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

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

**PRESENT:** Councillors R McNamara (RM) (Chairman) I Suter (IS) (Vice-Chairman), R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL), M Pomeroy (MP) K Ridout (KR), R White (RW) Footpath Officer Graham Rains and the Clerk D Green

In addition, there were 5 members of the public present.

**1134. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs Barlow, Gasson, Unitary Councillor Batstone.

**1135. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

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

**1136. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2023 were approved.

**1137. NEW COUNCILLOR APPOINTMENT**

Richard Leadbeater was co-opted and welcomed as a member of Shillingstone Parish Council and duly signed the Acceptance of Office.

The Chairman proposed that the quorum now revert back to four Parish Councillors, this being unanimously **APPROVED.**

**1138. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

* **Road Safety – Speed Survey**

A meeting is due to be held with the Road Safety Team to discuss the location of the planned survey near the garage. The line of sight of the original proposed location for the survey does not appear to fully address the issue of vehicles speeding from the Knapps towards the top of the hill from the Church Centre and this needs to be discussed with the Road Safety Team.

* **Traffic Regulation Order - Little Lane**

The Parish Council has been advised that a scheme for 30 mph signage is now being drawn up and further information will be provided in due course.

* **Repairs to pavement outside Garage/Petrol station**

Dorset Council have completed a pavement repair outside the garage following a complaint concerning a raised kerb issue. It does not seem that this patching repair has completely addressed the issue of the uneven surface and this may be raised with the Council.

* **Vandalism increase**

There have been a number of incidents of vandalism recently reported. These include the destruction of the bird hide on the Trailway, anti-social ‘door knocking’/door kicking incidents and damage to church property (lights in the Lytchgate). The Clerk reported an incident of shredded polystyrene foam throughout Augustan Avenue and the Play Park.

The Chairman has asked the North Dorset Rural Neighbourhood Policing Team to assist with dealing with this. The response received indicated that they did not know if crime reports had been made or not. The Chairman proposed that the local log of incidents is compared to Dorset Police’s record if this can be provided. A meeting with Dorset Police has been requested.

KR noted that tackling these issues through ‘name & shame’ via social media is not advised, may not be legal under GDPR and other rules and it can cause further problems, including threatening behaviour. KR noted that the prevailing view is that the Police will only take action of culprits are ‘caught in the act’, although there is video footage of same incidents which may be helpful.

Graham Rains reported that there had also been damage to safety fencing near Shillingstone Station though this has now been repaired. Dorset Council will reinstate the bird hide using the existing panels, which are still good, although the structure will probably need metposts and concreting. The bird hide had been in place for over 20 years, without previous incident, having been originally donated by the Shillingstone Tea Room. It was suggested that wildlife cameras could possibly be used to gather evidence of damage in the future.

* **Defibrillator Training**

KR has established the cost of courses and those offered by Whitehorse Leadership appeared to offer the best value and be most suitable being held in the Portman Hall. KR has a list of willing participants all of whom will self-fund the course, which will be around £45 each. It was **AGREED** that the Parish Council will require a £20 deposit from those wishing to undertake the training. The course will include: 2 hours of hands-on defibrillator training, Basic First Aid, CPR and a Certificate will be issued. KR will liaise with the course providers.

* **Daffodil bulbs**

RM made a request to be made for an additional 300 bulbs to fill in the gaps around the current planting sites, this was unanimously **AGREED**. RH will obtain a different variety.

* **War Memorial Steps**

The PC is waiting for a planning application update from the architect. The Clerk advised that it did not seem very likely that the project would go ahead before this year’s Remembrance Sunday event.

**1139. PUBLIC SESSION**

Cllr Carole Jones of Sturminster Newton Town Council, provided an overview of the activities of the Vale Pantry. The Pantry has grown, since its inception in November 2020, into a huge enterprise with 60 volunteers which assists around 1000 people a year, including around 400 children, providing food on a weekly or fortnightly basis; around 1/3 of those assisted are one-parent families, and there are many households with disabled persons over 65 being helped. The contribution of recipients is limited to £7 per week and in return for this they receive around £40 worth of fresh food, some 8000 ‘shops’ take place every year.

Its ethos is centered around providing fresh, unprocessed food and providing cookery lessons & recipes. The focus is on self-help and around 130 families have been helped into independence in the last year.

The Pantry now also runs a support group assisting autistic children, provides budget coaching, and Citizens Advice Bureau assistance. The Pantry was gifted a van this year and now distributes donated furniture, appliances, clothing and toys.

The Pantry needs around £20k per month for food supplies and electricity bills. They are looking to move to new more suitable premises, which will enable expanded cookery lessons to be provided and a café/meeting place.

Eleven families from Shillingstone are currently have been assisted by the Pantry, 23 in total in the last two years.

Carole Jones appealed for any assistance that could be offered – be this grant funding, fund raising events, Harvest festival donations and or excess produce from allotments.

The Chairman thanked Carole for her contribution, noting that Shillingstone Parish Council is committed to supporting the Pantry and will promote/assist in the work of the Pantry wherever possible.

A resident raised the issue of blocked drains in Hine Town Lane. It was noted that these should be reported directly to Dorset Council.

**1140. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

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

**1141. FOOTPATHS**

Issues reported as above.

**1142. ASSET of COMMUNITY VALUE BID UPDATE**

KR reported that there were outstanding contractual issues to be resolved before the sale to new owners could be completed, delays being due in part to the legal process being slow because of the holiday period.

The CIC is continuing its grant application as a safeguard measure and has passed the first selection ‘sift’, it is waiting to hear further regarding the progress of the application.

**1143. COUNCILOR REPORTS**

**Coronation Cup –** the Portman Hall had agreed to the installation of an honors board of past winners, readymade versions are rather expensive - between £800-900 and a local carpenter may be better value. The ‘Coronation Fund’ will finance the cost of the new board – (IS & KR)

**Portman Hall –** The Newcomers Party is scheduled for 30th September. The Parish Council will be represented at this event (KR)

**The School –** The School have advised that the governance structure has changed; a new Community Governor has been appointed and the school has requested that all updates be directed through the new Governor. The Council agreed to request contact details for the new Governor who would be invited to a PC meeting or a meeting with the Chairman.

**1144. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Applications update:

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

The **REFUSAL** of the application by the Planning Inspectorate was noted.

The Council will seek clarification as to whether the footpath between Hine Town Lane and the A357 this should now be designated as a Right of Way or retained status as a ‘permissive path’.

**P/FUL/2022/05813 – Shillingstone Industrial Estate**

The **REFUSAL** of this application was noted, with potential erosion of the bund, and the loss of trees given as primary reasons for refusal.

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

It was noted that this application had been granted.

**P/FUL/2023/01623 - Downside Lanchards Lane**

 It was noted that there was no decision but a Tree Preservation Order had been issued by Dorset Council and there were also Highway Authority concerns regarding the proposal.

**New applications to consider:**

There were no new applications to consider.

**1145. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Reference** |  **£**  | **Reason** |
| 03/07/2023 | Wessex Gnd Services Limited | BACS |  £ 109.20  | Weed control Rec |
| 03/07/2023 | Public Works Loan Board | DD |  £ 1,359.72  | Loan repayment |
| 03/07/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | STD ORD |  £ 416.66  | Mowing |
| 03/07/2023 | Edens Landscapes Limited | STD ORD |  £ 252.00  | Mowing/strimming |
| 19/07/2023 | HM Revenue & Customs | BACS |  £ 195.00  | PAYE Q1 2023-2024 |
| 19/07/2023 | The Portman Hall | BACS |  £ 36.00  | Hall Hire June/July  |
| 19/07/2023 | Rob Harwood | BACS |  £ 17.07  | Tree ties |
| 19/07/2023 | Elite Playground Inspections | BACS |  £ 63.00  | Qtly Inspections |
| 26/07/2023 | David Green | BACS |  £ 42.00  | June 2023 expenses |
| 27/07/2023 | Mary Crabb | BACS |  £ 20.95  | Pavilion sundries |
| 28/07/2023 | David Green | STD ORD |  £ 693.38  | July 2023 pay |
| 01/08/2023 | David Green | BACS |  £ 50.57  | July 2023 expenses |
| 01/08/2023 | Mrs Jill Sullivan | BACS |  £ 53.62  | Pavilion cleaning  |
| 01/08/2023 | Mr Kevin Sullivan | BACS |  £ 45.00  | Pavilion cleaning |
| 01/08/2023 | Edens Landscapes Limited | STD ORD |  £ 252.00  | Mowing/strimming |
| 02/08/2023 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | STD ORD |  £ 416.66  | Mowing |
| 09/08/2023 | The Information Commissioner | DD |  £ 35.00  | ICO renewal |
| 14/08/2023 | David Green | BACS |  £ 223.55  | 47 kg propane gas Rec  |
| 14/08/2023 | Guy Gilding | BACS |  £ 75.00  | SID rotation |
| 21/08/2023 | SSE | DEBIT |  £ 189.17 | Pavilion electricity |
| 29/08/2023 | David Green | SO |  £ 693.38 | August 2023 pay |
| 31/08/2023 | TES | BACS |  £ 96.00 | Boiler call out |

**iv) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 42.00 were approved.

**1146. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

The Clerk provided a report:

* **Trailway Gate behind Tennis Court –** the gate and a section of fencing had been destroyed – suspected vandalism. Quotes for this work are under review.
* **Hedging in the corner of the Rec** – there has been a complaint and a request for compensation from a resident in Spencer Gardens. The Chairman and Clerk have inspected the fencing from the Recreation Ground side and cannot see what the issue is. A visit has been arranged to inspect the fence from the resident’s side.
* **Tennis Courts –** there has been a complaint concerning the hedge next to the Court and trees around the perimeter. A meeting has been arranged to discuss these issues.
* **Play Equipment: Multiplay -** two boards on the multi-play require urgent replacement and panels have been ordered. The PC’s contractor has advised that all the major platform boards require replacement at some stage in the next 12 month - the cost of 6 panels being approximately £1,600 plus VAT. The PC unanimously **AGREED** that this expense should be met in order to extend the life of the asset which is otherwise in general good condition.
* **New Cleaning arrangements –** these have worked well to date during the trial period however the cleaners are finding the task time consuming and barely cost effective. The Council **AGREED** to increase the weekly cleaning fee £ 40 and review arrangements at the beginning of 2024.

**1147. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 03/07/2023 | John Lewis | Defib Training - new system |
| 18/07/2023 | Dorset Highways | Proposed Temporary Closure Shillingstone Lane, Okeford Fitzpaine |
| 19/07/2023 | Dorset CAN  | Dorset COP Event 9th September 2023 - Dorchester Corn Exchange |
| 20/07/2023 | Sturminster Newsletter | What's Happening in Stur (Town Newsletter) |
| 25/07/2023 | Dorset Council – Map Team | Dorset Council (Part of Footpath 29, Shillingstone at Ham Farm) Public Path Diversion Order 2023 |
| 25/07/2023 | Dorset Highways | Proposed Temporary Closure Shillingstone Lane, Okeford Fitzpaine |
| 26/07/2023 | DAPTC | Dorset Council Housing Strategy Consultation is open |
| 30/07/2023 | Dorset COP | Dorset COP - 9th Sept 2023 |
| 02/08/2023 | DAPTC  | RE: Dorset Council Housing Strategy Consultation - additional information |
| 03/08/2023 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE July / August 2023 Newsletter |
| 07/08/2023 | Jo O'Connell | Dorset Eco-Friendly Flower Festival - Sunday August 20th. |
| 09/08/2023 | Dorset Council - Tree Team West | Application TPO/2023/0052 |
| 15/08/2023 | Pauline Batstone - Nordcat | Invitation to the NordCat AGM Tuesday 22nd August, 4.30 p.m. |
| 21/08/2023 | Mr & Mrs Scowcroft | Complaint  |
| 23/08/2023 | Graham Stanley to PB | Closure Bridleway Bridge over River Stour, Shillingstone to Hanford |
| 29/08/2023 | Jo O'Connell | Harvest Open Day - Sunday 3rd September |
| 29/08/2023 | Jo Witherden  | RE: Old Ox Inn appeal |
| 29/08/2023 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SHILLINGSTONE LANE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE |
| 29/08/2023 | Dorset CAN | Sustainable Food Places - Should Dorset become a member? |
| 30/08/2023 | Graham Stanley  | Re: Vandalism on the Trailway |
| 01/09/2023 | Jane Whitehouse- Sharpe | Reply to minutes email.  |
| 05/09/2023 | Dorset Council  | RAAC update |
| 05/09/2023 | Charlie Regnart | Bingo in Aid of Blandford Foodbank |

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

**Specific items action:**

* **Bingo Aid to Blandford Foodbank –** originator to be ask to explain what assistance is being provided to Shillingstone residents.
* **Dorset Council Housing Strategy consultation** – the Clerk advised that this is best completed on an individual or Parish Councillor basis

**1148. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Retirement of Cllr Lesley Gasson
* Budget proposal
* Coronation Cup progress
* New Councillor appointment

**1149. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 5th October 2023 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:41.