

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2017 in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm

**Present:** Jon Abbott, Philip Blatchford, Richard Higgins (Chair), Cath Law, John Scadding and David Stone.

**In attendance:** Diane Abbott (Clerk), Cllr J Carter, Cllr R Carter, Richard Priestley, Celia Sturgeon, John Sturgeon.

1.	<p><b>Apologies for absence</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept an apology for absence from Phil Roberts.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Chair's Announcements</b> The Clerk read a letter of appreciation from the Parochial Church Council, which expressed thanks for the tree and other works undertaken in Holy Trinity Churchyard.</p> <p>On the Gurney Slade crossing, the Chair reported that he had received positive feedback on how accommodating, courteous and kind the workers had been to local people.</p> <p>The Clerk notified the meeting that a recent application to the <i>National Lottery</i> had been successful and that the Council had reached the funding target to replace the small multi-play.</p> <p>The Chair welcomed visitors and announced that the meeting would take Item 13 after Item 4.</p>	
3.	<p><b>Declarations of interest</b> David declared a personal interest in agenda Item 13, The Fair Field.</p>	
4.	<p><b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 6 December 2016 Ordinary Meeting and 15 December 2016 Extraordinary Meeting be signed as a correct record.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b></p> <p><b>5.1 Highways and footpaths</b> The meeting noted the following Highways items were completed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• King's 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>• Turner's Court/Emborough Lane junctions: curb edge (Nov 16)</li> <li>• Roemead Lane: broken road sign (Jun 16)</li> <li>• Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street sign (Nov 15)</li> </ul> <p>The Clerk undertook to chase these items.</p> <p><b>5.2 Neville's Batch</b> John reported that Mr Gregory had undertaken to return the gravelled area back to grass, less a footpath following garden wall from the road to the pedestrian gate. In addition, Mr Gregory had stated that he would reposition the rocks around the Batch perimeter and give them and the newly planted trees to the Parish Council. The meeting asked John to pass its thanks to Mr Gregory.</p> <p><b>5.3 Cemetery request to place an additional memorial stone on a grave</b> The Chair informed the meeting that the family proposed to fix a slope-faced stone to the headstone, which accords with cemetery policy.</p>	<p>DA</p> <p>JS</p>

	<p><b>5.4 Planning applications and appeal</b>  <b>APP/Q3305/X/16/3155196</b> – Old Down Caravan Site BA3 4SA – winter occupation  The meeting noted that the appeal to allow full year occupation of caravans had been upheld. The Chair stated that, consequently, the owner submitted a planning application to remove the relevant conditions of the original permission. The meeting agreed no response was necessary.</p> <p><b>2016/2573/FUL</b> – Alfie’s Retreat BA3 4UA – Compliance with planning conditions  The meeting noted there was no published decision.</p> <p><b>2016/2784/CLP</b> – Binegar Cemetery BA3 4UG – Construction of cemetery shelter  The meeting noted the issue of a lawful development certificate.</p> <p><b>2016/2909/OTS</b> – Land off Station Road BA3 4UQ – Development of 17 houses  The meeting noted a decision was awaited.</p> <p><b>5.5 Proposal from BT to remove public telephone box from Turner’s Court Lane</b>  The meeting noted there was no published response to BT from Mendip District Council.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Local government report</b>  The meeting welcomed Cllrs John and Rachel Carter who gave reports on current Mendip issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased borrowing for income generating projects</li> <li>• A generally improving economic situation within Mendip</li> <li>• Safety improvements on the B3139/B3135 junction (Burnt Wood cross road)</li> <li>• A call for land to allocate for gypsy and traveller sites</li> <li>• Mendip’s <i>SHAPE lottery</i> launching in March with a top prize of £25,000</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Planning applications</b>  There were no applications to consider.</p>	
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 Receipts since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Andy Wrintmore Memorials – Mary Elizabeth Young - £90.00</li> <li>• Unwins – June Fewtrell - £25.00</li> <li>• Anne Caley – Advanced right to burial - £175.00</li> <li>• Donation – Quiz night - £150.00 (playground)</li> <li>• Donation – Not Pointless - £250.00 (playground)</li> <li>• Grant – Let’s Celebrate Heritage Lottery - £4,562.50</li> <li>• NS&amp;I Interest capitalisation - £43.43</li> <li>• Anonymous donations – Nov &amp; Dec - £10.00</li> </ul> <p><b>8.3 Standing order payments since last report</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• £XXX.XX - Parish Clerk salary, December and January– confidential</li> </ul> <p><b>8 Approval of cheque payments</b>  The meeting noted there were no cheques to approve.</p>	
9.	<p><b>2016-17 year-end financial arrangements</b>  <b>9.1 Internal Controls</b>  Cath undertook to carry out the Annual Risk Assessment of Internal Controls.</p> <p><b>9.2 Timetable for audit of accounts</b>  The meeting noted the timetable for audit of accounts.</p>	CL

10.	<b>Budget 2017-18</b> The meeting noted that the Clerk had submitted the precept request and would check receipt by Mendip District Council.	DA
11.	<b>Leased land and wayleaves</b> The meeting considered whether to serve an <i>Agricultural Holdings Act</i> notice seeking a change of rent to a current tenant. The Clerk reported that the Council's land agent had advised that the current rent reflected market conditions. The meeting agreed to take no action.  The Clerk undertook to take appropriate action on a <i>Farm Business Tenancy</i> agreement that expired in March 2017.  The Council considered its own charges for wayleaves and agreed to keep it at £60 per year.	DA
12.	<b>Henry Martin and village celebration</b> Jon gave an up-date on progress and planning arrangements for the event. The meeting noted that the date of the event would be the weekend of 14 - 16 July 2017.	JA
13.	<b>Project updates</b> <b>Village signposts (PR/DA)</b> The Clerk informed the meeting that there was no further update.  <b>Cemetery Shelter (RH/JA)</b> The Chair stated that Mendip had confirmed the shelter was exempt from building regulation control. The plan was to purchase the timber and to commence groundworks prior to the end of the financial year. The meeting agreed a sign of dedication would acknowledge the support of Morris and Perry.  <b>Binegar Bottom planting, clearing and woodland management plan (JS/PB)</b> John informed the meeting that he had undertaken further clearing and raised concerns regarding discarding of litter. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should investigate the purchase a bin and its maintenance. John stated that he would be clearing again on Sunday 12 February and invited members to join him.  He raised the possibility of funding to assist with the project and the meeting agreed that should submit a bid to the South West's <i>Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group</i> .  <b>The Fair Field (with DS)</b> The Chair outlined the sale terms set out by the Diocese. He noted that informal responses from Councillors had revealed varied views and no consensus.  As it was likely that the Council would take some time to reach a conclusion, Richard Priestley stated that he would pursue the transfer of the car park land. Following further discussion, members undertook to consider the options and the strengths and weaknesses of each before considering the matter further at a future meeting.  <b>Dementia-friendly villages (with DA)</b> The Clerk reported that Monday 27 March had been set to run two <i>Dementia Friends</i> sessions in tandem with free <i>NHS Health Checks</i> . She undertook to publicise the event.  <b>Village history plaques</b> The Chair informed the meeting there were no further up-dates.	RH DA All JS All DA CL
14.	<b>NHS health checks for parishioners</b> The meeting noted this item was covered above.	

15.	<b>Playground</b> The meeting received a report from the Clerk on playground inspections and maintenance based on the four expected reports. The meeting noted that funding was secured to replace the small multi-play. The meeting agreed that the Clerk should liaise with the supplier to move the project forward.	DA
16.	<b>The Great British Spring Clean</b> The meeting noted that Phil was Project Manager and that the clean would take place on 4-5 March. The Clerk undertook to liaise with Mendip about rubbish collection and help with promotion. Philip named Emborough parishioners prepared to assist.	PR DA
17.	<b>Mendip Local Plan Part II</b> The meeting noted the Council's response to the Local Plan.	
18.	<b>Membership of outside organisations</b> The Clerk advised the meeting of current memberships and subscriptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Community Council for Somerset</i> - £40.00</li> <li>• <i>Society of Local Council Clerks</i> - £67.00</li> <li>• <i>Somerset Association of Local Councils</i> - £85.25.</li> </ul> The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to renew memberships of each.  The Clerk also undertook to investigate whether the Council should join <i>Somerset Playing Fields</i> at an annual cost of £15.00. The meeting delegated authority to the Clerk to subscribe if relevant.	DA  DA
19.	<b>Staff appraisal</b> The meeting noted that the Chair and Cath would undertake the Clerk's appraisal.	RH CL
20.	<b>Dog fouling</b> Philip raised concern about dog fouling and improper disposal of poo bags. The meeting noted that the Parish Magazine had highlighted the issue and it was agreed to monitor the situation.	All
21.	<b>Memorial request</b> The meeting received a proposal from David for a memorial to the late Peter Manders. After discussion, David undertook to pursue the matter privately with the family.	
22.	<b>Events attended</b> The Chair, Jon and Diane reported on a Neighbourhood Plan Workshop. They concluded that no action was required but a review should take place on publication of Mendip's Local Plan II.	
23.	<b>Highways and rights of way</b> The following were reported: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A37 Viaduct</li> <li>• Overgrown hedge on right hand-side at the bottom end of Turners Court Lane</li> </ul>	DA
24.	<b>Next meeting and future dates</b> The Council noted the next meeting was on 7 March 2017 at 7 30 pm in the Memorial Hall.  2017 meetings – 4 April, 2 May, 6 June, 4 July, 5 September, 3 October, 7 November, 5 December.	

The Chair closed the meeting 8.40pm.