**SHILLINGSTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – THURSDAY 24 MAY 2017 – 7.30 PM IN THE PORTMAN HALL**

**Minutes of the meeting**

**1. Present:** Parish Councillors Malcolm Webberley, Tim Kennard, Penny Acott and Craig Oakley, parish clerk David Green and 16 members of the public

**2. Apologies for absence:** Received from Cllr Kay Rideout

**3. Annual report from the Chairman of the Parish Council:**  Cllr Webberley delivered his report:

**Planning:**

The Neighbourhood Plan had it's first major test this year when an application was made to erect 10 dwellings on land at Hine Town Lane. We argued before the planning committee, with the support of a number of villagers, that the preference within the Neighbourhood Plan was that access should be from Blandford Road. We argued that all avenues to prevent access to Hine Town Lane had not yet been fully explored. These objections were an important reason for the application to be refused by the committee. We have not yet received an application for any alternative scheme.

After most objections being overcome we are now lucky enough to have a shiny new Co-op store in our community, an important asset, which has been welcomed by the vast majority of the village.

Although no development can be allowed within the life of the Neighbourhood Plan, Mr Moore, the owner of Church Field, is not yet been inclined to accept an offer from us to buy the field for the community. He has not, however, gone away and all we can do for the moment is to closely monitor any developments. I believe he is prepared to play a very long game and he, or even his heirs, will probably still be around in 15 years’ time when the Neighbourhood Plan expires. By then it will certainly be somebody else's problem!

**The Cross:**

It is hard to believe that this is still an issue this year. Our new clerk, David, has been unfortunate enough to inherit a very large file of correspondence stretching back about four years which has now run into the sand, after considerable expenditure and countless hours, due to Byzantine bureaucratic hurdles. We have decided to give up trying to re-site the Cross in the Churchyard and are in discussion with local museums who may be interested in displaying it.

**The Pavilion:**

Refurbishment of the Pavilion is now complete after considerable expenditure by the Parish Council which has involved replacing the roof, all windows, boiler and plumbing. Our thanks specially go to Phil Watts for acting as Clerk of Works as well as his usual job of unpaid groundsman.

We have also negotiated a new contract with the Cricket Club for grass cutting and our thanks to all for the excellent job they do. Some of our playground equipment is starting to show it's age and we are engaged in a programme to bring it back up to standard.

**Lengths-man:**

We continue to get a very good service from the Sturminster Newton grounds team in trying to keep the village neat and tidy although recently they have had problems getting the use of the District Councils street sweeper due to breakdowns. Adam, their leader, continues to do his best to sort this and hopes to have Blandford Road clean soon. These services cost a lot of money and we can all help by making sure that we, and our children, do not add to the high volume of litter dropped every year, not all from passing cars.

**Station Project:**

We are very pleased that since major changes were made in the governance of the Station Project relations with the community and Parish Council have greatly improved.

They have an ambitious long- term vision for making this a major local attraction and we are encouraged by their commitment to consulting widely before any new planning applications are made and we are reassured that nothing major will happen any time soon.

**Community Defibrillators:**

We now have two installed in the Village, one at the Portman Hall and the other at the School and a number of volunteers have been trained in their use.

Special thanks go to John Paul for his fundraising to help make this possible.

**Website and Social Media:**

With the encouragement of our younger councillors, particularly Rachel McNamara, we are trying to get up to date with how we communicate with the village so expect some exciting new developments soon.

**Council:**

Major changes are starting to take place with reorganising how services are delivered by District and County Councils and it is not yet clear if this will make any major changes to what we do and what we will be responsible for, but be reassured that we will keep up with all developments.

We have, at present, got a full Parish Council and I would like to thank all members, many long-standinhstanding, for there commitment and hard work in serving the community.

**5. Question time**

There were no follow-up questions

**6. Bee-delighted**

Lesley Gasson gave a most interesting and informative talk on bee-keeping in Shillingstone, with the assistance of some slides. Lesley explained that Shillingstone has a significant presence of bee-keepers, and a number of apiaries of different complexities.

The village has a variety of trees and shrubs providing good pollen sources, including, oddly, Ivy. Lesley held an informal quiz as to where certain trees were located in the village.

**7. The Jubilee Cup:**

Three nominations **were** received by the clerk, Judith Crompton, Mike Powell, and Nathanial Thorne. The clerk had received votes by email for all three nominated candidates, and a vote was also held at the meeting. The result was decisively in favour of Mike Powell, and in Mike’s absence, Cllr Webberley presented the Jubilee to Ann Powell.

With no further business to discuss the Chairman closed the meeting at 8.30 pm