**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30PM ON THURSDAY 1st NOVEMBER 2018 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councilors M Webberley (Chairman), C Oakley, T Kennard, P Watts, P Acton, P Aaron; Cllr Jespersen and the clerk D Green; in addition, there were 3 members of the public in attendance.

**342. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllrs McNamara, Ridout

**343. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**344. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** the minutes of the meeting held on 4th October 2018 were approved.

**345 MATTERS ARISING:** discussed as below

**346. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Lesley Gasson raised a number of issues:

**The Churchyard**

Lesley reminded the meeting that the Churchyard is a ‘village amenity’ for use by the whole parish. Burials can be arranged with the knowledge that the space will not be disturbed. Lesley explained that the maintenance of the churchyard is though expensive. It will cost the PCC some £1700 for three days work to have the crowns of the trees raised in order to preserve the view of Hambledon Hill. Lesley explained that the PCC are very grateful for the grant of £250 made by the Parish Council which certainly helps to keep the grounds in good order; the tree work will though be a long-term project and will require more funding on an ongoing basis. Lesley explained that the PCC’s agent, Chris Cooper, will be making an application. The NDDC Tree Officer, Sadie Saunders, visited the site in September and approved the intended work pending the formal application, the process takes 6-weeks before planning permission will be granted, with the Parish Council in the consultee role. Lesley enquired as to whether it is possible for the tree work to go ahead before the 6-week period has elapsed. Cllr Jespersen advised that this would be a the ‘own risk’ of the PCC, in the event that planning permission was not granted. Cllr Kennard suggested a site visit beforehand which it was agreed by the council that this would be a good idea before the application is put before the council.

**Church Path**

Lesley has discussed the matter of the trees pushing the fence over at the bottom of Church Field with Mr Ian Moore. Lesley reported that Mr Moore had said that he would sort this matter out before Christmas. The Chairman enquired of Lesley as to whether Mr Moore knew that that a gatepost had fallen down.

**Harvest Festival**

Lesley has discussed the matter of next years Harvest Festival with various interested parties in the village and is hoping that the event will be held next year in the Portman Hall.

**Street Sweep**

Lesley enquired as to when the street sweep will take place. The Clerk reported that Adam Dodson of Sturminster Town Council had said that this would be completed by Remembrance Sunday. Clerk to enquire with Sturminster Newton Town Council if they have fixed a date yet.

**Hine Town Lane**

Lesley had contacted the Planning Inspectorate concerning the Hine Town Lane appeal, following the visit on 8th August, and was told that the decision could be made by Christmas. She considered that 6 months to take a decision was very poor. Cllr Jespersen advised that the Planning Inspectorate only take written evidence or by public meeting, but said she would enquire as to whether 6 months is a normal timescale

**Shillingstone Youth Club**

The matter of the possible grant for Shillingstone Youth Club (SYC) was raised by Judith Crompton. This was to be discussed under ‘correspondence’ but the council agreed that the discussion should take place at this point. Judith explained that the group is run by volunteers, meetings are held monthly, for those aged 10-14. They are part sponsored by the church, who provide facilities and meet some other costs. The club is aimed at forging friendships and having fun, key values being ‘sharing, self-motivation, teamwork and respect. They do engage in community projects and will be helping to fill in potholes on the Trailway in the near future, they do not however charge monthly subscriptions, a policy which means that no child is excluded from their activities. The tuck shop they run is self-supporting. They have raised funds in the past from coffee mornings, table sales, and E bay sales, but the return from these activities is poor, hence the appeal for support from the council. Cllr Acton praised the magnificent work of the group and asked Judith to explain who funds the tuck shop. Judith explained that it was funded initially by volunteer donations to buy stock and makes a small margin on sales, just above cost. Free drinks are given to those who don’t have any money for sweets. Cllr Acton said she would like to see the club raising funds by other means first rather than simply calling on the Parish Council for funding. The Chairman said that fundraising activities actually require a lot of volunteer effort and supervision and felt it important that the Parish Council supports this activity, given the lack of funding for other youth services in the community generally, and saw this as an extension of the Parish Councils provision of play areas in the village. It was noted that the local Brownies group had folded up. Judith did agree that they would consider other activities. Cllr Kennard enquired if the schools could be asked to sponsor the club in some way. Judith said the Steam Preservation society had made a donation to the club. Cllr Aaron said be believed in the principal of ‘helping those that help themselves’ and said he would like to see more quantitative information regarding the club’s finances before he would agree to a funding request. The Chairman proposed a motion agree to make a grant to the Shillingstone Youth Group. This was seconded by Cllr Kennard. The motion was carried by 4 votes to 1., with 1 abstention.

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

Cllr Jespersen reported that much of the report did relate to arrangements concerning the formation of the new unitary authority. A lot of work is necessary for the transfer of existing employment contracts to the new authority and probable redundancy provisions being necessary due to the duplication of posts; though this is all taking place with intention of there being no impact on services

**348. FOOTPATHS:**

**Footpaths officer report:**

The Footpaths officer was not at the meeting, and there was no report.

**349. PLANNING**

1. Clerk to report on outstanding applications: 26 Church Road had possibly been withdrawn
2. New applications received before the meeting: None received
3. New applications to carry out works to trees in the conservation area received before the meeting: None received

**350. FINANCES:**

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



**Draft Budget 2019-2020**

The Council discussed the proposed draft budget. The Chairman expressed the view that the Council must make proper funding provision for the replacement of the play equipment at the recreation ground, and cannot continue to avoid spending money on this. The Clerk noted that the existing Fawns equipment is no longer under warranty and that large repairs would possibly be required in a few years’ time. The matter of the replacement of the play bark surface at the recreation ground was discussed; the clerk reported that he had received a quote costs of some £3900 for this; any alternatives methods of surfacing would be prohibitively expensive; the clerk said it would be an idea to part fund the replacement of the existing play bark from reserves but to budget for £2,500 next year. The Chairman said that a large funding for the Play equipment reserve was necessary and suggested that this should be £2500. The Council agreed the budget and set the precept at £32250.

**Grant to Shillingstone Youth Club**

The Council agreed to grant £200 to the Shillingstone Youth Club. The clerk will make the necessary arrangements.

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

**i) Signage at the Rec**

The Chairman had prepared a new layout template for the new signs which had been submitted to the sign makers. The Clerk had received a revised lower quote from the sign makers which is was felt was reasonable. The Chairman will amend the wording and punctuation slightly and new signs will be ordered.

1. **Play areas**

The Clerk reported that the surface repairs to White Pit has been completed, and the new swing seats had been fitted. A small bubble in the new surface at White Pit had been rectified by installers Redlynch Leisure. Steven Day had completed the cableway repairs including a new tensioner. Two small holes in other surfaces were reported by the Clerk who will ask Steven Day to quote for repairing these.

1. **Trees and hedges**

No reported issues.

1. **Pavilion:**

The Clerk reported that wireless optical smoke alarms had been obtained and would shortly be fitted in both the Pod and the Pavilion and the existing break glass alarms in the Pod would be taken out of use.

1. **Pavilion refurbishment proposal progress**

The Clerk reported that Clive Nelson had assisted with the National Lottery Small Grant application in drafting the application case. He will finalise this with Clive. The Clerk advised the Council that he cannot be both project lead and legally responsible person in making the application, the Chairman agreed to be named as project lead.

1. **Allotments**

The Clerk reported that allotment 4B had been allocated to Mr Simon Skutcha with effect from 13th October. Mr & Mrs Whicher had been advised in writing of this decision. Cllr Kennard reported that allotment 16 had been cleared.

Cllr Kennard raised the matter of the hedging at the new allotments which had not been attended to, and that this will require some hedge-laying. Before this is planned the Clerk will clarify with DCC who rent the allotments to the Council as to who is responsible for maintenance of the hedges.

**352. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Shillingstone Youth Centre grant application – this has been discussed under the public session as noted above.

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

**354. NEXT MEETING:** This will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 6th November 2018 at the Church Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:30 p.m.