

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2016 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

**Present:** Jon Abbott, Richard Higgins (Chair), Philip Blatchford (7.35pm), Cath Law, Phil Roberts and John Scadding.

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), Cllr J Carter and Cllr Harvey Siggs (7.40pm).

1	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept apologies from David Stone.</p>	
2	<p><b>Chair's Announcements</b> The Chair confirmed Somerset's <i>Notice of Intent</i> to install a Puffin Crossing in Gurney Slade.</p> <p>The Meeting noted the Chair's correspondence with the Managing Director of <i>First Bus</i> about route 173 Sunday and Bank Holiday services. Members echoed his hope that <i>First Bus</i> might reinstate the service should the overall Wells to Bath service be a success.</p>	
3	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 5 July 2016 be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b> <b>5.1 Highways and footpaths</b> The Meeting noted the following were complete:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Turner's Court Lane and Marchant's Hill: footpath signs</li> <li>▪ A37: blocked gullies on viaduct south of Old Down</li> <li>▪ Tellis Lane: pothole</li> <li>▪ The George: pathway obstruction by elder treat rear</li> </ul> <p>The Meeting noted that the following District Council street signs remained outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street name (Nov 15) – chased again</li> <li>▪ King's Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16)</li> <li>▪ Roemead Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16)</li> </ul> <p>The meeting noted that the following Highways items remained outstanding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Whitnell Lane: flood between Cold Harbour Farm and B3139 (Jul 16); ref 295786</li> <li>▪ Turners Court / King's Lane junction: sunken services trench (Jul 16); ref 295786</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk asked Phil for the dates and registration of the car that blocked the A37 footpath.</p> <p>In light of lack of any response from <i>First Bus</i>, the Meeting agreed to abandon its quest that 173 buses pass only at the foot of Binegar Lane.</p> <p><b>5.2 Planning applications</b> <b>2014/2684/FUL – Alfie's Retreat, Turner's Court Lane</b> The meeting noted this application had been withdrawn.</p> <p><b>2013/0775 – Marchant's Hill Barn, Portway Lane BA3 4TZ – status of occupation</b> The meeting noted that the application had been disposed of.</p>	PR

	<p><b>2016/1092/FUL - Old Down Farm, BA3 4SA – caravan storage facility</b> The meeting noted this application had been approved.</p> <p><b>2016/1446/CLP – 5 Dalleston. – proposed development in garden</b> The meeting noted this application was not lawful.</p> <p><b>5.3 Fallopia japonica at Emborough (May 16)</b> The Chair informed the meeting that the plants had been treated with herbicide.</p> <p><b>5.4 Cemetery yew tree works (Feb 16)</b> The Chair stated a tender had been accepted and work was planned to start in November.</p>	
6	<p><b>Local government report</b> The meeting welcomed Councillors Harvey Siggs and John Carter who gave reports on current issues. Cllr Siggs reported that he intended to stand down at the May 2017 elections and thanked the Council for the warm welcome had had always received.</p>	
7	<p><b>Planning Applications</b> <b>APP/Q3305/X/16/3155196:</b> <b>Old Down Caravan Site - Appeal against refused lawful development certificate</b> The meeting considered the appeal and after discussion <b>RESOLVED</b> to comment on the appeal based on previous objections regarding drainage.</p>	RH
8	<p><b>Financial Matters</b> <b>8.1 Financial Control</b> The meeting received and noted a summary of the Council’s accounts.</p> <p><b>8.2 External Audit</b> The meeting noted that the auditor had yet to issue an opinion.</p> <p><b>8.3 Land issues</b> The meeting discussed tenancy arrangements and the management of future rent review notifications.</p> <p><b>8.4 Receipts since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anonymous donations - £5.00 – Playground</li> <li>• HMRC VAT Return - £1260.96</li> <li>• HMRC VAT Return - £119.65 – Playground</li> </ul> <p><b>8.5 Standing order payments since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – salary – July – confidential</li> <li>• Mrs D Abbott – salary – August – confidential</li> <li>• Primrose Garden Maintenance - £633.60</li> </ul> <p><b>8.6 Approval of Cheque Payments</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• R Higgins – Expenses - £233.90</li> <li>• D Abbott - Office and Laptop expenses x 7 months - £70.00</li> <li>• Wellington Signs - £55.20 – Playground Signage</li> <li>• Signs of the Times - £236.40 – Blue Plaque – (payment in advance)</li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>Project updates</b> <b>Village signposts (PR/DA)</b> Phil informed the meeting that the quarry, which had agreed to provide stone. Philip suggested a cairn of stones and John Carter urged that careful thought be given to design. The Clerk stated that she had been in touch with highways and had sourced prices for gateway signage similar to Farrington Gurney and Westfield.</p>	PR  DA

	<p><b>Cemetery lych gate and churchyard tree works (RH/JA)</b> The Chair reported receipt of three tenders for oak frame construction and one for stonework and roof. He noted the lowest tenders for the complete work was around £15,000. The meeting discussed the project and its financial implications. Councillors agreed to seek donations to offset some cost. With that, the meeting considered the project viable agreed a planning application should be prepared.</p> <p><b>Binegar Bottom planting, clearing and woodland management plan (JS/PB)</b> John considered it necessary to clarify the future purpose of Binegar Bottom for pleasure or wildlife. He suggested a site visit was appropriate and undertook to arrange a date.</p> <p><b>The Fair Field (CL/DS)</b> The Chair reported that the Diocese had offered a 25-year lease to the Parochial Church Council. Since this did not offer the chance for meeting the Parish Council's aim of preserving the field long term, members agreed to drop the plan. Councillors then discussed the possibility of the Parish Council purchasing the land, which the Diocese might offer at a market price. Members agreed to consider the matter again at the October meeting.</p> <p><b>Dementia Friendly Villages (CL/DA)</b> Cath informed the meeting that the Clerk had undertaken <i>Dementia Champion</i> training and undertook to arrange for the Parish Council to host a training session.</p> <p><b>Village history plaques (RH)</b> Phil gave an update on the request for a Blue Plaque from Mr Coombs to recognise the association of his property with Private Henry Martin. Phil agreed to arrange the finer details and John suggested a celebrity to unveil the plaque, agreeing to make enquiries. The Chair advised of potential funding streams, which the Clerk agreed to follow up.</p> <p><b>Village herbicide spraying pilot (PB)</b> Philip informed the meeting that he had again been unable to implement the project this season. The Chair expressed disappointment that this was the third season since the creation of the project that no action had been taken. With two people fully trained, Councillors expressed the hope the project would start in Spring 2017.</p>	<p>RH/ JA</p> <p>JS</p> <p>All</p> <p>CL</p> <p>PR JS DA</p>
10	<p><b>Playground</b> The meeting received and considered a report from the Clerk on playground inspection and maintenance. The Clerk stated that much had been done to make good numerous areas and thanked those who had helped.</p> <p><b>Inspections</b> The Clerk stated that the new routine inspection system was working well and briefed the meeting on the format of the report and management of the recommendations made.</p> <p><b>Birds nest swing</b> The Clerk stated that the replacement frame and swing was due to be installed in September.</p> <p><b>Replacement of small multiplay</b> The Clerk reported that she had obtained three quotations and she circulated illustrations of potential replacement apparatus. The meeting approved the proposal to seek funding.</p>	<p>DA</p>
11	<p><b>Churchyard and cemetery memorial safety</b> The meeting received and considered a report for 2016. The Chair stated that three memorials needed work to secure them and the Clerk confirmed she had requested prices. The Chair reported six headstones required annual monitoring and that the next safety audit was in 2019.</p>	

12	<b>NHS health checks for parishioners</b> The meeting considered the offer of a free health check for parishioners from the NHS. Following discussion, it was agreed to take up the offer and the Clerk undertook to make arrangements.	DA
13	<b>Training</b> The meeting considered training needs and focused on planning. The Chair recommended members attend the next <i>Mendip Parish Forum</i> on Tuesday 18 October when Ian Bowen, Head of Planning would give a presentation on planning applications and an update given on the <i>Mendip Local Plan</i> . The Chair informed the meeting of a SALC training day "Negotiating a Better Outcome in Planning" and asked the Clerk to circulate details.	All DA
14	<b>Events Attended</b> The Chair stated that he had attended the July <i>Mendip Parish Forum</i> .	
15	<b>Highways and rights of way</b> The Clerk stated that Sue Stone had raised issues that she would follow up.	DA
16	<b>Correspondence received</b> No correspondence received.	
17	<b>Next meeting and future dates</b> The Council noted the next meeting was on 4 October 2016 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.  Further meetings – 2016: 1 November, 6 December; 2017: 7 February, 7 March, 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December.	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.45pm.