**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 3rd FEBRUARY 2022 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (Chairman), I Suter (IS) L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), K Ridout (KR) Unitary Councillor P Batstone (PB), Footpaths Officer G Rains and the Clerk D Green

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

**854. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Acton & White.

**855. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th January 2022 were approved.

**857. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman and the Clerk provided updates:

**War Memorial handrail** – two contractors had been consulted and had advised that in order to meet building regulations, in addition to the handrail, there would also have to be a safety rail to prevent falls from the raised ledge on either side of the steps. This would require raising the height of the gate pillars; there was also a potential issue regarding the wall around the War Memorial and the chain fence in place. These alterations would require architectural consultancy, Listed Building consent and would be very expensive. LG suggested that as the Memorial was only used once a year, action should be limited to providing physical assistance to anyone who requires this on Remembrance day. The Council agreed to not taking the idea further.

**War Memorial cleaning**  – the War Memorial Trust had agreed grant £ 720 (50% of the total) towards the cleaning and re-lettering cost. The Clerk is waiting to receive confirmation that the proposal has planning permission, though the Conservation Officers has supported the scheme.

**Defibrillators** – these have been received but a meeting is required to decide whether the second defibrillator should be installed either inside or outside the Pavilion and whether an unlocked cabinet is the correct choice for the Pavilion, given previous incidents of vandalism. The issue of insurance for both defibrillators also need to be resolved.

**Telephone Box** – the non-working and damaged phone near the Cross has been reported to BT by the Chairman who have advised that a repair will be made. It was noted that this is a card only phone.

**Recreation Ground- Trailway exit** – Dorset Rangers have laid some scalpings to improve the surface at the gate

**Lengthsman** – the Clerk has asked the SNTC team for an update regarding the street sweep but has not received a response. The Clerk will write to the Sturminster Newton Town Clerk.

**858 . PUBLIC SESSION**

A resident raised several issues:

* The defunct yellow ‘no waiting’ road signs near the Church Centre. The Chairman will discuss these with the Community Highways Officer
* The dilapidated Parish Notice board by the Old Post Office. The Clerk advised that the Parish Council only uses half the board, and notices are relevant, the remainder of the board being for public use. LG will ask Howard Povey is he is able to clean and repaint the board
* War Memorial – public fund-raising for improvements could be considered. IS noted that a wider scheme for renovation of the Memorial had been discussed in the past.

**859. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised that:

* The family issue referred by the Parish Council is being worked on with MP Simon Hoare
* Dorset Council will meet in person on 15th February 2022 to discuss and set the budget, though face to face committee meetings have not yet resumed
* There will be further consultation concerning the Dorset Local Plan, though Shillingstone is not one of the larger villagers impacted by any changes

**859. PLANNING**

**i) Applications update**

It was noted that the scheduled presentation regarding the Hine Town Lane north proposal to construct 9 new houses had been deferred. The Clerk is waiting for this to be rescheduled.

General concerns were expressed in relation to potential impact on neighbouring properties and whether the proposed splays would provide sufficient visibility.

**ii) New Applications to consider**

**P/PAAF/2022/00238 Gains Cross Farm Gains Cross Lane Shillingstone DT11 0QP -** Change of use of an agricultural building to a flexible commercial use

There were no objections to this proposal.

**860. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer noted that the diversion of the Trailway at Shillingstone Station had been completed and would be opened shortly, rejoining the existing track. There would be screening between the houses and the Trailway using fencing and vegetation and hopefully this would be an improvement.

It was noted the use of road planings to repair the Trailway surface, though improving drainage, was not best surface for dogs or children’s bicycles.

There were no other footpath issues.

**861. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

* **The School –** the Head has returned but there have been further Covid related issues. The matter of a police presence in Augustan Avenue to review parking problems will be raised with the School (IS)
* **Trees –** Burtons Orchard committee have not made a decision concerning the tree planting proposal. RH will contact the committee members to discuss further
* **Portman Hall –** written report received (KR).

**F**orthcoming events:

12th Feb Film Club

26th March Jumble Sale

30th April Spring Craft Fayre

12th June Centenary Shillingstone Sports Festival

* **Facebook -** no current issues (KR)

**862. ROADS ISSUES**

The Chairman reported The Parish Council has received a request for 3 oaks trees to be planted on the grassy triangle near the Trailway Car Park, and for a cost contribution. Permission of the landowner has been given. This had been referred to the Community Highways Officer who has advised that there would not appear to be any highway safety issues.

The Council **AGREED** that in principle it would support the idea but requires clarification in relation to:

* the maturity of trees proposed
* tree maintenance responsibilities
* insurance issues
* how the proposed path would connect to the wider scheme for the Little Lane Crossing
* precise costings for the proposal

The Chairman advised that a meeting with the Community Highways Officer to discuss other roads issues will be rescheduled.

**863. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND UPDATE**

LG advised that planning for the event on Thursday 2nd June is well underway. There may be an outside bar, and many events including games, children’s face painting, fancy dress, a trumpet fanfare, folk singing and more. The food offering will include a BBQ, strawberries & cream and salad. There are sufficient gazebos for the event. There may be street parties in Church Road and possibly Augustan Avenue on the 5th June. The Parish Council will consider coordinating activities if possible.

**864. FINANCES**

**i) Retrospective payments approved:**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Reference** | **Total** | **Reason** |
| 04/01/2022 | Public Works Loan Board | DD |  £ 1,359.72  | Loan repayment |
| 04/01/2022 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | STD ORD |  £ 333.00  | Mowing |
| 05/01/2022 | SSE | BACS |  £ 44.25  | Pavilion electricity |
| 05/01/2022 | SP Services (UK) Ltd | DEBIT CD |  £ 3,458.16  | Defibrillators & cabinets |
| 06/01/2022 | Elite Playground Inspections | BACS |  £ 60.00  | Qtrly Inspection fee |
| 07/01/2022 | Amy Stanners | BACS |  £ 87.50  | Pavilion cleaning |
| 07/01/2022 | Charlotte Hayward | BACS |  £ 87.50  | Pavilion cleaning |
| 07/01/2022 | David Green | BACS |  £ 41.10  | Mileage/Office allow |
| 07/01/2022 | Ian Suter | BACS |  £ 34.70  | Jubilee Cup printing  |
| 12/01/2022 | HM Revenue & Customs | BACS |  £ 135.70  | PAYE Q3 2021-2022 |
| 21/01/2022 | The App Office  | BACS |  £ 420.00  | Mobile app hosting  |
| 31/01/2022 | David Green | SO |  £ 628.77 | January 2022 pay |

 **Payments approved:**

Clerks’ expenses: £ 39.30

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

The Chairman advised that:

* emptying of the Dog waste bins at the Recreation Ground has resumed after what appears to be a Covid/Christmas related delay
* repairs to the mower shed will hopefully commence in February, but the date has not been confirmed
* The Clerk has suggested that the basket swing at the Recreation Ground should be replaced. A replacement for £575 plus VAT has been located, with a fitting charge of £ 150. The Council **RESOLVED** to proceed with this work.

**866. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

* 12/01/2022 - Email from a resident regarding a family matter copied to Simon Hoare MP & Dorset Council.
* 20/01/2022 – Email re 3 Oaks Tree planting proposal
* 20/10/2022 – Dorset CPRE – Local Plan housing targets unacceptable comment
* 25/01/2022 – Dorset Council – Bus Services planning review
* 25/01/2022 – Dorset Deserves Better – newsletter from a new campaign group opposing the current Dorset Local Plan
* 25/01/2022 – Somerset & Dorset Air Ambulance – Blossoming & Blooming Open Gardens initiative

**867. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Augustan Avenue Tree planting decision
* Street sweep update
* Old Post Office Noticeboard update
* Review meeting start time arrangements
* Jubilee Events co-ordination

**868. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Thursday **3rd March 2022 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.00.