**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 7th APRIL 2022 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (Chairman), I Suter (IS) L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), P Acton (PA) R White (RW) and the Clerk D Green

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

**887. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Ridout.

**888. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**889. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd March 2022 were approved.

**890. MATTERS ARISING**

**Spring Bulb planting proposal** – the Council **AGREED** to seek permission for planting spring bulbs in various locations throughout the village, including around the Village Gates and on a number of verges. The Chairman will firstly confirm suitable locations with Graham Stanley of Dorset Rangers before asking for the licence from Dorset Highways

**Trees at the Recreation Ground** – the Council thanked Cllrs Harwood & White for planting three oak trees at the Recreation Ground.

**3 Oaks Tree planting proposal** –the three trees have been planted in the Bere Marsh triangle with protectors. The Council **AGREED** to make a donation of £ 120 towards the cost of this improvement.

**War Memorial –** the cleaning and restoration of the lettering has been completed and the partial grant of £ 720 towards the cost of this work has been received.

**Lengthsman** – the Sturminster Town Council Team have advised that the partial road sweep was not actually arranged by them but by Dorset Council, and that their own work has been disrupted by staffing issues and Ukrainian relief. The Clerk will request an update.

**Climate change –** Cllr Suter advised that there may be someone interested in taking on the remit of Climate change coordinator

**891 . PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no questions asked.

**892. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised that Dorset Council has been considering how Ukrainian migrants may be linked up with potential sponsors and how this will work in a rural situation. Cllr McNamara is currently involved in placing 5 Ukrainians families with local hosts following her recent relief assistance in Poland, but noted that there is a lot of bureaucracy involving in making the government scheme actually work. Cllr McNamara explained that 70% of refugees were actually planning to return to the Ukraine, preferring to stay in a near safe country such as Poland. The Naval Air Station at Yeovilton is also involved in the local initiative.

A new County Land Agent has been appointed and it is hoped that progress with the short-term letting of Holloway Farm will be made . Cllr Gasson noted that the residual farm of some 90 acres is no longer viable as a farming enterprise.

**893. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer was not present and there were no reported issues.

**894. PLANNING**

The Clerk had written to the Chiel Executive at Dorset Council concerning the policy of not issuing ‘neighbour notices’ but has only received the promise of a reply by a Senior Officer. Cllr Batstone noted that this a widespread concern and that these may be resumed but there is no time scale of this and it is very much up to individual planning officers.

**ii) New Applications to consider:**

**Planning application P/PABA/2022/01450 - Holloway Farm Holloway Lane Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0SY - Erect agricultural barn**

It was noted that this was not an application for comment but for legal determination for prior approval only. Cllr Gasson explained that the temporary structure would be used as a ‘pole barn’ for storage purposes.

**895. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

* **The Church -** architects had produced a restoration proposal and work would begin in September 2022. The cost of repairs is estimated as £ 150,000 and the Church is seeking grant funding and may need to commence fund raising (LG).

A potential replacement rector has withdrawn his application.

* **The School –** still has Covid-19 issues and testing is still being conducted (IS)
* **Portman Hall –** a 60’s & 70’s dance to be held in early April and a craft fayre on 30th April

Concerns had been raised as to why the Parish Council continued to hold meetings at the Church Centre when it owned the Portman Hall which has a better screen. The Clerk explained that whilst the Portman Hall may be owned by the Parish Council it is operated by the Portman Hall Trust on a commercial basis and would still charge the Parish Council. The Clerk did not think the hire and heating of this large hall for routine Parish Council meetings could be justified. The Parish Council will of course consider hiring the Hall when the occasion demands this, such as for the Annual Parish meeting (KR – written report).

* **Facebook -** there areno current issues (KR)

**896. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS & AGENDA**

It was **AGREED** that the Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 12th May at the Portman Hall.

The Railway Project, The Lavender Farm and the Bee-keepers would be invited to provide presentations.

**897 TREE PLANTING AT BURTONS ORCHARD**

The Burtons Orchard committee had declined the suggestion of planting a lime due to concerns regarding children’s’ asthma and had proposed that a beech be planted instead.

It was felt that this was an unacceptable idea, being potentially too large, and it was resolved to drop the proposal.

**898. ROADS UPDATE**

The Chairman reported:

**i) White line at Augustan Avenue** – a white line ‘access bar’ had appeared overnight, without any prior notification. Residents have expressed thanks for this.

**ii) Community Speedwatch -** Veronica Jenkins, following a near miss incident had offered to co-ordinate the setting up of a Speedwatch Team. The Clerk reported that existing equipment was inoperable (batteries having been left in the device which had corroded) and ideally new hi-vis clothing should be obtained. The Council **AGREED** to fund the cost of replacement equipment, which will be around £ 300, with the provision that if the team is disbanded within a short period, there will be no further consideration of re-introducing the scheme. Veronica Jenkins will be asked to report on progress to the Council when the team is up and running.

**899. FINANCES**

**i) Retrospective payments approved:**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Ref** | **Amount** | **Reason** |
| 02/03/2022 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | SO | £ 333.00 | Mowing |
| 03/03/2022 | PCC Shillingstone | BACS | £ 80.00 | Church Centre hire |
| 07/03/2022 | David Green | BACS | £ 32.15 | Feb 2022 expenses |
| 14/03/2022 | SSE | DD | £ 51.13 | Pavilion electricity |
| 17/03/2022 | Dorset Council | DEBIT | £ 289.80 | Parish RoW SLA |
| 21/03/2022 | Jeff Ling | BACS | £ 352.80 | Hedge trimming |
| 21/03/2022 | Stonemasons of Dorset | BACS | £ 1,432.00 | War Memorial rest |
| 22/03/2022 | Christopher Clark | BACS | £ 1,500.00 | Mower Shed roof |
| 22/03/2022 | North Dorset Liberals | BACS | £ 20.00 | 3 trees - Queens GC |
| 28/03/2022 | David Green | SO | £ 638.97 | March 2022 pay |
| 31/03/2022 | David Green | BACS | £ 112.25 | Pay arrears |
| 31/03/2022 | TEEC Limited | BACS | £ 28.80 | Website planning tracker |

**Payments approved:** Clerks’ expenses: £ 32.55

**VAT Repayment:** the Clerk reported that the VAT reclaim of £ £ 3,459. 71 had submitted to HMRC

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

The Chairman confirmed that:

* A new contract is to be agreed with Cricket Club to include the additional cost of mowing areas around tennis courts, which will be £ 400 per year
* A defibrillator has been installed at the Pavilion, and is now registered with the Circuit. There is also a security camera in place. The Council will consider whether to install wi-fi at the Pavilion
* The standard taps in the ladies’ loo at the Pavilion will be replaced by ‘push on’ taps to reduce water losses

**891. CORRESPONDENCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Date*** | ***From*** | ***Subject*** |
| 08/03/2022 | BeewayZz Project | Request for support to provide land to grow wildflowers for pollinators |
| 09/03/2022 | Dorset Highways | Confirmation that a letter drop was sent to residents re Hine Town Lane work |
| 18/03/2022 | Dorset Deserves Better | Letter to Cllr Flower re Local Plan timetable |
| 24/03/2022 | Veronica Jenkins | Road near miss report, request for additional measures including Speedwatch |

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

**892. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Annual Parish meeting arrangements: agenda & speakers’ confirmation

**893. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th May 2022 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.12