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

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

**PRESENT:** Councillors I Suter (IS) (Chairman), L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), K Ridout (KR), Footpath Officer Graham Rains and the Clerk D Green

In addition, there were 4 members of the public present.

**1118. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs McNamara, White & Unitary Councillor Batstone.

**1119. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllrs Suter & Ridout declared interests concerning the Old Ox Community Bid committee.

**1120. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st June 2023 were approved.

**1121. NEW COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENTS**

Martin Barlow and Mark Pomeroy were Co-opted and welcomed to Shillingstone Parish Council.

The Chairman explained that Councillors are usually given portfolios of responsibility and all Councillor roles will be reviewed in due course.

**1122. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

**Speeding in the Village – the Cross and A357 near Augustan Avenue – Traffic surveys**

* Dorset Council’s Road Safety Team have proposed that Traffic survey is conducted near the garage crossing.
* Following on from the unsuccessful campaign to have a pedestrian crossing, the issue of road safety at the junction of Augustan Avenue and the A357 had been raised again. It was proposed that an additional survey is conducted at the location near Vale Cottages with a view to having another SID post installed.

The Council agreed that survey at both of these locations should be requested, with the school survey being conducted in term-time. The Chairman confirmed that the surveys are 24 hours a day for 7 days.

**War Memorial handrail**

James Cain has now been provided with material details and is completing the Listed Building consent and planning applications. It has been confirmed that a deposit will not be paid to the installer until these applications have been approved.

**Defibrillator at the School**

A new defibrillator has been installed at the School, in a like for like change, the existing machine not being viable to repair.

**Defibrillator Use training**

The local co-ordinator, John Lewis, has advised that the format of the British Heart Foundation training course has changed and is now certified online training followed by ‘hands on’ use of models. He is currently evaluating the new course format and will advise re the suitability of this in due course.

KR proposed that the PC look into general First Aid training courses which may include defib training – this was agreed.

**Pop-Up Larder**

It was proposed and agreed that the Parish Council would give its full support to the Vale Panty foodbank which serves residents not only in Sturminster Newton but also in the surrounding villages including Shillingstone. The Vale Pantry, in addition to operating as a foodbank, also organises collections of clothes and toys for distribution and has an attached CAB officer. The PC agreed to promote the Vale Panty on the PC website, via the Parish Magazine and a local Facebook notice will be created.

**Mobile App**

The PC was notified by the developer that the mobile App would be transferred to a new supplier from the end of May 2023. The App has in fact been non-functional since May and there had been no contact from the new provider. It was noted the App had not been widely downloaded and was not regularly used to contact the PC, as had been originally envisaged. It was agreed that the new PC website in in fact very mobile friendly and the money saved from terminating the contract could be put to a better use. The Parish Council agreed that the App would be discontinued and a refund of hosting fees would be requested.

**1123. PUBLIC SESSION**

A question was raised concerning the possibility of having a mirror installed opposite the Portman Hall because of the apparent danger when making a right exit from the Hall. The Clerk advised that Dorset Council in general don’t readily approve the use of mirrors and any request should be routed to the Community Highways Officer. The Portman Hall will write to the Parish Council with a request.

LG raised the issue of replacing the Shillingstone Youth Club leader. It was agreed that responsibility for finding a replacement rests with Judith Crompton who is best placed to identify a suitable candidate.

IS raised the issue of the future of the Jubilee Cup, noting that the Cup had been slightly damaged, was rather full of past winners names and would be best kept in a display cupboard at the Portman Hall where a notice of past winners could also be displayed. Richard Leadbetter suggested, given the change of monarch that a new Cup called the ‘Coronation Cup’ should be created KR suggested that an application could be made to the Coronation Fund to finance the new cup and a display case & name board. It was unanimously agreed that this was a very good idea and will be given further consideration.

A question was raised concerning the future of the Blaze site, given the submission by Thomas Faithfull Group earlier in the year when assurances were given that the site would be completed shortly. The Clerk will write to the company for an update.

A question was raised concerning the status of the ‘permissive footpath’ running alongside the Old Ox. The Footpaths Officer was not certain what the position was with this and enquiries would be made via Dorset Rangers.

**1124. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Unitary Councillor was not present and no written report had been received.

**1125. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer noted that a report had been received concerning FP12 being overgrown. This footpath is in fact part of the ‘Wessex Ridgeway’ and is in Hanford Parish, rather than Shillingstone C.P Dorset Rangers have agreed to investigate and would deal with any current issues.

**1126. ASSET of COMMUNITY VALUE BID UPDATE**

IS advised that a bid has been received and accepted for the Old Ox. The prospective buyers currently run the Shack & Marcia Farm shop & Café in Spetisbury. Completion of the purchase is anticipated to be the end of August.

The grant application by the CIC will be continued until the sale is actually completed as a safeguard measure. IS confirmed that the ACV means that there cannot be any change of use within the remaining duration of the listing which is some 4.5 years.

**1127. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**The Church –** the new vicar has taken up his post and will be working from Sunday-to Wednesday and will also be providing chaplaincy services to local schools. He will be using the Church Centre Office as a base when the Post Office is not operating. The vicarage has been re-let. Judith Blake will be taking over maintenance of the Churchyard from Judith Crompton.

All the £140k required for the urgent roof repairs has been raised but repairs cannot commence until after the bat survey report has been received. It is hope that the work could commence in September. The main roof repairs require £200k funding. Grahams Rains will be holding a fund-raising concert on 19th August at the Portman Hall (LG)

**The Portman Hall -** Events schedule include an ‘Auction of Promises’ on Saturday 16th September (to raise funds towards the cost of a replacement porch and improvements to Accessible Access) , a Newcomers Party on Saturday 30th September, and the Christmas Faye on Sunday 26th November (to raise money for local charities, probably the Vale Pantry and one other to be decided) (KR)

**Facebook –** has been very quiet (KR)

**Allotments** – in general these are being very well maintained, one plot requires attention and enquiries will be made (RH)

**Beek-keepers** – have a £200k fundraising target; ‘Bee Experience Days’ are scheduled for 9th and 23rd July and the cost is £60 for one period, £100 for two (LG)

**1128. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Applications update:**

**Ham Farm - P/FUL/2023/01744**

The PC has requested that the decision is be made by the Northern Area Planning committee rather than the case officer. The PC’s request has been acknowledged by the Planning committee Chairman and is under consideration.

**P/FUL/2022/02998- Land at Old Ox Inn Blandford Road Shillingstone**

The Planning Inspectorate decision is expected by 13th July 2023.

**P/FUL/2022/05813- St Patrick’s Industrial Estate Station Road Shillingstone**

An amended application has been received re the car parking area. This effective narrows the access road between the bund and the industrial units. It was pointed out that the narrowness of the road may mean that a fire engine could not gain access to the Units. It was unanimously agreed that the car park serves no beneficial purpose and the Parish Council maintained its **OBJECTION** to the application.

**New Applications to consider:**

**P/HOU/2023/03528 - Windover The Cross Shillingstone DT11 0SP**

*Erect Single Storey Front Extension with Internal Alterations, Erect Garden Shed incorporating a Bin and Log Store within the Front Garden*

It was agreed that the extension and log/bin store and car parking area would have no discernable impact on neighbouring properties and the Parish Council agreed to **SUPPORT** the application

**1129. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 01/06/2023 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Grass cutting |
| 02/06/2023 | David Green | £ 90.10 | Expenses |
| 02/06/2023 | Rachel McNamara | £ 25.00 | Best Bunting prize |
| 02/06/2023 | J P Consultants | £ 100.00 | Internal audit fee |
| 02/06/2023 | Ian Suter | £ 9.00 | Spare key for PH board |
| 02/06/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 12/06/2023 | Guy Gilding | £ 75.00 | SID rotation |
| 16/06/2023 | Safelincs Limited | £ 935.99 | New defib - School |
| 27/06/2023 | Seal Calibration Ltd | £ 41.94 | Defib testing |
| 28/06/2023 | David Green | £ 693.38 | June 2023 pay |

**iv) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 42.00

**1130. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

The Clerk provided a report:

* **Wessex Internet** – the cable is now routed into the Pavilion; some electrical work is required for mains power and a shelf will be needed. There will be a one-off connection fee to pay & a monthly charge but there is no ‘go live’ date yet.
* **Cleaning** – this has become unreliable. New cleaners have expressed an interest in taking on the task. It was agreed that they would be hired on a self-employed basis on a 3-month trial basis?
* **Hand Driers in the Pod** – it is suggested that consideration be given to fitting hand driers in the Pod to reduce paper towel use.
* **Pod & Pavilion Boilers –** have been serviced.
* **Weed control** - play area surface treatment at the Recreation Ground has been completed.

**1131. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 02/05/2023 | Martin Barlow | Re Councillor vacancy |
| 03/05/2023 | Mark Pomeroy | Re Councillor vacancy |
| 03/05/2023 | Sherry Jespersen | Re Ham Farm referral to the Planning committee |
| 05/06/2023 | Climate & Ecological support meeting | Notes from May C&EE Support Group |
| 14/06/2023 | DAPTC | FW: TOWN & PARISH COUNCILS & D-DAY 80 - 6TH JUNE 2024 |
| 14/06/2023 | Dorset CAN | Onshore Wind Turbines in Dorset Zoom Event - 7:30pm Wed 21st June |
| 15/06/2023 | Dorset Lavender Farm Project | Open Day 25th June - do join us! |
| 19/06/2023 | Dorset CAN | Onshore Wind Turbines & Wind |
| 20/06/2023 | Dorset Council - Animal Welfare Dog Control | Dorset Council consultation on a Dog related Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) |
| 22/06/2023 | DAPTC | DAPTC Advice Note - Practical guidance to help deal with an unauthorised encampment. |
| 26/06/2023 | Dorset CAN | Invite to DCANs Food Resilience in Dorset Zoom Event |
| 26/06/2023 | Judith Compton | Go Ape - We did it!! |
| 28/06/2023 | Gavin Collins | North Dorset Railway - Summer Newsletter |
| 03/07/2023 | John Lewis | Defib Training - new system |

LG agreed to produce the next article for the Parish Council magazine.

**1132. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

Quorum to revert to 4 Councillors

Coronation Cup

**1133. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 7th September 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:35.