**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 1st OCTOBER 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, R McNamara, K Ridout, I Suter, Unitary Councilor P Batstone, Footpaths Officer G Rains, Clerk D Green

**615. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None

**616. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**617. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd September 2020 were approved.

**618. MATTERS ARISING:**

The Chairman noted that the matter of the funding of the Speed Indicator Device (SID) was under consideration by Dorset Council and further news is awaited. The Chairman also advised that the Clerk had located a contractor who would be able to provide the monthly rotation service for a modest fee which would remove the necessity for volunteers.

The Chairman noted that Dorset Council were planning a speed survey in relation to the Little Lane crossing. He noted that new road markings did not appear to have been installed as they have in other places such as Durweston

The Chairman noted that the creation of unauthorised parking spaces at Pepper Hill had been dealt with by Dorset Highways and the signage will be removed.

Cllr Batstone provide an update in relation to Holloway Lane farm. The farm will be let from March, 4 acres would be made available for the Lavender Farm and the Bee-keepers.

**619. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Cllr Gasson raised the matter of overgrown hedges between Candy’s Lane and the Feathered Nest. The Clerk will raise the matter with Dorset Council.

The Clerk confirmed that the lengthsman will be weeding the main road in the near future.

**620. UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Batstone reported that was an issue of the general increase in speeding across the ward. The Chairman noted the increasing volume of traffic, particularly HGV’s.

Dorset Councils Climate change strategy was discussed; Cllr Gasson thought that the strategy was useful in terms of the planned energy efficiency improvements to Council owned properties. The Chairman felt that the proposals contained a lot of ‘virtue signaling’ and had little to say about any practical improvements to peoples’ lives, particularly for example, when energy improvements to listed properties are prohibited.

**621. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths officer advised that Footpath 41 at Lanchards Lane had been cleared. He reported that there was an accident involving a pony and gig and a car at the Little Lane junction and suggested that the hedges at that point need to be cut to improve visibility. He was unable to deliver parts of his report due to technical difficulties (inaudible).

**622. PLANNING**

**i) There were no new applications received before the meeting:**

**ii) Planning White Paper**

The Clerk provided a summary of the proposed White Paper changes which include a national target for the construction of 300,000 homes per annum, a streamlined procedure based on the use of data, a National Design Code and the replacement of s.106 and CIL funding with an Infrastructure Levy. The Chairman said that the proposals were an improvement on the present system and should be welcomed, in that they would permit borrowing in advance of construction which would enable infrastructure developments to be planned, and had retained the role of Neighbourhood Plans in the planning process. The Clerk noted that he had also seen a paper which had suggested that the levy percentage may be a very contentious issue, although the set of proposals as a whole would be likely to speed up the development progress.

**623. FINANCES**

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

The list of payments had been circulated to councillors in advance. These were **APPROVED.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| STD ORD | 01/09/2020 | £ 588.68 | David Green | Pay August 2020 |
| STD ORD | 02/09/2020 | £ 333.00 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | Mowing |
| BACS | 04/09/2020 | £ 73.20 | David Green | Expenses |
| BACS | 04/09/2020 | £ 133.20 | Wessex Ground Services Limited | Weed control |
| BACS | 07/09/2020 | £ 85.60 | Newglaze Windows Limited | Deposit - new Pod door |
| DEBIT | 07/09/2020 | £ 20.00 | Royal British Legion | Wreath Type B |
| BACS | 10/09/2020 | £ 35.00 | Dorset Association of Parish | Agendas & Minutes course |
| BACS | 10/09/2020 | £ 403.92 | Elite Playground Inspections | Repair parts |
| BACS | 10/09/2020 | £ 162.00 | The Play Inspection Company | Inspections |
| BACS | 14/09/2020 | £ 89.84 | Quantum Locksmiths Limited | Fit hask & padlock |
| BACS | 21/09/2020 | £ 1,788.93 | Came & Company | Insurance renewal |
| BACS | 23/09/2020 | £ 496.08 | Elite Playground repairs | Repair work |
| BACS | 28/09/2020 | £ 453.00 | Dorset Council | Allotments rent |
| BACS | 28/09/2020 | £ 217.00 | SSE | Pavilion electricity |
| BACS | 30/09/2020 | £ 673.23 | David Green | Pay |

**b) Payments approved:**

Clerks expenses £ 54.33

**c) Budget Proposal**

The Clerk had circulated a proposed budget in advance of the meeting, for which he was thanked by Cllr Gasson. It was agreed on the basis of the calculations, at this stage, there would be no reason to increase the precept from £32,250. The Clerk did explain that final agreement should be deferred until December or January when the tax base calculation is produced, and pointed out that the annual cost of Parish Council funding to Band D Council taxpayers was £70.51 in 2020/2021.

The matter of a grant policy was discussed. Cllr Suter made the point that the Covid-19 situation could mean that local organisations may seek additional funding where this is not provided centrally. It was agreed that the Parish Council would consider further grant applications on a case-by-case basis

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

The Chairman reported that the play areas are in good order, all necessary repairs having been completed. The Pod door will be replaced in the next two months or so.

The Chairman noted that the further vandalism of the guttering at the Pavilion had caused a re-think of plans regarding the proposed repairs. The Clerk had received a quote for replacing the plastic verandah guttering and downpipe with a metal system, and had been able to cancel the original screened downpipe proposal at no cost. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the quote and proceed with the repairs.

Cllr McNamara enquired as to whether there was anything that could be done to improve security at the pavilion, CCTV for example. The Chairman noted that this would be very complex, monitoring would be a problem and it would be costly to install.

**625. CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence requiring reporting.

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

Nothing specific

**627. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday 5th November 2020 at 7:30 pm, by Zoom

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:24 p.m.