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

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

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (RM) (Chairman) M Barlow (MB), R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL) R White (RW) Unitary Councillor P Batstone, the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were two members of the public present.

**1195. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Pomeroy, Ridout, Sweeney and Suter.

**1196. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None

**1197. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th December 2023 were approved.

**1198. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

**Speed Surveys**

The results of the speed surveys had shown that the area at the junction of Augustan Avenue and the Blandford Road, southeast bound, did meet the 85th%ile criteria for a Speed Indicator Device (SID); the location near the Cross did not. It was agreed to proceed with the purchase of an additional SID with a post and solar panel, with would allow the use of two SID’s in the village across 4 locations.

**War Memorial Steps**

The appointed contractor is dealing with the provision of a brick sample to Dorset Council and arranging the commencement of work.

**General roads issues - Flooding at the Garage/Portman Hall/Gunn Lane vegetation**

The PC has requested a meeting with the Community Highways Officer to discuss these issues.

**Dorset Police**

The Chairman has written to Dorset Police concerning their non-attendance at the December 2023 PC meeting. Cllr Batstone has arranged a meeting for the local community with the Police & Crime Commissioner on 16th January at the Exchange in Sturminster Newton (18:30 Bow Room).

**1199. PUBLIC SESSION**

There were no questions.

**1200. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised that Dorset Council has published its initial proposals to deliver a balanced budget next financial year, 2024-25. The proposals will see essential frontline council services continuing to be provided to residents and businesses, and protected from cuts.

The proposed budget means that in the coming year the council will spend £376m on its residents, an 8 per cent increase in funding for essential services. Around 60 per cent of the budget will support vulnerable children, families, older people and those with disabilities. In total, Dorset Council provides around 450 different services to just under 380,000 residents, including adults and children’s social care, road maintenance, waste collection, housing support and libraries.

The meeting with the Police & Crime Commission on 16th January 2024 will be directed towards strategy rather than individual policing issues.

**1201. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer was not present.

**1202. PERMISSIVE PATH**

The Chairman has completed ‘Form E’ relating to an application to change the status of the Permissive Path to a Right of Way. This was not difficult and others have been asked to complete forms which will be collated at the February 2024 meeting.

**1203 COUNCILLOR EMAIL ADDRESSES**

The Clerk advised that the PC has 10 email addresses allocated under the website hosting contract – enough for the Clerk & 9 councillors, however presently one email address is used as a Facebook contact point. The current annual cost of the hosting contract is £60 plus VAT. A new contract allowing up to 15 email addresses would cost £ 26 per month. It was agreed that a gmail address should be used as a Facebook contact freeing a new email address for a Councillor.

**1204. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) P/FUL/2023/05579** - Land At Old Ox Inn Blandford Road Shillingstone - Erect 5 no. dwellings with associated access, landscaping and parking. There is no decision at this stage. It was though noted that neither the Conservation Officer or the Tree Officer supported the application. The Conservation Officer being rather concerned in relation to the impact of the proposed development on historic open spaces and green routes.

**ii) New applications**

**P/HOU/2023/06960 - Lime Kiln House Lanchards Lane Shillingstone Dorset DT11**

*Pool house extension -Garage alterations -Main House/Attic alterations*

It was agreed that the proposed enlargement and alteration of this property would have virtually no impact on neighbouring properties. There were no objections.

**1205. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 01/12/2023 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Strimming/mowing |
| 04/12/2023 | Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd | £ 600.00 | Old Ox - planning consultancy |
| 04/12/2023 | Mr Kevin Sullivan | £ 60.00 | Pavilion cleaning |
| 04/12/2023 | Mrs Jill Sullivan | £ 60.00 | Pavilion cleaning |
| 04/12/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 08/12/2023 | David Green | £ 42.00 | November 2023 expenses |
| 13/12/2023 | Dorset Council | £ 570.00 | Speed Surveys |
| 18/12/2023 | The Portman Hall | £ 96.00 | Hall hire |
| 22/12/2023 | SSE | £ 149.73 | Pavilion electricity |
| 28/12/2023 | David Green | £ 741.85 | December 2023 pay |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 33.00 were approved.

**iii) Precept 2024/2025**

The Clerk advised that it was still proposed to maintain an unchanged precept for 2024/2025, there being no reason to change the calculations discussed at previous meetings. Reasonable provision for cost inflation has been made. It was unanimously agreed to set a precept of £ 36,295. This will mean a small reduction in Council Tax Band D for the Parish.

**1206. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

The Clerk provided a report:

**Recreation Ground Tree work –** this has been delayed due to waterlogging. The contribution requested from the Tennis Club will be further discussed when the work has been completed.

**Augustan Avenue play area–** Seesaw tyre replacement – the Clerk is seeking quotes for this work.

**Allotments –** RH noted there has been a spate of property damage at the allotments in the week after Christmas. Three allotment holders have reported damaged lockers or sheds.

It was agreed to remind allotment holders not to leave tools lying around.

**1207. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 09/12/2023 | Dorset CAN | Invite to the 4th 'Food Resilience in Dorset' Zoom Event |
| 11/12/2023 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF CASTLE AVENUE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE |
| 14/12/2023 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE December 2023 Newsletter |
| 15/12/2023 | Carol Fenmore | Fly tipping report (1) |
| 22/12/2023 | Matt Clayton, Dorset Council | Public Electric Vehicle Charging in Shillingstone (2) |
| 22/12/2023 | Cllr Pauline Batstone | Meeting with the Police and Crime Commissioner 16th January 2024 (3) |

1. **Fly-tipping** – Incidents believed to be associated with the installation of internet cabling have been reported to Dorset Council.
2. **EV charging points**. The Portman Hall, The Church Centre and Shillingstone Station have all said that the installation of a charging point on their properties would not be suitable. The Chairman noted that the real issue in Shillingstone are the 80/90 properties in the village without on street parking, who cannot install their own charging points, and that this is very socially divisive. There are several laybys in the village would be better used for community charging provision. It was agreed to ask Dorset Council to attend the next PC meeting to discuss the issues further.

It was agreed that consideration would be given as to how to engage with young people in the village in terms of activities & suitable venues. MB noted that a very successful boxing club operated in Sturminster Newton.

**1208. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Permissive path consideration
* Speedwatch update
* Councillor portfolios
* Coronation Cup – Nomination & voting procedures
* 2024 Election

**1209. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 1st February 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:55