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

**7.10 PM ON THURSDAY 6th APRIL 2023 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: I Suter (Acting-Chairman) (IS), L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), K Ridout (KR) and the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 6 members of the public present.

**1064. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr McNamara, Cllr White, Unitary Councilor Batstone. The resignation of Cllr Acton was noted.

**1065. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllrs Suter re Asset of Community Value update.

**1066. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd March 2023 were approved.

**1067. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided these updates:

**War Memorial steps**

The Parish Council has received two quotes from a contractor concerning proposals to install either just a handrail and raising the entrance pillars or a wider scheme to include replacement of all brickwork and with new railings.

It was considered that whilst the quote for the smaller scheme was reasonable it was agreed that a further comparative quote should firstly be seen before any decision concerning a pre-application submission is made.

**30-mph speed limit extension at Little Lane**

The public consultation period for extension of the 30-mph zone has now commenced. Comments can be made via the Dorset Council website:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/review-and-comment-on-a-traffic-regulation-order>

**Defibrillator at the school**

The Clerk had been advised that the new battery would not be delivered until 28th April at the earliest. A message concerning this will be put on Facebook by KR. It should be noted that that there is now a defibrillator at Shillingstone Station which will be available when the station is open.

**Holloway Farm**

LG had referred the issue of mud on Hollway Lane to the Community Highways officer who has advised that the contractor will be dealing with this. There is though the problem of potholed roads which needs to be addressed and the general concern regarding a potential pollution risk arising the dumping of slurry on adjacent land. The ongoing matter of the lease at Holloway Farm remained unresolved.

**1068. PUBLIC SESSION**

Residents raised concerns regarding the additional drawings submitted in connection with the planning application relating to the installation of a car parking area at Shillingstone Industrial Estate.

It was noted that these drawings showed an expanded car parking area which would encroach into the bund, which is subject to a tree preservation order. The drawings also showed some additional parking spaces including a disabled space behind the industrial units. These car parking spaces would appear to be blocking fire exits to the units and be completely unnecessary given that there is plenty of space in front of the units.

A resident raised the issue of the sale of White Pit farm for development with a formal cut-off date for bids having been set, and wished to remind all that the Neighbourhood Plan should be considered by any developer. The Clerk advised that this had been referred to the Unitary Councillor for communication to Dorset Council.

A resident noted that some flooding had occurred in Hine Town Lane.

**1069. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Unitary Councillor was not present and a report had not been received.

**1070. FOOTPATH OFFICERS REPORT**

The Footpath Officer was not present and no issues had been raised.

**1071. THE OLD OX – ASSET OF COMMUNITY BID UPDATE**

IS confirmed that two bids had been made and rejected. The moratorium for community bids has now been lifted by Dorset Council. The Community Interest company will be submitting a bid for grant funding on 15th April. The group has also joined the Plunkett Foundation which may provide support and possibly loans for community ventures. The tenants have left the premises at the end of March and a temporary manager has been appointed.

**1072. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**Portman Hall -** has a number of events lined up including table top sales and a Newcomers Party in October. Further information is in the Parish Magazine (KR)

**The Church** - has received grant awards from three bodies and has now raised around £120k of the £140k needed to make the urgent repairs, thus needing £20k from the community.

There will be a Coronation Party on Sunday 7th May in Lesley Gasson’s field as previously reported. Family tickets will be available but there is no obligation to buy these. People can bring their own picnics.

**The Allotments** – one vacancy had been quickly filled and has been cultivated to a high standard. All plots have been worked on. There has been a request to replace the fencing around the old allotments. This has been looked at but would involve a considerable amount of work and is likely to be expensive. A further report will be made for the next meeting (RH)

**Shillingstone Youth Club** – is looking for a new leader; there are some people interested and this will be discussed further (IS)

**1073. POP-UP LARDER PROPOSALS**

KR reported that there is an initiative by the North Dorset Poverty Sction Group to set-up a ‘pop-up larder’ in one of the local villages. This will involve a visiting van and is based on membership scheme. There is the major question of what would be a suitable site – this needs to be a hard standing area with a dry area for shelter and where people could possibly meet. The Church Centre rather than the School was proposed as a suitable venue. Two ‘champions’ and two or three local volunteers are being sought to take the project forward. It was noted that can be stigma associated with using such a service and the set up needs to be carefully considered.

**1074. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING ARRANGEMENTS**

Cllrs McNamara & Ridout have met with the School Head, Jane Whitehouse-Sharp and discussed an initiative for residents with Royal connections to be interviewed by local children and for these recordings to presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

The Clerk has discussed a possible PowerPoint presentation with Elaine Spencer-White highlighting the work of the Countryside Regeneration Trust at Bere Marsh Farm.

**1075. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) Applications update:**

There was no decision to report in relation to the Land at the Old Ox application.

The additional drawings received in relation to the Shillingstone Industrial Estate car park proposal were discussed in the public session.

**ii) New applications:**

**P/FUL/2022/07963**  **Bere Marsh Farm Newmans Drove Shillingstone DT11 0QY**

*Change of use and restoration of existing barns to create education centre for community use, construct new link building, erect bird hide, four stork nesting towers and viewing platform and rebuild two storey mill.*

Elaine Spencer White of the CRT provided additional details and answered Councillors questions. Elaine had met Dorset planners and discussed the issues raised below.

There may be some large events such as open days and fundraisers at the site in the summer, although generally there will be no more than 20 people at one time on the site. The architect has provided for 112 parking spaces but realistically no more than 80 would be required as a maximum, as this is the capacity of the barn, and then only on days of special events. Traffic marshals would used on event days as necessary, the access only allowing for one vehicle in and one out at a time. The car park will be a green system with substrate and geotextile surface.

The sewerage system will require replacement and this will involve a water filtration system with a new tank. There will be temporary toilets provided for large events.

The Parish Council agreed to support the application though with comment that the number of car parking spaces should be restricted to 80. It was suggested that the CRT liaise with Shillingstone Station to ensure that large scale events do not clash.

The Rangers will be tidying the edge of the Trailway footpath where it runs alongside the access track.

**1076. FINANCES:**

**1) The following retrospective Payments were APPROVED:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** |  **£ Total**  | **Reason** |
| 01/03/2023 | Safelincs Fire Safety  |  £ 202.49  | Defib pads |
| 02/03/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club |  £ 416.66  | Mowing |
| 06/03/2023 | Amy Stanners |  £ 70.00  | Pavilion cleaning |
| 06/03/2023 | Charlotte Hayward |  £ 70.00  | Pavilion cleaning |
| 06/03/2023 | David Green |  £ 52.49  | Expenses |
| 06/03/2023 | Lesley Gasson |  £ 142.00  | Coronation lunch contribution |
| 06/03/2023 | Richard Watts |  £ 105.00  | Hedging work |
| 06/03/2023 | PCC Shillingstone |  £ 24.00  | Church Centre hire |
| 20/03/2023 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  £ 270.00  | Honeysuckle Gardens footpath work |
| 20/03/2023 | Rachel McNamara |  £ 13.00  | Plants for troughs |
| 20/03/2023 | Dorset Council |  £ 699.60  | Rights of Way SLA renewal |
| 28/03/2023 | David Green |  £ 696.78  | March 2023 pay |
| 29/03/2023 | Azets |  £ 234.00  | Payroll 2022-2023 |

**ii) New payments approval –** Clerk’s expenses of £ 32.55 were **APPROVED.**

**1077. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK:**

The Clerk provided an update:

* Les Ellison of the Cricket Club has very kindly organised the repair of all the rotten seats near the Cricket pitch.
* There has been a request from the Cricket Club to consider the installation of an electrical supply to the mower shed. This is in anticipation of a transition to electric mowers and possibly to allow the installation of an electronic scoreboard. The Cricket Club have been asked to provide quotes for consideration.
* Sturminster Newton Town Council have completed their final cut at Augustan Avenue and the new contractor starts in April.
* The footpath to Honeysuckle Gardens footpath has been given a very good tidy up by the new contractor.

**1078. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 07/03/2023 | Bere Marsh Farm | Local Events |
| 06/03/2023 | Wessex Internet | Offer to attend PC meeting  |
| 12/03/2023 | Lillie Smith | Common Ground information request |
| 13/03/2023 | Bob Yorath | White Pit site for sale |
| 15/03/2023 | Brian Thorne | Parish Council & Old Ox bid |
| 15/03/2023 | Dorset Climate Action  | Upcoming events & Newsletter  |
| 20/03/2023 | Sturminster Newsletter | Whats Happening in Stur - April/May |
| 22/03/2023 | Dorset Highways | A357, Shillingstone, Blandford Forum 30mph Speed Limit |
| 31/03/2023 | Clive Nelson | Mower shed power connection/Wi fi query |
| 01/04/2023 | Richard Higgs | Thanks for removal of ‘No waiting’ signs |
| 02/04/2023 | Nigel Eveleigh | Request for PC article re Shillingstone Station |

**Request for Shillingstone Station article**

IS will consult re a volunteer to write a suitable article.

**Dorset Council– Electric vehicle charging points**

A recording of a webinar concerning electric vehicle charging points had also been circulated. It was worth noting that Dorset Council is working on a proposal to install onecharging point per village.

**1079. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

1. War memorial steps – additional quote consideration & next steps
2. Annual Parish Meeting arrangements

**1080. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 4th May 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall, there being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:25