**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT**

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2019 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Webberley, P Aaron, L Gasson, T Kennard, R McNamara, K Ridout, R White, Footpaths Officer G Rains, County Councilor Pauline Batstone, Clerk D Green; in addition, there were 4 members of the public in attendance.

**493. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Cllr Acton

**494. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**495. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2019 were approved.

**496. MATTERS ARISING:**

The Chairman reported that the request by the PTA to use the recreation ground for a circus fundraiser on Friday 17th April 2020 had been considered. Enquiries have been made with the Cricket Club regarding any concerns they may have had, the only issue being to ensure that no damage to the surface occurs from vehicle movements. It has been noted that the circus company, Happy’s Circus, only use small vans, and the risk is judged to be minimal. The Council resolved to formally agree to this proposal.

The Chairman reported that the Cross Head had been successfully re-located to the Blandford Museum, and will be visiting when the explanatory plaque has been installed.

The Chairman proposed that there should be no Parish Council meeting in January 2020, there being very little business at that time of the year and that the first meeting of the New Year will be on Thursday 6th February. This was agreed by the Council.

**497. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Sharon Pryor of the Tennis Club raised an issue concerning the danger of cricket balls striking tennis players while on court and enquired as to whether the Parish Council, as landowner, was prepared to fund the cost of a ‘ball strike risk assessment’, which apparently was the suggestion of the English Cricket Board. The Chairman questioned whether this was a real risk and expressed the view that tennis players, by virtue of the surrounding fence are in fact at less risk of being hit by a ball than either members of the public either watching the match or those using the recreation ground for other uses. Cllr Gasson enquired as to whether anyone had actually been hit by a cricket ball at the tennis court. Sharon Pryor advised that they had not. The Clerk will check with the Councils insurers whether there is any responsibility of the part of the Parish Council concerning this matter.

**498. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

A report was received very shortly before the meeting and there was no time to circulate this. Cllr Batstone reported that she had been very busy with youth projects and economic development activities for Dorset Council. Cllr Batstone highlighted a ‘Business Breakfast’ event being held at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton on 18th November which is free to attend. Cllr Batstone also referred to the Dorset Councils strategic Plan 2020-2024 discussed below.

**499. THE DORSET COUNCIL PLAN 2020-2024**

Cllr Batstone explained that the Plan summarizes the main objectives of the Council in this period: economic growth, protecting the environment, providing suitable housing, improving the quality of life for residents and sustaining communities.

Cllr Gasson was concerned that the Climate Change Emergency did not appear to be a priority and made several details suggestions as to how this could be advanced, including planting tees on road verges, installing more cycle routes including a Trailway link between Poole and Stalbridge and installing additional charging pits for electric cars.

Cllr Gasson also highlighted that the housing need priorities in the Plan, including the requirement for 35% affordable housing, should be promoted by allowing former County Farms land to only be used for this purpose.

Practical concerns were raised regarding installing additional charging points in villages; Chairman expressed the view that this was first and foremost a personal responsibility.

Cllr McNamara was concerned that housing maintenance in an ecofriendly was for a listed building was very constrained by the restrictive rules.

The view was expressed that it was felt that North Dorset was a poor relation to south coast of Dorset when it came to the focus of Dorset Council priorities. The Chairman expressed the view that the plan resembled ‘motherhood and apple pie’ and was short on detail and full of meaningless mission statements.

**500. FOOTPATH OFFICER REPORT**

Graham Rains provided an update in relation to Footpath 29 behind Hillsfoot Farm: this has now been cleared and is navigable with care, the kissing gate will not be removed but strimmers will be used to clear this area further.

The Trailway has been cut back from Sturminster Newton to Stourpaine but there are potholes at the Stourpaine end, and care should be taken when using this route in the dark.

Graham queried progress in relation to the crossing point at Little Lane. The Clerk will write to Andrew Bradley requesting a project update.

**501. PLANNING**

**i) Existing applications update**

The Clerk reported that works to Japonica Cottage (2/2019/0774/LBC) had been refused because of the adverse effect on character of listed building.

The Chairman reported the content of the further meeting between the Council and former Neighbourhood Plan committee, with Savills, PSP Dorset and the architects, regarding the proposed White pit development. Whilst the meeting was useful and constructive, it highlighted the fact that the planning authorities had not discussed scheme proposals with the parish council and had insisted on the construction of mainly detached properties, when PSP and Savills had initially suggested more terraced houses. A contrast was drawn been the ideas for this project and the Gains Cross development (noted below) which is similar in that it involves the re-development of derelict site formally used as a County Farm. The issue of parking had arisen at the meeting and the Chairman had enquired whether any additional land at the rear of the site could be found for this purpose. Savills agreed to take the suggestions away and consult as necessary.

**ii) New applications received before the meeting:**

2/2019/1338/FUL Gains Cross Farm Gains Cross Lane Shillingstone Dorset. An application to convert existing barns into 6 No. dwellings and create 15 No. parking spaces on Hodway Lane. It was noted that this site is possibly outside the village boundary and is certainly outside the conservation area. The view was expressed that this was a positive development and involved the re-use of former farm buildings, with limited demolition and is low rise. The Council supported this development.

**iii) Application for tree works conservation area received before the meeting:**

There were no new applications for tree works.

**502. FINANCES**

**i) BUDGET PROPOSALS FOR 2020-2021**

The Clerk proposed no increase in the precept for 2020-2021. The Chairman noted that a substantive increase was made last year in part to fund play area improvements, and that these have now been completed and the loan repayments are sufficiently covered by the additional precept. The precept request will allow for an increase in the reserves available for play area improvements in the long term. The Clerk reported that he had re-assessed all costs and anticipated expenditures would be met by the proposed budget. The Council accepted the budget and the precept recommendation.

**ii) a) Retrospective payments approved:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** | **Method** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 18/10/2019 | £ 165.00 | Stacey Hankin | Cleaning | CQ 2360 |
| 18/10/2019 | £ 200.00 | Equilibrium Youth Work | Tree sponsorship | CQ 2361 |
| 22/10/2019 | £ 160.68 | Wessex Water | Pavilion water supply | Debit Card |
| 28/10/2019 | £ 48.00 | Clifford Shean | PAT testing | Debit Card |
| 31/10/2019 | £ 611.68 | David Green | Pay | SO |
| 01/11/2019 | £ 333.00 | Cricket Club | Mowing | SO |

**b) Cheques approved**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CQ/Ref** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2362 | £ 7,348.00 | Star Rubber | Augustan Avenue re-surface |
| 2363 | £ 140.00 | Stacey Hankin | Cleaning |
| 2364 | £ 113.99 | David Green | Expenses |
| 2365 | £ 170.35 | B & S Chains | New seats for AA |
| 2366 | £ 60.00 | Elite Playground | Fitting charge |

**503. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK:**

The Clerk reported an issue with the door lock at the pavilion which had required an emergency locksmith, and advised that if the problem persists the lock may have to be replaced.

The Clerk confirmed that the re-surfacing of Augustan Avenue play area had been completed and new cradle seats have been fitted to the swings.

**504. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk reported that he had received an email from Ian Moore, concerning St Patricks Industrial Estate, enquiring as to whether Cathay Pacific, who were presumed to have been a landlord and not an occupier, were specifically consulted when the Neighbourhood Plan was being drafted. The Clerk referred the question to John Paul and Jo Witherden for advice. The Clerk’s understanding is that a questionnaire was given to all unit occupiers, but that no responses were received, and that all relevant documents relating to the Plan are publicly available. Mr Moore has been duly advised.

The Clerk reported that following an email from a parishioner, he has sought clarification from Paul Williams. of the duration of the lease in respect of the land used for the Big Yellow Garden project. Paul has advised that there is no formal written lease in place at the moment, he is himself seeking clarification of this question with County Farms, and he will keep the Parish Council advised.

**505. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

Nothing specific

**506. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday 5th December 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.