**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30PM ON TUESDAY 7th MAY 2019 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councilors M Webberley, L Gasson, R McNamara, K Ridout and P Acton. County Councilor: P Batstone, Clerk D Green; in addition, there were 7 members of the public in attendance.

**408. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:** Cllr Webberley was elected Chairman for the coming year

**409. TO RECEIVE THE CHAIRMAN’S DECLARATION OF OFFICE:** This was signed by the Chairman

**410. TO ELECT A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL:** Cllr Gasson was elected Vice-Chairman

**411. TO RECEIVE THE VICE-CHAIRMAN’S DECLARATION OF OFFICE:** This was signed by the Vice Chairman

**412. COUNCILLORS DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE** these were accepted

**413. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Cllr Aaron

**414. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** Cllr Ridout reference grant funding request

**415. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** the minutes of the meeting held on 4th April 2019 were approved.

**416. MATTERS ARISING:**

**i) Allotments**

The Clerk reported that he had sought the permission of Dorset Council to situate sheds on the allotments. Jenny Stubbs of Dorset Council has stated that they are prepared to give a qualified ‘blanket permission’ to erect sheds, but would require details from individual allotment holders. The Council resolved to allow sheds to be located on the allotments providing details of what was being proposed is provided by each allotment holder. **The Council asked the Clerk if he would write to the allotment holders.**

**ii) Missing street sign at the Knapps**

The Clerk reported that he had received an apology from Dorset Council concerning the delay in replacing the sign, and that an order to replace the sign had now been made.

**417. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

A member of the public raised concerns in relation to the Big Yellow Garden Project being established at Gains Cross on the A357. The parishioner queried the apparent lack of public consultation and due diligence in relation to the granting of permission by Dorset Council and County Farms to Equilibrium CIC to occupy this; the parishioner also queried the impact of the site on an area of outstanding natural beauty, the absence of any clear development planning and also whether Dorset Highways had been consulted in relation to the impact of the entrance on the A357. Cllr Batstone advised the parishioner that they should address their concerns in the first instance to the Chief Executive of Dorset Council.

The Chairman noted that there are legitimate questions to be asked of Paul Williams, the director of Equilibrium CIC in connection with the permissions granted, project funding, future intentions and uses of the land. **The Council resolved to ask the Clerk to write to Paul Williams to clarify these questions**. The Chairman noted that Paul Williams had been invited to be a guest speaker at the Annual Parish Meeting on 24th May

**418. CO-OPTION REQUIREMENTS**

Mr. Tim Kennard had expressed an interest in being co-opted onto the council and had submitted a personal statement and declaration, which had been circulated by the Clerk. **The Council resolved to appoint Mr. Tim Kennard to the council.** Mr. Jim Udale expressed an interested in being co-opted; the Clerk requested that Mr. Udale contact him directly by email whereupon the requisite forms would be issued. Mr. Udale was invited to attend the next meeting.

The Council agree that no change in the present quorum of 4 should made at this point in time, and agreed the Standing Orders and Financial regulations.

**419 Footpaths officer report:**

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There was no Footpaths Officer present.

Cllr Ridout reported an issue with a stile on a footpath. The Clerk will investigate further.

**420. PLANNING**

**i) Existing applications update**

The Clerk reported that 4 Honeysuckle Gardens had been approved

**ii) New applications received before the meeting:**

a**) 2/2019/0458/HOUSE** | Erect single storey garden studio. **18 Hine Town Lane Shillingstone DT11 0SN.** There were no objections

b) **2/2019/0369/FUL** Divide and convert 1 No dwelling and annexe into 2 No. dwellings. Erect first floor extension over existing ground floor and retain 4 No. parking spaces and 2 No. cycle spaces - **21 Wessex Avenue, Shillingstone, Dorset, DT11 0TG**. There were no objections

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

There were no new applications for tree works.

**421. FINANCES**

1. **To approve retrospective payments made following last SPC meeting:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| DEBIT | 05/04/2019 |  £ 13.52  | North Dorset DC | Dog signage |
| DEBIT | 18/04/2019 |  £ 88.80  | The Defib Shop | Defib pack - Portman |
| DEBIT | 19/04/2019 |  £ 53.88  | The Defib Pad | Defib pack - School |
| DEBIT | 23/04/2019 |  £ 134.00  | Northover Energy | Propane for Rec |
| SO | 30/04/2019 |  £ 611.68  | David Green | April 2019 pay |
| SO | 01/05/2019 |  £ 333.00  |  Cricket Club  | Mowing |
| SO | 01/05/2019 |  £ 48.75  |  I K Services  | Litterpick |

 **To approve cheques per list:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Amount**  | **Payee** | **Reason** |
|  £ 500.00  | PCC Shillingstone | Parish Magazine Grant |
|  £ 250.00  | PCC Shillingstone | Churchyard Grant |
|  £ 174.00  | Sandisons | Payroll admin |
|  £ 70.00  | DAPTC | Conference |
|  £ 180.00  | Elite Playground Installations | Rec Play repairs |
|  £ 370.43  | DAPTC | Annual Subs |
|  £ 40.00  | DAPTC | New Clerks Course |
|  £ 145.20  | Rialtas Business Systems | Alpha support |
|  £ 78.45  | Stacey Hankin | Cleaning  |
|  £ 75.00  | Charlotte Hayward | Cleaning  |
|  £ 100.00 | J P Consultants | Internal audit |
|  £ 275.00 | Blandford Town Museum | Foundation for Cross |
|  £ 125.40 | David Green | Clerks Expenses |

**ii) To decide on bank mandate changes**

Cllr Gasson offered to be a counter-signatory for the Nationwide accounts

**iii) To decide on re-investment options for the matured bond**

The Clerk reported that the fixed term bond the council has with Lloyds matures in early June, and the proceeds will be some £55k or so, it is currently paying 0.8% interest. The Clerk advised that the two Nationwide accounts are currently paying 0.6% and 1.05 interest. The Clerks suggestion that £10k is returned to the Nationwide Instant Access account, to replace the £7k transferred to the current account in April to meet play area/cross costs, and that the balance of £45k is deposited in the Nationwide 95-day Notice account was agreed by the Council.

**iv) To consider grant request for Burtons Orchard**

The Council discussed the request from Gary Ridout for a grant or donation towards the maintenance of fences in Burtons Orchard. Cllr Gasson enquired as to what use was made of the apples in the orchard. Gary advised that these were given away freely, and that there had been events in the past; he explained that the orchard committee can meet most on-going costs, though these are high, including insurance but that fencing was in need of repair. Cllr Gasson advised that she had inspected the fences and found most to be in good order, though the area to the right of the gate requires some reinforcement. Cllr Kennard said that he was prepared to make some repairs. The Council resolved to investigate what was actually required in terms of materials and may be prepared to fund some minor costs.

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

**i) Pavilion**

The Pavilion was reported to be in good order, gas bottles have been replaced in the Pod.

**ii) Play Areas**

**To consider a proposal to seek Public Works loan funding for Rec Play area improvements**

The Clerk reported a lengthy meeting with Lee Crosse of Redlynch Leisure at the recreation ground shortly before Easter with regard to the re-surfacing of the play area. It became clear that re-mulching the existing ‘cushion-fall’ material with like-for-like is rather futile in terms of providing a long-term solution to the problem; the last re-surface having only lasted some 18 months. He advised that surface could be replaced with a wood chip material which might be more durable but which will cost some £2000 more, although Lee had suggested that we might like to consider more durable options such as ‘Tiger mulch’, a mixture of recycled shredded rubber and a specially formulated high- performance polyurethane binder, which has a lifespan of 10-15 years. Lee Crosse also made some other suggestions which may or may not be of interest to the council, including a smaller slide and removal of aged or little used equipment such as the bouncing buttons and the see saw. The Clerk reported that a number of suppliers provide Tiger Mulch or similar materials and he would need quotes from several.

The Chairman advised that the present situation was due to years of under-funding of play area maintenance costs, with no adequate provision for contingencies having ever been made with the result being that this was now a high cost issue. The Chairman advised that seeking a long term (10 to 15 years solution) in the form of Tiger mulch or similar surfacing would provide the necessary long-term certainty the present situation required, and a Public Works Loan to finance the cost of re-surfacing, around £25k over some 10 years would be a solution. The Chairman advised that these are loans available to local authorities which are secured on the basis of council tax receipts and which would probably be viable, with repayments on a twice-yearly fixed interest basis of £25k over 10 years amounting to circa £2,600 per annum including interest; the cost of this would be basically covered by the £2,500 per year transfer to the Rec reserve account, though we would probably need to allocate a further £1,000 to the reserve account to deal with other unforeseen requirements.

***It was RESOLVED to seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government to apply for a PWLB loan of £25,000 over the borrowing term of 10 years for the purpose of resurfacing the play area at the Hine Town Lane Recreation ground. The annual loan repayments will come to around £2,600. It is not intended to increase the council tac precept for the purpose of the loan repayments.***

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1. **Trees and hedges – Clerk to report any issues**

No issues reported

**422 CORRESPONDENCE:**

Burtons Orchard grant request as above

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

Nothing specific

**424. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday 6th June 2019 at 7:30 p.m. at the Church Centre.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.