

## ***BINEGAR PARISH COUNCIL***

Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 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), Cllr Rachel Carter and Paul Sharp.

1	<b>Apologies for absence</b> There were no apologies for absence.	
2	<b>Chair's Announcements</b> The Chair made the following announcements: <b>1. Horse and Jockey Inn Collection</b> The Chair acknowledged the generous donation received from the Horse & Jockey collecting box.  <b>2. Police Report from Sheila Thompson</b> The Chair informed the meeting that the Parish Council had received a monthly report and that there were no incidents relevant to Binegar and Gurney Slade.	
3	<b>Declarations of interest</b> There were no declarations of interest.	
4	<b>Minutes</b> It was <b>RESOLVED</b> that the Minutes of the 5 December 2017 be signed as a correct record.	
5	<b>Matters arising from the Minutes</b> <b>1. Highways and footpaths</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Binegar Lane/A37 junction: missing street sign (Nov 15)</li><li>▪ Roemead Lane/Binegar Bottom: broken road signs (Jun 16)</li><li>▪ King's Lane: broken road sign</li></ul> The meeting noted that the Chair had informed Mr Isherwood at Mendip District Council that this work had not been carried out for which he had received an apology.  <b>2. Planning applications</b> <b>2016/2573/FUL – Alfie's Retreat BA3 4UA</b> The meeting noted that there was nothing further to report.  <b>3. Proposed permissive footpath between Binegar Bottom and footpath SM3/16</b> David informed the meeting that a meeting had been arranged with the owners and a further update would be given at the March meeting.	DS
6	<b>Local government reports</b> Cllr Rachel Carter asked for feedback on the recent Planning and Parish forums. The Chair stated that he and Jon had attended and found them to be excellent events and well worth attending.	
7	<b>Planning application</b> There were no planning applications for consideration.	
8	<b>Financial matters</b> <b>1. Current financial position</b> The meeting received a report and noted the financial position to date.	

	<p><b>2. Receipts since the last report</b> The meeting noted the following receipts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £125.94 – Horse and Jockey Inn collection box donation</li> <li>▪ £100.00 – Emery &amp; Sons – Mr K W Hill</li> <li>▪ £35.92 – NS&amp;I – Interest capitalisation</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Standing order payments since the last report:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £xxx.xx – Parish Clerk – December and January salary payments</li> </ul> <p><b>4. Cheque payments authorised</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ £77.85 – Clerks expenses – external computer drive, 2 x USB sticks</li> <li>▪ £15.99 – Clerks expenses – combination padlock cemetery gate</li> <li>▪ £7,257.46 – Jackson’s Fencing – cemetery boundary fence – <i>The meeting noted this was an amended amount to the agenda</i></li> <li>▪ £3,180.00 – HAGS-SMP – Playground surfacing</li> <li>▪ £118.80 – AED Locator (E.U.) Ltd – Replacement Pad Pak – <i>The meeting noted this was an additional payment that required urgent payment</i></li> </ul>	
9	<p><b>2017-18 Financial year-end arrangements</b></p> <p><b>1. Internal Controls Risk Assessment</b> Cath undertook to carry out the Annual Risk Assessment of Internal Controls.</p> <p><b>2. Audit arrangements</b> The meeting agreed to continue with existing internal auditor arrangements. The Clerk informed the meeting that relevant paperwork would be sent from PKF Accountants.</p>	CL
10	<p><b>2018-19 Financial year plans</b></p> <p><b>1. Precept</b> The meeting noted that the Clerk had submitted the Precept request to Mendip District Council.</p> <p><b>2. External organisation memberships</b> The Clerk advised the meeting of current memberships and subscriptions:</p> <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> <p>The meeting <b>RESOLVED</b> to renew memberships of each.</p> <p><b>3. Binegar Cemetery fees</b> The meeting noted and <b>RESOLVED</b> to approve the revised for fees for the cemetery with effect from 1 April 2018.</p>	DA  DA
11	<p><b>Land and assets – Agricultural Holdings Act tenancy</b> The meeting considered whether to give one year’s notice of rent increase from March 2019 and after consideration of advice received from the Council’s land agent agreed there should be no change.</p> <p>The meeting discussed concerns raised regarding escaping sheep and agreed that the Clerk should take advice from the land agent on appropriate action.</p>	DA
12	<p><b>Projects</b></p> <p><b>1. A37 road improvements for Gurney Slade</b> The meeting discussed action that could be taken to improve road safety and after discussion agreed:</p> <p><b>Village Signs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Clerk should contact Somerset County Council highways to discuss location and replacement of existing village signs.</li> <li>• Crest design colours would be reviewed with the assistance of John Law.</li> </ul>	DA CL

	<p><b>Speeding and Road Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of speeding lorries and dangerous driving should be recorded.</li> <li>Approach parishioners on their views of steps that could be taken to improve road safety.</li> </ul> <p><b>Pavements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish ownership of field with damaged wall and overgrowing vegetation.</li> <li>Request cleansing of pavements and the A37 through Gurney Slade.</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Binegar Bottom</b> John gave an update on work at Binegar Bottom informing the meeting that work on the left hand side was now almost complete. A revised drainage plan had been agreed and the relevant funding application submitted. The next stage would be to commence work on the right hand side. John thanked Paul Sharp for his hard work and support.</p> <p><b>3. Cemetery improvements</b> The meeting noted that cemetery fencing had been completed and the Chair gave a vote of thanks to David, John, Chris Burr and the Rich family for their help.</p>	PR DA  PR DA  JS
13	<p><b>Playground</b> The meeting received and noted the playground report. Jon stated that numerous areas required turfing. The Clerk undertook to get a quote from Primrose and proceed with work under delegated financial authority.</p>	DA
14	<p><b>Somerset library services</b> After discussion, it was agreed that the Clerk should send a letter of support objecting to the closure of the library services in Shepton Mallet.</p>	DA
15	<p><b>Fibre-optic broadband</b> The meeting considered fibre-optic broadband and agreed no further action was required.</p>	
16	<p><b>Great British Spring Clean</b> The meeting noted that Phil would Project Manage and that the clean would take place on 2 - 4 March. The Clerk undertook to liaise with Mendip about rubbish bags, pickers, collection and help with promotion.</p>	PR DA
17	<p><b>Events attended</b> The meeting noted that the Chair and Jon had attended the Mendip Planning Seminar and the Parish Forum and that they had both been well worth attending.</p>	
18	<p><b>Highways and rights of way</b> The following were reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pot holes along Binegar Bottom</li> <li>Rubbish dumped along Binegar Bottom</li> <li>Hedges along: Turners Court Lane and Portway Lane Binegar Bottom</li> </ul>	DA DA  DA JS
19	<p><b>Dates for the next and future meetings</b> To note the next meeting: 6 March 2018 in the Memorial Hall</p> <p><b>Future meetings</b> 3 April, 1 May, 5 June, 3 July, 4 September, 2 October 2018</p>	

The Chair closed the meeting at 8.55pm