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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 2nd MARCH 2023 AT THE CHURCH CENTRE SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT:** Councillors: R McNamara (Chairman) (RM), I Suter (Vice-Chairman) (IS), L Gasson (LG), R Harwood (RH), K Ridout (KR) Footpaths Officer G Rains (GR), Unitary Councillor P Batstone (PB) and the Clerk D Green. In addition, there were 11 members of the public present.

**1044. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr White.

**1045. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllrs Suter & Ridout re Asset of Community Value update.

**1046. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd February 2023 were approved.

**1047. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided these updates:

**War Memorial steps**

Jo Kempster has produced a drawing for a scheme to install handrails and for a wider scheme for the renovation of the memorial front.

It was agreed that before these are taken any further the Parish Council would like to see costings for the schemes. The Clerk will endeavour to obtain suitable quotes.

**Pavilion Electricity**

SSE had now confirmed that the Parish Council is under contract until January 2024. The PC has been overcharged for its supply for several months and a credit of some £ 900 has been confirmed. It was clear that the smart meter had not been linked to the account.

**1048. PUBLIC SESSION**

LG noted the concerns of residents near the Shillingstone industrial estate that the developer had informed residents that a fence was to be installed running along the bund. The Clerk confirmed that a Tree Preservation Order was in place for the western end of the bund but not the southern eastern side. He had written on the Tree Officer to request a site meeting but had not received a response.

There was some concern expressed regarding digging work at the bottom of Church Field but it was thought that this related to Wessex Water investigation work.

An incident of fly tipping in Brodham Way near Ham Farm had been re-reported, This appeared to involve the dumping of cooking oil containers. It was noted that this was in a location not easily seen and which had been commonly used for the disposal of waste. The Clerk had escalated this with Dorset Waste Partnership but had not received any response. GR suggested that dummy CCTV could be used to dissuade this behaviour. PB agreed to investigate this further.

**1049. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

The Unitary Councillor noted:

* Dorset Council had agreed to contribute £ 2.5 million to the Hardship Fund for families.
* Holloway Farm – there is still no lease in place. LG noted that the Lavender Farm will be unable to operate beyond 6th March without a lease during to insurance problems. PB will take this up with the new County Land Agent.

**1050. FOOTPATH OFFICERS REPORT**

The Footpath Officer reported that the poor condition of the steps near the Quarry steps has been discussed with Dorset Rangers although there is no indication that any work has taken place; it is apparently on their work list.

**1051. THE OLD OX – ASSET OF COMMUNITY BID UPDATE**

IS reported that there that there had been a meeting between the community group and the agent as a consequence of which a bid had been made, which was subsequently rejected. A revised bid has now been made but a response to this had not been received. A member of the community group noted that any bid has to reflect the value of the business as a going concern, as well as the condition of the property and any remedial work that may need to be carried out to ensure that the business would be viable in the long term.

IS recommended that Parish Council formally asks Dorset Council to withdraw the moratorium in relation to the ACV and this was unanimously agreed.

The Community Fund for funding projects re-opened on 15th February and will be open for a period of two months. An application will be made for the maximum funding, which is £ 250k, and which would have to be match funded.

A Freedom of Information Request had been received for sight of the survey and valuation request in respect of the Old Ox; this has been refused on the basis that the Parish Council did not hold this information, which would have, in any event, been exempt from disclosure under commercial confidentiality rules under the FOIA Act s43.

**1052. ROADS PROGRESS REPORT**

The Chairman reviewed and explained the time line of progress made by the PC during the last 2 years concerning various road related issues:

* **Traffic Survey**– this was undertaken in June 2021 and indicated that many villagers do not feel safe, especially when crossing the road due to speed of traffic. There was strong supported for these measures:
  1. Village Gates
  2. Request for crossing by school
  3. Speed surveys

The survey showed general concerns regarding crossing the road in several locations, notably near the School, Cookswell, The Cross, at the Portman Hall and the Knapps and also general support for a 20-mph limit.

It has been advised though that short stretches of a 20 mph limit will not be permitted; it is the understanding of the PC that the A357 through Shillingstone would not meet Dorset Councils criteria for a 20-mph limit and speed cameras have been refused. Confirmation of this situation will be requested from Dorset Council.

* **Initiatives implemented:**

1. Speed Indicator Device – which operates in 3 locations in the village
2. Speed surveys conducted:
   1. Little Lane to Co-op – October 2020. The PC has been advised that 30mph extension to the area near Little Lane will be referred for public consultation.
   2. Knapps Hill and White Pitt Lane surveys - August 2021. No further action will be taken
   3. Shillingstone Lane – extension of 30mph - December 2021. No evaluation or action to date.
3. Speedwatch introduced Autumn 2022
4. 30 mph signs refreshed 2021
5. Village Gates erected December 2021

* **Pedestrian Crossing near the school**

The official traffic survey conducted in September 2021 showed that the location near Augustan Avenue did not meet the ADPV2 matrix score for the installation of a crossing, the result being a score of 0.17 with Dorset Council’s minimum required for any initiatives being 0.4.

Other measures such as possibly a lollipop person may be considered as alternative measures though the school will need to take these up with Dorset Highways.

New signage has been installed at the junction with the Augustan Avenue.

* **Other roads related issues:**

1. Verges – maintenance of these is now with Dorset Rangers under Dorset Highway funding
2. Daffodils – have been planted in 7 locations throughout the village
3. Road Sweeping – is the responsibility of Dorset Council
4. Augustan Avenue and Church Road Parking – police consulted who had advised that they will make spot checks
5. Gunn Lane – additional white lining has been requested
6. A grit bin for the White Pit end of the village is under evaluation
7. Portman Hall drainage – extensive jetting of this location for a distance of 80 metres has been ordered

**1053. SPEEDWATCH UPDATE**

Veronica Jenkins provided a report:

* There has been no Speedwatch Team check since December 2022 under police advice.
* A recent police mobile camera van exercise caught 21 speeders in an 80-minute period and a concern was raised regarding the number of speeding tractors
* There has been a recent accident at Cookswell involving two residents cars being written off and several near misses. The Clerk advised that ‘near misses’ can be reported.
* There is an ongoing Issue of HGV’s parking outside the Co-op and across the entrance to the Station turning.

**1054. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**The Church –** new vicar still not appointed (LG)

**1055. ANNUAL PARISH MEETING PROPOSALS**

The Chairman confirmed that the Portman Hall has been booked for 25th May.

There were various suggestions for topics including village history including Royal links and possible designs for the War Memorial. RM & KR will consider possibilities and provide an update.

**1056. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS – USE OF THE PORTMAN HALL**

The Chairman noted that charges for using the Church Centre had increased and it would now be slightly less expensive to use the Portman Hall for meetings.

It was resolved to use the Portman Hall for future meeting beginning in May 2023.

**1057. CORONATION PLANS UPDATE**

LG will be holding a coronation lunch event in the field on Sunday 7th May. This will be free to all though charges will be made for food provided. There will be an alcohol licence, children’s games and music. GL requested a contribution to insurance costs for the event (£142). This was unanimously agreed by the PC.

**1058. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) Applications update**

There were no decisions to report in relation to either the Land at the Old Ox or the Shillingstone Industrial Estate Car Parking applications.

**ii) New applications** – none

**1059. FINANCES:**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 02/02/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 06/02/2023 | David Green | £ 147.64 | Jan 2023 expenses |
| 06/02/2023 | The App Office (Kwiktrade Ltd) | £ 420.00 | App Hosting |
| 14/02/2023 | Guy Gilding | £ 75.00 | SID rotation |
| 14/02/2023 | J P Consultants | £ 1,020.00 | Reimburse Old Ox valuation |
| 14/02/2023 | The Portman Hall | £ 36.00 | Hall hire 4/5 & 25/5 |
| 17/02/2023 | Elite Playground Inspections | £ 150.00 | Repairs |
| 20/02/2023 | SSE | £ 73.60 | Pavilion electricity |
| 24/02/2023 | Jo Kempster | £ 350.00 | Handrail drawings |
| 28/02/2023 | David Green | £ 696. 78 | February 2023 pay |

**ii) New payments approval –** Clerk’s expenses of £ 52.49 were **APPROVED.**

**1060 PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK:**

**The Chairman confirmed:**

* **Mowing/trimming contract** – the new contractor will tidy up the footpath to Honeysuckle Gardens in early March and will commence mowing at Augustan Avenue in April 2023. SNTC will complete a final cut at Augustan Avenue and refund of £ 1290 work paid for but not carried out has been received.
* **Cleaning at the Pavilion** - has resumed now it is in use again.
* **Replacement of missing fixings to play equipment at the Recreation Ground** - has been completed.
* **Damage to Pavilion support pillar** – some concrete has broken away from one of the roof pillar fixings and a repair has been discussed.
* **Defibrillator at the school** – new battery has been ordered but will not arrive until late March.

**1061. CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Clerk confirmed that the following correspondence had been circulated:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **SUBJECT** |
| 03/02/2023 | Climate & Ecological support | C&EE Support Group notes from January |
| 07/02/2023 | DAPTC | Kingston Maurward 9 March 2023 |
| 13/02/2023 | DAPTC | NPPF Consultation - NALC's Draft Response Lines |
| 20/02/2023 | Dorset Climate Action network | Community Solar Energy Event - 7pm 28th Feb |
| 20/02/2023 | Jo Kempster | War Memorial - Handrail design |
| 20/02/2023 | James Cain | Comment re design |
| 21/02/2023 | DAPTC | 9 March 2023 Councillor Networking Event |
| 21/02/2023 | James Cain | War Memorial - Handrail |
| 23/02/2023 | Garry Pickering | FOI request – information re the Old Ox |

**1062. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

1. Old Ox ACV – Community Bid progress update
2. Annual Parish Meeting arrangements

**1063. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 6th April 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Church Centre. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:50