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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 5th DECEMBER 2024 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM)** M Barlow (MB), R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL) M Pomeroy (MP), I Suter (IS), R White (RW), Footpaths Officer G Rains, the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 2 members of the public present.

**1167. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Murcer & Ridout

**1168. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1169. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

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

**1170. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to the **Youth Activities Engagement Event - 10th December 2024.**

Arrangements were being finalised for the event to be held at the Portman Hall. The Chairman would be making a Facebook announcement. The PC understands that representatives of some village groups will be attending. The event will though be focused on young people and what they would like to see provided in the village.

**1171. PUBLIC SESSION**

* **Flooding in Honeysuckle Gardens** – Alan Hunt had reported the issue again to Dorset Council but had been advised that it was a Wessex Water responsibility.

Graham Rains reported that a clearance operation on the Trailway to alleviate flooding at the bottom of the Recreation Ground had been cancelled due to heavy rain

Lesley Gasson raised several items:

* **North Dorset Railway** – plan to construct track south of the station needs to be carefully considered. IS noted that a raised walkway is being planned. It was noted that the NDR will attend the January 2025 PC meeting to explain their plans further.
* **Spring/Early summer party** – the PC was asked to assist with the organisation of this event. It was noted that it may reflect the 80th anniversary of the Victory in Europe. It was agreed that Sunday 4th May may be a suitable day, just before the bank holiday. IS suggested that an ‘Open Mic’ event may be included. This will be considered further
* **Holy Rood Church Roof** – it is hoped that the scaffolding will be taken down before Christmas. Work on the Tower will be deferred until summer 2026, all other work having been completed.
* **Bee-keepers** – have raised £170k for the new educational facility as Holloway Fram. It is hoped that construction of the shell will commence in March/April 2025, with completion by July/August. It is hope that this will be a resource for the whole village.

**1172. FOOTPATHS OFFICER REPORT**

The Footpaths Officer reported that two rotten bench seats had now been repaired and the memorial seat at Gains Cross will be replaced.

The Trailway is overgrown in several places but tree work will be needed before this can commence.

**1173. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

No report had been received.

**1174. CORONATION CUP 2024**

Cllr Suter confirmed that printing and distribution of leaflets within the Parish Magazine had been organised, new ballot boxes have been acquired and posters printed. Voting will close on 15th December and the cup will be awarded at the Carols in the Pub event on 18th December; it is hoped that Rev Gubbins will award the Cup.

**1175. VILLAGE SECURITY**

**Recreation Ground**

The installation of the system at the Recreation Ground, with a working horn, is now complete.

**Augustan Avenue**

Following a vandalism incident, it is proposed that two additional cameras are installed covering the Play Park and focussed on the area below the electricity pole; this will enable the Point-Tilt-Zoom camera to be more freely used. It was unanimously agreed to proceed with this improvement.

It had been suggested that the PC considers use of the area behind the Play Park, or possibly in Burtons Field as a mini football pitch, rather than having kickabouts taking place in the road. This will be considered further.

**1176. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Roads/Drains** –MP had now received an assurance that an CCTV survey of the area outside the Portman Halll, would take place. This has been postponed due to heavy rain. Highways had also explained that the re-marking of the ‘30’ road markings had been deferred due to the use of road salt which tends to erase these.

**1177. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new applications.

**Land at The Old Ox.** A decision concerning this application has not yet been received, although the PC understands that this will be a delegated decision by a case officer and will not be reviewed by the Planning committee. The Parish Council agreed to review its options in the light of this information.

**1178. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** |  **£ Total**  | **Description** |
| 01/11/2024 | Elizabeth Brecknock |  £ 160.00  | Cleaning - Oct |
| 01/11/2024 | Water2business |  £ 237.91  | Pavilion water |
| 04/11/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club |  £ 416.66  | Mowing |
| 07/11/2024 | Guy Gilding |  £ 75.00  | SID rotation |
| 11/11/2024 | David Green |  £ 60.37  | Expenses |
| 11/11/2024 | Elite Playground Inspections |  £ 240.00  | AA gate repairs |
| 11/11/2024 | Harts of Stur |  £ 26.99  | Replace padlock AA |
| 18/11/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  £ 252.00  | Mowing/strimming |
| 21/11/2024 | Elizabeth Brecknock |  £ 160.00  | Pavilion cleaning - Nov |
| 25/11/2024 | Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd |  £ 1,401.36  | Neighbourhood Planning fee |
| 28/11/2024 | David Green |  £ 1,033.67  | November 2024 pay |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 61.03 were approved.

**iii) Amended Precept request 2025/2025**

The budget change in the National Insurance threshold required a recalculation of the precept for 2025/2026. The request will now be for £ 39,650, which will be subject to confirmation in January 2025, following the publication of revised tax base. The impact of this will be to increase Band Council Tax by approximately £7.01.

**1179. PAVILION/ PLAY AREAS REPORT**

The Clerk provided a reported that the fire systems service and PAT testing has been completed.

**1180. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

* Precept finalisation following tax base publication
* NDR extension plans presentation
* Neighbourhood Planning update following working group meeting

**1181 NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 9th January 2025 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:10