**SHILLINGSTONE PARISH COUNCIL**

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

**7.30 PM ON THURSDAY 6th JANUARY 2022 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors I Suter (Chairman), P Acton (PA) L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), R White (RW); Unitary Councillor P Batstone (PB) and the Clerk D Green

In addition, there were five members of the public present.

**835. TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs McNamara and Ridout.

**836. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**837. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2021 were approved with amendment requested by LG concerning the issue of the lengthsman services.

**838. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman confirmed that:

* the new noticeboard for the Co-op is now in place. Alan Long has very kindly installed this free of charge
* the Village Gates have been installed. Cllr McNamara has discussed the historic context of Shillingstone being awarded the title ‘The Bravest Village in England’ on Radio Solent. Cllr Suter will endeavor to add the interview to the Parish Council website
* in relation to the construction of a handrail for the War Memorial steps, the Clerk has been asked to seek advice from the Dorset Council Conservation Officer
* the Parish Council wishes to thank Sarah Ekless for a great fundraising effort which has enabled the purchase of two defibrillators and cabinets. These will be delivered shortly and the matter of where to site the second defibrillator will be discussed, the Pavilion may be a good location for the Trailway and sports activities
* suggestions have been sent to Dorset Council regarding suitable Electric Vehicle charging points, including the Church Centre and the Trailway car park. These will be reviewed by the EV Team who will report back with their recommendations

**839 . PUBLIC SESSION**

A resident raised the issue of the crumbling concrete footway exit between the Recreation Ground and the Trailway, and advised that this very difficult for those with mobility issues and would not permit access by scooters. It was also reported that there are difficulties between the gate at the tennis court end and the Trailway. It was agreed that this would be looked at. It was noted that the ditches near the Trailway are also very silted up resulting in considerable flooding.

A resident asked whether there was any additional information relating to the issue of the closure of Hine Town Lane, between 7-9 February. It was explained that this relates to the installation of a new electricity supply which will involve excavation of the road.

It was mentioned that there is very overgrown hedge along Hine Town Lane. Cllr Suter will speak to the landowner concerned.

The issue of poor drainage at the Portman Hall was raised. The Clerk advised that people need to gather photographic evidence of this and report incidents directly through the portal.

**840. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised that:

* the issues around Holloway Farm are ongoing and as yet unresolved
* a tour with the Community Highways Officer relating to traffic issue had been conducted. PB enquired as to whether a ‘Speedwatch’ group had ever operated in the village. The Clerk explained that this had been attempted in the past, but had been short lived and fraught with difficulties, primarily a lack volunteers and the requirement for police training and licensing; it was felt that the Speed Indicator Devices were by far the most effective measure that could be taken to alter driver behaviour
* the Dorset Council budget is being discussed and the county is looking to maximise funding for its Adult Social Care costs
* St Mary’s School has been renamed ‘Coombe House’ and it is hoped that this will be ready for use by the spring, though there have been delays. It is hoped that this will provide facilities for a wide range of community services

**841. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer was not present at the meeting.

**842. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

* **The North Dorset Railway –** a visit will be madeshortly for an update (PA)
* **The Church** – wreaths on graves must be removed by Candlemas (12th February); the School have provided a number of pictures for display (LG)
* **The School –** the head has been away for a period and there have been Covid difficulties (IS)
* **The Allotments –** are too wet for any activity (RH)
* **Jubilee Cup –** over 50 votes were received and the winner was Jill Burton who received 35% of the vote (IS)
* **Portman Hall –** written report (KR)
* Christmas Fayre was very successful raising over £ 600 for two charities
* Film Night and Jumble sale postponed due to the Covid-19 situation
* A new water heater has been installed
* The Hall will not be used as a Hub for Wessex Internet
* **Centenary Sports Festival** – planned for 12th June, volunteers requested (KR)
* **Facebook** – report of a keyed car in Gunn Lane noted; suggestion of a local history evening to discuss the Roman villa site found at Augustan Avenue (KR)

**843. ROADS ISSUES**

The Chairman provided an update:

* Shillingstone Lane speed survey – the report has been received The 85%ile results were 45.4 mph (eastbound to Shillingstone) and 41.0 mph (westbound to Okeford Fitzpaine). The Clerk explained that this has been referred to the CHO for comment but apparently any decision concerning changing the speed limit would have to be taken at higher level in Dorset Council. The CHO has advised the Clerk that it is unlikely that a Traffic Regulation Order would make any difference on this stretch of road in view of Youngs ’10 mph’ policy for their own vehicles
* Augustan Avenue crossing – the CHO has advised that this does not meet the criteria for a crossing patrol and the Road Safety team are considering any other measures that may be implemented. An update is expected imminently.
* White Pit – the CHO has reported that the 30 mph road roundels have been refreshed and that no additional measures can be considered at this time
* Damaged 30 mph sign – a works order has been raised
* Church Road parking – a complaint has been received concerning inconsiderate and dangerous parking at the junction with the A357. RM has had a meeting with Dorset Police who has indicated that issues of this type should be reported directly to Dorset Police by email or via the ‘Make an Online Enquiry’ portal. The police will not respond unless the road is actually blocked. The email address is enquiries@dorset.pnn.police.uk. It was suggested that thought perhaps should be given to having a ‘one way’ system in place, though this would not necessarily prevent poor parking, it would eliminate the danger of vehicles exiting the Church Road from the difficult end (RH)
* Augustan Avenue parking – Dorset police will have a look at this in the next few weeks. The Clerk pointed out that parking on the pavement is not necessarily an obstruction, it is apparently a matter of degree

**844: CHANGE TO THE START TIME OF MEETINGS**

LG noted that the historic start time of 7:30 pm had been agreed due to Councillors work constraints. It was agreed that starting at 7:00 pm would not cause any undue difficulties and this would be trialed for two meetings.

**845. JUBILEE CUP ARRANGEMMENTS FOR 2022**

The Chairman noted that the end of the year award for 2021 had worked well, being aligned with the calendar year rather than the financial year. It was agreed that for 2022 the Cup would be awarded at the end of the year in combination with an event such as the Christmas Fayre.

**846. QUEENS PLATINUM JUBILEE WEEKEND IDEAS**

LG advised that there have been discussions concerning the use of her field and the Portman Hall (for facilities) on Thursday 2nd June , the first day of the Bank Holiday, which coincides with half term week. These plans will be finalised in due course. Flower arrangers are also planning an event in the Church.

**847. TREE PLANTING**

The Clerk reported that there has been no communication from the Burtons Orchard Committee and therefore a decision was not possible. The Chairman will speak to members of the Burtons Orchard committee.

**848. PLANNING**

**i) New Applications**

**P/OUT/2021/05146** Ham Farm Brodham Way Shillingstone DT11 0TE Erection of 1no. dwelling (outline application to determine access & layout only

There were no objections to this application.

**849. FINANCES**

**i) Retrospective payments approved:**

The list of payments had been circulated to councillors in advance. These were **APPROVED.**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Reference** |  **Total**  | **Reason** |
| 02/12/2021 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | STD ORD |  £ 333.00  | Mowing |
| 06/12/2021 | David Green | BACS |  £ 37.50  | Office allowance |
| 06/12/2021 | Sherborne Utilities Ltd | BACS |  £ 222.00  | Pressure jet wash drains |
| 14/12/2021 | Sturminster N Town Council | BACS |  £ 1,095.00  | Lengthsman (6 months) |
| 14/12/2021 | Rachel McNamara | BACS |  £ 25.00  | Jubilee Cup Exp |
| 14/12/2021 | Stacey Hankin | BACS |  £ 140.00  | Cleaning |
| 31/12/2021 | David Green | SO |  £ 638.77  | Pay December 2021 |

**ii) Payments approved:**

Clerks’ expenses: £ 41.10

**iii) Precept confirmation**

The Clerk reported that the tax base calculation does not materially alter the precept request to be made, which will be £ 33,000. The increase for Council Tax Band D will be £ 1.16 for the year.

**iv) Allotment rent increase**

The Clerk advised that the rental charge paid to Dorset Council had been increased for the first time in 11 years and it was necessary to pass this increased cost (£62) onto allotment holders. It was agreed to increase the charge for single plots by £ 1.82 to £ 18.32, and double plots by £ 3.64 to £ 36.64.

**v) Councillors’ allowances**

It was resolved that there was no will to start paying allowances to Councillors who work for the Council on a voluntary basis for the benefit of the whole community.

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

The Clerk confirmed that:

* there has been change to the cleaning personnel for the Pavilion
* wood left behind following tree work at the Rec had quickly disappeared
* the basket swing is showing signs of deterioration and consideration should be given to replacing this. The Clerk will obtain some quotes

**851. CORRESPONDENCE**

**The following correspondence had been circulated:**

* 08/12/2021 Email re near miss at Augustan Avenue involving children crossing the road
* 12/12/2021 Email re inconsiderate/dangerous parking in Church Road

**852. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Trailway exits at the Rec
* Queens Platinum Jubilee arrangements progress
* Roads update
* War Memorial handrail
* Lengthsman services
* Defibrillator plans

**853. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Thursday **3rd February 2022 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. This will be subject to confirmation in the event of any change to national Covid-19 policies. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.55.