**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 3rd OCTOBER 2019 IN THE CHURCH CENTRE, SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Webberley, L Gasson, T Kennard, R White, P Acton, P Aaron, Footpaths Officer G Rains, Clerk D Green; in addition, there were 12 members of the public in attendance.

**479. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Cllrs McNamara and Ridout

**480. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**481. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 5th September 2019 were approved.

**482. MATTERS ARISING:**

The Chairman expressed the view that the Durweston Bridge improvement work had gone very well and asked the Clerk to write to Highways thanking them for their efforts in all respects.

**483. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Representatives of Shillingstone School PTA enquired as to whether the Parish Council would consider allowing the Recreation Ground to be used for a fundraising ‘circus’ event on either 17th April or 6th October 2020. This would be a two-hour event, seating some 600 people, parking would be at the school premises, though some 10 vehicles with trailers would need access to the Recreation Ground. The Chairman advised that this may be possible, though consultation with both the football club and the cricket club would be required, and April would be the preferred date for weather reasons. Cllr Gasson advised that the Recreation Ground had been used for such events in the past. The clerk asked the PTA to write to him directly with details of the proposal.

**484. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

No report was received from the County Councilor

**485. THE BIG YELLOW BUS GARDEN PROJECT**

Paul Williams of the Big Yellow Bus Garden Project provided a progress update. The ‘Maize Maze’ has been a great success and will now be harvested, ploughed and developed as a wildflower meadow. Work on the Reflective Garden has commenced and the project has received donations in monetary terms and of materials including willow and wood for seating.

Paul explained that the project is planning to construct a classroom/meeting room, mounted on staddlestones, with a sedum and larch roof, which will blend into the landscape; he will seek planning approval for this development. The future of the ‘Yellow Bus’ itself is uncertain, though Paul has been asked if this could be kept on the site.

The project has been visited by a number of charities including ‘Mosaic’, CAMS and an Alzheimer’s group. In association with the DC Rangers, Paul would like to site planters alongside the project site where it joins the Trailway; this would link to the station display and may be entered for the ‘Britain in Bloom’ competition.

Paul confirmed he has a 20- year lease over the site and that this is a long-term project.

The Chairman expressed the view that the project was a positive and worthwhile venture and the council resolved to sponsor a Juneberry tree for £199.00.

**486. FOOTPATH OFFICER REPORT**

Graham Rains provided an update in relation to Footpath 29 behind Hillsfoot Farm; this relates to the report received by the Parish Clerk in July concerning the unauthorised removal of signs and the overgrown kissing gate. Graham reported that little progress had been made thus far: DC Rangers had been unable to obtain access because of obstructing gates and Graham Stanley has now suggested that the kissing gate is removed and replaced with a normal pedestrian gate. The position is complex in that it involves a boundary between two landowners.

**487. PLANNING**

**i) Existing applications update**

Nothing to report

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

No new applications received

**iii) Application for tree works conservation area received before the meeting:**

There were no new applications for tree works.

**iv) White Pit**

The Chairman reported that the Council had received a revised proposal scheme for White Pit: this involves the substitution in the central element of the scheme of 4 terraced houses in place of 3 detached houses. The overall number of dwellings proposed has increased from 18 to 19. The Chairman noted that the scheme as re-designed provides for 1 one-bedroom house, 10 two-bedroom houses and 8 three-bedroom houses.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk has received one objection to the scheme from a local resident and a number of additional queries. A parishioner raised the matter of the scheme not making use of any of the existing buildings, being inappropriate for the site and inconsistent with the Neighbourhood Plan. The view was also expressed that the village could not support the additional infrastructure requirements in terms of roads access and school provision. The Chairman made reference to the fact that there was a Neighbourhood Plan in place, which had been decided by referendum, and that was the document by which all planning applications are considered. Cllr Gasson noted that in the past the Roman Way Development had started as 34 houses, but was increased to 51 by DCC without the parish council’s consent, and made the point that the County Council in fact wields all the power, whereas the Parish council have only the Neighbourhood plan to protect the village from unwanted development. The Clerk reported that he has asked Dorset Council for details of any impact assessments but that none have been received to date.

The Chairman advised that any final decisions concerning the scheme would have to have await the submission of a formal planning application, at which time all issues will be re-considered.

**488. FINANCES**

**a) Retrospective payments approved:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| SO | 30/09/2019 |  £ 611.68  | David Green | Sept pay |
| SO | 01/10/2019 |  £ 333.00  |  Cricket Club  | Mowing |
| DEBIT  | 02/10/2019 | £ 453.00 | Dorset Council | Allotment rents |

**b) Cheques required approved**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** |  **Amount**  | **Payee** | **Reason** |
| 2354 |  £ 240.00  | PKF Littlejohn LLP | 2019 audit |
| 2355 |  £ 160.00  | PCC Shillingstone | Church Centre Hire |
| 2356 |  £ 32.55  | David Green | Sept expenses |
| 2357 |  £ 1707.71 | Came & Co | Insurance renewal |
| 2358 |  £ 3.16 | SSE | Pavilion electricity |

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

The Clerk reported that that the Tennis Club had raised some queries regarding the pavilion and the Pod, including the PAT testing of appliances. These matters are in the process of being resolved.

The Clerk confirmed that the re-surfacing of Augustan Avenue play area is scheduled for 21 October 2019 and will take about a week.

The Chairman advised that the council’s policy with regard to dogs using the recreation ground was under review; to this end he will be introducing some temporary signage requesting that dog owners behave responsibly in keeping their dogs under control and cleaning up properly. The Council will monitor and review the situation in due course.

**490. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk reported that he had received a complaint from a resident concerning the probable illegal tipping and burning of waste on land opposite White Pit Farm Cottages; the parishioner, at the meeting, further explained that there had been subsequent dumping of builders waste on nearby land and recently a fire had been started, as a consequence of which being that other neighbours had called the fire brigade.

The Clerk advised that he had reported the situation to the Pauline Batstone the County Councillor, who had forwarded the complaint to County Farms, who may refer the situation to the Environment Agency.

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

Update of the request for an additional dog waste bin

**492. NEXT MEETING**

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

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:40 p.m.