at Emborough (Min 5.3) Philip stated that two quotations for fencing had been received, with one awaited. He considered that work could not start before trees along the road were cleared from overhead power lines. Gus stated the <i>Western Power Distribution</i> had indicated its intention to do this.</p> <p>4 Community defibrillator (AED) (Min 5.4) Cath reported that the donated defibrillator had been received. Since it was necessary to locate the AED outside the Hall, the Council delegated authority to Cath to purchase an appropriate cabinet, exchanging the internal-use cabinet supplied.</p> <p>Concerning arrangements for the handover on 15 March, Cath and Jude agreed to lead this, calling on other Councillors as required.</p> | <p>DS</p> <p>DS</p> <p>PB</p> <p>CL</p> <p>CL</p> |

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| | <p>5 Electrical supply to defibrillator and playing field (Min 5.5) Councillors agreed the location for the defibrillator and asked Philip to arrange for the electrical work to take place in time for the handover.</p> <p>6 Binegar Bottom (Min 5.6) Philip undertook to advise the Council when he proposed to start work in Binegar Bottom and to supply particulars of his insurance. He stated that weather conditions had prevented the re-erection of the byelaw sign and gate post replacement. He questioned the need to install squeeze stiles and proposed gaps were left in the fence for public access. David stated that stiles had been installed to prevent motor cycle access which had been a problem. Since this problem no longer applied, the Council agreed to Philip's proposal.</p> <p>7 Cemetery information for website (Min 5.7) A report from Gus on publishing burial documents on the website was received, considered and approved. Gus undertook to progress the work by preparing a burial policy.</p> <p>8 Highways (Min 5.8) 1 Requested works outstanding Clearance of drainage channel by Gurney Slade post office (from Oct 13) Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road sign (from Nov 13) 2 Completed works noted David reported that Chris Burr had dug a drainage ditch at the junction of Roemead Lane and Binegar Bottom and considered that the cost should be billed to the County which had agreed to undertake the work in July 2013 but had failed to act.</p> <p>9 Planning issues (Mins 8 (December) and 6 (January)) 1 Emborough Grove Richard stated that he had drafted a letter to the owner requesting reinstating public access. 2 2013/2289 Proposed conversion of Binegar School to a single dwelling The owner's agent's response to matters raised by the Council was noted and a decision awaited. 3 2013/2360 Proposed erection of single dwelling by Holy Trinity Church Gus read out the comments received by Mendip District Council. Philip stated that he had received a reply to the Council's letter to the Diocese and undertook to circulate it.</p> | <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> <p>GH</p> <p>PB PB</p> <p>RH</p> <p>PB</p> <p>PB</p> |
| 6 | <p>Local government reports Cllr Carter suggested that the parish might apply for <i>Health & Wellbeing</i> funds still available and consider whether to commemorate the centenary of World War I.</p> | |
| 7 | <p>Police report No report was received.</p> | |
| 8 | <p>Planning issues</p> <p>1 PL 2521 13(2014/0038/CNT): Highcroft Quarry - deposit of inert waste materials for ground remodelling and restoration to agriculture Philip reported that Somerset County Council had added Binegar to its list of consultees.</p> <p>Mr Andy Stewart, on behalf of the applicant, told the meeting that the plan was to import soils to reinstate the quarry base to agriculture. He indicated the soils – generally from building sites - would be clean and inert from about a 10-mile radius. He estimated 15,000 lorry loads and, depending on supply, 3-5 years to fill the base to 2.5-3m depth. This would mean an average of 20-30 loads daily on weekdays 0800-1630. On site earth moving machinery would operate 0730-1700.</p> | |

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| | Binegar Lane. David stated that water had ceased flowing down Binegar Bottom from Roemead Lane. | |
| 13 | Parish records: filing and retention Philip outlined a proposal to use <i>Dropbox</i> , an internet 'cloud' service, to store the Parish and Clerk's documents. Councillors would be given read-only access to shared files. The proposal was approved. | |
| 14 | Events attended There were no reports. | |
| 15 | Binegar Playing Fields Group The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 January were received and noted. Philip requested that Councillors undertaking playground safety checks return form to both Cath and the Playing Fields Group. | |
| 16 | Highways and rights of way David reported potholes on Tellis Lane and Binegar Bottom which Philip undertook to report. | PB |
| 17 | Correspondence No correspondence was reported. | |
| 18 | Items for the next or future agenda Internal audit review: July 2014 | |
| 19 | Confidential matters The Council RESOLVED that, in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it was advisable, in the public interest, that the public be temporarily excluded since information about an individual was likely to be disclosed. | |
| 11 | Employment of a Parish Clerk Gus stated that he had undertaken to chair the Council for three years and that time was almost up. He considered the relationship of Chair and Clerk was important and that, therefore, a new Chair should lead the recruitment process. He tendered his resignation which the Council reluctantly accepted. Philip assumed the Chair. The process of recruiting a Parish Clerk was considered. Gus stated this would entail preparing a job description, person specification and employment contract, advertising and interviewing. He reported that <i>South West Councils'</i> recommendation was that these tasks be delegated to and undertaken by a sub-group of Councillors. Concerning the employment contract, it was proposed, having reviewed the Council's previous contract, to substitute certain national terms and conditions with local ones, including, pay, holidays and sickness. Following discussion, this proposal was agreed. David proposed that Gus, Philip and Richard form the sub-group and this was agreed. | |
| 20 | Date and time of next meeting It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 4 March 2014 at 7 30 pm. | |

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 50 pm.