**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 6th AUGUST 2020 BY REMOTE CONFERENCING (ZOOM)**

**MEETING HELD UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Webberley (Chairman), L Gasson (Vice-Chairman), P Aaron, P Acton, T Kennard, R McNamara, K Ridout, I Suter, R White, County Councilor P Batstone, Footpaths Officer G Rains, Clerk D Green; in addition, there was one member of the public in attendance.

**NB the meeting was of limited content due to the time restriction of the Zoom system and connectivity problems**

**588. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None

**589. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**590. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July 2020 were approved.

**591. MATTERS ARISING:**

The Clerk noted the further delay in launching the new website; he has spoken to the developers and has been assured that these will be rectified shortly.

**592. COUNCILLOR RETIREMENT AND CO-OPTION VACANCY**

The Chairman noted that Cllr Kennard is retiring from the Council, having been a Councillor in various parishes for over 40 years. The Chairman thanked Cllr Kennard for all his work for the Council. The Chairman noted that Ian Suter has kindly volunteered to be Co-opted. The Council resolved to appoint Ian Suter to the Council forthwith.

**593. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Kevin Wiltshire explained that he was at the meeting on behalf of the local Co-op Pioneers, which has been set-up to help support communities, although his role in this meeting was just to listen to local issues and concerns.

**594. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Batstone has had a communication from the County Land Agent concerning Holloway Farm. The intention is to re-let this next year as a dairy farm, with a small milking herd; the new tenant will have to work with Dorset Council and the community to develop diversified land uses; separate tenancies will be arranged with the Lavender Farm and the beekeepers. Cllr Gasson questioned whether the land holding was sufficient to make the dairy farm viable, there having been a history of problems. Cllr Batstone advised that this was not known at this stage, but further discussions are on-going. Cllr Gasson noted that the site was very suitable for beekeeping, with water, electricity and good access.

**595. SPEEDING PROBLEM IN SHILLINGSTONE**

The Chairman briefly lost connection with the meeting, and the Clerk outlined the issues concerning speeding in the village following a complaint from a resident. The eastbound vehicle activated sign which had recently been destroyed in an accident had been replaced with a small 30 mph repeater. Dorset Road Safety Team had advised that it was unlikely that they would either replace the vehicle activated sign or meet the cost of a Speed Indicator Devise (SID). The Chairman commented that when the vehicle activated signs were installed, some 15 years earlier, there was no suggestion that the responsibility of maintaining these would expire. The Chairman further noted that the speeding problem in the village had worsened, particularly with HGV’s and that the duty to provide indicator devices on a main ‘A’ road must rest with the Highways Authority. The Chairman also commented that re-activating Speedwatch was completely unsuitable given the bureaucratic process this requires and the absence of sufficient volunteers when the idea had been raised in the past. Cllr Kennard commented that there must have been an insurance payout arising from the destruction of the vehicle activated sign and this should be looked into. Cllr Suter noted that SID’s could provide a whole variety of useful data in relation to traffic speed. Graham Rains commented that the cabling for the vehicle activated sign must still be in place and that replacing the indicator would not be that difficult. The Chairman asked Cllr Batstone to make representations on behalf of the village to press for a suitable replacement system.

**595. FOOTPATHS**

Graham Rains noted that Bere Marsh Farm had been restored by the Countryside Restoration Trust and that he will be meeting the administrator shortly to discuss the bridleways that connect to the farm. Graham also mentioned the project at Conegar Copse being undertaken by Anthony Brown, which involves significant tree felling and the development of a deciduous woodland. The project is relevant to Shillingstone because local footpaths cross the boundary of the woodland near Okeford Fitzpaine; Graham will gather more information regarding the plans and keep the Council advised.

**596. PLANNING**

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

**2/2020/0874/FUL - Rear of Squirrels Leap Blandford Road Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0SF**

Erect 3 No. dwellings and garage and create 6 No. parking spaces (demolish part

of existing dwelling to provide access)

**The Council resolved to OBJECT to this application for these material planning reasons:**

1) the proposal, if successful would effectively stop the development of Popes Field

2) the access exit onto the main road is potentially very dangerous

3) the design of the new properties is uninspiring and there are doubts concerning the quality of what is proposed.

**597. FINANCES**

**i) a) Retrospective payments approved:**

The list of payments had been circulated to councillors in advance. There were no objections to these.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| DD | 01/07/2020 | £ 1,359.72 | Public Works Loan Board | Re-surface loan |
| So | 02/07/2020 | £ 333.00 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | Mowing |
| BACS | 03/07/2020 | £ 21.56 | David Green | June expenses |
| BACS | 03/07/2020 | £ 157.80 | HMRC | PAYE |
| DEBIT | 06/07/2020 | £ 193.80 | Dorset Waste Partnership | Bin emptying contract |
| DEBIT | 07/07/2020 | £ 49.78 | Safety Signs | Covid-19 signage for PP & Pavilion |
| DEBIT | 15/07/2020 | £ 67.33 | Harts of Stur | Padlocks/Light bulb |
| BACS | 21/07/2020 | £ 163.99 | Total Energy Services | Boiler services |
| SO | 31/07/2020 | £ 588.68 | David Green | Pay July 2020 |

**b) Payments approved:**

Clerks expenses £ 76.25

**598. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

The Clerk reported that the Pavilion boilers had been serviced and the regulator for the LPG supply had been relocated but the PCB in the Pod boiler had now failed and required replacing. A smart meter has now been installed in the Pavilion which will make monitoring consumption much easier. The cleaning of the Pavilion has resumed. The Clerk has obtained three new padlocks for gates & cupboards. Covid-19 compliant signage has been installed in the Pavilion and at the play parks.

The Clerk has asked a specialist contractor to attend to the weeds on the new play area surface.

**599. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had received further correspondence from a resident concerning the impact of verge cutting, the Clerk had replied, advising that the other agencies involved in this decision making had more expertise.

The Council had discussed the speeding issue as above following a complaint by a resident.

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

No specific items.

**601. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday 3rd September 2020 at 7:30 pm, by Zoom

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:10 p.m.