**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 5th MAY 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 K Ridout (KR); Unitary Councillor P Batstone (PB) and the Clerk D Green

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

**894. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN**

Cllr McNamara was nominated to stand as Chairman for the forthcoming year, seconded, duly elected and signed the Acceptance of Office

**895. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Cllr was nominated to stand as Vice-Chairman, seconded and duly elected.

**896. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**897. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr McNamara declared an interest in relation to the PC meeting planning item re Ham Farm.

**898. TO APPOINT OFFICERS AND REPRESENTATIONS TO OUTSIDE BODIES**

The Council agreed to ask Graham Rains if he would like to continue as Footpaths Officer.

**899. STANDING ORDERS/FINANCIAL REGULATIONS?CODE OF CONDUCT**

Amended versions of these were **AGREED** by the Parish Council.

**900. GRANTS FOR THE FORTHCOMING YEAR**

The Parish Council **RESOLVED** that the following grants should be made:

1. Parish Magazine - £ 500
2. Churchyard maintenance - £ 250
3. Shillingstone Youth Club - £ 250

**901. RESERVE ACCOUNT PROVISIONS**

The Parish Council **AGREED** to the following reserve account allocations:

1. Tennis Club - £ 250
2. Play Equipment at Hine Town Lane - £ 1500

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

**7.10 PM ON THURSDAY 5th MAY 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 K Ridout (KR) ; Unitary Councillor P Batstone (PB) and the Clerk D Green

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

**902. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies.

**902. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr McNamara declared an interest in relation to the PC meeting planning item re Ham Farm.

**903. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th April 2022 were approved.

**904. MATTERS ARISING**

**Spring Bulb planting proposal** – The Chairman reported that Dorset Highways have granted a licence to plant bulbs in a number of agreed locations throughout the village. Cllr Harwood will consider a range of suitable daffodils, approximately 300, and obtain quotes. Planting will need to take place in September/October. The Chairman has asked Paul Williams if he would be able to find volunteers to undertake the planting.

**Lengthsman** – the Clerk advised that the Sturminster Town Council Team had hoped to resume normal mowing in April; work has been delayed because of being short staffed and their work in relation to Ukraine. They will fit in the pavement sweep when possible. The Clerk will monitor the situation

**Climate change –** Cllr Suter is discussing the possibility of a family member taking on this role.

**905. PUBLIC SESSION**

A question was asked in relation to the possibility of the Parish Council holding meetings at the Portman Hall.

The Clerk explained although the Parish Council owned the building, it is operated by a separate management trust and use would not be free of charge; in addition the use of such a large hall for PC meetings could not be justified in terms of the heating consumption. It was also pointed out that parking at the Church Centre was better than at the Portman. The Council agreed to consider the possibility of occasionally using the Hall and the Clerk will confirm the cost difference.

A question was asked in relation to the notice board by the Old Post Office. The Clerk confirm that the right-hand side of the noticeboard is unlocked and for public use, the left-hand side is locked and for PC use only. There has been a delay in getting the noticeboard refurbished but hopefully this will take place soon.

A question was raised in relation to the speeding issue at the Cross. The Chairman covered this in the roads update.

**906. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone noted that:

* The PLACE committee is awaiting a report in connection with proposals to reduce speed limits in residential areas of Dorset to 20 m.p.h, excessive speeding being a concern for many villages in the county. Air quality is also an issue in certain locations, for example Chideock, which may of course also be an issue in villages bisected by busy roads such as Shillingstone.
* A new County Land Agent has been appointed and is considering the Holloway Farm issue. A lease of the Bee-keepers has not yet been finalised. There is a problem with letting the farm as an enterprise at present due to the crayfish breeding tenancy and it is likely that the present arrangement involving contract use will have to continue for at least 18 months. Kingston Maurward College do not now appear to be considering using Holloway Farm as an activity location. PB noted that uses for programmes with difficult young people have not been ruled out; LG noted that the bee-keepers had been successfully working with HMP Guys Marsh.
* Dorset Council has experienced security incidents recently connected with climate change protests and is now taking extra steps to keep County Hall secure; there needs to be heightened awareness when holding meetings where the public are admitted, as the murder of the MP demonstrated.
* The first families from Ukraine have arrived in Shillingstone and others will arrive shortly; the pavilion at Stourpaine will be used as an information resource to assist integration in the UK. It was noted that there is a need for database of useful contacts as well as services such as Mental Health Support. PB advised that the Dorset Council contact is Carol Jones, the Dorset Councillor for Sturminster Newton, who should be approached in the first instance.

**907. FOOTPATHS**

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

**908. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**ROADS:**

The Chairman noted that she & the Clerk had met the Community Highways Officer (CHO) and could provide updates in relation to several issues:

* **Little Lane Crossing/30 mph zone extension -** the proposal to move the speed limit had been lost in the system for around 9 months. The CHO has now reactivated the issue with the decision makers and is hoping for progress. The issue of a new footpath will only be considered further when a decision has been made in relation to the speed limit.
* **School crossing** - the location does not meet the criteria for an official crossing however other measures are still being considered and will be discussed with the ‘Safer Routes to Schools Team’. A white line ‘access bar’ has been painted at the end of Augustan Avenue to dissuade dangerous parking. The CHO had proposed that a rather ‘old fashioned’ school warning sign be installed. The Chairman has asked whether an electronic flashing sign, such as there is in Child Okeford, could be considered, and the Parish Council may be prepared to assist with funding.
* **Shillingstone Lane** – the speed survey had been conducted but the results of this did not support a limit change. A national review of rural speed limits is underway, the outcome of this is awaited and may have a bearing on any speed limit change in this location given the unnecessary change from 30 m.p.h. to national speed limit and back to 30 m.p.h. in a very short stretch of road.
* **Church Road –** the police have been helpful but will only take action where parking is obstructing the road, however they will respond to photographic reports of problem parking.

These should be submitted via this link:

[**https://www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk/enforcement-operations/reporting-traffic-concerns/**](https://www.dorsetroadsafe.org.uk/enforcement-operations/reporting-traffic-concerns/)

* **Fixed Speed Camera –** no location in the village meets the criteria for a fixed speed camera, the accident record (fortunately) shows no fatalities. This matter will not be pursued further.
* **Community Speed Watch** - Veronica Jenkins is in the process of setting up a Community Speedwatch Team and the Parish Council has agreed to fund the cost of the equipment. The team will be asked to report to the Parish Council once they are up and running.

**OTHER REPORTS:**

* **The Church –** there will be some major events in celebration of the Queens Platinum Jubilee:
* **28th May –** a Jubilee themed flower display in the Church
* **5th June –** an outdoor service in Church Field followed by refreshments at the Church Centre

Some branches in the Churchyard have been removed and the view to Child Okeford has been restored (LG)

* **The School –** two members of staff are on long term sickness(IS)
* **Sports Festival –** the Sports Festival will be held in August and it is hoped that Councillors will be involved in running stalls (KR)
* **Facebook -** an issue involving online abuse has been resolved (KR)
* **Recreation Ground –** an issue with damage to the tennis shelter wall is being discussed with the Cricket and Tennis clubs (RW)

It was agreed that villagers should be encouraged to put up bunting and posters for the Jubilee.

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

The Annual Parish Meeting would be held on 12th May at the Portman Hall. IS has produced an excellent A3 poster for local display on the noticeboards , this will be promoted on Facebook and the PC website.

The Railway Project, The Lavender Farm and the Bee-keepers, and the Big Yellow Bus Project will all provide presentations. Andy Fail of the Countryside Restoration Trust will attend to informally discuss their work.

**910. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) Applications update:**

**Re - P/FUL/2021/03289.** The Council was concerned that work on the new house between 4 & 6 Wessex Avenue had commenced, despite the objection of the Parish Council and a near neighbour. It was agreed that at this stage no further action by the PC would be beneficial but it was disappointing that the local opinion had been disregarded by the decision makers, and calls into question the validity of the PC expressing any opinion.

Applications received after the last PC meeting with a response date before the PC meeting summary:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date Rec'd** | **Reply Due** | **Ref** | **Address** | **Description** | **Notes** |
| 11/04/2022 | 02/05/2022 | P/HOU/2022/02342 | 13 Stour Close, DT11 0SU | Erect new rear & side extns | No objection comment returned after PC consideration |
| 11/04/2022 | 02/05/2022 | P/HOU/2022/02310 | Eastbrook Farm, DT11 0SZ | Erect double garage | No objection comment returned after PC consideration |

**ii) New Applications to consider:**

**Footpath alteration** - Pre application consultation: P/OUT/2021/05146 Footpath N50/29 Parish of Shillingstone, associated with planning application P/FUL/2022/02499 Ham Farm application below

The applicant, who attended the meeting, explained that the walked path is not shown on the definitive map, and the officially designated route needs to be moved to accommodate the new agricultural dwelling. There were no objections to the re-designation of the path.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application date** | **Ref** | **Address** | **Description** | **PC decision** |
| 19/04/2022 | P/HOU/2022/02451 | 3 Pepper Hill, DT11 0TD | Erect new porch | No objection – no impact on neighbours |
| 25/04/2022 | P/FUL/2022/02499 | Ham Farm, DT11 0TE | Demolish lean to/side extensions | No objection – necessary work to provide accommodation |
| 25/04/2022 | P/HOU/2022/02597 | Broughton House, DT11 0TF | Erect garage | No objection – no impact on neighbours |

**iii) Developer meeting**

The Chairman and Clerk had met Montpelier Developments Limited, at their request to discuss a possible scheme involving Squirrels Leap and land to the rear of the Old Ox. This has been referred to the Neighbourhood Planning committee for further advice.

**911. FINANCES**

**i) Retrospective Payments approval:** the following payments were **APPROVED**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee** | **Method** | **Amount** | **Purpose** |
| 04/04/2022 | Amy Stanners | BACS | £ 87.50 | Cleaning |
| 04/04/2022 | Charlotte Hayward | BACS | £ 87.50 | Cleaning |
| 04/04/2022 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | STD | £ 366.66 | Mowing |
| 05/04/2022 | Elite Playground Inspections | BACS | £ 60.00 | Rec/Aug Ave Inspections |
| 08/04/2022 | HM Revenue & Customs | BACS | £ 186.19 | PAYE Q4 2021//22 |
| 08/04/2022 | Sandisons | BACS | £ 222.00 | Payroll services |
| 08/04/2022 | Dorset Waste Partnership | DEBIT | £ 424.32 | Waste bins Rec/Aug Ave |
| 11/04/2022 | David Green | BACS | £ 32.55 | Expenses March 2022 |
| 12/04/2022 | Child Okeford Events | BACS | £ 120.00 | 3Oaks tree planting |
| 12/04/2022 | Total Energy Services | BACS | £ 151.68 | Replace taps pavilion |
| 20/04/2022 | Water2business | DEBIT | £ 118.79 | Pavilion water |
| 28/04/2022 | David Green | STD | £ 648.51 | April 2022 pay |
| 29/04/2022 | Water2business | DEBIT | £ 16.71 | Allotments water |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 64.04

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

The Chairman confirmed that:

* The Cricket Club had proposed the agreement of a new 3-year contract for mowing the Recreation Ground, to include the additional cost of mowing areas around tennis courts, for £ 5000 per annum. The Parish Council **AGREED** to this proposal
* A member of the public has raised concerns regarding the safety of the fixings for the basket swing on the right-hand side. The repairer has inspected this and advised that it was safe, being installed this way but has now added extra washers to provide peace of mind for users.

**913. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date Rec’d** | **From** | **Ref** |
| 13/04/2022 | Anna Lee (Dorset Council) | DC do not have the resources to issue both 'site' and 'neighbour' notices |
| 21/04/2022 | Jon Jenkins (Railway) | Re-opening 20th April information |
| 22/04/2022 | Dorset Deserves Better | Newsletter 6 |

**914. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Approval of Internal Audit report/Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements

**915. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 9th June 2022 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.26