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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 7th MARCH 2024 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (RM) (Chairman) I Suter (Vice-Chairman) 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 three members of the public present.

**1226. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Barlow & Sweeney.

**1227. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None at the meeting.

**1228. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st February 2024 were approved.

**1229. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

* **Police matters**: **Operation Relentless grants** – the window for grant applications has not yet opened but is expected to do so imminently and the Council will be notified. A theft from a vehicle at the Trailway car park has been reported and referred to Dorset Council. It is understood that ‘do not leave valuables in your car’ signage previously in place has been stolen from the car-park.
* **Electric Vehicle charging** – Dorset Council have confirmed that they are looking at installing a 50kv charger in the layby opposite Augustan Avenue.
* **Additional Speed Indicator Device**  – this has now been installed near the junction with Augustan Avenue and is operational.
* **First Aid Course** – 11 people have now registered for the event at the Portman Hall
* **Permissive Path submissions** – The Clerk has received 20 or so statements which will be submitted to the Rights of Way Team.
* **Shillingstone Station - Tree felling** – an incidence of tree felling has been reported to the Tree Team for investigation, although the area affected appears to be outside the Tree Protection Order zone.

**1230. PUBLIC SESSION**

Lesley Gasson raised two matters:

* Churchyard lychgate - a contractor has been appointed. The Clerk confirmed that he has discussed the possibility of a Parish Council contribution to the cost but this would have to wait until the next precept installment is received.
* The Shillingstone Spring Party is planned for 25th May in Lesley’s Field, 12:00 noon to 4 pm. There will be a bouncy castle, BBQ and music. Assistance is required on the day with games. A ‘sponsor a tile’ for £10 initiative will raise funds for the chancel roof. KR suggested that this could be combined with a Rose Queen event.

The perennial problem of flooding along Hine Town Lane was raised by a resident.

**1231 UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised:

* Discussions are on-going with regard to arranging a Community meeting with the local Police. The Police have offered to provide two Sergeants rather than the Inspector. KR reported that the community police do not receive all reports of incidents, even serious ones, as soon as they occur. It was not clear why this is the case.
* There are plans to resurface part of the Trailway between Fiddleford and Sturminster Newton and it is hoped that S106 monies could be used for this purpose on match funding basis.
* D-DAY 80 – Sturminster Newton will be marking the occasion with an event at the Literary Festival in the Exchange in the week before and beacon lighting on the memorial day.

**1232. FOOTPATHS**

Graham Rains noted the complaints that had been received following the work to fence off Broad Close Field to enable grazing, noting that the footpath had become very muddied, following the installation of a feeder pipe until the Trailway. The Rangers have advised that the landowner will take mud off the footpath as soon as conditions allow and Dorset Council will then resurface in early summer. The area where the pipe was put through the trailway will be re-instated. The new pedestrian gate closer to the river has now been authorised as an allowable obstruction on the highway for stock control purposes.

Some rotten signposts between Hine town Lane and Candy’s Lane would be reported to Dorset Council and Blue path waymarkers would be re-installed when possible.

**1233. ELECTIONS 2024**

The Clerk received nomination forms from Councillors standing in May. The closing date for the submission of applications to Dorset Council is 5th April 2024.

**1234. D-DAY 80 COMMEMORATION**

Lesley Gasson would be asked if it would be possible to move the Spring Party date to coincide with the D-DAY commemoration. The PC considered whether a prize for the best bunting would be awarded and a sum of £80 was suggested. The topic will be considered further at the next PC meeting.

**1235. SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

There has been no recent monitoring by the local team due to poor light and wet conditions, although the Police camera van has been in operation. Hopefully monitoring will resume in the next few weeks.

**1236. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

Cllr Pomeroy had submitted a report:

* **Overgrown hedge at the Old Post Office** – may now be subject to enforcement action
* **Flooding at the garage -** the investigation with the jetting machine into the flooding at the garage was somewhat limiting therefore a camera investigation has been requested but the CHO considers that drainage works will be required.
* **Church Lane** - a successful dye trace was carried out and a works order has been raised for the culvert to be cleared along Hine Town Lane.
* **Accident on Poplar Hill** – a report had been received concerning on an accident on Poplar Hill when a residents vehicle was involved in a collision whilst exiting their property. It was noted that road SLOW markings were in poor condition and partially obscured, and that a mirror was actually broken and of little use. The issue has been referred to the Community Highways Officer for further advice and action.

**Portman Hall** – is financially stable, replacement of the roof over the committee room/car has been agreed and a sub-committee has been set-up to consider replacement of the kitchen **RH**

**Coronation Cup** – ideas for a display case of winners is under consideration **IS**

**1237. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

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

There was no decision to report.

ii) **P/FUL/2023/01623** - Downside Lanchards Lane Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0TF

It was noted that the application had been refused on the basis that the proposed dwelling was not of sufficiently exceptional quality in this rural setting.

**iii) New application: P/FUL/2024/00692 - Gains Cross Farm Gains Cross Lane Shillingstone-** Change of use & extension of existing (part refurbished) buildings to 11no. units of Use Class E together with associated infrastructure

Cllr Suter had visited near residents who were generally in favour of the proposal, which was preferred to the 2019 proposal for 6 dwellings which had actually be granted planning permission. There were concerns though relating to the increase in traffic numbers and the potential dangers of access to the site from the A357 on the brow of a hill. There were also concerns regarding the capacity of the water tank which is fed from an acquifer, and the adequacy of parking arrangements given the limited number of official spaces (23). It was agreed to SUPPORT the application but with comments.

**White Pit** – it had been confirmed by Dorset Council that site security operations had been conducted and a planning application would be submitted by the developers in due course.

**1238. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** |  **£ Total**  | **Reason** |
| 01/02/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  £ 252.00  | Mowing/strimming |
| 02/02/2024 | Mrs Jill Sullivan |  £ 30.00  | Cleaning - arrears |
| 02/02/2024 | David Green |  £ 59.00  | Jan 2024 expenses |
| 02/02/2024 | Total Energy Services |  £ 98.40  | Boiler check |
| 02/02/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club |  £ 416.66  | Mowing |
| 12/02/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  £ 697.20  | Tree work - part |
| 12/02/2024 | Guy Gilding |  £ 75.00  | SID rotation |
| 12/02/2024 | Stockley & Son Plumbers Ltd |  £ 143.60  | Plumbing call out  |
| 12/02/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  £ 697.20  | Tree work - Part |
| 16/02/2024 | Dorset Council |  £ 873.60  | SID post & solar panel |
| 19/02/2024 | Newton Forge Limited |  £ 2,295.52  | War Memorial handrail  |
| 22/02/2024 | SSE |  £ 58.12  | Pavilion electricity |
| 28/02/2024 | David Green | £ 741.85 | Feb 2024 pay |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 104.58 were approved.

**1239. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

Tree & hedge work at the Recreation Ground has been substantively completed. The question of reducing the height of trees near the Tennis Courts has been referred to Dorset Council’s Tree Officer who has advised that Dorset Council would not support a reduction for the reasons given.

The Clerk is still waiting to hear from the insurance company following the loss adjusters visit with regard to the kitchen ceiling repair.

A new cleaner has been found for the Pavilion & Pod.

**1240. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
|  |  |  |
| 08/01/2024 | Dorset Council | RE: Fly Tipping - blue cabling and wooden reels - GIGACLEAR |
| 08/01/2024 | DAPTC | Working Together Webinar 18 January 2024 at 4pm via Zoom |
| 09/01/2024 | Dorset Council | ACV - Full Moritorium |
| 18/01/2024 | Sturminster Newsletter | Fw: Whats Happening in Stur - Town Newsletter |
| 25/01/2024 | Dorset Council Tree Team | Application TPO/2023/0052 - TPO - Downside |
| 26/01/2024 | Gigaclear | Gigaclear - Shillingstone Build Update  |
| 29/01/2024 | PCC | Churchyard Grant request |
| 30/01/2024 | Democratic Services, Dorset Council | Information about standing as a local councillor for Dorset Council in 2024 |
| 30/01/2024 | Gigaclear | Gigaclear - Shillingstone Community Event  |
| 31/01/2024 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE January 2024 Newsletter |
| 01/02/2024 | Jules Verne, Eastbrook Farm | Eastbrook Farm footpaths |
| 20/02/2024 | Dorset CPRE | talk by George Hosford on The Future of Farming in North Dorset, |
| 20/02/2024 | DAPTC | Training & Events at a Glance Test |
| 20/02/2024 | PCC | Re Lytchgate work |
| 23/02/2024 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A357, STURMINSTER NEWTON  |
| 23/02/2024 | Veronica Jenkins | Re: Speedwatch update |
| 28/02/2024 | Tom Vincent | Land Clearance at White Pit |
| 29/02/2024 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A357, MAIN ROAD, LYDLINCH |
| 29/02/2024 | Jon Morgan, Dorset Council | Update re activity taking place at White Pit |
| 05/03/2024 | DAPTC | Dorset Local Plan |
| 05/03/2024 | Dorset Council | White Pit Farm, White Pit, Shillingstone, Blandford Forum, Dorset, DT11 0SZ |

**1241. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* D-DAY 80 – further consideration
* Facilities for Young People

**1242. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 4th April 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:35

**Due to an altered timetable arising from it being an election year the Annual Parish Meeting, Annual Meeting of the Parish Council and Parish Council meeting will be a combined meeting on Tuesday 21st May 2024 at 7pm in the Portman Hall.**