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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 1st JUNE 2023 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (Chairman), I Suter (IS) L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), K Ridout (KR), R White (RW), Unitary Councilor P Batstone (PB) and the Clerk D Green

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

**1104. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**1105. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr McNamara declared an interest in relation to planning item re Ham Farm.

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

**1106. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th May 2023 were approved.

**1107. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

**War Memorial handrail**

The order has been placed with Newton Forge. James Cain, the architect, is in the process of completing a Listed Building consent/planning application.

**Traffic survey at the Cross**

This has been referred to Dorset Council for advice They have proposed that an online meeting should be held to discuss the situation further. It should be noted though that, if agreed to, the Parish Council would not have any control over when a Traffic survey is conducted.

**Pop-Up Larder**

KR advised that the next step is to make a local Facebook request to establish if there is anyone prepared to volunteer as local project ‘champions’; a discussion also needs to be held with the Church Centre as this would appear to be the most suitable venue. It was noted that Child Okeford may also be considered the organisers are only looking for one location in the local area. If there is sufficient interest KR will meet the organisers to discuss the initiative further.

**Speed Indicator Device vandalism**

Dorset Council have advised that the solar cable had been cut whilst the SID was on site at White Pit and has been subsequently repaired. There have, apparently, been a spate of similar incidents in Dorset.

**Defibrillator Training**

Dr Geoff Sparrow provided an overview of defibrillator and CPR training at the Annual Parish Meeting. Whilst defibrillator training is very useful, it is CPR training that is most essential. John Lewis is prepared to run training events but numbers need to be ascertained. KR will make a Facebook announcement and a notice will be placed in the Parish Magazine.

**1108. PUBLIC SESSION**

A question was asked concerning hedge cutting near the Old Post Office. The hedge is apparently very overgrown and has been reported to Dorset Council but no action has been taken. The Chairman advised that it should be re-reported and if there is no action will be referred to the Community Highways Officer for investigation.

**1109. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

A written report had been received and circulated.

PB drew attention to several items:

* Round 4 of the Housing Support Fund will open on 6th June. This is offering household support in the form of supermarket vouchers and is usually quickly taken up. Applications can be made online via this link:

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/household-support-fund>

* Round 5 of the Community Grant scheme has opened and may grant up to £ 5,000 towards projects that bring communities together, in the arts, museums, heritage, physical activity, sport, or play. Grants are focused on towards marginalised and hard to reach communities.
* Dorset Council is continually looking for Foster Carers.
* A campaign has been launched to dissuade the sale of disposable barbeques.
* Car Parking machines have been upgraded with better Wi-fi and do still take cash.

PB had been up at 4:30 am to hear the Dawn Chorus at Bere Marsh Farm!

**1110. FOOTPATHS**

The Footpaths Officer was not present.

An issue was reported a damaged step on the footpath near the Green bridge. This will be reported to the Rangers.

**1111. ASSET of COMMUNITY VALUE BID UPDATE**

IS confirmed that a grant application had been made in April and the community group is hoping for a decision in June.

Members of the committee had held a promotional event at the Three Okeford’s Fair which had generated some interest

**1112. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Village Archives -**LG thought it very important that Village archives were assembled in one place for archiving and possible display in the Church or elsewhere

IS confirmed that the formation of a Historical Society for the village is well underway and has already gathered together some material.

**The Church –** the new vicar, Andrew Gubbins, will take up his post from July 2023. There will be a licensing event at 7. Pm. In the Church on 29th June which will be attended by around 120 people to be followed by a wine event at the Church Centre. Andrew’s wife is the current vicar in Sturminster Newton where they will continue to live. The rectory will be relet by the diocese.

Working days will be Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday and possibly either Friday or Saturday. An element of the post will be chaplaincy work in the local primary and secondary schools.

**The Portman Hall –** There is an update in the latest edition of the Parish Magazine. Work on the roof will be shortly completed and the porch will be replaced by something more suitable

**Facebook -** There have been continuing reports of vandalism and a log has been kept by KR which will be forwarded to the Police.

**Allotments** – in general these are being very well maintained

**PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**Applications update:**

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

The applicant attended the meeting and explained that the Dorset Council case officer was unhappy with the two-storey nature of the proposed design and the red brick appearance.

The applicant explained that the two-storey design was similar to a new dwelling that had been agreed at Eastbrook Farm in 2016 and the red brick appearance was also consistent with other examples of local design such as at Gains Cross. Furthermore, it would be more expensive to construct the dwelling as a single storey or 1.5 storey which would have a larger footprint; the applicants are farmers not developers and the current design is both practical and affordable.

The applicant requested PC support for the decision to be made by the Northern Area Planning committee rather than the case officer. The PC agreed to unanimously support this request.

**New Applications to consider:**

**P/HOU/2023/02708 -7 Spencer Gardens Shillingstone DT11 0TL**

*Erect single Storey Extension*

There were no objections to this application

**P/FUL/2023/01623 Downside Lanchards Lane Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0TF**

*Erect dwelling with garage & workshop*

It was agreed that this was a proposal for a very large dwelling on rural road junction outside conservation area and was contrary to the principles outlined in the Shillingstone Neighbourhood Plan in terms of potential impact on rural roads. It was agreed that the proposal as it stands could have an adverse impact on the character of this part of the village, and that it could set a precedent for other developments along Lanchards Lane. The Council unanimously agreed to **OBJECT t**o this application

**P/HOU/2023/02981 -Lime Kiln House Lanchards Lane Shillingstone Dorset**

*Retain shed and aviary – RETROSPECTIVE Application*

**P/HOU/2023/02982- Lime Kiln House Lanchards Lane Shillingstone Dorset**

*Retain summerhouse - RETROSPECTIVE Application*

It was noted that these were retrospective applications for several outbuildings including a summerhouse and that it was of concern that these applications were not made before these structures were installed. It was agreed that the Council could neither support or object to these applications and would return suitable comments

**Pre-application information received – North Dorset Railway – Riverside Car park**

The Parish Council had no adverse comments in relation to the plans as outlined, noting that access to the car park would be controlled with a lockable gate. The only possible issue may be congestion along Haywards Lane with events exiting Bere Marsh Farm, though it was thought that this would only be a remote possibility.

**1113. FINANCES**

1. **Approval of the Annual Return, Governance statement & Accounting Statements**

There were approved and signed by the Chairman.

1. **External Auditors BDO LLP**

The Parish Council confirmed that there is no conflict of interest with external auditors BDO LLP

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 02/05/2023 | Eden’s Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Grass cutting – AA, Church, Rec Car Park |
| 02/05/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing - Rec |
| 04/05/2023 | Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd | £ 600.00 | Old Ox - Appeal submission |
| 09/05/2023 | David Green | £ 40.49 | Expenses April 2023 |
| 09/05/2023 | Ian Suter | £ 240.00 | Old Ox - Plunkett Foundation |
| 09/05/2023 | Tim West | £ 50.00 | Install Office 2019 |
| 10/05/2023 | PCC Shillingstone | £ 500.00 | Parish Magazine grant |
| 10/05/2023 | PCC Shillingstone | £ 250.00 | Churchyard grant |
| 10/05/2023 | PCC Shillingstone | £ 250.00 | Shillingstone Youth Club grant |
| 16/05/2023 | Dorset Council | £ 467.37 | Bins contract - Rec, AA, Holloway |
| 22/05/2023 | J P Consultants | £ 78.00 | Old Ox CIC expenses |
| 22/05/2023 | Rialtas Business Systems Ltd | £ 30.00 | Reinstall Alpha on laptop |
| 26/05/2023 | CRT | £ 25.00 | Elaine Spencer White expenses |
| 26/05/2023 | SSE | £ 328.39 | Pavilion electricity |
| 30/05/2023 | David Green | £ 693.38 | May 2023 pay |

**iv) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 90.10

R McNamara – Best bunting prize £ 25.00

**1114. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

Wessex Internet have installed a cable to the corner of the Pavilion and further consideration will be given to making a wi-fi connection.

There were no other issues raised.

**1115. CORRESPONDENCE**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 12/05/2023 | Climate & Ecological Mtg | Notes from April C&EE Support meeting |
| 17/05/2023 | Dorset Council Road Safety | SID vandalism |
| 23/05/2023 | Jane Whitehouse -Sharpe | RE: Pop up larder information and contact |
| 23/05/2023 | Sturminster Town Council | Whats Happening in Stur - Town Newsletter June/July |
| 25/05/2023 | Neil Davies | Climbing Frame |
| 27/05/2023 | Kevin Bland | North Dorset Rly Proposed Car Park. |

Comments relating to the safety of the multi-play tower at the Recreation Ground had been referred to the play area inspector/repairer. He has advised that the tower meets all safety criteria and no action was deemed to be necessary.

**1116. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

The Chairman introduced three new potential Councillors. The Clerk requested that the personal information questionnaires he has sent be completed and returned. These will be circulated to the Parish Council which will consider these applications at the next meeting in July.

**1117. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 6th July 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 19:55.