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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 3rd NOVEMBER 2022 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: I Suter (Chairman), P Acton (PA), 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 20 members of the public present.

**981. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr McNamara.

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

Cllr Harwood – Westleigh site; Cllr Ridout – Wessex Internet

**983. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th October 2022 were approved.

**984. MATTERS ARISING**

**Roads Issues**

The Chairman confirmed that Cllr McNamara and the Clerk had met the new Community Highways Officer and agreed actions in relation to several issues:

* **School sign at the junction of the A357 and Augustan Avenue** - this will be spilt and a new pole installed on the right-hand verge for vehicles approaching from the Durweston direction
* **Little Lane speed limit change** – a priority Traffic Regulation Order has been instructed to extend the 30-mph speed limit; this though may take 18 months to implement
* **Shillingstone Lane** - An update concerning a review of national speed limits on rural roads is awaited before any measures could be taken to change the limits in place
* **Access problems at Augustan Avenue** – it has been reported that refuse vehicles could not complete collections due to obstructions caused by parked cars. The issue has been referred to the Fire Brigade and the Police. A fire service leaflet highlighting the dangers of problem parking has been distributed to all households facing Augustan Avenue. The Police have advised that they will not intervene concerning the parking issues at this location.

**Wessex Internet**

The Clerk and Cllr McNamara met Wessex Internet to discuss access to the Recreation Ground to enable the installation of a fibre cable to Vale Cottages. The cable will run from the west side of the Recreation Ground alongside the carpark and will then be routed to Hine Town Lane with a spur running to the Pavilion which will hopefully enable a connection to be made.

**985. PUBLIC SESSION**

**Shillingstone Industrial Estate – Car Park planning application**

A resident raised the issue of the planning application concerning the proposal to install a car park at the Shillingstone Industrial Estate.

It was noted that:

* The application is factually incorrect in that it states that there is no impact on trees where it is clear that the proposal would involve the removal of a number of trees and the bund. The claim had been made by the applicant that a 6 ft fence would be an adequate replacement for the substantive 40 foot bund that presently exists and which was installed in accordance with previous planning decisions.
* The trees under threat are an essential part of the character of the village and none presently have tree preservation orders.
* There is clearly a long-term intention to develop this area for access into Church Field.
* A car park of this this capacity is clearly unnecessary for the present level of usage of the industrial estate.
* It was suggested that the planners should make a site visit and address the concerns raised by many local residents.

The Chairman confirmed that he had visited the site and spoken at length to some residents and occupants of the units and taken a number of site photographs. These were shown to the meeting.

It was unanimously agreed that a further submission to the Planning Office amplifying the Councils objections to the proposal should now be made, in the light of additional information received and that efforts would be made to secure preservation orders in respect of the trees concerned.

**Recreation Ground hedge cutting**

A resident noted that the Recreation Ground hedges had been cut and suggested that it was the wrong time of the year. The Clerk advised that this was in accordance with the contractors availability.

**986. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone reported that:

* the review of Adult Social Services had highlighted concerns relating to the increasing older population in Dorset and the provisioning of services in the light of this.
* Dorset Council has a deficit of approximately £ 30 million and is reviewing where savings can be made, particularly in relation to the use of buildings.
* An interim County Land agent has now been appointed

Cllr Batstone agreed to investigate with the planners why a decision in relation to than land at the Old Ox had yet to be taken.

Cllr Gasson confirmed that the Bee-keepers now have a lease in relation to the land at Holloway Farm.

**987. THE OLD OX – ASSET OF COMMUNITY**

The Chairman confirmed that Dorset Council had now received the formal notification of the expression of community interest in making a bid for the Old Ox under ACV terms.

This followed a meeting at the Portman Hall which was attended by over 40 residents where support for a bid was discussed. A questionnaire had also been distributed to all households and to date 22 online responses and a number of written replies have been received. The Chairman thanked all those who had assisted with the distribution of the questionnaire. A further meeting is planned for 7th November at the Portman Hall when the bid structure will be discussed in further detail.

The Parish Council unanimously agreed to support the application for a community bid.

**988. COST OF LIVING CRISIS**

Cllr Gasson advised that Church Centre weekly events had commenced on 31st October and had been attended by 8 people. The meetings in a warm space provide tea & coffee for 20p and soup, cheese and bread lunches for £ 2.00, which is considered to be very good value. Cllr Gasson thanked Kay Ridout and Anne Powell for their assistance. These events, which are to be held every Monday until 20th March (excluding Christmas/New Year) will be promoted further via the Parish Magazine.

**989. SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

Veronica Jenkins advised that are now 10 volunteers on the team; they are restricted as to when they can conduct a check – not if its raining or if drivers require headlights – which is quite restrictive during the winter months. They are hoping to make checks twice a week in the spring. A check was conducted on 2nd November and observed 606 vehicles with 9 registered as speeding, including 2 travelling at over 42 mph; these drivers will receive letters from the Dorset Police. Veronica reported that any letter received in the Dorset area counts towards the 3-letter threshold following which those caught receive a visit from the Police. The 4 locations being used are: the large layby at the Durweston end of the village, the Cross, Augustan Avenue/A357 junction and by the Exchange.

**990. FOOTPATH OFFICERS REPORT**

The Chairman welcomed Graham Rains to the meeting. Graham reported that there were few issues arising. The need to wear correct footwear when walking at this time of year is essential. The steps at the quarry entrance between White Pit and Lanchards Lane are seriously eroding and will be reported to the Dorset Rangers.

**991.COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Social media** – some good points had been made in relation to the planning application concerning the Shillingstone Industrial Estate and there had also been discussions concerning the foliage at Gunn Lane and reports of vandalism including some broken windows, although the situation appears to have calmed down recently (KR)

**Portman Hall** – fire equipment had been upgraded and bookings were at a high level. The Christmas Fayre will be held on 27th November at which the Jubilee Cup will be awarded (KR)

**Sports Festival** – it has been decided that this only be held on a bi-annual basis because of the organisational demands it requires (KR)

**The Church** – the Church path has been repaired with the removal of roots. The WI are planning to plant a mountain ash near Church Field (LG)

**Shillingstone Youth Club** – membership is over subscribed at present and the Club is very successful (IS)

**Climate Change** – Milly Suter (Non councillor role) provided a report in relation to the September meeting. The issue of ‘climate heat maps’ had been piloted by Lyme Regis Town Council and in the Weymouth area. These concern developing community engagement with climate issues and seek to identify local concerns and aspirations. A ‘Heat Map app’ has been made freely available for a trial period. There was also some discussion in relation to coordinating activities across small parishes to reduce the cost.

Hazelbury Bryan parish has installed air source heats pumps and solar panels in its village hall. .

**Jubilee Cup** - the closing date for nominations is 25th November, and the Cup will be awarded at the Christmas Fayre to be held at the Portman Hall on 27th November. A ballot box is located at the garage.

**992. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**New Applications to consider:**

**P/LBC/2022/06303** Maypole Cottage The Cross Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0SP - Erect fence along boundary line (demolish existing wall)

**P/HOU/2022/06302** Maypole Cottage The Cross Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0SP - Erect fence along boundary (demolish existing wall)

There were no objections to either of these related applications.

**Applications update**

**P/FUL/2022/05813 - St Patricks Industrial Estate Station Road Shillingstone - Formation of Car Park**

No decision – additional submission to be made as noted above under ‘Public Session’

**P/FUL/2022/02998 - Erection of 7 dwellings with associated access, landscaping and parking. Form additional parking for Old Ox Inn.**

No decision.

**993. FINANCES:**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Reference** | **£ Total** |  |
| 03/10/2022 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | STD ORD | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 10/10/2022 | David Green | BACS | £ 41.55 | Expenses |
| 10/10/2022 | Elite Playground Inspections | BACS | £ 60.00 | Recreation Ground |
| 10/10/2022 | Ian Suter | BACS | £ 38.50 | Printing - Jubilee Cup |
| 10/10/2022 | Robert Harwood | BACS | £ 88.95 | Daffodil bulbs |
| 10/10/2022 | Sturminster Newton TC | BACS | £ 1,095.00 | SLA contract - 50% |
| 12/10/2022 | Association of Dorset Watches | BACS | £ 300.00 | Speedwatch equip |
| 12/10/2022 | HM Revenue & Customs | BACS | £ 148.20 | PAYE Q2 2022 |
| 26/10/2022 | Amy Stanners | BACS | £ 90.00 | Cleaning |
| 26/10/2022 | Charlotte Hayward | BACS | £ 90.00 | Cleaning |
| 26/10/2022 | Blandford Poppy Appeal | BACS | £ 24.00 | Display poppies |
| 28/10/2022 | David Green | SO | £ 648.31 | Oct 2022 pay |
| 31/10/2022 | Water2business | DEBIT | £ 545.07 | Water - Pavilion |

**New payments approval –** Clerk’s expenses of £ 79.28 were approved.

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

The Chairman noted these issues:

* The pump providing water to both the Pod and the pavilion showers has been malfunctioning. The Clerk explained that the pump is 10 years old and was installed when the Pod was constructed. It provides pressure when water is being drawn off and is now only working intermittently. He has requested a quote for a replacement.
* The pavilion kitchen taps were continually dripping and required replacement with new lever types.
* New keys were required for an inner door after a jammed lock episode.
* Hedge trimming at the allotments and the Recreation Ground had been completed and is of a high standard.
* A complaint has been received concerning the hedge in the corner of the Recreation Ground which the contractor could not reach. The Clerk has asked a local gardener to deal with this and the issue as well as the tennis court hedge.
* A complaint had been received concerning the lack of any stimming around the tennis court. The Tennis Club have been advised to take up this issue with the Cricket Club.

**995. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION/NOTES** |
| 07/10/2022 | Climate-Ecological SM | Sept meeting notes |
| 11/10/2022 | Dorset Council | New bin near Maypole Cottage (!) – very unappealing |
| 14/10/2022 | Dorset Highways | WI Tree planting request - Dorset Council has refused main  road permission |
| 14/10/2022 | Dorset Volunteer Centre | Christmas Day meals volunteers enquiry |
| 20/10/2022 | Clare Downes | Complaint re Blaze site Westleigh – PC has written to Blaze |
| 21/10/2022 | John Blount | Damaged footpath sign White Pit reported via App- referred to  Graham Stanley |
| 24/10/2022 | Dorset Council | Presentation pack for Town and Parish Councils - Planning event |
| 25/10/2022 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SOUTH STREET, FONTMELL MAGNA |
| 25/10/2022 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF DUCK STREET, CHILD OKEFORD |
| 25/10/2022 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF A350 PRESTON HILL, IWERNE MINSTER |
| 26/10/2022 | Dilys Gartside | 20isplenty campaign article |
| 30/10/2022 | Bob Yorath | Comments re P/FUL/2022/05813 |
| 30/10/2022 | Clare Downes | Compliant to Dorset Council re Blaze (Westleigh) site |

The Clerk has now been advised that Blaze Construction have provided an assurance that the Westleigh site will be tidied up and some boarding installed to improve the appearance.

**996. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

1. Old Ox ACV registration –Community Bid position

**997. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 1st December 2022 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.30.