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

**7:00 PM ON THURSDAY 17th JULY 2025 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (Chairman), I Suter (Chairman) (IS) M Barlow (MB) R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL) M Pomeroy (MP) K Ridout (KR) R White (RW) Footpath Officer Grham Rains, Unitary Councillor S Murcer, the Clerk D Green.

In addition, there were five members of the public present.

**1036. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**1037. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1038. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2025 were approved.

**1039. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman noted:

* **Augustan Avenue CCTV -** SSE have now offered an 11-month electricity supply contract effective from 23rd June on a reduced rate and this has been accepted. A request was made for this to be retrospectively applied but this was refused by SSE. A complaint has now been accepted by Ofgen concerning the handling of the case and the review will take between 6 & 8 weeks to resolve. The charges levied by SSE from October 2024 have been paid under protest after threats of collection action. The Council thanked Cllr Barlow for replacing the CCTV signage.
* **Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour** – a report concerning recent events in the village has been sent to Dorset Police. It was also reported that a resident had registered a crime report but had not been notified of any follow up action. This will be taken up by the Parish Council.
* **Flower Festival** – the winner of the best front garden wishes the £ 50 prize to be awarded to a local charity of the Parish Councils choice. It was agreed that that suitable nominations would be considered.
* **16th August event at the Old Ox –** this will include a hosted ‘Open Mic’, and BBQ and will be held from 1 to 4 pm. After a discussion it was agreed that this could be promoted as involving commemoration of the 80th anniversary of VJ Day and the effective end of the Second World War.
* **Holloway Lane** – some resurfacing repairs have been carried out by Dorset Council but these are rather rudimentary and amount to less than a complete resurfacing. Cllr Pomeroy is taking up this matter with Dorset Highways.
* **Nationwide Bank –** have requested further Councillor personal information; It would seem that this is a regulatory requirement to identified ‘politically exposed persons’. It was agreed that if Nationwide decide to close this account, funds will be deposited elsewhere in another notice account.

**1040. PUBLIC SESSION**

A resident reported a tree which obscures visibility on the common land triangle at Wessex Ave/Lanchards Lane. Cllr Suter will look at this & advise further.

**1041. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Murcer noted:

**Dorset Local Plan**

* The consultation period runs from 18 August to 13 October 2025, the draft will be submitted for examination by December 2026, and hopefully adopted in 2027.
* The Local Plan will identify sites and policies to achieve Government target of 3,283 homes per annum or 50,000 homes in total by 2040.
* Existing consents, Neighbourhood plans will deliver 25,000 with a gap of a further 25,000 homes.
* There will be a focus on towns and large villages to deliver bulk of new homes in Blackmore Vale Ward namely Shillingstone, Okeford Fitzpaine and Hazelbury Bryan. Each village can expect to have new sites in the consultation – the objection process is to be confirmed.
* NP’s have to conform to the strategic policies within the LP when adopted i.e. the Local Plan will have primacy
* Dorset Council will be holding local consultation meetings – in Blandford Forum on Thursday 4 September & in Sherborne on 7 October 2025. Details of these have not yet been published.
* It is hoped to arrange a local ward meeting to be arranged to discuss the impact across North Dorset

**Booking System for Dorset Council Tips**

 Dorset Council had proposed a County wide booking system for Council run tips; after widespread opposition this has been limited in the North Dorset area to Sherborne and Shaftesburyt. The stated purpose of these changes is to prevent tipping by residents of other unitary councils. It is known that Dorset Council sites annually receive 66 tons of refuse from other areas.

**1042. FOOTPATH OFFICER REPORT**

Graham Rains advised that following a request from Dorset Rangers he has cleared the stile to FP36. The Rangers have now determined that the stile can be replaced under the terms if the Service Level Agreement and this work will be carried out in the autumn. The tenant will be asked to secure the gate with a chain and carabiner.

**1043. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**Highways –** Cllr Pomeroy’s report was noted.

Two additional roads issues have been raised by residents:

**Poplar Hill -** There has been a request for a 20-mph limit on Poplar Hill and other measures in including a permanent Speed Indicator Device. The issues concerning speed and road width have been referred to Dorset Highways & the Speed Reduction Team for further advice.

**Parking in Augustan Avenue near the School** - a resident has raised an issue concerning problem parking near the School crossing in Augustan Avenue. It was noted that this issue is worse when events are taking place. It seems highly unlikely that white lines would be approved and may well be ignored. It should ne noted that residents parking in Augustan Avnue is not allocated and the road is therefore very constricted in places at the best of time. The School will be asked to remind parents and those collecting children to park responsibly, clear of the marked crossing. Dorset Highways will be asked to advise regarding this issue.

**1044. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESHMENT UPDATE**

The Chair noted that the consultation period for the refreshed Neighbourhood Plan has now closed and thanked all those who have provided contributions. An additional period has been agreed for some statury consultees to make submissions. The responses received will be collated and summarized and presented to the Examiner.

It was noted that funding for Neighbourhood Plan has now been cancelled by HM Government and this has put the prospect of future Neighbourhood planning schemes in doubt. It was agreed in principle that the Parish Council would consider setting aside additional resources, possibly up to £ 3,000 per annum, from 2026, to enable a future plan to be drafted, if this is required.

**1045. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**New application:**

**P/FUL/2025/02885 - Shillingstone Station - Station Road Shillingstone DT11 0SA -** *Change of use from (part) railway museum and (part) private residential & open land, to operational railway & railway museum*

It was noted that this proposal had been briefly outlined by the NDR at a previous PC meeting. It was noted that this application seeks to fomalise the operation of the railway as a passenger transport operation. It seems as though there will up to 6 runs per day when the Station is open. It was note that new car paring facilities have now been installed and there will be a planting scheme to screen sections of the line.

There were no objections to this application.

**1046. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 02/06/2025 | Elizabeth Brecknock | **£ 161.45** | Pavilion Cleaning |
| 02/06/2025 | J P Consultants | **£ 150.00** | Internal Audit 2024- |
| 02/06/2025 | Harts of Stur | **£ 11.00** | Broom for pavilion |
| 02/06/2025 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | **£ 466.66** | Mowing |
| 05/06/2025 | Ian Suter | **£ 164.24** | NP printing costs |
| 05/06/2025 | SSE | **£ 116.89** | Pavilion Electricity |
| 16/06/2025 | David Green | **£ 41.25** | Office allowance |
| 17/06/2025 | Lloyds Bank PLC | **£ 4.25** | Service fee |
| 17/06/2025 | Edens Landscapes Limited | **£ 270.00** | Mowing/Strimming |
| 23/06/2025 | SSE | **£ 116.89** | Pavilion electricity |
| 26/06/2025 | Elizabeth Brecknock | **£ 162.93** | Pavilion Cleaning |
| 26/06/2025 | Fireline Ltd | **£ 237.66** | Alarm testing & Ext service |
| 26/06/2025 | Total Energy Services | **£ 264.00** | Boiler services |
| 30/06/2025 | Edens Landscapes Limited | **£ 141.00** | Play area weed control |
| 30/06/2025 | David Green | **£ 828.07** | June 2025 pay |
| 01/07/2025 | Public Works Loan Board | **£ 1,359.72** | Loan repayment |
| 02/07/2025 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | **£ 466.66** | Mowing |
| 03/07/2025 | Elite Playground Inspections | **£ 90.00** | Recreation Ground /AA |
| 03/07/2025 | SSE | **£ 1,158.68** | CCTV charges AA |

1. **Clerks Expenses –** expenses of £ 42.00 were approved

**1047. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

Hedge trimming and wed control have been arranged for the autumn.

The issue of footballs striking a residents wall was reviewed. There are netting systems available which may reduce this issue and which may also prevent footballs going into a garden. It was agreed that a quote for installing something suitable would be sought.

**1048. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 10/06/2025 | Anna Pring | Trees at rear of rectory in Church Road |
| 13/06/2025 | ONH: Neil Homer <info@oneillhomer.co.uk> | Neighbourhood Plan Support Program discontinued by MHCLG |
| 14/06/2025 | Steve Murcer | Holloway Lane Shillingstone |
| 17/06/2025 | Gavin Collins | North Dorset Railway (NDR) Track extension opening celebration Thursday 18th September 11:30am |
| 19/06/2025 | JO O'Connell | Open Day Sunday 29th June 11-5 |
| 19/06/2025 | Dorset Council | Working Together Webinars - Household Recycling Centres |
| 24/06/2025 | Dorset Council SID Team | 20 mph enquiry |
| 26/06/2025 | DAPTC | Withdrawal of Funding Support for Neighbourhood Plans |
| 02/07/2025 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ORDER OF A350 MAIN ROAD, DURWESTON AND PIMPERNE |
| 09/07/2025 | Community Speedwatch | \*\*\* NEWSLETTER \*\*\* |
| 10/07/2025 | Lesley Gasson | Hollway Lane repairs |
| 10/07/2025 | Graham Rains | FP36 Stile |
| 13/07/2025 | Tudor Hill | Dangerous parking nr School – white lining suggestion |
| 15/07/2025 | Bob Yorath | Poplar Hill – 20 mph request |

**1049. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Local Plan proposals
* Roads issues update

**1050. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 11th September 2025 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.19