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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 9th JANUARY 2025 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM)** R Harwood (RH), K Ridout (KR), M Pomeroy (MP), I Suter (IS), R White (RW), the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 20 members of the public present.

**1186. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Murcer, Barlow & Leadbeater

**1187. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1188. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 5th and 19th December 2024 were approved.

**1189. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman noted that the current Speed Indicator Device rotator has ceased to provide his services and it has been agreed that this necessary service will now be provided by Dorset Council at a greater cost to the Parish.

**1190. NORTH DORSET RAILWAY**

Gavin Collins and Richard Giles attended the meeting with an update concerning their future plans:

* there have been a number of recent events including a ‘Whistle Off’ in commemoration of the 200-year anniversary of the commencement of Stockton & Darlington Railway
* there are 100 volunteers working on the project
* 2 wooden coaches are presently undergoing restoration
* the NDR will be losing use of the ‘Perkins Warehouses’ and will need to find new storage space
* a planning application will shortly be made to permit the carriage of passengers over the ½ mile length of track to Lamb House Bridge, the current permission being only to operate trains on a track. It is intended to stage passenger carrying events at Christmas and in the summer, although train capacity will be limited to 12 persons.
* the original plan to take the track to Sturminster Newton will not now be possible, a landowner having declined to give permission for this, however there is a general intention to expand the line south to Holloway Farm, but no further. This is in an early stage of consideration and no detailed plans have yet been formulated. It is clear that this will require the agreement of new leases with Dorset Council and this process is likely to take several years.

Questions were taken from those present. The view was expressed that it was important that any expansion to the south does not interfere with the normal operation of the Trailway and that the proximity of drains, culverts and existing Rights of Way needs to be carefully considered.

**1191. PUBLIC SESSION**

Fence & gate across Church Field – a request was made that the executors of the estate of the late Mr. Ian Moore be requested to remove this unsightly structure. It was agreed that the Parish Council would take up this question.

There is now a proposal to hold a Flower Festival & Open Gardens event on the weekend of the 21st-22nd June, and to scale back the May VE Day event. It was pointed out that enquiries had already been concerning entertainers for the May event which it was hoped would involve the villages Young People, and that there should be no diminution of the importance attached to the VE commemorations. Further consideration of this subject will be necessary.

The lack of pavement sweeping was noted but it was explained that the road sweeping service is provided by Dorset Council and it is impossible to find contractors to engage in a ‘street sweep’ similar to those held a few years ago, that service being withdrawn by the contractor. It was agreed that it would be helpful if householders and business owners kept the area in front of their properties clear of leaves.

**1192. PLANNING** - **application: P/FUL/2024/07332 - Anthorn - Blandford Road DT11 0SF - Erection of 1no. dwelling, ancillary workshop/store**

The applicant attended the meeting an explained the necessity to replace the existing dwelling which had been constructed in 1949, without proper foundations, and was now liable to subsidence.

There were a number of comments concerning the contemporary design of the new dwelling and concern was expressed regarding the impact of the construction work on Candy’s Lane. The applicant noted that this would be minimised and agreed to consider re-instating any damage to the lane if it is attributable to construction work.

There was a concern that the new building would be on two storeys and may in fact overlook at least one neighbouring property.

The Parish Council agreed to receive further comments from those who has concerns regarding the application before making its own submission to Dorset Council.

It was noted that there was very little time to respond to the application. The Chairman confirmed that Dorset Council no longer issue ‘neighbour notices’ and work on a 3-week timescale.

**1193. FOOTPATHS OFFICER REPORT**

The Footpaths Officer was not present and there was no report.

**1194. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Unitary Councillor was not present and there was no report except in relation to the construction site near the garage.

**1195. REVIEW OF YOUNG PEOPLES MEETING**

The Chairman noted that whilst it was disappointing that no young people had actually attended the event, some worthwhile ideas had been discussed, including opening the Church Centre and possible use of the Cricket Pavilion. The Chairman will reach out to local schools again requesting ideas and Cllr Barlow will contact Dorset Council. It was agreed to resume this discussion at the next meeting.

**1196. REVIEW OF CORONATION CUP 2024**

Cllr Suter confirmed the 2024 event had been a great success with 13 nominations and 28 votes received, with the winner, Jane Joseph, receiving a quarter of the vote. There are no changes planned for the 2025 event.

**1197. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Roads/Drains** – MP has received further information from the Environment Agency concerning local drain and culverts.

A meeting with Dorset Council Transport Planning Officer has been arranged concerning road infrastructure for the refreshed Neighbourhood Plan.

Dorset Rangers are planning to clear Trailway culverts adjacent to the Recreation Ground on 18th January. They will probably have to work around the fallen poplar tree.

**1198. OTHER PLANNING ISSUES**

**Land at The Old Ox application –** a request has been made via Simon Hoare M.P and Cllr Murcer to Dorset Council to reverse the decision to make this a delegated officer decided application and for the planning committee to review the application.

**1199. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** |  |
| 02/12/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 05/12/2024 | Partnership Security Limited | £ 132.00 | adjust Augustan camera |
| 05/12/2024 | Partnership Security Limited | £ 6,206.40 | Rec CCTV system |
| 06/12/2024 | David Green | £ 61.03 | Nov 24 expenses |
| 06/12/2024 | Fireline Ltd | £ 210.00 | Service fire alarm |
| 09/12/2024 | Ian Suter | £ 42.48 | Coronation Cup costs |
| 09/12/2024 | Oldfields Embroidery | £ 95.00 | Coronation cup costs |
| 11/12/2024 | Guy Gilding | £ 25.00 | SID rotation |
| 11/12/2024 | Quantum Locksmiths Limited | £ 91.95 | POD door handle repair |
| 11/12/2024 | Rachel McNamara | £ 15.45 | Youth meeting |
| 17/12/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Mowing/strimming |
| 18/12/2024 | PCC Shillingstone | £ 48.00 | Church Centre hire - NP |
| 20/12/2024 | Dorset Council | £ 321.60 | Replace speed sign |
| 23/12/2024 | Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd | £ 1,401.36 | Neighbourhood Planning fee |
| 23/12/2024 | Elizabeth Brecknock | £ 202.75 | Pavilion Cleaning |
| 23/12/2024 | Partnership Security Limited | £ 1,308.00 | Additional CCTV - AA |
| 28/12/2024 | David Green | £ 837.27 | December 2024 pay |

**ii) New payments approval -** Clerk’s expenses £ 46.33 were approved.

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

It was unanimously agreed to make a precept request for £ 39,650 for 2025-2026. The impact of this will be to increase Band Council Tax by approximately £6.20

**1200. PAVILION/ PLAY AREAS REPORT**

The Clerk reported that the fire alarm had been activated, after a football match, due to the operation of the showers it seems, which resulted in a call out for both himself and Cllr Barlow. It was agreed that the control panel should be replaced with a keypad system, rather than a key.

4 quotes had been received to remove the fallen Poplar at the corner of the Recreation Ground. The Clerk will make the final decision based on when the work can be carried out.

**1201. CORRESPONDENCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | FROM | DESCRIPTION |
| 06/12/2024 | Dorset Council precepts | Taxbase 2025/26 |
| 11/12/2024 | Climate & Ecological Emergency Support | Climate and Nature Action Support Group - Tues 14th January 2025 |
| 12/12/2024 | Norbert Kovacs, Silviculture | Woodlands management plan for Lime Kiln House |
| 12/12/2024 | Dorset Highways | PROPOSED TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A357, STURMINSTER NEWTON |
| 19/12/2024 | DAPTC | ACTION BRIEFING| MHCLG Consultation on Standards and Conduct |
| 30/12/2024 | Bob Yorath | Request to ask for the removal of the fence at Church Field |

**1202. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

* Young People activities
* VE Day commemoration arrangements

**1203. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 6th February 2025 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:23