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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 4th APRIL 2024 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** I Suter (Chairman) (IS) M Barlow (MB) R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL) M Pomeroy (MP) K Ridout (KR) R White (RW) Unitary Councillor P Batstone, Footpaths Officer G Rains, the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were two members of the public present.

**1243. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs McNamara & Sweeney.

**1244. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None at the meeting.

**1245. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th March 2024 were approved.

**1246. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

* **First Aid Course** – a very successful course was held on 9th March and certificates for all attending have now been received.
* **Permissive Path**  – The process of applying to Dorset Council for a Right of Way designation has been initiated.
* **War Memorial Handrail**– there has been a delay arranging for suitable builders.
* **Roads** – an update from the Community Highways Officer has been received in relation to several issues:
* **Vegetation at Gunn Lane** - - this will be cut back and the 30 mph sign moved
* **Flooding at the Portman** – a camera investigation has taken place and further road work is required
* **Flooding along Hine Town Lane** – a video has been sent to the Dorset Highways
* **Gains Cross** – will be discussed further
* **Poplar Hill** – road markings will be replaced

**1247. PUBLIC SESSION**

Steve Mercer of Hazelbury Bryan is seeking a public meeting with the Police to discuss various local issues but arrangements have yet to be finalised.

The apparent notification of roadworks between White Pit and Holloway Lane was questioned by a resident. It seems that no work has actually taken place at this stage, though the continuing presence of portacabin unit in the layby exiting the village was noted.

An issue relating to an intrusion to a garden at the Knapps was raised and a report has been requested.

**1248. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone, in her last meeting as a Unitary Councillor, noted that the Audit & Governance committee had concluded its business for Dorset Council and there were no issues arising.

The letting of Holloway Fam has been further delayed yet whilst Dorset Council reviews its estate.

The Chairman, on the behalf of the Parish Council, thanked Cllr Batstone for her 30 years of service as a Dorset Councillor.

**1249. FOOTPATHS**

Graham Rains noted that the new bird hide is now in place; he intends to cut back the overgrown vegetation and put some bird feeders in place to encourage kingfishers.

Work on the Wilson Haynes bridge will take place in May; some repair work is required to the bridleway bridge at Holloway Farm, to the bridge at Bere Marsh and in Broad Close Field. The steps at White Pit Quarry have been repaired. The wet weather has though delayed work.

Cllr Batstone noted that some resurfacing of the Trailway is planned.

**1250. VILLAGE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE**

Cllr Suter had discussed ideas with some residents who have expressed an interest in taking this forward. It was agreed that it would be useful to seek ideas from 15–18-year-olds and encourage ownership of any projects. It was noted the Big Yellow Bus project is highly commendable and a discussion with Paul Williams may be helpful. It was agreed to re-visit this topic at a future meeting.

**1251. OPERATION RELENTLESS GRANT FUNDING FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR PROJECTS**

It was noted that the ‘Operation Relentless’ grant application window has opened for a short period. In connection with this Cllr Pomeroy & the Clerk had sought quotes in relation to CCTV installations at Augustan Avenue, the Recreation Ground and for the bird hide. It was noted that a system in Augustan Avenue would require the assistance and support of the School and residents. A grant application will be made and the issue reviewed when the outcome of this is known.

It was agreed that any action to reduce ASB should not just focus on security systems but should encompass positive engagement with those who may be tempted to cause problems.

**1252. D-DAY 80 COMMEMORATION**

Cllr Suter reported that it has not been possible to arrange a combined event with the Spring Party which has been confirmed for 25th May; there is also now a Dog Show taking place around the same time. Cllr Ridout has made a number of suggestions involving the Portman Hall or possibly the Church Centre, on either on the 6th June or on a near date. KR & IS will take the ideas forward.

**1253 PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) P/FUL/2023/05579** - Land At Old Ox Inn Blandford Road Shillingstone.

There was no decision to report. Cllr Suter has submitted a report to Dorset Planners concerning flooding issues along Hine Town Lane which could have a bearing on the application under review.

There were no new applications to review. There has not been any further correspondence with the company responsible for the partially built site near the garage.

**1254. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 01/03/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Mowing/strimming |
| 01/03/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 06/03/2024 | The Portman Hall | £ 70.00 | Hall hire - First Aid |
| 11/03/2024 | David Green | £ 104.58 | Expenses Feb 2024 |
| 13/03/2024 | HM Land Registry | £ 18.00 | Title registers- ROW |
| 13/03/2024 | ESET Software UK Limited | £ 42.47 | NOD32 antivirus |
| 20/03/2024 | Whitehorse Leadership & Traini | £ 610.00 | First Aid Training |
| 21/03/2024 | Dorset Council | £ 734.58 | SLA agreement |
| 28/03/2024 | David Green | £ 741.85 | March 2024 pay |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 37.50 were approved.

**1255. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 11/03/2024 | Dorset CAN | Upcoming DCAN Online Events, Updates & Workshops |
| 11/03/2024 | Dorset Rangers | Bird hide on Shillingstone Trailway |
| 21/03/2024 | Dorset Rangers | Temporary closure of Wilson Haines footbridge May 2024 |
| 21/03/2024 | Dorset Council | Landowner deposit under Sec 31(6) Highways Act 1980 |
| 01/04/2024 | Malcolm Webberley | Re layby EV charging point |

Cllr Suter had responded to the comments made in relation to the proposed Electric Vehicle Charging point. It was agreed that these comments should be forwarded to the EV point charging team.

**1256. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. This will comprise the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Parish Council meeting.

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