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

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

**PRESENT: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM)** M Barlow (MB), R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL) M Pomeroy (MP), K Ridout (KR) I Suter (IS), Unitary Councillor S Murcer, the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 2 members of the public present.

**1348. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr White

**1349. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1350. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd October 2024 were approved.

**1351. MATTERS ARISING**

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

* **War Memorial Handrail –** Installation of the handrail is now complete and is of a very high standard. The Parish Council thanks all those involved in this project.
* **Speed Indicator Device Programming** – arrangements for training to re-program the SID at Augustan Avenue will be confirmed with Dorset Council
* **Construction site near the garage** – a resident had referred the issue of the unsightly nature of the site to Cllr Murcer for advice. It would appear that as building works have commenced there is little action that can be taken unless this becomes a health & safety hazard. The resident understands that the site owners have no plans to complete the construction of the new dwellings in the near future. Councillor Murcer agreed to take up the issue with the site owner.

**1352. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no questions.

**1353. FOOTPATHS OFFICER REPORT**

The Footpaths Officer was not present and had submitted a written report. Two damaged seats have now been taken away by the Dorset Rangers for repair.

**1354. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Murcer had provided a written report and provided further updates:

* Contact has been made with the Community Highways Officer and Dorset Council’s Highways Team concerning the persistent flooding of the road near the Portman Hall, Cllr Murcer has been advised that this will be looked at again, given that extensive jetting in the past has not worked to keep the drains clear.
* The North Dorset Railway has plans to extend the track south of Shillingstone to Holloway Farm, and install an operations shed. Permission has not been given to extend the track towards Sturminster Newton. The NDR will be discussing its plans at the January 2025 PC meeting.

**1155. CORONATION CUP 2024**

It was agreed that there would not be any changes to eligibility criteria for the awarding of the Coronation Cup in 2024. This will be reviewed in early 2025 pending the response to this year’s event. Appropriate notices will be placed on Facebook, in the Parish Magazine and there will be posters in the village. The Cup will be awarded at the Carols Service at the Old Ox in December.

**1156. VILLAGE SECURITY**

**Recreation Ground**

A system has now been installed at the Recreation Ground and its use it being reviewed. It has been noted that the Recreation Ground has been quieter since the system has been in place.

**Augustan Avenue**

An information notice has been vandalised by persons unknown. There have been further instances of graffiti sprayed on fences in Augustan Avenue which have unfortunately not been caught on CCTV. The use of the system will be discussed further with the installers.

It was noted that the Police have offered to have ‘conversations’ with suspected perpetrators and a follow with enquiry will now be made.

**1157. YOUTH ACTIVITIES INITIATIVE**

An event for young people (14+) and their parents will be held at the Portman Hall on 10th December between 16:00 and 18:00. The purpose of this will be to discuss what activities young people would be interested in pursuing. The event will be promoted in the Parish Magazine, via Facebook and with Sturminster Newton High and Blandford Schools and refreshments will be provided.

**1158. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATEA**

A grant from the funders Locality has been received. The working group will be meeting with Jo Witherden to discuss the programme for the plan refresh in the light of new local housing targets.

**1159. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Roads/Drains** – a grille has now been fitted to a culvert on Hine Town Lane. Other issues are being monitored, including possible permanent signage at the garage to warn of flooding issues.

**1160. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new applications or updates.

**1162. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Description** |
| 02/10/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 03/10/2024 | Dorset Council | £ 515.00 | Allotment rental |
| 07/10/2024 | Harts of Stur | £ 41.42 | Padlocks for gas cupboards |
| 08/10/2024 | David Green | £ 45.09 | Expenses |
| 08/10/2024 | Elite Playground Inspections | £ 63.00 | Qtrly inspections |
| 08/10/2024 | Wessex Ground Services Limited | £ 166.80 | Weed treatment play areas |
| 10/10/2024 | Barlow Electrical | £ 654.44 | Pavilion - fuse box/inspection |
| 10/10/2024 | N Gray | £ 125.00 | Repairs Gas bottle cupboard |
| 14/10/2024 | HM Revenue & Customs | £ 326.74 | PAYE Q2 2024/2025 |
| 17/10/2024 | SSE | £ 459.31 | Pavilion electricity |
| 17/10/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Mowing/strimming |
| 22/10/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 486.00 | Hedging work- Rec |
| 24/10/2024 | A J Gallagher | £ 18.33 | Additional insurance - CCTV |
| 24/10/2024 | Dorset Association of Parish | £ 75.00 | Training courses |
| 28/10/2024 | David Green | £ 808.98 | October 2024 pay |
| 29/10/2024 | Water2business | £ 72.50 | Allotments water |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 60.37 were approved.

**iii) Clerks Pay**

A change to the Clerks pay was agreed following the national Local Government Services pay settlement, with effect from 1st April 2024.

**1163. PAVILION/ PLAY AREAS REPORT**

The Clerk provided a report.

**The Pavilion**:

* The fuse-box has been replaced & the necessary electrical inspection certificates issued
* the hedges behind the main play area & nearest the Tennis Court have now been trimmed
* The gas storage cupboard has been repaired

**Augustan Ave**:

* Swing repairs have been undertaken

**1164 CORRESPONDENCE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 04/10/2024 | Dorset Highways | PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE, SHILLINGSTONE LANE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE |
| 08/10/2024 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE September/October Newsletter |
| 16/10/2024 | Dorset Council | Dorset Council’s draft Council Plan |
| 21/10/2024 | Dorset Alert | Community Contact Point @ Co-Op, Shillingstone : Wed 23 Oct 16:00 |
| 24/10/2024 | Dorset Police | Older Drivers Event |

The publication of the draft Dorset Council Local Plan was noted. This appears to be aspirational and rather short on detail in terms of how the council aims to support the community, including issues such as finding land for development of housing, infrastructure provision, and conflict between heritage preservation and the environment.

A response will be made on behalf of the Parish Council by the Clerk.

**1165. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

* Coronation Cup arrangements
* Precept finalization

**1166 NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 5th December 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:12