

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 June 2014 in the Memorial Hall at 7 30 pm

Present: Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, Phil Roberts, David Stone
 In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Councillor Rachel Carter, Mrs Karen Spence and Mr Keith Robbins

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies for absence from Roger Anderson and Gus Halfhide.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests There were no declarations of interest from Councillors.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements Richard and the Council warmly welcomed Diane to her first meeting. The Chair stated that he would take the agenda in the following order: items, 4, 5.1 then item 8.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 13 May Annual Meeting with Parishioners and Parish Council meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>1 Vacancy for a Councillor (Min 4) The Chair reported that there had been one application from Mr Phil Roberts who introduced himself to the Council. The meeting RESOLVED to co-opt Phil who signed a <i>Declaration of Acceptance of Office</i> and received copies of the Council's governance documents. Phil undertook to complete and return a <i>Declaration of Interests</i> form to the Clerk.</p> <p>2 Tree works at Holy Trinity graveyard and Binegar cemetery (Min 5.2) Members considered a report from Richard. Following discussion, the meeting agreed to proceed with restoring the four yews in the graveyard. Members noted the estimate was of a day's work at £500+VAT. David suggested removing dead wood and clearing drooping branches from the cemetery cypresses if there was spare time.</p> <p>There was a lengthy discussion about the cemetery cypresses: whether to leave them or lower their crowns and raise their canopies or fell them. The meeting agreed David's suggestion to consult the Parochial Church Council and parishioners (via the website) to gather opinion.</p> <p>3 Council land at Emborough (Min 5.3) Philip reported that the first treatment of the <i>Fallopia japonica</i> was scheduled for that week.</p> <p>4 Community defibrillator (AED) (Min 5.4) The Council agreed Cath's suggestion to defer training to the autumn to avoid holidays. Cath undertook to arrange this and to organise the volunteer <i>AED Guardians</i> to monitor the defibrillator.</p> <p>5 Binegar Bottom (Min 5.5) Philip reported he had been unable yet to replace the gatepost.</p>	<p>PR</p> <p>RH</p> <p>RH</p> <p>CL</p> <p>PB</p>

	<p>6 Highways: requested works outstanding (Min 5.7)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Binegar Bottom/Roemead Lane re-erection of road name sign (Nov 13) 2. Moving of low bridge warning signs to Binegar Bottom and Roemead Lane ends (Mar 14) 3. Surface water drains on Station Road and Binegar Lane (May 14) <p>7 Planning issues (Min 5.8)</p> <p>1 2014/0045 Turner's Court Lane travellers' pitch The meeting noted that this application had been due for determination on 12 May.</p> <p>2 2014/0492 Housing to rear of Flowerstone, Station Road The meeting noted that this application was due for determination on 1 July.</p> <p>8 Noise nuisance from Highcroft Quarry (Min 5.9) The meeting agreed that, after the noise of the March shooting competition, it should help contain further nuisance. For residents close by, this included scrambling and other events. The Chair stated that, under the <i>General Permitted Development Order 1995</i>, the owner could hold events on 28 days a year and that the enforcement authority was Somerset County Council. He reported a discussion with a resident close to the quarry who thought that putting advice on the parish council website and listing events held would help. The meeting agreed this.</p>	<p>PB PB PB</p> <p>RH</p>
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting welcomed Councillor Rachel Carter who reported that Laura Mackay, planning officer, had been grateful for all the local knowledge received in the responses to the application for housing at the rear of Flowerstone. She said it would be of great help in determining the application.</p> <p>Rachel also reported that Mendip would shortly be consulting on its Local Plan. Rachel departed.</p>	
7	<p>Police report As PCSO Housley was unable to attend, there was no report.</p>	
8	<p>Planning application 2014/0905: proposed new house, Tralee, Binegar Lane The Chair stated that a decision to approve or refuse a planning application lay with Mendip District Council but that the Parish Council was able to make a recommendation. He added that Mendip decided applications on planning law and that the Council took the same approach.</p> <p>Mr Robbins and Mrs Spence joined the discussion. Mrs Spence expressed concern about access and safety as Binegar Lane was narrow at that point. She was also anxious that the trees that screened the Memorial Hall and car park should be retained. The meeting noted that this was a matter for the Hall Management Committee.</p> <p>Following discussion, it was RESOLVED to recommend that the decision be left to the Planning Officer following consultation responses.</p>	<p>RH</p>
9	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>1 Annual Return The Council noted that the Audit Return was complete with notices posted inviting interested parishioners to view the Annual Return, annual accounts and other related documents until 20 June.</p> <p>2 On-line banking Members considered a report from the Responsible Financial Officer on whether to open its accounts to internet banking. It was noted that the majority of transactions would continue to</p>	

	Richard stated that parish councils now had the right to create Freemen and Freewomen. Following discussion, Richard undertook to research this further.	RH
13	<p>Access to students from Norton Radstock College to land at Emborough</p> <p>Philip requested this permission for students to be acquainted with <i>Fallopia japonica</i> and its treatment.</p> <p>Richard stated that the insurer's conditions were that (1) the Chair receives written confirmation from the College of the acceptance of public liability, (2) assurance that the necessary protocols and procedures for a visit would be carried out and (3) sight of the visit risk assessment. The meeting RESOLVED to authorise a visit provided the insurer's conditions were met in full and in advance of the visit.</p>	PB
14	<p>Events attended</p> <p>There were no reports.</p>	
15	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>Philip drew attention to deterioration in the bare wood of certain play apparatus. His enquiries had revealed a prohibition on using tanalised timber leaving wood protected only by brushing.</p> <p>Philip reported that the seesaw was to be installed in June and that the current seesaw had been given in lieu of payment to the person who had undertaken to remove it.</p> <p>Philip stated that the Group suggested installing a gate between the playing field and Hall land to avoid the fence being climbed. It was agreed to make a formal approach to the Hall.</p>	RH
16	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>Cath stated that her attention had been drawn dog fouling on the banks of Station Road and that the Mendip dog warden had offered no assistance. Cath agreed to research what action was available to the Council.</p>	CL
17	<p>Correspondence</p> <p>Philip reported closure of the White Posts roundabout on several nights from 9 June and distributed literature received.</p>	
18	<p>Items for the next or future agenda</p> <p>Archiving parish council records (July)</p> <p>Honouring local people (July)</p>	GH RH
19	<p>Date and time of next meeting</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 1 July 2014 at 7 30 pm.</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9 01 pm.