**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30PM ON THURSDAY 5th JULY 2018 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councilors M Webberley, C Oakley, T Kennard, P Watts, P Acton, K Ridout, R P Arron, DCC Councilor Sherry Jespersen, ROW Officer G Rains; and the clerk D Green; in addition, there were 7 members of the public in attendance.

**283.. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:**

**284. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Webberley re Pear Tree Cottage, a former home.

**285. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** the minutes of the meeting held on 5st June 2018 were approved.

**286. MATTERS ARISING:** Discussed per agenda items below

**287. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Lesley Gasson raised the matter of the churchyard grant. She suggested that the £250 which the SPC has already given is not spent this year but added to next year’s grant with a PCC contribution in order to deal with trees in the churchyard, total cost in the region of £1000.

Lesley also raised the issue of road sweeping, advising that there is only one sweeper in the county. The Chairman advised that the council is aware of the issues, and that Adam Dodson & his team have been beset with problems, but the village has not been forgotten, and the work will be completed as soon as possible.

Loos in Church Centre to be flushed regularly to deal with poor flow problems.

Graham Rains again raised the issue of replacement signage at the Knapps, which had been previously raised with Cllr Jespersen, but had still not been rectified. Cllr Kennard again raised the issue of the sign at the top of Church Road which required replacement. It was speculated as to whether one of the signs was in someone’s garden, Cllr Jespersen advised not, but said that she would pursue this issue of the replacement signs.

The Chairman raised the matter of village gates. Cllr Jespersen advised that the Parish Council would have to pay for these, cost circa £1000 per gate. She advised that some villages got them free under the A350 upgrade scheme, but that was not available now. The Council decided, in view of the cost, not to pursue this issue.

The Chairman told the meeting that he had still not received any response to his letter to Highways regarding the unsatisfactory planning of road closures, and raised the matter of the Child Okeford road closure due to a water main replacement; it was noted that there was no explanation offered for the planned 18 week closure, and no explanation why a traffic light system could not be operated rather than total closure. Cllr Jespersen said that it was not certain if the road would be closed for the whole 18 week period. The Chairman commented that the attitude of Highways was unacceptable, and that they should be required to justify all planned closure in a democratic manner. Cllr Jespersen advised that the head of Highways had met County Councillors when other closure schemes were planned (A350 for example). The Chairman would consider writing to Deborah Croney requesting response to the principal that closures must be justified.

Howard Povey raised the issue of parking at the green area opposite the Co-op. He had recently seen two children cross the road behind a parked-up lorry, and a near miss occurred. It was said that yellow lines could not be marked, and there was no enforcement likely. The conclusion was that this is a potential accident spot, with HGV’s parking on the road in order for drivers to pop into the Co-op.

**288. COUNTY/DISTRICT COUNCILLOR’S REPORT:**

Cllr Jespersen advised that completion of the report had been delegated this month but had not been received, and gave a verbal summation of the main issues. Most activity now is directed towards the formation of the new unitary authority, together with plans for council tax harmonisation. There will be an increase in the District element of the new council tax charges, which is a very small element of the overall Council tax charge (some 9% of 20%), this is to bring the north in line with other areas. In theory under one council all services should be the same. Cllr Jespersen invited comments on the proposed boundary changes, but none were made. Shillingstone will fall into a new ‘Blackmore Vale’ ward, the calculations for the number of councillors are based on numbers of residents, but the overall result is that the number of County Councillors will be roughly halved to 82, as a cost saving measure. In theory standards of service are supposed to be the same, Cllr Kennard observed that he did not see how this could happen. Cllr Jespersen said she would do everything in her power to prevent this. Howard Povey raised the issue of whether the Dorset Police would be joining Devon & Cornwall, rather than Wiltshire.

**289. FOOTPATHS:**

**Footpaths officer report:** Graham Rains reported the matter of the overgrown Quarry footpath would be taken up with Graham Stanley, but that most paths were ok. Graham asked Lesley Gasson who was responsible for the footpath near her field, Graham Stanley was only cutting the path to his own gate. Lesley said she was looking for another gardener. The matter of who is responsible for overgrowth on a footpath was discussed, Graham Rains advised that it is down to the owner of the land where the growth commences, and that it must be ensured that 1.8 metres width is kept clear.

Graham advised that other paths require clearing including the path between Lesley Gassons house and the Glanvilles, though Graham Stanley the DCC Ranger is aware of this.

Matter of the footpath adjacent to Honeysuckle Gardens, Shillingstone was raised. Cllr Watts was under the impression that was down to the SNTC lengthsman. Matter to be clarified with Adam Dodson at SNTC.

Cllr Kennard raised the matter of resurfacing the Trailway, and the clearing of gullys. Graham Rains advised that Graham Stanley was still waiting for a further quote before work is commissioned.

**290. FINANCES:**

1. **Cheques for payment as per list below:**



1. **Business Bank Account**

The clerk report that the Parish Council has had a substantial proportion of its reserves with Scottish Widows in a ‘Business Fund Deposit Account’ since 2009. This was receiving interest at 1.75% at one time. For the last 15 months it has been receiving 0.01% interest. On a deposit of £40,200 the council had received only £4.01 in interest. He has made some preliminary investigations of using an alternative account. Nationwide offer a Business Instant Savings Account earning 0.5% interest (which would mean an income of circa £201) or a 95 Day Notice Account earning 1.0% interest, (which would mean an income of circa £420 p.a). The Chairman and Cllr McNamara supported the idea, but thought that there should be some instant access to some of the monies. Chairman suggested letting the clerk decide the best arrangement.

**291. PLANNING:**

1. **To report on outstanding applications:**
2. **Broughton House, Lanchards Lane, Shillingstone**

Proposal to install 25m x 45m riding arena for private use. Land presently agricultural, change of use to equestrian. Noted as approved 13/06/2018.

1. **To consider any new applications received before the meeting:**

**Oakdale, Blandford Road.** Erect two-storey side extension. Raise existing ridge height to form additional living accommodation. Create parking area. | Oakdale Blandford Road Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0SF

The councillors noted that this is within conservation area, and is a substantive addition to the existing property in terms of height, one storey effectively becoming two storeys. Russell Holbert, whose house it is explained the development further, really doing this because of his expanded family. The council noted that the property is not overlooked, and unless the neighbours objected, the council saw no reason to oppose this.

**Pear Tree Cottage,** Blandford Road, Shillingstone, DT11 Partially demolish existing single-story extension and erect replacement single tier extension

It was noted that is simply the replacement of an existing extension with “no architectural merit”, which has reached the end of its life. It seems unlikely that the neighboring property Belmont would be affected in any way. The only concern raised relates to the use of a mixture of window style, Crittall , Wooden & Plastic, view to be submitted to case officer.

**iii) To consider applications to carry out works to trees in the conservation area received before the meeting:**

None

**292. THE CROSS – update from the clerk**

The clerk reported that he & Cllr Kennard had visited the Blandford Town Museum on 27th June and met the director Sylvia Andrews. They would like to site the Cross Head in a spot against a wall adjacent to the main entrance to the museum. The small site would appear to accommodate the structure, though it needs a concrete base and also a mounting plinth. An explanatory plaque will be mounted on the wall beside the Cross Head. Tom Flemons at Cliveden Conservation has been contacted regarding the proposal for advice. The Chairman queried whether the head would be effectively put out of sight. The clerk advised no, it will be located in a position near the from door. The Chairman queried what funds were available for Cross Head re-location, believing that a sum of circa £4000 had been held in reserve. The clerk reported that the only sum he was aware of was some £200. Matter to be clarified with former clerk.

**293. SHILLINGSTONE RAILWAY PROJECT – report of meeting concerning Trailway diversion proposal**

The clerk reported that he and Cllr Acton had attended a useful meeting at the Station to discuss the Trailway diversion proposal with project members, led by David Caddy and other interested parties. Because of safety concerns, the Trailway will be diverted from the platform to new track left of the down side. The platform will be barred by gates at either end, and only opened on special occasions. Bike racks will be made available at the point where the Trailway diverts, and mounting blocks will be installed to allow horse riders to dismount etc. Access to the station via the existing crossing will be unaffected. Cllr Acton and the clerk iterated the observation that the proposed slope from the diverted section may be dangerous to cyclists, but the Trailway planners said that they did not feel that this is a danger, and Graham Stanley has advised against it. They will be incorporating all of Graham Stanley’s suggestions in the planning application, including widening the diverted section to 3 metres. Cllr Acton and the clerk walked the proposed diverted route and noted that the exit slope where it re-joins the Trailway would be very steep and a potential hazard. The planners agreed that hedging and a post & rail fence at that point would put in place to reduce the risks. A planning application will be made imminently and they hope to start work by late summer.

**294. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK:**

1. **Play areas**

**Whitepits –** The clerk reported that there was now severe damage to the area behind the swings, with a fairly deep hole developing. The clerk had found bits of wet pour all over the play area. Matter discussed extensively with Chairman before the meeting as urgent, agreed complete resurfacing required (no budget issue) Clerk has received 2 quotes (though requested 3), and has now instructed Redlynch Leisure Installations to start the work as soon as possible. The quote of £1659 plus VAT regarded as the best that can be obtained, Chains for swings now delivered, and need to be fitted, but this should wait until the re-surfacing has taken place.

**Recreation Ground** – The clerk reported that he and the Chairman had met Steven Day at the Rec and discussed roundabout issue. It has been agreed that he will try and level the area around the roundabout to the required specification, new matting will be required. Also inspected the levels of bark in the play rea itself, these are unacceptable in places, especially under the swings. The plan is now to obtain new seats and longer chains for all the swings, this is will bring the gap closer to acceptable parameters. Steven Day suggested that we get someone to rotavate the bark chippings to ascertain what’s really required in terms of material. Clerk has spoken to Phil Tulk, he is happy to weed and rotavate the area in the next couple of weeks. New chains, seats & grass matting ordered.

Defunct Cross Trainer removed by Alec Fincham, who has also repaired the gate fixing.

1. **Trees and hedges:**

Tree survey was conducted on 12th June. CBA report received and Stuart Carter has dealt with the urgent issue being the need to fell the silver birch. Matter of reducing crown of crack willow discussed, Stuart Carter has advised that in his opinion the tree is dangerous, but his quote for reducing height, of £1400, seems to be very high. Alternative quotes to be obtained, may be an issue for next year.

**iii) Pavilion:**

The clerk reported that all necessary electrical works at the Pod & The Pavilion have now been completed. A new shielded earth cable is in place, Pod work including PIR change looks very good. There was a reported break-in and theft of diesel from the mower shed. Hugh has said that he would deal with the matter of the lock damage. We have had to buy a new combination lock for the rec gate.

1. **Pavilion refurbishment proposal progress**

The Chairman, Cllr Kennard, Clive Nelson, and the clerk met at the pavilion on 21st June, to discuss refurbishment issues. The agreed main issues were noted as:

Showers – a new floor would be a great improvement & work to improve the appearance of the tiling is necessary

Gents W.C – urinal replacement with something modern and ceramic is necessary; possible work in the W.C as well

Ladies W.C – some cosmetic work to bring up to standard

Flooring – the wooden chipboard flooring detracts hugely from the whole pavilion. Replacement necessary.

Safety glass – windows at side of pavilion are not safety glass. Replacement necessary

Clive Nelson believes that funding or at least part funding for the project would be possible via Sport England. The clerk will pursue this when quotes obtained. The agreed first stage is to obtain quotes for the work, either by single contract (e.g. Hammonds), or specialist traders. Clerk has made some progress: site meetings with Wessex Carpets, Dorset Contract Flooring, Dorset Wet Rooms and Commercial Washrooms have been taken place.

The clerk has received two quotes for flooring:

**Dorset Contract flooring** – using a wood fx material - £2837.50 plus VAT, Clerk had asked for a sample of this, none received.

**Wessex Flooring** – quotes for Polyfloor, Polysafe, and Tarasafe alternatives received (samples shown to the council). These range from £2540 plus VAT to £ 3137 plus VAT. Views generally favourable, all considered to be sufficiently hard wearing.

Quotes are awaited from Commercial Washrooms and Dorset Wet Rooms. Matter will be taken up again when these are received.

**295. CORRESPONDENCE:**

None

**296. SOCIAL MEDIA PRGRESS:**

The clerk reported that the Chairman has provided some really excellent photos for the Mobile App. These & a working document have been made available to the App Office, and a detailed discussion with the App Office has followed. There is a price increase on the monthly hosting fee due to GDPR requirements, to £35 per month, but fixed for two years. This is unavoidable, Adam of the App Office has advised that this at the low end of what other providers are charging. Clerk recommends accepting this, the Council agreed. Cllr McNamara raised the matter of the specification for the website. The clerk reported that the detail of this was not clear at present, the focus being the Mobile App, it will evolve in time.

**297. TO AGREE ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:**

Skatepark

**298.NEXT MEETING:** This will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 2th August 2018 at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.23 pm.