**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 4th JUNE 2020 BY REMOTE CONFERENCING (ZOOM)**

**MEETING HELD UNDER THE TERMS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND POLICE AND CRIME PANELS (CORONAVIRUS) (FLEXIBILITY OF AUTHORITY AND POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2020**

**PRESENT:** Councillors M Webberley (Chairman), L Gasson (Vice-Chairman), P Arron, T Kennard, R McNamara, K Ridout, County Councilor P Batstone, Footpaths Officer G Rains, Clerk D Green; in addition, there were 3 members of the public in attendance.

**561. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Received from Cllr White

**562. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST:** None

**563. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:** The minutes of the meeting held on 7th May 2020 were approved.

**564. MATTERS ARISING:**

The Chairman asked the Clerk to give a report of progress with regard to the new website. The Clerk reported that he had altered the layout, posted appropriate photographs and uploaded relevant documents to the test template. There were a few issues requiring back office work by the developers but the Clerk hoped to be able to present a test version to the whole council next week. The new website will include footpaths maps and will generally present information in a better way and be easily editable.

**565. PUBLIC SESSION TO RAISE ISSUES**

Mr. Jeremy Dhondy hoped that the new website would be constructed in a way that would be beneficial to the residents of Shillingstone, and would provide information that is consistent with the Mobile App and the Clerk’s articles in the Parish Magazine. He would like to see a link to the Shillingstone Facebook page and felt that this could be included even with a disclaimer such as BBC links often are. The Chairman advised that residents can look themselves at the Facebook page and that the Parish Council should distance itself from Facebook as such. Mr. Dhondy said that financial information was difficult to locate on the existing Parish Council website and hoped that the new website would resolve this issue. The Clerk reported that the new website had a clear drop-down menu which would improve access to all reports.

**566. COUNTY COUNCILLORS REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised that reports from the Chief Executive Matt Prosser had been circulated and the Chairman confirmed that the Council had seen these.

Cllr Batstone was thankful that the Travellers situation in the village had been quickly resolved.

Cllr Batstone has been involved in discussions in relation to where the Lavender Farm may be re-located. Dorset Council is considering leasing a small piece of Holloway Farm to enable the project to continue as it contributes to the social objectives of the council, assisting a number of people with special educational needs and mental health problems. The area under consideration is to the right of the footpath from Hine Town Lane to the Trailway across the maize field**.** The project will need something like a horse shelter on site with portable toilets for those working there, and the intention would be to put that on the far side of the field, furthest from the nearest house, where the land drops down a little. The project hopes to continue public access as it does on its present site. Mrs. Jo O’Connell, a former teacher who set up and manages the project, would be very happy to come and tell the Council about her plans.

Cllr Gasson noted that not only is lavender grown, but wild flowers for pot-pourri.

Cllr Batstone also reported that Dorset Council is to lease a shed at Holloway Farm to the Dorset Beekeepers Association.

**567. FOOTPATHS**

Graham Rains reported ‘bull in field’ signs had been erected by a landowner where the Wessex Ridgeway crosses Holloway Lane. There are in fact rarely any cattle in these fields and this action has apparently been taken to dissuade use of a public footpath. Graham Stanley, the Dorset Ranger will be speaking to the landowner.

Graham also mentioned the report he had received from Graham Stanley concerning a pile of grass cuttings that had been dumped on the Trailway behind the Tennis Club. The Clerk had made enquires of the Cricket Club, who knew nothing about this. Chris Whitfield of the Tennis Club advised that the person strimming the grass for the Tennis Club was responsible for this. The Chairman requested that in future any debris of this kind should be put on the pile next to the practice nets.

Graham reported that Footpath 41 near the Quarry was overgrown again but said that Dorset Rangers were very stretched due to their work supervising visitors to the recycling centres because of Covid-19 policy. The Chairman noted that on a recent visit to a recycling centre several staff appeared to be doing very little. Cllr Batstone advised that it was hoped to be able to pull people back from these roles soon.

Graham offered to provide the Clerk with any necessary footpaths’ maps for the new website.

**568. RESPONSE TO BALL STRIKE RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Chairman noted that the report had suggested that the only appropriate solution to the issue was an 11-metre-high fence. The Chairman advised that the Council had received two quotes, one for a 9 metre-high fence, which was over £14,000, and another for an eleven metre-high fence for around £20,000, and that no suppliers would consider a mesh ‘cage’ solution due to safety considerations. He advised that it was out of the question for the Parish Council to spend some 2/3 of its annual budget in this way, that the proposal would need planning permission and may well be an eyesore.

Sharon Pryor of the Tennis Club said she had been referred to a supplier of demountable sports fencing but had not obtained a quote. The Chairman commented that such a system was unlikely to be any cheaper than the quotes that have already been received.

Cllr Gasson commented that the Cricket Club and Tennis Club are certainly not used by even 50% of the village and spending money of this nature could not be justified. Sharon Pryor commented that there had been a number of near misses and that the cricket balls were now being hit much harder than in the past.

The Chairman noted that the Cricket and Tennis Clubs had peacefully co-existed for some 55 years and felt that the situation could be dealt with by scheduling and the use of notices; he noted that the danger to tennis players as no greater than the danger to those watching cricket matches or otherwise using the recreation ground. Chris Whitfield of the Tennis Club agreed that there must be a cheaper solution to the situation and said that the matter would be discussed with the Cricket Club.

**569. PLANNING**

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

2/2020/0589/HOUSE - Briar Cottage Gains Cross Lane Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0QP

Proposal: Erection of two storey front extension and porch (demolition of existing porch)

There were no objections to this proposal.

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

There were no new applications for tree works.

**570. FINANCES**

**i) a) Retrospective payments approved:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Date** | **Amount** | **Payee** | **Reason** |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| BACS | 11/05/2020 | £ 250.00 | PCC Shillingstone | Churchyard Grant |
| BACS | 11/05/2020 | £ 500.00 | PCC Shillingstone | Parish Magazine |
| BACS | 11/05/2020 | £ 250.00 | PCC Shillingstone | Shillingstone Youth Club |
| BACS | 11/05/2020 | £ 100.00 | JP Consultants | In Audit fee |
| BACS | 11/05/2020 | £ 312.00 | Jeff Ling | Hedging |
| SO | 01/06/2020 | £ 588.00 | David Green | Pay |
| SO | 01/06/2020 | £ 333.00 | Cricket Club | Mowing |

**b) Payments approved:**

Clerks expenses £ 126.66

**ii) Annual Return**

The Annual Return, Governance statement and Accounting statements for 2019-2020 were approved and signed by the Chairman.

**571. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

The Clerk reported that the play areas remain closed and that the bin emptying at Augustan Avenue has been suspended until the play area re-opens.

The fire extinguishers the Pavilion have been serviced

Cllr Kennard reported that he had dispersed some youths hanging on the guttering at the Pavilion. The clerk will attend to the matter of replacing the downpipes with mesh enclosed pipes, which has been delayed.

**572. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk had received a report of water abstraction on the land recently sold and which had been occupied by the Travellers. He had made enquires but had been unable to determine if a licence is held and has written to the Environment Agency.

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

No specific items.

**574. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was confirmed as being on Thursday 2nd July 2020 at 7:30 pm, probably by remote conferencing.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.