**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30PM ON THURSDAY 4th OCTOBER 2018 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councilors M Webberley (Chairman), C Oakley, K Ridout, ROW Officer G Rains; and the clerk D Green; in addition, there were 2 members of the public in attendance.

**328. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs Kennard, Watts, Aaron, McNamara

**329. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**330. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** the minutes of the meeting held on 6th September 2018 were approved.

**331. MATTERS ARISING:**

The lengthsman team have advised that they will be conducting the street sweep before the Remembrance Sunday on 11th November, though no date has been fixed.

**332. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Mr. Simon Skutcha raised the issue of parking at the Co-op and the hazard this is causing, particularly involving large farm vehicles parking on the road early in the morning. The Chairman advised that the Council is well aware of the issue and is doing all it can to progress the issue with DCC Highways. He explained that Highways have offered to try some temporary cones to dissuade parking on the roadside and will be trialing a false footpath to make crossing safer for pedestrians, though unfortunately the council has no enforcement powers and is reliant on influencing the Highways authority. The Chairman reported that there had been similar problems at the garage in the past.

Graham Rains raised the issue of heaps of grass & leaves left by the lengthsman after their blower work; these are not removed, Clerk to establish what their policy is.

Cllr Ridout raised the matter of wreaths for this year Remembrance Sunday; apparently other groups in the village had been unhappy that they had not been asked if they would like to provide their own wreath. The Chairman said that we could not ask every group in the village if they would like to contribute – if they want do so now, they should contact the clerk.

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

There was little of interest in this for Shillingstone Parish.

**334. FOOTPATHS:**

**Footpaths officer report:**

Graham Rains did not report any issues, other than whether the signpost at footpath 41 had been replaced. He will check with Graham Stanley. Graham also reported that the rails on the footbridge had been replaced. The Clerk reported that the entrance to footpaths 6 & 7 from the A457 had been cleared by the occupant of 1 Grange Cottages, although the job was not entirely complete, the route was passable.

**335. ROADS:**

The Clerk reported his discussions with Wayne Lewin, Clerk to Durweston, regarding possible temporary hire of the speed detector device that they are intending to purchase. The Chairman expressed the view that he was not convinced that any such measure would be effective; he suggested that the ‘Speed watch’ initiative with had been tried in the past should be re-activated; the measure had been suspended in the past due to illness of the part of the coordinator, who still has the equipment. It was thought this is a positive idea, given that the Parish Council has the necessary equipment, has had the village scoped by the police and was really just lacking volunteers. The Clerk was asked to prepare an article for inclusion in the next Parish magazine, hopefully to get a list of 4/5 names would be prepared to volunteer their services.

The matter of village gates was discussed, the Chairman suggested that the council enquire as to whether we can make our own gates, given the prohibitive cost of buying new ready-made ones (which is over £900). The Clerk is to make the necessary enquires regarding siting & permissions.

**336. PLANNING**

The planning application 2/2018/1151/FUL, the former Weigh Bridge Office Lanchards Lane Shillingstone Dorset was discussed. This involves the construction of a new dwelling outside the Conservation area. No objections were raised.

**337. FINANCES:**

1. **These cheques and payments were approved:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CQ** |  **Amount**  | **Payee** | **Reason** |
|  |  |  |  |
| S/O |  £ 333.00  | Cricket Club | Rec mowing |
| 2204 |  £ 453.00  | DCC | Allotment rental |
| 2205 |  £ 54.92  | SSE | Rec Electricity |
| 2206 |  £ 48.75  | I K Services | litter pick Sept |
| 2207 | £ 49.48 | David Green | Expenses |
| 2208 | £ 41.58 | Graham Rains | Footpath expenses |

The clerk reported that the Cricket Club had made their donation to the utilities costs for the season, this amounted to £ 260, and was higher than usual due to the dry summer and additional water usage.

The Clerk reported that the precept had been received.

The matter of a replacement laptop for the Clerk was discussed; the clerk reported that the machine was now over 6 years old and running very slowly. The Chairman suggested that costs of a suitable replacement be obtained from a local supplier rather than online purchase for better service offered. The Clerk will make enquiries.

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

**i) Signage at the Rec**

The issue of signage at the Recreation Ground was discussed. The Chairman expressed the view that the existing signage was very officious and unfriendly, and showed an example of his suggesting something more modern. The Clerk is to investigate the costs of replacing the signs with something based on the example.

1. **Play areas**

The Clerk reported that the surface repairs to White Pit has been completed, and the new swing seats were due to be fitted by Steven Day, who also be completing the cableway spring repair and the groundwork.

1. **Trees and hedges**

No reported issues.

1. **Pavilion:**

The Clerk reported that a fire safety inspection of both the Pavilion & the Pod has been completed by Fireline. The main reported issue related to the fire alarm in the Pod, which is non-functioning and requires batteries. The inspection has advised that if such a system is to be in place, it would need 6 monthly servicing and a monthly fire alarm test. The alternative course of action would be to remove the ‘break glass’ alarm and install a battery-operated fire alarm in the boiler cupboard & in the changing room.

In relation to the Pavilion the only issue is the need for an alarm in the boiler alarm which sounds in the main Pavilion room; again, battery operated devices would suffice. The Chairman suggested that fitting these would be the best course of action.

The matter of rabbits digging holes under the Pod was discussed. The Clerk reported that he had spoken to the pest controller regarding this, who would have a look at the situation.

1. **Pavilion refurbishment proposal progress**

The Clerk advised the Chairman & he had met with Clive Nelson with a view to investigating obtaining funding for the pavilion refurbishment. Initially they had discussed a ‘match funding’ idea but at Clive’s suggestion the plan is now to seek National Lottery funding for the whole refurbishment based on the lowest quotes obtained, which total circa £9000. Clive agreed to draft a funding proposal which the Council will make use of in making the application.

1. **Allotments**

The Clerk reported that two allotments had been noted as very overgrown and letters had been sent to the occupiers requesting improvement within three months.

**339. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The clerk reported that Ian Kerr, the litter-picker, has advised that he can only do bi-monthly picks from November. This is actually likely to be every 6 weeks in fact. The Chairman

requested that the Clerk clarifies if Ian will be doing longer litter-picks as a consequence and monitors the situation until the end of March 2019.

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

1. Allotments – maintenance issues
2. Speedwatch – re-introduction progress

**341. NEXT MEETING:** This will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 1st November 2018 at the Church Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.