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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2024 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM)** M Barlow (MB), R Leadbeater (RL) M Pomeroy (MP), R Harwood (RH), Footpaths Officer Graham Rains, the Clerk D Green. In addition, there was 1 member of the public present.

**1331. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Suter & White, Unitary Councillor Murcer

**1332. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1333. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2024 were approved.

**1334. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several issues previously raised:

* **Speed Indicator Device Programming** – This would require 12 changes of programme per year to synchronise with School terms in order to comply with the terms of the Highways Licence. The Council agreed to proceed with the training of nominated Councillors.
* **Little Lane Speed signage** – it was agreed that a single yellow 30 mph sign for the right hand side at Little Lane would be requested and enquiries would be made regarding the possibility of ‘30’ road markings or rumble strips
* **War Memorial Handrail** – the need to complete this work before Remembrance Sunday has been impressed on the contractor
* **Police Meeting –** the Chairman, Cllr Suter and Cllr Pomeroy met PC Tom Clements of the Rural Policy Team in September. PC Clements advised:
* there is a need for all incidents to be reported so they can build up a picture
* contrary to the update from the Police and Crime Commissioner, there is no increase in police officers available to handle rural ASB.
* the Police are prepared to have ‘conversations’ with anyone who may be suspected of being involved in ASB, even on the basis of anonymous information from the village. Whilst resources are limited, they will respond to any reports of ASB, particularly if there is CCTV evidence.
* **Community Resilience** – a representative from Dorset Council will attend the November PC meeting to explain community hubs & response plans

**1335. PUBLIC SESSION**

The question of possible Police patrols on the Trailway was raised, and whether volunteer horses could be used under the scheme announced in October 2023.

It was noted that changes in Shillingstone School administration are being implemented. The Chairman will discuss these with the School representative.

**1336. FOOTPATHS OFFICER REPORT**

Graham Rains advised:

* an ash tree has been near the kissing gate has been trimmed by the Rangers
* the footpath to Brodham Way is in a poor condition and is awaiting subcontractor repair, as is the Trailway at Gains Cross
* a log bench near the Yellow Bus project has rotted and fallen over
* a survey of all benches will be carried out by the Rangers next year.
* there is a lot of overgrowth which could be dealt with by volunteers under supervision from Dorset Council, a call will be made early in 2025 for expressions of interest

**1337. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Steve Murcer sent his apologies and there was no report.

**1338. VILLAGE SECURITY**

**Augustan Avenue - Shillingstone School**

The CCTV system has been installed and is operational with signage in place. A policy document will be published on the PC website.

**Recreation Ground**

A quote has been received relating to a twin pole 4 camera system. This will provide all round coverage of the Pavilion, Changing room and Recreation Ground. The Parish Council agreed in principle to proceed with this installation although a further meeting with the contractor will be requested to agree the final positioning of the poles. The Cricket Club have indicated that they will support the initiative.

**1339. YOUTH ACTIVITIES INITIATIVE**

Sturminster Newton High School have agreed to assist by sending out an electronic flyer promoting an event to discuss what students would like to see provided in terms of local activities. It was agreed that this would be held on a weekday, after school at the Portman Hall, date to be confirmed. The Chairman will draft a suitable notice.

**1340. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

Jo Witherden has advised that new central government planning policies will mean an increase in target housing numbers which will have an impact throughout the county and is seeking information from Dorset Council concerning the effect of these on the White Pit site; John Paul has provided an update concerning other local sites. The Parish Council will make a grant application when a costs quote has been received.

**1341. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Roads/Drains** - Cllr Pomeroy has attended to and reported several drainage issues to the Community Highways Officer and has received a partial update (MP).

**Portman Hall** – the AGM will be held on 10th October. The Hall now has a level 1 ‘Hallmark Award’ and is aiming for level 2. A new carpet has been laid in the committee room and drainage work has now been completed to enable the car park to be resurfaced. An application for a grant from Dorset Council has submitted (RH)

**1342. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new applications or updates.

**1343. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Description** |
| 02/09/2024 | Elizabeth Brecknock | £ 162.90 | Pavilion cleaning |
| 02/09/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 06/09/2024 | David Green | £ 111.50 | July Expenses |
| 09/09/2024 | Alfie Burt | £ 480.00 | Hedge cutting Rec |
| 10/09/2024 | Enerveo Limited | £ 361.97 | AA street light |
| 11/09/2024 | The Poppy Shop | £ 24.49 | Wreath |
| 16/09/2024 | TEEC Limited | £ 187.20 | Website hosting |
| 17/09/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Mowing/strimming |
| 19/09/2024 | Partnership Security Limited | £ 3,354.00 | CCTV - Augustan Ave |
| 30/09/2024 | David Green | £ 806.00 | Sept 2024 pay |
| 30/09/2024 | A J Gallagher | £ 2,526. 02 | Insurance (annual) |
| 30/09/2024 | E A Brecknock | £ 202.89 | Cleaning |
| 30/09/2024 | The Play Inspection Co | £ 216.60 | Annual Inspections |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 45.09 were approved.

**iii) Budget & Precept proposal**

The Clerk has proposed that a precept of £39,000 should be set for 2025/2026, an increase of £ 2,705, this follows a year in which there was no increase applied and is necessary due to rising costs/general inflation, in order to preserve present funding levels. This will mean an rise in Parish Council Tax Band D from £ 80.78 to £ 86.42, an increase of £ 5.64 for the year.

It was unanimously agreed to provisionally accept the budget and precept proposal, which will be confirmed in December.

**1344. PAVILION/ PLAY AREAS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that:

* **Pavilion** – the main hedges have been trimmed, and the area behind the main play area & side of hedge nearest the Tennis Court will be dealt with by the end of the year
* **Augustan Ave** – a broken swing link has been repaired

**1345 CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following items of correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 09/09/2024 | Dorset CAN | Dorset Greener Homes This Weekend! - Sat 14th & 15th Sept |
| 09/09/2024 | DAPTC | Expressions of interest for in person councillor training |
| 12/09/2024 | Dorset Council | Quotes re new signage at Little Lane |
| 16/09/2024 | Cllr Batstone | the availability of the RVS Home Library Service |
| 18/09/2024 | Sturminster TC | What's Happening in Stur - Town Newsletter |
| 20/09/2024 | Dorset Police | August Speedwatch |
| 23/09/2024 | DAPTC | DAPTC 2024 AGM Notification |

**1346. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

* Community Resilience
* CCTV update
* Coronation Cup arrangements

**1347. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 7th November 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:11