

**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT  
7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 4<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2021 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 L Gasson (Chairman), P Acton, R McNamara, K Ridout, I Suter, R White, Footpaths Officer G Rains, Unitary Councillor P Batstone, Clerk D Green

In addition, there were five members of the public present.

**683. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** None

**684. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**685. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2021 were approved.

**686. MATTERS ARISING:**

The Chairman commented that the Wessex Water work had been a source of great concern and reported that vibration from the work had apparently caused severe damage to a nearby house which the occupants had been forced to leave. The damage to local verges and road surfaces particularly around Lanchards Lane had been considerable and it was agreed that evidence of this would be gathered and submitted to Dorset Highways. The Chairman understood that the road will be re-opened on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> March. The Clerk advised that he had received confirmation of this. It was noted though that the road will again be closed for 5 days from 25<sup>th</sup> March for re-surfacing.

The Chairman noted that the installation of the Speed Indicator Device has been delayed due to the road closure.

The issue of an additional dog waste bins is on-going. The Clerk has made a request to the Dorset Waste Partnership but has not received any further update. It was noted that the bin at the Trailway gate on the Recreation Ground is yet again overflowing, but this may be as a consequence of the road closure preventing access.

**687. CO-OPTION OF NEW PARISH COUNCILLOR**

Robert Harwood explained his recent background and experience including time living in the USA and Africa and has been connected to the village for over 20 years. It was **AGREED** to co-opt Robert as a new Councillor.

The Chairman welcomed Robert to the Council.

**688. PUBLIC SESSION**

A resident raised the issue of bikes speeding along the Trailway and enquired as to whether signage could be installed to remind cyclists to be aware of dogs and walkers. The Chairman suggested that the Dorset Rangers should be contacted concerning this. Graham Rains noted that where signage had been

attempted before in Stourpaine, the signs had been torn down within a few days. It was felt that if signs were fixed high enough this would deter any vandalism.

Cllr Suter advised that the 'private parking' sign at Pepper Hill was still in place despite the investigation by the Community Highways Officer. The Clerk agreed to refer this to the CHO for further investigation.

#### **689. UNITARY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Batstone provided an update:

- Dorset Council is moving forward to activate recovery plans after the Covid-19 pandemic including workforce changes, transforming working methods and practices including desk sharing initiatives at County Hall
- Major legislation concerning domestic violence has been discussed and the Council will be granted £ 650,000 funding in support of accommodation provision. During Covid-19 incidents of coercive control have increase markedly and this is a concern.
- The New Harbour project in Weymouth will provide a sanctuary for children and young people and will improve fostering provision.
- Plans for St Mary's School near Shaftesbury are being considered.
- Cllr Batstone is working on issues relating to the rural estate, including the County Farms. The Chairman enquired as to whether Kingston Maurward college are still interested in being involved with running courses at Holloway Farm which only has 90 acres and would not ordinarily be viable as a farm. Cllr Batstone would seek confirmation of the extent of Kingston Maurward's interest in Holloway Farm.
- Cllr Batstone has seen a presentation on how 5G may assist agricultural production methods under the 'Agri Tech project'.
- Dorset Council has concerns regarding 'staycations' in Dorset and there have been discussions with farmers concerning the provision of additional campsites. In addition, fire prevention measures have been discussed following the major incident last year.
- There are plans for a digital hub in Sturminster Newton

#### **690. FOOTPATHS**

Graham Rains has discussed and advised Cllr McNamara in relation to two issues recently encountered in the village: a) the Little Lane to Shillingstone Lane footpath, which does not appear to have adequate signage and which can be difficult to identify when uncropped b) the footpath to Lanchards Lane across two paddocks behind the transport yard, which is difficult to access because of fences; Graham noted the latter query has apparently been an issue for some time. Graham will discuss the signage requirements with Dorset Rangers and report back. Graham noted that the Rights of Way 'Round Village Trail' scheme involving marked 'Red' and 'Blue' routes has not been supported in recent years.

Graham noted that the Trailway has been widened between Fiddleford and Sturminster Newton which is a great improvement and allows groups to now walk together.

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Cllr White reported a broken footpath sign near the gate to the Trailway at the Recreation Ground; this will be reported to the Rangers.

#### **691. COUNCILOR ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Councillors agreed to take on these responsibilities:

Cllr Gasson – Chairman & Churchyard

Cllr McNamara – Highways & Climate change

Cllr Suter – School liaison & Website

Cllr Rideout – Portman Hall, Facebook & Sports festival

Cllr Harwood – Allotments

Cllr White – Recreation ground

Cllr Aaron – Footpaths

Cllr Acton – Portman Hall

It was agreed that each councillor will also write an article for the Parish Magazine on a rotational basis.

Cllr Suter suggested that a village archive is created which may be added to the website.

#### **692. ZEBRA CROSSING**

The Clerk noted that a suggestion has been made for a zebra crossing over the main road near Augustan Avenue, but didn't know at this stage whether this location meets the specific criteria for a regulated crossing point. The Chairman noted that when the school was being built, a request was made but was turned down largely on cost grounds. Cllr Suter commented that funding is inconsequential in comparison with human life, and that the main road crossing is much busier than when the school was constructed. Cllr Rideout recalled that there were safety issues given as reasons why the crossing was refused in the past. Cllr McNamara said there is an onus on the Parish Council to seek measures that make the road as safe as possible and that the school now serves a broader community, and the road cuts the main recreation ground off from the rest of the village.

The Council **AGREED** to make the request.

#### **693. PLANNING**

Planning application reference P/FUL/2020/00440 - Shillingstone Station - Carry out engineering and landscaping works, to reinstate the historic track bed and re-lay railway track between Shillingstone Station and Bere Marsh (Cattle Creep Underpass). Nigel Eveleigh and Jon Jenkins of the North Dorset Railway attended the meeting and provided further explanation of the proposal.

Nigel Eveleigh explained that the project is moving into a new phase from 'museum' to a more operational service which will provide visitor rides. The proposal is the first phase of this plan and concerns the engineering and landscaping work to provide for new track which will extend the working track another 380 metres to a point to Cattle Creep bridge and effectively completes half a mile of track. The next phase will be the application to become operational and this will follow within two years. The work will involve diversion of the Trailway from the tracked area; Jon Jenkins explained that this will be achieved by installation of a

temporary diversion of the Trailway whilst work on the new permanent Trailway link is completed. Jon explained that the existing permitted path will be kept open throughout the period of the work but will have to temporarily move a few metres. The schedule of works, which will take some 6 months has been agreed with the Dorset Rangers and the Trailway Trust.

The Chairman enquired as to whether the new Trailway section would be wide enough for horses and Nigel confirmed that it would be 3 metres wide and an alternative route for horses in the future is being considered. The Chairman also enquired as whether local residents would be overlooked; Nigel advised that all local residents have been consulted and an area of land between the houses and the railway will be left empty.

Cllr Aaron raised a concern as to whether phase two of the plan would automatically follow approval of the first phase. Nigel advised that the NDR would be engaging in this project as its own risk – there being no certainty that phase two of the project would be approved by the planning authority.

The Council agreed to **APPROVE** the application and expressed support for the way in which the project is being professionally managed.

The Clerk advised that there was no update in relation to 16 Wessex Avenue.

The Local Plan was briefly discussed again. The Chairman noted that North Dorset did not feature highly in the Plan, the problem of housing was not addressed, but the village should be protected by the Neighbourhood Plan.

## 694. FINANCES

### i) a) Retrospective payments approved:

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

<u>Date</u>	<u>Payee</u>	<u>Ref</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Reason</u>
01/02/2021	David Green	SO	£ 613.42	Pay January 2021
02/02/2021	Cricket Club	SO	£ 333.00	Mowing
08/02/2021	David Green	BACS	£ 37.50	Expenses
24/02/2021	First Serve Tennis	BACS	£ 5,882.40	Fencing - balance
26/02/2021	Parish Online	DEBIT	£ 48.00	Mapping subscription
01/03/2021	David Green	SO	£ 613.42	Pay February 2021
02/03/2021	Cricket Club	SO	£ 333.00	Mowing contract

### b) Payments approved:

Clerks' expenses: £ 39.89

## 694. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

The Chairman reported that anti-vandal paint had now been applied to the Pavilion guttering and the guttering had been fixed without charge by Alan Donnelly, who had asked for a donation to be made to the Cricket Club. It was **AGREED** to donate £25 to the Club.

The Clerk has received 3 quotes to install metal fencing around the play area at the Recreation Ground. It was noted that the costs would be greater than originally anticipated and further work would be required to move the roundabout and a springer, the costs of which is presently unknown. The Chairman noted the policy with regard to dogs means that the main play area should be protected as far as possible.

The Council agreed to defer a decision concerning the fencing until the April meeting to allow time to consider the quotes more carefully.

The Clerk noted that the bench seat on the play area at the Recreation ground is in poor condition and requires replacing, possibly made of recycled plastic.

#### **695. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had submitted a written schedule of correspondence prior to the meeting. This related mainly to the dog waste bin issue and Wessex Water repairs issues.

Sturminster Town Council have written to the Parish Council proposing to provide a new lengthmans contract for work in the village.

#### **696. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Play area fencing consideration  
Councillors reports

#### **697. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 at 7:30 pm, by Zoom

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:22 p.m.