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

**7:00 PM ON THURSDAY 2nd OCTOBER 2025 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (Chairman), I Suter (Vice-Chairman) (IS) R Harwood (RH), M Pomeroy (MP) K Ridout (KR), R White (RW) the Clerk D Green. Unitary Councillor S Murcer

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

**1068. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Leadbeater, Footpaths Officer Graham Rains

**1069. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1070 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2025 were approved.

**1071. MATTERS ARISING**

* **Councillor resignation** - The Chairman noted thanked Councilor Barlow for his assistance during the last 2 years or so and confirm that a Vacancy Notice had been posted to the website
* **Augustan Avenue CCTV –** remote access to these cameras has still not been restored, this requires technical changes to be co-ordinated between SAST and Partnership Security
* **Crime/Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB**)- the local incident log has now been provided to Dorset Police. A follow up meeting with the Police is planned for 8th October. Cllr Suter has set-up a reporting log for Councillors to note incidents.

**1072. PUBLIC SESSION**

Lesley Gasson raised a number of topics:

* The Harvest Supper being held on Friday 3rd October 2025 now has 45 registered participants
* Speeding in the village is still an issue and it is not clear how frequently the Speedwatch Team is operational
* Leaflet drops with rapid follow up collection could be used to gauge public suggestions for village priorities. This idea will be considered early in 2026.

**1073. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Steve Murcer noted that the major issue in Dorset Council is the budget shortfall of some £7 million. This has largely arisen due the increasing cost of care plans provided by Children’s Services. This is requiring careful consideration. There is an ongoing transformation programme titled ‘ Our Future Council’ ,a redundancy programme will commence in January 2026. The Council will be making greater use of A.I. in service delivery in the future. There are reserves of some £80 million, but much of these are ring fenced for specific designated purposes.

The investigation into the awarding of building repair contracts and how these were handled is ongoing.

The final Local Plan consultation event takes place at the Digby Hall in Sherborne on 7th October. Cllr Murcer advised that that the best strategy for Parishes is not to say ‘no’ to everything; it was noted that Okeford Fitzpaine would be raising an objection in respect of the ‘larger village’ designation. Cllr Murcer appreciated that Shillingstone is in a slightly different position from other communities, in that the proposed sites are all owned by Dorset Council.

The issue of the state of the allotments was raised by a member of public, that it should be noted that these have been provided under statute and have been used for this purpose since the end of the war in 1939-45. This point will be included by the working group in finalising their response to the consultation.

**1074. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**Highways –** Cllr Pomeroy’s Highways report was noted. There had been no updates concerning issues raised relating to pedestrian crossing or build outs.

**1075. EXTRAORDINARY MEETING 6th OCTOBER 2025 – PC RESPONSE TO DORSET COUNCILS LOCAL PLAN**

The Chairman noted that the purpose of the EGM is to explain:

* The Parish Councils response to the proposals
* Explain the additional response summary that will be submitted to Dorset Council relating to the overall strategy of the plan
* Hear residents views of the proposals.

**1076. PARISH COUNCIL SURVEY**

The Chairman advised that a PC response has been prepared & will be submitted.

**1077. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESHMENT UPDATE**

The review of responses is still being undertaken by Planning consultant Jo Witherden.

**1078. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There were no new applications.

**1079. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** |  **£ Total**  | **Reason** |
| 02/09/2025 | Shillingstone Cricket Club |  **£ 466.66**  | Mowing |
| 03/09/2025 | Dorset Council |  **£ 515.00**  | Allotment rent |
| 04/09/2025 | Alfie Burt |  **£ 480.00**  | Hedge cutting -  |
| 10/09/2025 | BDO LLP |  **£ 378.00**  | External audit |
| 12/09/2025 | David Green |  **£ 73.74**  | Expenses |
| 12/09/2025 | Ian Suter |  **£ 32.96**  | VJ80 expenses |
| 12/09/2025 | Rachel McNamara |  **£ 6.88**  | VJ80 Expenses |
| 16/09/2025 | Lloyds Bank PLC |  **£ 4.25**  | Service charge |
| 17/09/2025 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  **£ 507.60**  | Recreation Ground work |
| 17/09/2025 | Life Education Wessex |  **£ 70.00**  | Shill School event - donation |
| 17/09/2025 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  **£ 270.00**  | Mowing/strimming |
| 18/09/2025 | Partnership Security Limited |  **£ 394.80**  | AA/Rec CCTV maintenance |
| 22/09/2025 | SSE |  **£ 48.71**  | CCTV electricity AA |
| 26/09/2025 | Elizabeth Brecknock |  **£ 200.00** | Pavilion Cleaning |
| 26/09/2025 | Elite Playground  |  **£ 672.00** | Play area repair work |
| 26/09/2025 | Arthur J Gallagher |  **£ 3,006.12** | PC insurance renewal |
| 29/09/2025 | The Play Inspection Co |  **£ 227.88** | Annual Inspection fee |
| 28/09/2025 | David Green |  **£ 852.29** | Sept 2025 pay |

1. **Clerks Expenses –** expenses of £ 30.48 were approved
2. **Outline Budget proposal –** the Clerk has proposed setting a precept request in the region of £41,200 for 2026/2027. This would represent an increase of about 4% and would increase Bank D Council Tax from £ 86.44 to £ 89.82, an increase of £3.38 per annum.

The provisional budget allows for £3,000 to be set aside for NP costs but this may not be adequate given the need to refresh the NP in 2027. A plan revision may require funding for at least £10,000 in fees and there will no longer be any grant funding available to support these costs. The PC has some £3,800 in reserve provision for NP costs at present. This issue will be reviewed in either December or January before the precept is finally set. This is an important question concerning what weight the refreshed NP will have when the Local Plan has been finalised.

**1080. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

Repair work to some equipment in both Augustan Avenue and at the Recreation Ground has been completed.

**1081. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 12/09/2025 | Dorset CAN  | Dorset Council Local Plan - Site Consultation | Have Your Say |
| 20/09/2025 | SNTC | Fw: What's Happening in Stur - Town Newsletter October & November |
| 20/09/2025 | Society of Dorset Man | Use of photograph – Holy Rood Church 0 ref to Graham Rains |
| 29/09/2025 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE September 2025 Newsletter - Dorset Council Local Plan |
| 29/09/2025 | Dorset CAN  | Upcoming Events: Food Resilience 30th Sept | DC Local Plan 1st Oct | Energy Meeting 6th Oct |

**1082. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Coronation Cup arrangements
* Local Plan updates

**1083. NEXT MEETING**

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.00