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

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

**PRESENT: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM)** R Leadbeater (RL) M Pomeroy (MP), K Ridout (KR) R Harwood (RH), the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 3 members of the public present.

**1313. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Barlow, Suter & White

**1314. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1315. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2024 were approved.

**1316. MATTERS ARISING**

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

* **Speed Indicator Device Post** – this has now been repositioned to a location near Augustan Avenue. The Council agreed that re-programming the SID display to show School crossing times should be implemented.
* **The Forum School** - have removed the bin from the Church Field footpath. The Parish Council wishes to thank Graham Rains for his direct contact with the new interim Head with regard to resolving this problem.
* **War Memorial Handrail** – after a protracted discussion with Dorset Council concerning an agreeable mortar mix, Listed Building planning conditions have now been discharged and the Council is awaiting confirmation of the date when this building work will commence. The Parish Council would like to thank architect James Cain for supporting this process.
* **Car Parking - Recreation Ground users** – the Tennis Club have now been given access permissions to use the Recreation Ground car park.
* **Anti- Social Behaviour and Vandalism –** incidents in Church Road and at the Recreation Ground have been reported to Dorset Neighbourhood Policing Team & Dorset Council. Dorset Police have proposed a meeting to discuss this situation.

**1317. PUBLIC SESSION**

Report from Lesley Gasson:

**Bee-keepers**

Work on the new training centre at Holloway Lane will commence shortly, with the weatherproof roof installation being completed in Mach/ April. This will enable the bee-keepers to move from their present their base at the Forum School to purpose-built facilities. The new training facility will permit lectures for up to 60 people to take place and include a kitchen, library, outside & inside viewing areas and has been let by Dorset Council on a peppercorn rent. The Lavender Farm will make use of the car parking area during the week.

**Holy Rood Church**

Major on the roof is now underway which has necessitated extensive scaffolding. There is a possibility that main steel beams have been damaged by corrosion and this is being investigated. This project now has the £180,000 funding required from several sources including a major legacy. It is hoped that the work will be complete by April 2025. The footpath remains open.

**Harvest Supper**

This takes place on 20th September at 6pm and the cost is £5. Tickets are available from Lesley Gasson. The event will include a talk by George Hosford of the Travellers Rest near Durweston about a biodiversity and re-wilding project that is being undertaken.

A resident thanked the Parish Council work the excellent work to Recreation Ground hedges.

**1318. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Steve Mercer presented and added to his written report for August and September 2024:

**Meetings attended**

* People and Health Overview 11/7,
* School Transport Appeals 15/7
* Corporate Services Exhibition 18/7
* Full Council 18/7
* People and Health Overview Committee 23/7
* Roma Holocaust Service at Sherborne Abbey 2/8
* Family Hubs in North Dorset 2/9
* Reforms to the Planning System 4/9

**Community Resilience**

Meeting with Clare Jennings, Community Resilience Liaison Officer about establishing community hubs in village halls, schools, community buildings in times of local/national emergency. For example, during prolonged power cuts, creating a refuge where residents could keep warm, get hot food, charge mobile phones etc. Clare is keen to help villages produce Emergency Response Plans to pull together resources, skills and expertise which could be very useful indeed in times of need.

It was agreed that Clare Jennings would be invited to the next PC meeting.

**Bids for community projects are now open**

Round 5 of DC’s Capital Leverage Fund is now open and welcomes applications for projects which will provide new and improved facilities for communities and residents in the Dorset Council area – see Dorset Council news page. The closing date for applications is 8 September 2024.

**Dorset Council declare Nature Emergency**

Work is underway to develop a Local Nature Recovery Strategy along with farmers, landowners and businesses to identify priorities, opportunities and actions to help recover nature in Dorset.

**A Big Conversation**

Dorset Council wants residents to help shape key priorities for the next 5 years, by holding a number of engagement events to hear people’s views on growing our economy, providing high quality housing, responding to the climate crisis and supporting communities. The closest event is on Sunday 15 September 2024 at Sherborne market.

**What does the governments housing target mean for Neighbourhood Plans**

With a change of government there have been a number of changes to housing policy including a re-statement of housing targets for Dorset from 1,793 units per annum up to 3,230 almost double but still with the emphasis on sustainable development. 5-year housing land supply target is based on the new targets.

Where does that leave NPs if 3-year housing land supply exists plans will still be robust, if it doesn’t the presumption will be in favour of sustainable development.

Cllr Murcer suggested PCs take advice in relation to what this means for their NP/planning statements.

The Chaiman confirmed that dialogue with Jo Witherden, with regard to refreshing the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan, had already commenced

**Family Hubs**

Family Hubs are centres where families can get support with child care, adult day care, well-being, benefits, finance all in one place. So far centres have been set up in Ferndown, Wimborne, Dorchester, Bridport, Weymouth and Swanage. Meeting attended to discuss coverage in North Dorset and how we might plug that gap with virtual/mobile centres. The Vale Pantry is opening a larger site in Sturminster at the end of 2024 which hopefully will serve the Blackmore Vale including transport for those without a car or access to a car and public transport.

**Flooding at the Portman Hall**

This issue had been raised with the Highways Team who had provided assurances than the drains have been jetted and were now free running. It was reported that temporary flooding of the road was still taking place.

**1319. VILLAGE SECURITY**

**Augustan Avenue - Shillingstone School**

Permissions for an unmetered supply to the electricity pole have been granted and the socket has been installed. The CCTV system will be installed later in September.

**Recreation Ground**

Testing of the wi-fi in relation to the mower shed has been carried out and this appears to be out of range. It has been suggested that the PC considers a pole based installation to provide the coverage needed. This will now be discussed with a contractor.

**1320. YOUTH ACTIVITIES INIATIVE**

Cllr Leadbeater has sought advice from ‘Seeds For Success’. They are a former council funded agency but now operate as a charity with an infrastructure based in Mere and a full-time coordinator, and have a wide reach in the South Wiltshire area.

They have advised that ideas should be sought from those in the community who want activities; dialogue with local youth clubs should also be considered and possibly co-ordination with Sturminster Newton School. The Chairman will take this matter forward.

**1321. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE**

The Clerk has spoken to Jo Witherden and it is hoped that a fees quote will be submitted by the end of September. Planning for this is now more complex due to the increased housing targets directed by central government; the implications of these for Shillingstone will be discussed with Dorset Council.

**1322. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer was not present and there was not a report.

**1323. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

Cllr Pomeroy reported that a meeting with the Community Highways Officer had taken place.

Several issues have been resolved and other are ongoing.

Quotes have been received to move the village gates and replace current signage with yellow background’ signs, but these costs were deemed to be prohibitive.

Enquiries will be made in relation the possibility of changed road markings, rumble strips or ‘Please Slow Down’ signage being put in place.

**1324. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

There is no decision to report. It was noted that the holding objection by Dorset Council’s Flood risk management Team had now been lifted, but a full surface water assessment is required.

**ii) Planning Policy process change**

Dorset Council have published details of the new process for Planning Committee referral involving ‘major’ & ‘non major’ developments, where there is disagreement between PC & the case officer.

‘Major’ developments include plans for 10 or more dwellings.

**1325. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** |  |
| 01/07/2024 | Elite Playground Inspections | £ 1,560.00 | AA work swings+ see saw |
| 01/07/2024 | Public Works Loan Board | £ 1,359.72 | Loan repayment |
| 02/07/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 09/07/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 270.00 | Zip wire clearance |
| 09/07/2024 | Elite Playground Inspections | £ 63.00 | Hine Town Lane /AA inspections |
| 11/07/2024 | HM Revenue & Customs | £ 293.06 | PAYE Q1 2024-2025 |
| 17/07/2024 | G Northover & Sons Limited | £ 111.77 | Propane Gas - Pavilion |
| 17/07/2024 | SSE | £ 124.74 | Pavilion Electricity |
| 17/07/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Contract mowing/strimming |
| 18/07/2024 | Elite Playground Inspections | £ 510.00 | Zip wire repair & misc. items |
| 22/07/2024 | David Green | £ 137.66 | Expenses |
| 22/07/2024 | Mary Crabbe | £ 6.49 | Loo rolls |
| 24/07/2024 | Dorset Council | £ 674.21 | Tree work - Rec & Church Rd |
| 29/07/2024 | Elizabeth Brecknock | £ 200.00 | Pavilion cleaning |
| 29/07/2024 | Elizabeth Brecknock | £ 5.05 | Cleaning materials |
| 29/07/2024 | BDO LLP | £ 378.00 | External Audit 2023-2024 |
| 29/07/2024 | David Green | £ 729.85 | July 2024 pay |
| 01/08/2024 | Dorset Council | £ 576.00 | Dorset Council - SID post move |
| 02/08/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 07/08/2024 | Defib4Life Ltd | £ 76.68 | IPAD Smart Pads - Old Ox |
| 09/08/2024 | The Information Commissioner | £ 35.00 | Data Protection Fee |
| 14/08/2024 | Guy Gilding | £ 75.00 | SID rotation |
| 19/08/2024 | Edens Landscapes | £ 252.00 | Mowing/strimming |
| 21/08/2024 | Colin Burgess | £ 1390.00 | Repaint Pavilion exterior |
| 28/08/2024 | David Green | £ 729.85 | August 202 pay |

**iii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 111.50 were approved.

**1326. PAVILION/ PLAY AREAS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that:

* **Pavilion** – exterior repainting has been completed and is of a very high standard
* **Trees** – tree work at the Recreation Ground & in Church Road has been completed

**1327. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 21/07/2024 | Sturminster Newsletter | What's Happening in Stur - August/September |
| 23/07/2024 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SHILLINGSTONE LANE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE |
| 23/07/2024 | The Forum School | Smoking debris on Church Field |
| 25/07/2024 | The Forum School | Smoking debris on Church Field - bin removal |
| 29/07/2024 | Pauline Batstone | Beavers on the River Stour |
| 31/07/2024 | Dorset Highways | PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE, A357, STURMINSTER NEWTON |
| 05/08/2024 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE WHITE PIT, SHILLINGSTONE - 8th August |
| 06/08/2024 | Dorset Council | IMPORTANT: Changes to Planning Scheme of Delegation |
| 13/08/2024 | Dorset Police | July Speedwatch Stats |
| 20/08/2024 | DAPTC | Expressions of interest for in person councillor training - North Dorset |
| 23/08/2024 | Dorset Police | Fatal road traffic collision in North Dorset |
| 23/08/2024 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE August 2024 Newsletter, |
| 28/08/2028 | Dorset National Landscape | Workshop for volunteer tree wardens - Thursday 19 Sept - Bere Marsh Farm, |
| 28/08/2024 | Insp Joe Turner, Dorset Police | ASB referral |
| 28/08/2024 | Dorset Alert | Police forces join together to take zombie knives off the streets |

**1328 CLERKS CONTRACT**

A new employment contract for the Parish Clerk was agreed with effect from 1st September 2024.

It was agreed that a staffing committee should be appointed consisting of the Chairman and two Councillors to consider all employee related matters including recruitment.

**1329. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

* Budget planning / Precept
* CCTV update
* Neighbourhood Planning
* Road signage

**1330. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 3rd October 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall.

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