

BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2015 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 twelve parishioners.

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| 1 | <p>Elections of Council officers, acceptance of office and registration of interests</p> <p>1.1 Election of Chair - Philip nominated and Cath seconded Richard for Chair. There were no other nominations and the meeting elected Richard.</p> <p>1.2 Election of Vice Chair - John nominated and Phil seconded Jon for Vice Chair. David nominated and Cath seconded Philip for Vice Chair. A paper ballot took place with four votes to Jon and three votes to Philip; Jon was declared Vice Chair.</p> <p>1.3 Councillors received and signed <i>Declarations of Acceptance of Office</i>.</p> <p>1.4 Councillors received <i>General Notice of Registerable Interests</i> forms along with guidelines for completion. Diane requested that these forms be returned to her by Friday 22 May for forwarding to the Monitoring Officer.</p> <p>1.5 Councillors received the <i>Members' Code of Conduct</i> of the Parish Council.</p> <p>1.6 The Clerk advised dates for "Being a Good Councillor" courses. Phil and John agreed to attend a course. Diane agreed to make the necessary arrangements.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Minutes</p> <p>It was RESOLVED that the Minutes of 7 April 2015 be signed as a correct record.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>The Chair congratulated John and Rachel Carter on their election as District Councillors and welcomed John Scadding to the meeting as a newly elected Parish Councillor.</p> | |
| 4 | <p>Declarations of Interest</p> <p>Philip declared an interest in item 10.2.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Council Committees</p> <p>5.1 Binegar Playing Field Group</p> <p>The Council reviewed and RESOLVED to accept the terms of reference for the Committee. Philip and David agreed to continue serving on the committee, which would report its election of Chair to the following meeting.</p> <p>5.2 New committees</p> <p>No new committees were appointed.</p> | |
| 6 | <p>Review and adoption of Standing Orders, policies and like arrangements</p> <p>6.1 The meeting considered arrangements to review all standing orders and policies over a four year cycle and RESOLVED to adopt the plan. For 2015-16, the meeting agreed that the Chair the Clerk would review the burial policy and that the Clerk and Cath would consider health & safety and data protection policies.</p> | |

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| | <p>6.2 The meeting received and accepted the agenda year planner, which scheduled reviews of the Asset Register, of membership of external bodies and insurance cover.</p> | |
| <p>7</p> | <p>Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>7.1 Binegar Cemetery</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of Holy Trinity anniversary The Chair reported purchase of trees that he and Phil would plant at the weekend. The Clerk stated that the stonemason would be making good headstones over the coming weeks. • Cemetery Improvement Waste Disposal and Cemetery Spoil Diane informed the meeting that a disposal of waste sign had been purchased and the meeting agreed that it should be situated on a stake just inside the cemetery gate. The Chair thanked Bryan Rich for kindly removing the majority of the cemetery spoil. The Chair and Jon offered to level the remaining spoil. <p>7.2 Highways Diane informed the meeting that Highways had been contacted regarding the repair and maintenance of (3) fingerposts and awaited a call from the relevant department.</p> <p>7.3 Planning issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015/0309/FUL – 4 Dalleston BA3 4UD - Bungalow Withdrawn. • 2015/0500/OTS – 5 Dalleston BA3 4UD – 2 storey detached house Withdrawn. • 2015/0622/TPO – Meadwood House BA3 4TS – Felling oak tree Pending consideration • 2014/0045/FUL – Turner’s Court traveller’s site – reported breach of conditions The Chair stated that the Parish Council had reported breaches of planning to Mendip’s Enforcement Team on 9 April, 3 May and 10 May 2015. Parishioners were assured that complaints were confidential and that they should contact Mendip District Council direct if they had further concerns. <p>7.4 Safety audit of memorial stones in churchyard and cemetery [Jun 14] It was agreed that this item was concluded.</p> <p>7.5 Ownership of The Batch [Sept 14] The Chair informed the meeting that there had been continued complaints about the work at High Banks and the continued misuse of the Batch. The Clerk reported a request that the Council remove tree branches that had been dumped by High Banks’ contractors. Jon and John undertook to clear the debris.</p> <p>Jon reported that he had continued work on the application for Village Green status. It was agreed “Neville’s Batch” should be used on the application as it had historic relevance.</p> <p>7.6 Emborough Pond [Nov 14] The Chair informed the meeting of an application to put two caravans on the foundations of the boathouse. The application was not open to consultation but there was the opportunity to comment. After discussion, the meeting agreed that the Council would seek a joint approach with the Emborough Parish Meeting.</p> <p>7.7 Clarke’s Pool [Dec 14]</p> | <p>RH</p> <p>RH JA</p> <p>DA</p> <p>All</p> <p>JA JS</p> <p>JA</p> <p>RH</p> |

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| | <p>The Chair thanked Mr Harnell, Mr Maidment and Mr Gait who had tidied up the pool and for the before and after photos they had kindly shared with the Council. The meeting discussed possible further actions to improve the pool and agreed the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John and Kevin would approach contacts who may be able to assist with clearance of silt • Approach Somerset County Council for help with funding • Seek quotations for the removal of the ash tree growing in the pool • Approach Somerset Highways to clear the drains on Kings Lane <p>7.8 Binegar Memorial Hall Jon informed the meeting that Phil Bridges had delivered a new meter for the defibrillator and it would be fitted as soon as possible. Advised that the Heras fencing would be used for work on large multiplay or removed.</p> <p>7.9 Fallopia japonica treatment at Emborough Tender still awaited.</p> | <p>JS RH DA DA</p> <p>PB</p> |
| 8 | <p>Local government reports Diane circulated a report from County Councillor Harvey Siggs.</p> | |
| 9 | <p>Police report to 4 April 2015 The meeting noted that PPLO Nikki Housley had sent in the following reported incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07/04 explosions at Highcroft quarry • 08/04 accident on the crossroads at Emborough • 14/04 accident near the Mendip Inn | |
| 10 | <p>Planning applications and issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015/0632/HSE – 7 Flowerstone, BA3 4UQ – Rear Extension and new garage After discussion, the meeting agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation and responses. • 2014/2742/FUL – The Portway, BA3 4UA – Maintain agricultural dwelling After discussion, the meeting agreed to recommend that the decision be left to the planning officer following consultation and responses. | |
| 11 | <p>Burial Policy The meeting considered a request from the family of the late Mr Peter and Mrs Beryl Manders to waive the Council's policy of allotting the next available cremation plot for interment of ashes and for the family to choose the location of the cremation plot. After discussion and consideration, the Council concluded that such a precedent could not be set and that the policy should not be waived.</p> | |
| 12 | <p>Financial Matters</p> <p>12.1 Financial control The meeting noted a summary of budget, spending and variances for the Parish Council's three accounts. Diane advised that the year-end accounts remained with the internal auditor.</p> <p>12.2 Bank Mandates The meeting considered bank mandates and RESOLVED to continue with existing arrangements and signatories.</p> <p>12.3 Receipts since last report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The George – wayleave - £60.00 • Class Motor Services – wayleave - £60.00 • Thornhill Farm – agricultural land rent - £1000.00 • Mendip District Council – Parish precept - £8,500.00 | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mendip District Council – Council Tax Support Grant - £337.55 • E Emery and Sons – Betty Selway plot - £50.00 <p>12.4 Standing order payments since last report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs D Abbott - April salary – confidential <p>12.5 Cheque payments</p> <p>It was RESOLVED to approve the following payments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Binegar Memorial Hall – Room Hire April 2014 to March 2015 - £232.50 • J Abbott expenses – mileage and land registry search fee - £49.39 • D Abbott contracted expenses Nov 14 to May 15 - plus salary adjustment confidential • Somerset Association of Local Councils – Affiliation fees - £84.42 | |
| 13 | <p>Binegar Playing Fields Group</p> <p>The meeting received and noted the Minutes of 21 April 2015. Philip gave an up-date on the refurbishment of the large multi-play and asked for volunteers to assist. Philip also raised a further concern over the condition of the small multi-play. Finally, Philip advised there was to be a fund-raising quiz night and undertook to advise members of the date.</p> | PB |
| 14 | <p>Binegar Playing Field</p> <p>The meeting considered a tender previously circulated for the repair of the boundary fence. It was agreed that after small amendments approaches could be made to potential contractors.</p> | DA |
| 15 | <p>Events Attended</p> <p>No events attended.</p> | |
| 16 | <p>Highways and rights of way</p> <p>David reported potholes in Tellis Lane.</p> | |
| 17 | <p>Correspondence received</p> <p>A request had been received from Lynn Emery for removal of fallen tree debris on the Batch.</p> | |
| 18 | <p>Items for the next or a future agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dementia awareness and action • Training on responsibilities with planning applications | CL DA |
| 19 | <p>Next meeting and dates for 2015</p> <p>To note the next meeting will be held on 2 June 2015 at 7:30 pm in the Memorial Hall.</p> <p>2015 meetings: 7 July, 1 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December</p> | |

The Chair closed the meeting at 9:15 pm.