**SHILLINGSTONE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – FRIDAY 24 MAY 2019 7.30 PM IN THE PORTMAN HALL**

**Minutes of the meeting**

**1. Present:** Chairman of Shillingstone Parish Council Malcolm Webberley, Councillors Aaron, Gasson, Kennard, Kennard & McNamara, parish clerk David Green and 25 members of the public.

**2. Apologies for absence:** Received from Cllr Acton

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

**Planning**

The importance of the Neighbourhood plan was shown this year when an appeal and claim for costs was made to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Hine Town Lane development, both against North Dorset District Council and Shillingstone Parish Council. The planning inspector, Ian Bowen, rejected both the appeal against the original refusal to grant permission and the claim for costs. The inspector concluded that the proposed development would be in conflict with policies 2 & 10 of the Neighbourhood plan which seek to protect, preserve and enhance the character of the historic environment, and landscape. The decision to create the plan has been fully vindicated and hopefully will serve the village well into the future.

**The Rec and Pavilion**

We have over the last few years done major work on the exterior of the Pavilion and now with the help of a Lottery Grant we have brought the interior up to standard fitting new flooring and re-tiling and refitting the toilets and showers. We are also now employing cleaners to try and keep everything looking good. We have also installed new friendly signage at the Rec and replaced the old car park bollards which were long past their sell-by date.

**Litter**

Keeping the village clean and tidy continues to be a major challenge.

We pay for a regular litter pick and the lengths-man organises booking the street sweeper and going up Blandford Road with his gang. It looks great for a day or two but soon litter reappears. I find it difficult to believe that there occupants of cars driving through the village who think it is acceptable to chuck their rubbish out the window, but it happens. But not all litter is from outsiders; most originates in the village and we can all do something to try and reduce that, keep the village tidy and save money on our Council Tax.

**Station Project**

We are very pleased that the Shillingstone Station Project have consistently kept the Parish Council up to date with their plans for the project and have taken account of Parish views when planning improvements and seeking permission. We were involved in planning the trailway diversion at the Station and we think that they have made a good job of it. We look forward to working with them in the future and wish them well with their project.

**The Cross**

At last we have found a new home for the cross!

Blandford Town Museum have accepted our donation of the Cross Head for their exterior display. The Cross Head is now about to be relocated from the stone-masons yard in Bath where it has been for the last 5 years.

It will look great in its new environment with a special plinth and explanatory board. We thank the Museum for all their help in resolving this long running issue.

**The Mobile App**

Hopefully many of you have seen our Mobile App which has been fully operational since December. This is a great tool and we have had very positive reports about it. Not only does it contain a useful events diary, you can download copies of minutes, find useful reports and information, it also has a database of useful village contacts and even footpath maps for those on the move, and a Where am I function. We can add village events to the App diary. If you have anything in mind please email our Clerk, David. You will even find this report on it! I think this App will be particularly useful for younger people who are less likely to read the Parish Magazine and for visitors.

**Council**

The major re-organisation involving the creation of Dorset Council has now taken place. At the moment it is still 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 you up with all developments.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow councillors for their hard work and diligence over the past year, and all the villagers who volunteer their help day in and day out to keep our village community running smoothly.

**5. Question time**

Cllr Kennard enquired as to whether a date had been determined when the Cross would be located. The Chairman advised that Cliveden Conservation were still waiting for a suitable plinth to be located

**6. The Rangers**

Graham Stanley of DC Rangers gave an interesting and informative talk on the varied work of the Rangers which now comprises some 19 sites throughout Dorset, a team of 4 staff to dealing with 750 miles of Rights of Way with limited budgets for repairing fencing & signage etc.

**7. The Jubilee Cup:**

Three nominations **were** received by the clerk, Anne Powell, Phil Watts and Linda Whatman. The clerk had received votes by email for all three nominated candidates, and a vote was also held at the meeting. The result was narrowly in favour of Linda Whatman and in Linda’s absence, Cllr Webberley presented the Jubilee Cup to John Paul, on behalf of Linda.

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