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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 1st DECEMBER 2022 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R McNamara (Chairman), I Suter (Vice-Chairman), L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), K Ridout (KR), R White (RW), Unitary Councillor P Batstone and the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 4 members of the public present.

**998. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**999. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr McNamara – re agenda item 11 Ham Farm path diversion, item 13 pump replacement.

**1000. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2022 were approved.

**1001. MATTERS ARISING**

**War Memorial steps**

The Chairman noted that a report had been received of a stumble on the steps of the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and a request for the question of a handrail to be re-considered, with an offer to assistance with fund raising.

It was agreed that the steps were steep and unsupported; the PC had received advice earlier in the year that a complete rebuild of the pillars and front of the memorial would be required to meet Building Regulations and this would necessitate a detailed drawing and full planning application.

It was agreed that local architects and builders would be consulted to propose a suitable scheme and a report made to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**Jubilee Cup**

The Cup has been deservedly awarded to Barry & Sherry Friend of the Old Ox and is now behind the bar!

**1002. PUBLIC SESSION**

No questions were raised.

**1003. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone reported that:

* the planners had been asked why a decision re the land Old Ox planning application had yet to be taken but no clear reasons had been provided for the delay
* Dorset Council’s Council Tax increase is likely to be under 5%
* Issues concerning Holloway Farm are still ongoing. Hay stored at the site has been removed

Cllr Suter asked PB what progress had been made following the Okeford Fitzpaine and Shillingstone schools merger, both in terms of the future uses of school buildings at Okeford Fitzpaine and possible additional funding for Shillingstone School to accommodate the extra numbers. PB agreed to take up these questions. PB noted that major housing developments in Okeford Fitzpaine will require school places and it would be useful to understand what planning provision has been made.

**1004. FOOTPATH OFFICERS REPORT**

The Footpath Officer was not present and no issues were raised.

**1005. THE OLD OX – ASSET OF COMMUNITY BID – PC CONTRIBUTION**

Cllr Suter noted that the decision of Dorset Council to allow the appeal against the inclusion of the Paddock in the ACV listing was disappointing and that there had not been any opportunity for evidence to be presented in support of the case of retaining this asset in the listing.

The Old Ox Steering Group has held three meetings and made good progress towards developing an ‘expression of interest’ under the Community Opportunities Fund, which can provide up to £ 250,000 of match funding for a project. Local funds to be taken into account can include ‘benefit in kind’ offers and free time. The group has applied to join the Plunkett Society which has access to other funding. Around 120 residents have expressed interest in contributing to the venture. The legal entity for the bid is likely to be either a Community Benefit Society or a Community Interest Company.

The next stage is to arrange a full business valuation and a structural survey in order to consider whether the asking price represents ‘fair value’. The cost of these surveys is likely to be in the region of £ 3-5k

It was noted that serious road issues have now arisen due to the constriction of the parking area by the loss of availability of the fenced off area.

The Steering Group asked the Parish Council to consider making a contribution to the start up costs in the venture which may subsequently be converted into a shareholding. The Clerk noted that the majority of the Parish Councils reserves were ring fenced but that some £ 3,189 remained from the sale of the reading room which could be made available for this project. In order to provide this a legal entity with a bank account will have to be in place before a donation is made.

It was unanimously agreed that in principle the Parish Council will make these funds available in support of the project.

A further meeting of the Steering Group will take place on 12th December, these will also be a further leaflet drop and a Facebook page is being set-up.

**1006. DORSET COUNCIL – 20 MPH SPEED LIMIT INITIATIVE**

The Chairman noted the new Dorset Council policy encouraging the introduction of 20 mph speed limits where there is a need.

It was noted that the proposal does not apply to primary roads where the movement of motor vehicles is the main function thus ruling out the A357 for consideration.

There was general agreement that there are no roads in the village where exceeding 20 mph would be a major issue and that many local routes (for example Hine Town Lane) cannot be navigated at more that 10-15 mph in any event.

**1007.COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Roads**– the Community Highways Officer had provided a written summary of the issues discussed at the meeting in October:

* A Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) has been requested for the Little Lane end of the village to extend the 30-mph limit
* The Shillingstone School sign at the junction of Augustan Avenue will be split and a new sign installed for westbound traffic
* Road issues tracking updates for are not available for general viewing only to those who have raised the issue

The speed survey along Shillingstone Lane had in fact been completed in 2021 but the results did not appear to have been evaluated (RM)

**Portman Hall** – proceeds from the Christmas Fayre will be ring-fenced for the Coronation in May 2023; residual funds from the closure of Shamdram will be also be ring fenced for a Village Fund (KR)

**The Church** – the roof area requiring restoration has been seriously leaking despite the presence of a temporary covering which has now been replaced within something stronger; there are black mould issues arising from the ingress of water. Permanent repairs will cost around £130k and Church has requested funding from Dorset Historic Churches.

The PCC has refused to pay the £ 1,600 per month to the Diocese until a new vicar has been appointed. The post will be re-advertised in January with interviews in March (LG)

**Warm Spaces initiative** – has got off to a slow start and needs more advertising. It has been noted though more women than men are attending. It has been decided that no charge will be made for food or tea/coffee and donations will be invited instead. IS will organise the printing of posters (LG)

**Facebook** – a parking issue in Augustan Avenue involving a removal van has caused some controversy (KR)

**Shillingstone Youth Club** – membership is still over-subscribed at present and activities are now suspended until the New Year (IS)

**Allotments** – are not too flooded and growing of beans, leaks and garlic is on-going (RH)

The Chairman reported that daffodils have now been planted in 6 locations throughout the village.

**1008. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) Applications update**

There were no decisions to report in relation to either the Land at the Old Ox or the Shillingstone Industrial Estate Car Parking applications.

**ii) New Applications to consider:**

There were no new planning applications.

It was noted that a provisional Tree Preservation Order was now in place for the bund at St Patrick’s Industrial Estate and that this is an all-species order.

A path diversion order had been received in respect of part of Footpath 29 at Ham Farm Shillingstone; there were no objections to this order.

**1009. FINANCES:**

**i) Retrospective Payments approval:** the following payments were **APPROVED:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Reference** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 02/11/2022 | Shillingstone CC | STD ORD | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 02/11/2022 | Alfie Burt | BACS | £ 450.00 | Hedging |
| 02/11/2022 | Amy Stanners | BACS | £ 80.00 | Cleaning |
| 02/11/2022 | Charlotte Hayward | BACS | £ 80.00 | Cleaning |
| 02/11/2022 | Shillingstone PCC | BACS | £ 140.00 | CC hire |
| 09/11/2022 | Clifford T Shean | BACS | £ 48.00 | PAT Testing |
| 09/11/2022 | David Green | BACS | £ 79.28 | Expenses Oct |
| 09/11/2022 | Guy Gilding | BACS | £ 75.00 | SID rotation |
| 09/11/2022 | Ian Suter | BACS | £ 27.50 | Printing |
| 10/11/2022 | Water2business | DEBIT CARD | £ 213.78 | Allotments water |
| 14/11/2022 | Hags | BACS | £ 160.56 | Parts (from 2021) |
| 14/11/2022 | Stockley & Son | BACS | £ 104.90 | Pavilion taps |
| 28/11/2022 | David Green | SO | £ 1,020.46 | Nov pay inc arrears |

**ii) New payments approval –** Clerk’s expenses of £ 37.05 were **APPROVED.**

**iii) Revised Budget proposal & precept request**

A small increase to the proposed precept request was agreed, being the consequence of the Clerks pay increase under the national agreement. The proposed precept for 2023-2024 will now be **£ 36,295.**

**1010. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK:**

The Chairman confirmed that two quotes had been received for the Pod & shower pump:

* TES £ 1,241.02 + VAT
* Chris Clark £ 958.33 + VAT

It was unanimously **AGREED,** in view of its age and recent malfunctions, that Chris Clark would be asked to replace the pump as soon as possible.

The Clerk noted that a further complaint had been received from the Tennis Club regarding the lack of strimming around the Tennis Court. Both the Clerk & Cllr Harwood had recently inspected the area and found there not to be an issue, though contact will be made with the Cricket Club to discuss this further. .

**1011. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 03/11/2022 | DAPTC | Clerks pay award |
| 05/11/2022 | Climate & Ecological support meeting | Oct meeting notes |
| 09/11/2022 | Climate & Ecological support meeting | Reminder re Nov meeting |
| 10/11/2022 | Dorset Tree Team | TPO/2022/0087 Shillingstone Industrial Estate |
| 10/11/2022 | Tony Acton | Re Old OX ACV bid |
| 13/11/2022 | Anne Powell | Steps at the War Memorial |
| 15/11/2022 | Dorset Council | Old Ox ACV - full moratorium period activation |
| 17/11/2022 | Amanda Penfold (CHO) | Gully clearance near petrol station |
| 17/11/2022 | Montpelier Developments (via DC) | Complaint re handling of the Old Ox application |
| 17/11/2022 | SNTC | What’s Happening in Stur |
| 18/11/2022 | Dorset Council | Public Path diversion order FP29 Ham Farm |
| 18/11/2022 | Dorset Deserves Better | Open letter to Spencer Flower |
| 21/11/2022 | Dorset Council - Spencer Flower | Response to DDB letter |
| 24/11/2022 | Dorset Council: Community SID Team | Newsletter 9 |
| 25/11/2022 | Dorset Council - Hilary Jordan | Old Ox ACV - appeal review outcome |
| 27/11/2022 | Volunteering Dorset | Christmas! Gardening & Community Support |

The Clerk noted the complaint from Montpelier Developments Ltd in respect of the handling of the planning application relating to land at the Old Ox. This is under a review by Dorset Council.

**1012. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

1. Old Ox ACV – Community Bid update
2. Shillingstone Industrial Estate – planning application update

**1013. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th January 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.40