**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30PM ON THURSDAY 7th FEBRUARY 2019 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councilors M Webberley (Chairman), C Oakley, T Kennard, R McNamara, P Watts, P Aaron; Footpaths Officer G Rains, DCC Cllr Jespersen and the clerk D Green; in addition, there were 10 members of the public in attendance.

**365. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Cllr Ridout

**366. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

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

**368. MATTERS ARISING:** discussed as below

**369. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Mike Powell confirmed that NDDC had given consent for the churchyard tree works. Phase 1 of the work will be carried out on the 28 February to 2nd March 2019. Phase 2 of the work will be carried out in the late autumn or early spring, and will mean temporary closure of the footpath.

Howard Povey thanked the Council for prompting Highways to install the temporary bollards in the verge opposite the Co-op.

The issue of the cutting down of the trees on the Trailway was raised. The Chairman advised that he had spoken to the DCC Rangers regarding this and the work was necessary due to the volume of falling leaves. Cllr Kennard explained that the reason for the work was due to the Trailway tress all having been planted at the same time after 1967; the risk being that they could potentially all die at the same time; therefore, a staged clearing was necessary to promote new growth and encourage self-seeding. The Chairman expressed the view that no one likes the loss of canopy but the work is necessary. Graham Rains explained that the overgrowth could damage the drainage system, but the trees would recover quickly. Cllr Jespersen suggested that DCC Rangers could asked to notify the Parish Council of any major works to the Trailway in advance. Graham Rains noted that there was not a lot of wildlife either side of the Trailway.

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

Cllr Jespersen reported Dorset County Council had received some £500,000 of legacy funding, of which she had managed to secure £ 70,000 for the Trailway. The hope is that in the transition to the new authority large projects don’t lose funding during the transition. The plan is for this funding to assist with possible land purchases.

Cllr Jespersen confirmed that the new planning process will still retain a role for parish councils to comment. Cllr Jespersen did not know if her workload would increase from April, although this would be possible, given the loss of some duplicated posts, but the whole idea is that there should be no decline in services. Cllr Jefferson did not know of any plans to unify parish councils.

**371. FOOTPATHS:**

**Footpaths officer report:** Graham Rains gave his report:

Graham Stanley, the DCC ranger had requested that all footpaths are walked as part of a Rights of Way survey. This is to determine what works need to be carried out, for example the replacement of stiles.

The matter of FP 9 running from Hine town Lane to the Old Ox was raised. Graham had been advised by the property owners that this will be restored when the landscaping of the new houses is completed. It was noted that this is a ‘permissive footpath and not a right of way. The Clerk was asked to investigate whether this footpath was shown on official plans and whether this was a matter for enforcement action.

**372. PLANNING**

1. **New applications received before the meeting:**

The Clerk gave is report in relation to ‘Lynwood’. This is a proposal for a new single storey bungalow at the Knapps, adjacent to Hollybrook. The proposed development appears to be consistent with the NP Policies 1-13., though the plans have recently been altered to improve access & visibility to the A357, involving moving a telegraph pole. The Clerk reported that concerns have been raised regarding drainage for the property, applicant having stated that means of disposal of ‘foul sewage’ is ‘unknown’. The Wessex Water map produced within the planning application shows no mains connection. Graham Rains, occupier of Hollybrook, reported that the adjacent properties Glenlea, Hollybrook and the existing house at Lynwood are all served by mains connections installed in the 1950’s and that there are inspection chambers for each of these properties. Graham presented a letter to the Clerk requesting that the water authority is consulted before any work commences to avoid damage to the existing mains drainage system. The Clerk will report this concern.

The Chairman raised the issue of the site next door to the petrol station which had been boarded for development some years ago but no work had started. The Clerk was asked to enquire with Enforcement whether any action can be taken to compel the developer to tidy up the site.

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

The Clerk reported that the tree work in the churchyard had been given planning consent (as noted above)

**373. ROADS**

**Speedwatch**

The Clerk reported that the effort to find volunteers to enable a ‘Speedwatch’ team to be reformed had not produced sufficient numbers to make the idea viable; he had only received two expressions of interest and had been advised by the Speedwatch coordinator Martha Perry that a minimum of 6 volunteers is required. The view was expressed by Cllr Watts that Speedwatch was effectively toothless, he knew of people in other villages who had received up to 9 warning letters and no action was taken. The matter of SIDs was raised, but the Chairman advised that obtaining one of these was a bureaucratic process involving assessments and some additional cost. It was agreed not to pursue the Speedwatch idea further.

**Durweston Bridge Closure**

The Chairman told the meeting that he & the clerk had attended a meeting at Durweston on 6th February to hear DCC plans for the bridge closures. The engineer Mike O’Gorman had given an informative talk explaining the reasons for closure being replacement of the three flood arches with precast concrete replacements and widening of the verge and embankment to prevent carriage deterioration, all of which is essential work. The bridge will be closed between 22 June and 21 July 2019, with a period of priority and/or traffic light controls for a period before and after the closure period. The lights will be sequenced with the main Durweston Bridge lights. The Chairman reported that DCC had clearly attempted to keep disruption to a minimum and had considered other users’ interests, such as school transport. The official diversion route will be on ‘A’ roads, but road users are not required to make use of this diversion and can legally take any other route.

**374. FINANCES**

**i) These payments made since the December 2018 meeting were approved:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CQ/Ref** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
| 2225 | 10/12/2018 | £ 420.00 | Kwiktrade (The App Office) | App hosting |
| S/O | 02/01/2019 | £ 333.00 | Cricket Club (Jan paid) | Rec mowing |
| 2226 | 03/01/2019 | £ 156.96 | SSE | Pavilion Elect |
| 2227 | 09/01/2019 | £ 125.40 | HMRC | PAYE Dec |
| S/O | 03/02/2019 | £ 333.00 | Cricket Club (Feb paid) | Rec mowing |

**ii) These cheques for payment were approved:**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **CQ** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
| 2228 | £ 582.96 | David Green | January pay |
| 2229 | £ 40.00 | DAPTC | Budgeting Course fee (Oct) |
| 2230 | £ 83.09 | David Green | Expenses |
|  |  |  | Dec £ 28.05 |
|  |  |  | Jan £ 55.04 |
| 2231 | £ 48.75 | I K Services | Litterpick |
| 2232 | £ 3,701.40 | Dorset Wet Rooms Ltd | Pavilion refurbishment 50% deposit |

**iii) National Lottery Awards for All Funding bid outcome**

The Clerk reported that the bid for National Lottery funding for the pavilion refurbishment has been successful. The funds (£8987) being expected shortly. This will cover most of the cost of the main project items, the loos, shower and flooring (£8709). The work will start on 11th February 2019 with the WC/showers refurbishment with the new floor being laid at the end of February or early March.

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

**Consideration of cleaning issues following complaint**

The Chairman reported the justifiable complaints by the Tennis Club regarding the state of cleanliness of the Pavilion & Pod, including the leaving of the white lining machine in the middle of the changing room floor. The Chairman referred to the fact that the Council had operated an informal ‘goodwill’ arrangement, whereby those who use the facilities clean up after themselves, but this arrangement appears to have broken down. The Chairman summarised the choices as being either making it a condition of use that users clean the facilities within 24 hours of use or for the Parish Council to make cleaning arrangements and absorb the cost of these. Charging for use of the facilities is not a viable option given the potential business activity/VAT issues that could arise. It was resolved by a majority vote that the council should seek to appoint cleaners for 2 hours per week.

The matter of the storage of the white lining machine was discussed. The Clerk reported that the lining machine which is used by both football & cricket teams, and had been historically this was kept in the mower shed, but following the break-in at the shed last year when a quantity of diesel was stolen, one of the mower shed doors is now wedged shut with a roller and that access to the shed (quite correctly) has been limited by the cricket club. The Clerk advised that the choice is between making the mower more secure and keeping the machine there or locking the machine in a small store behind the pavilion. The Council resolved to ask the Clerk to obtain quotes for a suitable store.

**Play Areas**

The Clerk reported the poor condition of the play bark at Hine Town Lane recreation Ground. This had only been installed in September 2017 and had degraded to unsatisfactory levels. The Play Inspection report had recommended toping up the levels buy a significant degree. The Clerk had obtained quotes for both supply of play bark only and for a complete installation service. The only viable quote being £ 3930 plus VAT from Redlynch Leisure which includes installation, a higher quote of £ 5003.25 was received from Nationwide Bark. If the Council wanted woodchip rather than Play bark in view of its improved durability, the cost with Redlynch would be some £900 higher. The Chairman advised that the work would be best completed by a specialist contractor of known quality and Redlynch would be the preferred supplier. The Clerk was asked to arrange a further site visit by Lee Crosse of Redlynch to discuss the logistics of the installation including access issues.

**Car Park Bollards**

The Clerk reported that he had received a quote of £ 710 plus VAT from Bourton Fencing to replace the bollards at the recreation ground, with an additional £ 64 plus VAT to repair the fencing alongside the Trailway. The Clerk report that another contractor had not kept in communication and had been dispensed with. The Council resolved to proceed with this work.

**Rotting bench seat**

The Clerk reported that Hugh Shackle had made safe the rotten bench seat by the rec gate and will replace the tops for £50. The Council agreed to this expense.

**376. MOBILE APP**

The Clerk reported that the Mobile App is up & running, and is relatively simple and he had made a few edits, it being relatively straightforward to add updates/diary events etc. The Clerk has spoken to Sarah Blake at the Portman Hall, with a view to adding their significant events to the diary (John Pauls fund raisers etc). Cllr Kennard reported that other organisations would like to be added to the App, the Clerk requested that they email him directly. Lesley Gasson requested that the Beekeepers and The Church be added as contacts.

**377. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Emails from Howard Povey regarding the highways issue ta the Co-op and from Sharon Pryor regarding the cleanliness of the Pod were dealt with under items 369 and 375 above.

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

Nothing specific

**379. NEXT MEETING**

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9:35 p.m.