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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 7th DECEMBER 2023 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (RM) (Chairman) M Barlow (MB), R Harwood (RH), M Pomeroy (MP) K Ridout (KR), R White (RW) Unitary Councillor P Batstone, Footpaths Officer G Rains (GR) and the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were six members of the public present.

**1181. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Leadbeater, Sweeney and Suter.

**1182. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr Pomeroy re White Pit development

**1183. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meetings held on 2nd and 23rd November 2023 were approved.

**1184. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

**Defibrillator/First Aid training**

KR advised that sessions would take place on either the 9th or 16th March 2024, between 09:00 and 16:00 at the Portman Hall. These would be limited to 12 people for one trainer. KR has some names already and a campaign to raise awareness of these events would be announced in the February edition of the Parish Magazine and also via social media. It would be made clear that this is not workplace training.

**War Memorial Steps**

The Parish Council has paid a deposit in relation to this work and expects to commence early in 2024.

**Flooding at the Garage/Portman Hall**

The Community Highways Officer has advised that the area would be surveyed again and high pressure jetting had been requested. The PC will request a meeting with the CHO to discuss this and other issues.

**Daffodils**

A fresh stock of bulbs has been acquired and further planting is to be arranged.

**1185. PUBLIC SESSION**

It was noted that Dorset Police had been unable to attend the meeting as intended. The Chairman would follow this up. Cllr Batstone advised that attempts were been made to arrange a meeting between the Police & Crime Commissioner and local towns & villages to discuss the issue of rising crime levels. The Parish Council agreed to support this initiative.

The issue of the continued non-development of the Westleigh site was raised. The Clerk had written to potential developers but had not received any response.

The issue of flooding at Hine Town Land was reported; this has been referred to Dorset Council in connection with the Land at the Old Ox planning application.

Chris Whitfield of the Tennis Club raised the issue of the use of reserve funds to pay for tree work at the Recreation Ground. He explained that ring fencing of these funds should be preserved for capital works in order to secure potential match funding. The Tennis Club will consider making a contribution towards some costs if these can be ascertained. The Clerk will write to the Tennis Club with details of the quote.

**1186. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised that:

* a new farm tenancy lease at Holloway Farm is likely to granted in March 2024.
* leases have been agreed with the Bee-Keepers and the Lavender Farm
* Dorset Council is focussed on budget setting with preserving Adult Social Care and Childrens services a priority; there is likely to be an overspend of £11 million which will be funded by reserves.

**1187. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer noted that it is important that Dorset Police consider measures to reduce the use of the Trailway by those intent on committing crimes. There had been evidence of drug use found on at Stourpaine and reports of the car park being used in the middle of the night. Cllr Batstone agreed that this suggestion would be taken forward with the Police & Crime Commissioner and also with the Trailway Network Group.

It was agreed that these was a distinction to be made between anti-social behaviour and criminal activity such as thefts from gardens and these may require different solutions.

**1188. PERMISSIVE PATH**

The Clerk advised that any application to change a permissive path to a Right of Way requires evidence of past and present use to be submitted to Dorset Council’s Map Modification Team. The evidence required includes the completing a form detailing personal use of a route by at least 5 and not more than 30 people. The Chairman agreed to look at the application process and bring this to the next meeting.

**1189. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) P/FUL/2023/05579** - Land At Old Ox Inn Blandford Road Shillingstone - Erect 5 no. dwellings with associated access, landscaping and parking. It was noted that a well-attended Extraordinary Meeting had been held to consider this application and an objection had been raised. It is understood that Dorset Council have around 6 weeks to notify the outcome.

**ii) New applications**

There were no new planning applications to consider. It has been reported that a developer is interested in the White Pit site and may wish to discuss proposals with the Parish Council in advance of an application being submitted.

iii) **Asset Of Community Value update**

The question of whether to request a re-instatement of the Asset of Community Value in relation to the area designated as a ‘wildflower meadow’ under planning applicationP/FUL/2023/05579 may be considered when the outcome of the planning application is known.

**1190. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** |  **£ Total**  | **Reason** |
| 01/11/2023 | Edens Landscapes Limited |  £ 252.00  | Grass cutting-/strimming |
| 02/11/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club |  £ 416.66  | Mowing |
| 08/11/2023 | Water2business |  £ 135.55  | Allotments water  |
| 13/11/2023 | David Green |  £ 33.00  | Oct expenses |
| 15/11/2023 | Newton Forge Limited |  £ 2,295.52  | 50% deposit - War Memorial |
| 22/11/2023 | Guy Gilding |  £ 75.00  | SID rotation |
| 23/11/2023 | PCC Shillingstone |  £ 24.00  | Church Centre hire  |
| 27/11/2023 | Ian Suter |  £ 39.70  | Coronation cup expenses |
| 28/11/2023 | David Green |  £ 1,058.05 | November 2023 pay + arrears |
| 30/11/2023 | Elite Playground Insp |  £ 720.00 | Replace multi-play boards |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 42.00 were approved.

**iii) Budget 2024/2025**

The Clerk advised that it was still proposed to maintain an unchanged precept of £ 36,295 for 2024/2025, there being no reason to change the calculations first discussed at the October meeting. Provisions and contingencies made in calculating the budget reflect reasonable allowances for inflation and annual increases. The PC has a healthy level of earmarked reserves and a fair general reserve. Major expenditures for the remainder of 2023-2024 will be met from reserves. The precept will be given final approval at the January 2024 meeting

**iv) Councillor email addresses**

The Clerk advised that it is preferable for Councillors to use a bespoke email for Parish Council business. The current allocation of 10 free email accounts within the website hosting contract has been met and some Councillors still require a new email address. It was agreed that an attempt would be made to remove unnecessary email addresses to meet the quota of 10 rather than taking out a new contract at greater cost.

**1191. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

The Clerk provided a report:

1. **Tree & hedging work.**

This has been deferred until the New Year because of waterlogging at the Recreation Ground.

1. **Recreation Ground play area repairs**

The main boards on the multi-play have now been replaced. The purchase of new bushes for Augustan Avenue swings has been deferred until the New Year. A quote has been sought to repair the see-saw at Augustan Avenue.

**1192. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following items of correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 06/11/2023 | Amana Penfold, Dorset Council | RE: Flood at garage |
| 06/11/2023 | Drystan England | Wessex Internet |
| 07/11/2023 | Kristian Jenkins , Giga Clear | Shillingstone Ultra Fast Full Fibre Build  |
| 08/11/2023 | DAPTC | RE: Remembrance 2023 - Procedures |
| 17/11/2023 | Sturminster Newsletter | What's Happening in Stur |
| 25/11/2023 | Dorset CAN | Invite to 'Food Resilience in Dorset' Zoom Event |
| 03/12/2023 | Cllr Batstone  | White Pit farm buildings development |
| 03/12/2023 | Shillingstone Tennis Club | RE £250 funds use |
| 04/12/2023 | Sarah Cole, The Forum School | Assistance with 16 & 17 year olds |

The request from the Forum School to engage in suitable activities for two 16 & 17 year olds was discussed. This will referred to groups and organisations within the village who may be able to assist.

The issue of the cabling left by Wessex Internet has been referred to Cllr Batstone.

**1193. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Precept confirmation
* Permissive path consideration
* Speed survey results & next actions
* Coronation Cup – Nomination & voting procedures

**1194. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 4th January 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:20