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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2023 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM), I Suter (Vice-Chairman) (IS), L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), R White (W) Footpaths Officer G Rains (GR), Unitary Councillor P Batstone (PB) and the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 7 members of the public present.

**1029. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**1030. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr Suter re Asset of Community Value update.

**1031. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th January 2023 were approved.

**1032. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided these updates:

**War Memorial steps**

The Clerk has met architect James Cain and consultant Jo Kempster, discussed proposals for a scheme to install handrails and is now awaiting drawings.

**Anti-Social behaviour**

Recently reported incidents in Roman Way have been discussed with the local PCSO. The police have advised that 999 should be called if events are in progress, and 101 after the event, and the police have given assurances that they will attend.

KR advised that a log of incidents is being kept but made it clear that Facebook must not be used for publishing speculative comments as to who may be responsible for these incidents.

**‘Warm Space’ initiative**

The ‘Warm Spaces’ initiative has been ended due to a lack of interest. LG advised that it had operated for 10 weeks but the last meeting in January only had one visitor. LG thanked the Parish Council for its contribution to the running costs.

**Pavilion Electricity**

SSE had objected to the transfer of the account to a new energy provider claiming that the PC is still ‘under contract’ despite having informed the Clerk that the PC was ‘out of contract’. A formal complaint has been made to SSE and the removal of the smart meter has also been requested.

**1033. PUBLIC SESSION**

It was reported that there has been a clearance of vegetation on the bund behind the Shillingstone Industrial Estate, despite there being a Tree Preservation Order in place in relation to part of the bund. The Tree Officer and planning office will be consulted with reference to these developments. It was questioned whether there was an intention to create an access link from the A357 to the estate by the demolition of existing buildings.

A resident reported that it was over a year since the removal of yellow ‘No Waiting’ signs outside the Church Centre had been promised by Dorset Council but no action had taken place. The Clerk would contact the new Community Highways Officer for an update.

A request was also made for the removal of the lamppost poppies. The Chairman requested that these are removed by anyone who sees them.

A school governor enquired as to what progress had been made in relation to the installation of a school crossing. The Chairman noted that a traffic survey had been conducted by Dorset Council in September 2021 but it was found that the proposed location did not meet the algorithm criteria for a crossing to be installed. The Chairman noted that the Parish Council had ensured that new signage had been installed although this still requires modification; dropped kerbs showing a suitable crossing point may be considered. The Chairman suggested that the school enquires as to whether a crossing patrol might be considered and will provide relevant road safety team contacts at Dorset Council. LG noted that with the closure of Okeford Fitzpaine school there were now more pupils attending Shillingstone School and this should be taken into consideration.

PB enquired at as to whether the issue of 20 mph speed limits has been re-considered. The Chairman noted that it was the understanding that if a roads primary function was the movement of motor vehicles, then a 20-mph limit would not be considered. PB thought that it could still be a possibility and would make further enquiries. The Clerk noted that Speedwatch must be in place for at least a year before a 20- mph limit would be considered.

It was enquired as to whether the Parish Council would consider using the Portman Hall for meetings rather than the Church Centre. The Chairman noted that it would only be considered if was generally available. LG noted that parking at the Portman Hall was difficult and this was not an issue at the Church Centre.

**1033. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Unitary Councillor made several comments:

* Fostering in Dorset – Dorset Council is looking to recruit more foster carers and is recommending a 15% increase in the fees payable to carers.
* Family Hubs – more of these are planned to assist families with advice & support in difficult times, primarily in an attempt to keep children out of care. There are currently two family hubs in Dorset.
* Council Tax – a decision concerning this has been deferred until the March meeting but there is likely to be a 3.98% increase which includes the 2.9% increase earmarked for Adult Social Care.
* Car Parking charges – a review of these will take place.
* Holloway Farm lease – the finalisation of this has been delayed again it seems primarily due to personnel changes and the legal process. LG noted that this really is unacceptable, the beekeepers having been waiting for two years. LG noted that the bee-keepers and Lavender Farm plan to attend the Dorset Council meeting on 14th February to raise the issue.

**1034. FOOTPATH OFFICERS REPORT**

The Footpath Officer reported that:

* No work had commenced on the steps under the quarry and two people have recently slipped on the worsening path; there is a potential litigation issue and the issue has been raised with the Rangers again.
* The bridge linking to Brodham Way is in poor condition and requires work.
* The White Hart Link (WHL), which has been in a hiatus period during the pandemic, is being reactivated and they are requesting volunteers to assist with clearing paths and other activities. The WHL is a 50-mile route linking the main towns of North Dorset using existing footpaths, including the Trailway. It was noted that published information concerning the route appeared to be limited. The Clerk will make enquires.

IS reported an incident of a dog attack in the Trailway and the issue of cyclists speeding along the route was discussed.

**1035. THE OLD OX – ASSET OF COMMUNITY BID UPDATE**

IS reported that the survey had been conducted and a valuation report is awaited. There will be a meeting with the owners to discuss a bid.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities have confirmed that a grant application can be made from spring 2023, although this will be on match funding basis and until the grant is received it will not be known what is required from the community.

**1036. CORONATION PLANNING**

The Chairman noted that the Coronation in May week will comprise 3 elements – the Coronation service on the 6th, the Coronation Big Lunch on the 7th and the Big Help Out on the 8th May.

The Coronation Service will be screened at the Portman Hall and this event will be promoted. The PCC will hold a lunch event on the 7th; food will be available to buy or picnics can be brought along. There will be children’s games and possibly entertainments. There is a Coronation Fund to meet some of the costs. The PC will orgainse a ‘Best Bunting’ competition with a prize.

**1037. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Roads** – the CHO had been invited to attend the next PC meeting but no commitment has been provided at this stage. RM will provide a full report of progress with regard to roads issues at the March meeting.

A request has been received for a grit bin to be installed at the White Pit end of the village. This has been referred to the CHO for evaluation.

It was noted that the village only has one community grit bin, along Gunn Lane. This has been checked by the Clerk and is 3/4 full.

**The Church** – There is speculation that a possible rector has been identified but further information is not currently available.

A fund-raising campaign has been launched for stage one of the roof repair. The north aisle repair requires around £ 140k though some funding has been secured. The whole project will though cost around £ 340k and be a long term project (LG)

**Portman Hall -** Planning for the Coronation is underway with ring fenced funding. There will be film night on Saturday 4th February. (KR)

**School –** remained open during the recent strike. (IS)

**1038. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) Applications update**

There were no decisions to report in relation to either the Land at the Old Ox or the Shillingstone Industrial Estate Car Parking applications.

Application P/FUL/2022/02998 - Land at The Old Ox - IS noted that comments had been published by Dorset Council planning policy stating that the proposal for seven market homes was contrary to Policy 11 in the SNP and was also in conflict with Policy 4 in the SNP.

**1039. FINANCES:**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 03/01/2023 | Elite Playground Inspections | £ 60.00 | Inspections |
| 03/01/2023 | Public Works Loan Board | £ 1,359.72 | Loan repayment |
| 03/01/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 09/01/2023 | David Green | £ 53.01 | Expenses |
| 11/01/2023 | HM Revenue & Customs | £ 273.61 | PAYE Q3 2022-2023 |
| 13/01/2023 | J P Consultants | £ 650.00 | Reimburse cost of Ox survey |
| 16/01/2023 | PCC Shillingstone | £ 60.00 | Church Centre hire |
| 18/01/2023 | PCC Shillingstone | £ 250.00 | Warm space cost donation |
| 28/01/2023 | David Green | £ 696.78 | January 2023 pay |

**ii) New payments approval –** Clerk’s expenses of £ 147.64 were **APPROVED.**

**1040 PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK:**

The Chairman noted that 3 quotes had been received by the Clerk in relation to grass cutting/trimming at Augustan Avenue, the Church Centre, the footpath to Honeysuckle Gardens and the Recreation Ground car park. It was agreed to appoint Edens Landscapes to carry out the work, the quote being reasonably priced from a well established and highly rated contractor.

There were two rotten seats at the Recreation Ground requiring replacement. Details of these will be send to KR for a Facebook enquiry.

The Clerk reported the defibrillator at the School was out of order and required a new battery. There is a national shortage if these and they will be a least a months delay in obtaining a new one. The School has been advised and the status of the machine has been reported on ‘The Circuit’.

**1041. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 11/01/2023 | Wessex Internet | confirmation of £1 per month subscription (Pavilion) |
| 12/01/2023 | CEE support meeting | Reminder for C&EE support group meeting |
| 17/01/2023 | Jo Witherden | Consultation on the NPPF proposed changes, |
| 19/01/2023 | SNTC Town Clerk | re SLA contract termination |
| 23/01/2023 | Fiona Mahan | Grit bin request - White Pit |
| 24/01/2023 | Stur Newsletter | What’s happening in Stur |
| 24/01/2023 | SSE | The Priority Service Register. |
| 27/01/2023 | David Compton | ‘Bravest Village letter' condition report |
| 30/01/2023 | Dorset Council – Bus Stops | Changes to Service 4 |

The Chairman noted:

* ‘Bravest Village’ letter preservation – the Clerk had contacted Dorset History Centre for advice
* Neighbourhood Planning changes – Jo Witherden had been asked to advise in relation to the timescale for a review of the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan
* Bus service 4 – changes had been added to Facebook

**1042. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

1. Roads achievements
2. Old Ox ACV – Community Bid progress update
3. Coronation planning finalisation
4. Annual Parish Meeting arrangements
5. Speedwatch

**1043. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 2nd March 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 21:00.