

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2015 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

Present: Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, Gus Halfhide, Richard Higgins (Chair) and Cath Law.

In attendance: Diane Abbott (Clerk), Guy Dury (PCSO), Nicola Housley (PCSO), Rachel Carter and Harvey Siggs (8.30pm).

1	<p>Apologies for absence It was RESOLVED to accept apologies from Phil Roberts and David Stone.</p>	
2	<p>Declarations of interests Jonathan declared an interest in item 12.</p>	
3	<p>Chair's announcements The Chair stated that he would take the agenda in the following order: Items 7, 5.3.1, 5.3.7, 6.</p>	
4	<p>Minutes of the previous meetings It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of the 3 February meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>5.1 Tree works and churchyard [May 13] In response to requests for ideas, the Chair reported that a parishioner suggested a pergola or arch over the cemetery path to draw the eye to the Church with a seat and small trees for light shade and small to medium trees along the road edge to break the starkness of open space.</p> <p>5.2 Highways: requested works outstanding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bennett's Lane potholes, damaged verges and mud accumulation [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287644) 2. Station Road damaged verge by Horse and Jockey [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287645) 3. Whitnell Lane drainage [Feb 15] Following discussion with Bryan Rich, Diane undertook to report the drainage concerns 4. Tellis Lane accumulated mud [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287646) 5. King's Lane potholes [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287647) 6. Flowerstone potholes [Feb 15] Diane advised that Highways had issued a task order (287648) <p>5.3 Planning issues</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 2015/0016/FUL – High Banks – 2 detached houses The meeting noted this application was pending consideration. Councillor Carter advised that the application was to go to the next Planning Board for consideration. She strongly advised that a representative address the meeting on the Council's concerns. 2. 2014/2676/TPO - Coombe End – Felling and coppicing The meeting noted that this application had been approved with conditions. 3. 2011/2124 - Turners Court Lane – Caravan consent The meeting noted that there had been no news of enforcement. <p>5.4 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] The Chair reported that news of a Faculty for the churchyard work was awaited, that one relative</p>	RH

	<p>had paid for repair work to a headstone and that a memorial mason would be carrying out the work and checking a further three headstones on behalf of a retiring undertaker.</p> <p>5.5 The Batch [Sept 14] Jon reported that The Batch was not registered with the Land Registry. He stated he now understood that a parishioner might own the land. Jon agreed to discuss with David Stone how an approach might be made. After further discussion, Jon undertook to research registering the land to the Parish Council.</p> <p>5.6 Projects for Sustaining Healthy Lives [Nov 14] Cath distributed certificates to attendees of the Basic Life Support and Automated External Defibrillation course. The meeting noted there had been no support for an adult outdoor gym.</p> <p>5.7 Emborough Pond [Nov 14] The Chair reported that Tessa Munt MP visited Emborough Pond on Sunday 15 February and had pursued matters with Mendip District Council. The meeting noted that Somerset County Council had issued an enforcement notice to remove barbed wire from the dam. With respect to the track, members noted that district councillors would press for its removal if officers were unable to obtain written evidence from Bristol Water that track removal would be an environmental hazard. Finally, Philip reported that the removal of the embankments at either end of the dam was contrary to the advice of the engineers report. He stated that the Emborough Parish Meeting had requested he report this matter to the Environmental Agency. It was agreed to await developments.</p> <p>5.8 Clarke's Pool [Dec 14] Jon reported that Mr Garnet Banwell advised he had not dredged Clarke's Pool but, on his suggestion, Jon undertook to contact another local contractor. Richard stated that he had discussed the matter with Mendip District Council, Somerset's Highways and flood management teams. The flooding engineer had listed the project for any potential funding and supplied details of civil engineers for desilting. It was agreed to obtain a quotation for the work.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>JA</p> <p>DA</p>
6	<p>Local government reports The meeting welcomed Councillor Rachel Carter and Councillor Harvey Siggs who joined in debates on various agenda points and gave reports on current issues.</p>	
7	<p>Police report Nikki Housley reported a number of incidents in February:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An attempted break in to a shed at Saffron House • Explosions at Highcroft Quarry on two different occasions • Fox hounds on the A37 	
8	<p>National and Local Elections 2015 The meeting received the timetable for district and parish council elections and considered the implications and actions required.</p> <p>It was noted that the new Parish Council would take office from Monday 11 May. As a result, it was agreed to a move the May meeting date in the week of 11 May.</p>	<p>DA</p>
9	<p>Ceremony to celebrate 950 years of Holy Trinity Church The Chair, on behalf of Phil, reported that the Parochial Church Council had sought agreement for the Bishop to plant a commemorative tree in the cemetery at the anniversary celebration on May 31 2015. There was discussion on the types of tree most suitable and how to avoid taking up space for cemetery plots. After discussion, it was agreed that Richard would consider the matter further with the Parochial Church Council and report back.</p>	<p>RH</p>

10	<p>Planning Applications</p> <p>2015/0088/HSE – Casa Mia, Binegar Lane, BA3 4TR The Council RESOLVED to support the Planning Officer’s decision following consultation responses. It was agreed to comment on the aesthetic acceptability of a pre-cast concrete structure in such a prominent location.</p>	RH
11	<p>Financial matters</p> <p>11.1 Financial control The meeting noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for the Parish Council’s three accounts. Gus commented that the playground account should include a separate line for replacement of apparatus. Diane undertook to include this.</p> <p>11.2 Receipts The meeting noted the following receipts since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. BT Open Reach wayleave: £105.84 2. Mr J T Cox (Mrs Attwood’s memorial repair): £160.00 3. Adams Memorials (Mr Matthews headstone): £90.00 4. National Savings and Investment account interest: £27.00 <p>11.3 Standing order payments The meeting noted the following payment since the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Diane Abbott – February salary: confidential <p>11.4 Cheque payments The meeting approved the following payments to be made:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Somerset Association of Local Councils – training: £125.00 2. Somerset Tree Surgery – tree stump grinding: £500.00 3. Diane Abbott – back pay: confidential 4. NS&I – transfer of funds from main account: £1,400.00 5. Occupational Training Solutions – basic life support training: £168.00 6. Soft Surfaces – seesaw safety surface: £2,556.00 7. Community Council for Somerset – subscription: £40.00 8. Big Wood Play Systems – see saw, swings and netball hoop: £1,810.00 <p>11.5 Rent and wayleave bills The meeting noted that rent and wayleave bills would be sent out in March.</p>	DA
12	<p>Parish Clerk / Responsible Financial Officer performance appraisal The Council RESOLVED to exclude the press and public from the meeting since discussion was likely to divulge information of a personal and confidential nature. The Council then received and approved the performance appraisal and remuneration report from the Chair.</p>	
13	<p>Insurance The meeting considered changes required to insurance cover for 2015-16. Various items were Identified and the Clerk was asked to check these were included on the asset register and insurance schedule.</p>	DA
14	<p>Binegar Memorial Hall Jon reported on behalf of the Memorial Hall Management Committee and:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Requested the Council to remove the Heras fencing from the car park. This was agreed and Jon undertook to pursue the matter. 2. Reported that the defibrillator’s electrical supply meter needed replacement. 	JA

	<p>The meeting considered this a guarantee issue and Jon undertook to investigate.</p> <p>3. Informed the meeting that the Hall Committee would raise a bill for the estimated electricity used by the defibrillator in light of the broken meter. Cath undertook to investigate typical power consumption.</p>	<p>JA</p> <p>CL</p>
15	<p>Binegar Cemetery</p> <p>Cath reported the concerns of a parishioner about waste disposal arrangements at the cemetery. After discussion, it was agreed to investigate the options available and Diane was asked to research arrangements at other small, local cemeteries.</p>	<p>DA</p>
16	<p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>The meeting received and noted the Minutes of the 17 February meeting.</p> <p>Philip reported that replacement seesaw, swings and netball hoop had been installed, the swings with new chains. For the swings, he noted that the frame timber was tanalised to <i>use class 4</i> – for ground installation - and carried a 15-year warranty. In answer to Gus, Philip stated that this warranty was via the apparatus supplier, <i>Big Wood Play</i>, whose own warranty was for one year. Gus expressed concern that this meant only a one-year warranty for the timber and suggested the issue be taken into consideration for future replacements.</p> <p>Philip reported that the large multiplay had continued to deteriorate but remained sturdy and therefore safe. He stated that he and Mark from Big Wood would be redesigning the item taking into consideration the current damp corner and invited help from members with the work.</p>	
17	<p>Events Attended</p> <p>There were no reports</p>	
18	<p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>The following reports were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repair and maintenance of finger signposts • Drainage of Whitnell Lane beyond Coldharbour Farm 	<p>DA</p> <p>DA</p>
19	<p>Correspondence received</p> <p>Gus reported correspondence on parish footpaths.</p> <p>Diane reported that Frank from Occupational Training Solutions had offered further first aid training should there be a demand.</p>	
20	<p>Items for the next or a future agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintenance of finger sign posts 2. Replacement of parts of the playground fencing 	
21	<p>Next meeting and dates for 2015</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Binegar Memorial Hall on 7 April 2015 at 7:30 pm.</p> <p>2015 meetings: May tbc, 2 June, 7 July, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:20 pm.