**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 6th FEBRUARY 2020 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Webberley (Chairman), L Gasson (Vice-Chairman), P Arron, R McNamara, T Kennard, K Ridout, R White, Footpaths Officer G Rains, County Councilor Pauline Batstone, Clerk D Green; in addition, there were 19 members of the public in attendance.

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

**521. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**522. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meetings held on 5th December 2019 and 9th January 2020 were approved.

**523. MATTERS ARISING:**

The Chairman mentioned that the tree planting event at the Big Yellow Garden Bus Garden project on the 1st February had gone well. A tree was planted by the Chairman on behalf of the Parish Council, as were several other trees, including 3 by the school.

**524. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Representatives of the Tennis Club raised the issue of the request for a ball strike risk assessment which had arisen last year, and described some ‘near misses’. The Tennis Cub has now received a recommendation from the English Cricket Board that a risk assessment be conducted. The Chairman said that although ‘near misses’ did not appear to be a common occurrence, the actual risk was at present indeterminate. The Chairman noted that there may be potentially be greater risks to other users of the Recreation Ground, and that all risks should be established in order to determine whether any remedial action would be required. Cllr Kennard enquired as to why it had taken the Tennis Club so long to raise this issue; the Tennis Club said that the matter had been raised with the Cricket Club on past occasions but without any resolution. The Chairman referred to the licence to occupy agreement between the Parish Council and the Cricket Club, which requires, under clause 3.5 that the licensee must ‘Not to do or permit to be done on the Land anything which is illegal or which might be or become a nuisance, (whether actionable or not) damage, annoyance,  inconvenience or disturbance to the Council or any other user of the land or to any tenant, owner or occupier of neighbouring land or property.’

The Council resolved to formally ask the Cricket Club to undertake the assessment as soon as possible, preferably before the start of the season.

Residents of Cookswell raised their concerns regarding the road accident which had occurred in the evening of 2nd February, where a car collided with and demolished a resident’s wall. Cllr Batstone advised that the incident had been reported to Dorset Highways and a site visit had been made on the Monday following the incident; the Road safety Team Manager had subsequently made some suggestions as to possible improvements, including road markings and signage but was waiting for the Parish Council to formally request additional measures. A resident suggested that a road narrowing scheme could be considered but the advice received was that this would probably only exacerbate the problem. The Chairman suggested that a speed survey would be an appropriate starting point. Cllr Batstone advised that if additional interactive signs are required, the Parish Council would have to buy these. Graham Rains suggested that a speed camera would be the only effective measure, though the Chairman pointed out that this road was apparently unsuitable for a camera. A resident expressed concern regarding the failure by Highways to replace 30 mph signs that are illegible; another resident noted that the pedestrian crossing point at the Co-op is in fact invisible to motorists and enquired as to whether ‘pedestrians crossing’ signage could be provided.

The Council resolved to ask Highways if a speed survey could be arranged, which the Parish Council agreed to fund, and to ask the Community Highways Officer to arrange a site meeting to discuss the issues.

The matter of the Little Lane crossing point was raised by Cllr Dilys Gartside of Okeford Fitzpaine PC. Cllr Gartside was disappointed that the project seemed to have been abandoned because of funding issues. The Chairman explained that the issue relates to the need for additional land to the north of the crossing point to provide a visibility sight line. The Clerk understood that the landowner has refused to make this land available and that there was not funding for compulsory purchase. The Clerk understands that consideration is being given for a further speed survey, with a view to extending the limit and possible additional signage is being considered.

**525. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Batstone echoed the view of the Chairman that the tree planting event at the Big Yellow Bus Garden Project was a great success. Cllr Batstone report that 4 members of the Dorset Youth Parliament had been elected to the UK Youth Parliament, a very worthwhile venture.

**526. ROADS**

The Chairman noted the recent spate of flooding events on the road near the petrol station which has been a matter of concern. The situation has been reported several times and one manhole was fixed very promptly. However, the issue has not gone away and a concern was raised that the drainage system may have collapsed somewhere in the vicinity. Cllr Gasson was concerned that the perpetual flooding at this location may be due to a failure to properly empty the drains of leaf litter compost, which is not helped by the fact that the road does not appear to be swept regularly. Cllr Batstone advised contact with the Community Highways Officer. The Clerk will attempt to arrange an on-site visit.

**527. PLANNING**

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

There were no new planning applications to consider.

The Clerk reported, following the extraordinary Parish Council meeting in January, that appropriate comments concerning the White Pit application had submitted via the consultee portal. The Clerk noted the detailed objections to the scheme by the Highways Planner. The Clerk enquired with Cllr Batstone as to whether this application would be considered by the Planning Committee. Cllr Batstone agreed to refer this.

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

There were no new applications for tree works.

**528. FINANCES**

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

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CQ/Ref** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
| 2371 | 12/12/2019 | £ 420.00 | Kwiktrade | App hosting |
| SO | 31/12/2019 | £ 611.68 | David Green | Pay |
| SO | 02/01/2020 | £ 333.00 | Cricket Club | Mowing |
| SO | 02/01/2020 | £ 1,359.72 | PWLB | 1st loan repayment |
| 2372 | 09/01/2020 | £ 60.00 | DAPTC | budget course |
| 2373 | 09/01/2020 | £ 156.96 | SSE | Elect pavilion |
| 2374 | 09/01/2020 | £ 150.00 | Stacey Hankin | Cleaning |
| 2375 | 09/01/2020 | £ 18.00 | Portman Hall | Meeting in May |
| SO | 30/01/2020 | £ 611.68 | David Green | Pay |
| SO | 01/02/2020 | £ 333.00 | Cricket Club | Mowing |
| DEBIT | 31/01/2020 | £ 159.60 | Dorset Wet Rooms | Replace/fix pipes |

**b) Cheques approved**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CQ/Ref** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
|  |  |  |  |
| 2376 | £ 18.00 | The Portman Hall | Hall Hire |
| 2377 | £ 146.97 | David Green | Expenses Dec-Jan |
| 2378 | £ 140.00 | Stacey Hankin | Cleaning |
| 2379 | £ 1632.00 | Sturminster Newton Town Council | Lengthsman fee |

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

The Clerk reported that the broken drainage downpipe at the front of the pavilion had been replaced but had been broken again within a week. He has asked the contractor to quote for an alternative fixing. The Clerk reported that the Play areas were in good order.

The matter of the replacement fencing for the ‘new’ allotments was considered. The Clerk had received three quotes for £ 982.44 and £ 1225.00, for a ‘like for like’ replacements, and one quote for £ 1661.00 plus VAT to install a 5-foot fence. It was decided, under advice from Cllr Kennard, that a more robust fence was required and the higher quote from Bourton Fencing was accepted.

**530. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Parish Council had been copied into a letter from a resident concerning two issues relevant to the village, i) parking in Gunn Lane, which is causing a hazard with the junction onto Blandford Road, and ii) the future of Holloway Farm. The parking situation in Gunn Lane has been reported to Dorset Council by M. P. Simon Hoare and Cllr Batstone. Cllr Batstone advised that Holloway Farm would not be re-let until 2021 but will be used for growing crops in the interim period.

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

Nothing specific

**532. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday 5th March 2020 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.