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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 5th JANUARY 2023 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM), I Suter (Vice-Chairman) (IS), P Acton (PA) L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), Footpaths Officer G Rains (GR) and the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 2 members of the public present.

**1014. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Ridout & White.

**1015. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr Suter re Asset of Community Value update.

**1016. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st December 2022 were approved.

**1017. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided these updates:

**War Memorial steps**

Architectural consultant Jo Kempster has offered to produce a proposal for £ 350 and local architect James Cain had very kindly offered his services for free. The Council unanimously approved this expense and thanked both for their assistance.

**Little Lane speed limit change**

Dorset Council have advised that the 30-mph speed limit change at Little Lane will be out for public consultation shortly and local notices will probably appear in the Blackmore Vale Magazine; other Councils appear to have been notified of the change and Okeford Fitzpaine have offered their support for the measure.

**1018. PUBLIC SESSION**

A member of the public raised the issue of flooding along the Trailway. LG confirmed that he had spoken to the Dorset Rangers who have advised that some work may be taking place.

The issue of flooding outside the Portman Hall and garage has been reported to IS; some photographic and CCTV evidence of has been offered. The Clerk advised that flooding of the road should always be reported via the portal or if it is significant and an emergency, by phone. It was noted that the issue had not been resolved following the road closure 2 years ago and if anything has worsened being on both sides of the road. The Chairman will take up the issue with the Community Highways Officer.

IS had also received reports of incidents of anti-social behaviour in Roman Way over the Christmas period; a residents door had been repeatedly kicked by local children who were believed to be around 14 years old. These events had been reported to the police who were not interested though a local log of incidents is being kept. The Chairman noted that the Community Police Officer had recently resigned; enquires would be made regarding who the replacement officer is with a view to arranging a meeting.

**1019. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Unitary Councillor was not present and no report had been received.

**1020. FOOTPATH OFFICERS REPORT**

The Footpath Officer reported that:

* The steps under the quarry were on the Rangers list for action but not work has taken place yet
* The modified sleepers over the footpath on the south side of Shillingstone House will be replaced with a crossing point
* There is an issue concerning the corner field behind the transport yard where horses are kept which may need to be addressed
* Drains along the trailway near the Station were cleared two years ago and may now need dealing with again due to tree root disturbance

**1021. THE OLD OX – ASSET OF COMMUNITY BID UPDATE**

IS reported that a Community Interest Company had now been registered with Companies House, with directors, a treasurer and a Chairman.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities have advised that the company will be eligible to apply for a grant from Spring 2023 and further details are awaited.

A property survey has now been conducted and a valuation is planned.

IS advised that the decision of Dorset Council to allow the appeal against the inclusion of the Paddock in the ACV listing cannot realistically be challenged except by judicial review which would be very costly with no guarantee of success.

It was note that the planning application is still the subject of a non-determination appeal but this will not impact progress in respect of the ACV bid.

**1022. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Roads** – no further report from the CHO had been received (RM)

**The Church** – the Church will require a two-stage repair:

1. Immediate repairs to the leaking roof which will cost around £ 140k and funding has been sought from Dorset Historic Churches and there will be some legacy funding of around £ 80k
2. Replacement of the roof over the knave which will cost around £ 200k and can only be considered once the immediate repairs has been completed

**Allotments** – allotment holders have kept their plots orderly despite the weather and should be commended (RH)

**1023. 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.

**ii) New Applications to consider:**

**P/HOU/2022/07511 Pepper Green Gunn Lane Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0TQ**

No comments were received before stated deadline (26/12) and hence no return had been made to Dorset Council. The application did not appear to adversely impact any neighbouring properties and there were no objections raised.

**1024. FINANCES:**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Reference** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 02/12/2022 | David Green | BACS | £ 37.05 | Expenses |
| 02/12/2022 | Ian Suter | BACS | £ 60.00 | Jubilee Cup |
| 02/12/2022 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | STD ORD | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 14/12/2022 | Total Energy Services | BACS | £ 72.00 | Call out - pump |
| 28/12/2022 | David Green | STD ORD | £ 696.78 | December 2022 pay |
| 30/12/2022 | SSE | DD | £ 763.31 | Sept-Nov electricity |

**ii) New payments approval –** Clerk’s expenses of £ 53.01 were **APPROVED.**

**iii) Revised Budget proposal & precept request**

The proposed precept for 2023-2024 was unanimously confirmed as **£ 36,295.** This will mean an increase of £ 8.52 for Band D Council Tax to £ 80.78 for the parish, which is slightly higher than forecast following the tax base update.

**1025 PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK:**

The Chairman reported:

**Grass cutting/strimming areas around the Village**

Sturminster Newton Town Council have abruptly terminated the contract for grass cutting for various operations including the Augustan Avenue Play area and the grassy bank outside the Church Centre with a notice period. The reason given being workforce difficulties. The Clerk has confirmed that the contract should end on 31st March and that a breakdown of what work has been carried out by the due date will be required. The Parish Council will expect a refund in respect of work not completed.

The Clerk has made enquires with several contractors, held one site meeting and is awaiting a quote.

**Play equipment**

The contractor has re-assembled the see saw which had been partly dismantled and left on the play area by persons unknown.

**Electricity for the pavilion**

The Clerk confirmed that the Council is now out of contract with SSE and costs have significantly increased. He has discussed a new contract via U-switch and will confirm this in due course.

**1026. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 02/12/2022 | SNTC | SLA contract termination |
| 05/12/2022 | Dorset Council - Alex Crawshaw | 30 mph limit extension - public consultation |
| 08/12/2022 | Dorset Council - Anne Goldsmith | ACV review decision |
| 12/12/2022 | Okeford Fitzpaine PC | Support for proposal re TRO 30 mph limit extension |
| 20/12/2022 | Climate & Ecological support meeting | Dec meeting notes |
| 27/12/2022 | Dorset Climate Action Network | Year-End Newsletter |

**1027. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

1. Old Ox ACV – Community Bid update
2. Coronation planning

**1028. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 2nd February 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:45.