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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 1st FEBRUARY 2024 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

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

**1210. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Sweeney.

**1211. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

Cllr McNamara re Ham Farm planning application.

**1212. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th January 2024 were approved.

**1213. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman provided an update in relation to several matters:

**Police & Crime Commissioner Meeting - 16th January 2024**

David Sidwick, PCC, announced that the numbers in the North Dorset Rural Policing Team would be expanded from 3 to 18 (following a reduction to 3 some time ago); this will not be immediate as recruits are being trained. The Inspector contact in North Dorset is Jo Turner. The ‘Operation Relentless Community Fund’ was mentioned as being of potential interest in taking measures to reduce ‘Anti-Social Behaviour’ which is now being made a policing priority.

Graham Rains has been in discussion with the Clerks for Spetisbury, Charlton Marshall and Stourpaine with a view to co-ordinating pressure for a Police presence on the Trailway in an attempt to reduce the potential for this to be used as a ‘highway for crime’. One key point arising from the meeting was that all incidents, whether deemed important or not, should be reported online; this enables trends to be identified.

Cllr Batstone is pressing for a community meeting with the Chief Inspector during which practical policing issues can be raised concerning the local area.

**Permissive Path**

Several questionnaires have now been received and will be submitted to Dorset Council.

**First Aid Course – 9th March at the Portman Hall**

This has been publicised via the Parish Magazine and Facebook. Expressions of interest should be sent to Cllr Ridout.

**Speed Indicator Device (SID) /Roads**

A new SID device has been ordered and the PC is awaiting the installation of a post. The Parish Council has escalated the lack of communication from Dorset Council via appropriate channels.

**1214. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING POINTS**

A member of Dorset Councils Electric Vehicle Charging Team attended the meeting and answered Councillors questions concerning the scheme insofar as it relates to Shillingstone.

The scheme was now different from that outlined to the PC three years ago and has extra funding and will now include spaces on private land.

The Chairman noted that 20% of households in Shillingstone have no access to off street parking and that any scheme should give priority to these residents, with particular consideration being given to on street facilities including the use of laybys. It was explained that on street points would normally involve a larger than normal space and a ‘build out’. The Parish Council confirmed that neither the Church Centre or the Portman Hall would accept an EV charging facility. Dorset Council had ruled out the Trailway carpark as suitable on cost grounds. An explanation of the criteria by which Shillingstone was allocated only one EV charging point was requested; the question as to how the use of a single charging point could be practically managed was also raised. It was confirmed that the rules require that any points should be ‘accessible to all’ and cannot be restricted to one section of the community or installed in locked private car parks.

The Chairman noted that Shillingstone actually requires chargers in multiple locations throughout the 1.5 miles of the village. Dorset Council will be assessing locations, including Schellin Way, in relation to the proximity of power lines and report back when this work has been completed.

The Chairman thanked the Dorset Council representative for attending the meeting and for answering questions.

**1215. PUBLIC SESSION**

Lesley Gasson raised three matters:

* Churchyard lychgate. The is substantively rotten and requires renovation. A quote for £4,600 had been received. The PCC is requesting funding assistance. The Parish Council **AGREED** in principle to make a grant but requested to see alternative quotes before providing any funding. It was noted that this work would not commence until the summer and that there is time to consider the matter further.
* Graham Rains will be holding a concert on 17th February to raise funds for the Honeybee Centre and it is hoped that all can support this.
* The Asian Hornet is likely to cross the Channel and arrive in the UK sometime this year. This has decimated French bee-keeping with 1 in 3 bee -keepers giving up. All should be vigilant because these insects very destructive to other insect populations including honey bees. There is an App which can be downloaded to report sightings and other information is available:

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.ceh.hornets&hl=en_GB&gl=US&pli=1>

<https://www.brc.ac.uk/app/asian-hornet-watch>

The owner of Eastbrook Farm explained his plans for fencing in two local fields, the purpose being to allow grazing rather than arable use, which would allow these paths to be safely used by walkers.

**1216 UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT**

Cllr Batstone advised:

* Dorset Council has agreed an increase for the Police precept of £13 for the 2024/2025 financial year
* A Community meeting with the local Police Inspector may take place in early March as noted above
* A challenging child care case has taken over two years and is yet to be resolved

The Chairman thanked Cllr Batstone for organising the meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner.

**1217. FOOTPATHS**

Graham Rains noted work to improve the steps on the footpath below the quarry had commenced but will probably need stone footings to be effective.

The new bird hide is under construction in the workshop and will hopefully have concrete foundations.

**1218. ELECTIONS 2024**

The Clerk had circulated the nomination form for the 2024 Local Elections, briefly advised as to how to complete this, and requested that completed forms be brought to the next PC meeting on 7th March.

It was agreed that information relating to the election would be posted to the Shillingstone PC Facebook site.

**1219. NEXTDOOR APP**

The possible use of the ‘Nextdoor’ to promote Parish Council activities and information was considered but it was recognised that the newly created Facebook page would work better in terms of getting information to the community. It was noted that the Mobile App had not been widely used despite being promoted. It was agreed that any postings on the Facebook page should be properly managed and agreed by Councillors beforehand.

**1220. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**i) P/FUL/2023/05579** - Land At Old Ox Inn Blandford Road Shillingstone.

There was no decision to report however comments from Flood Risk Management Team were noted; it was advised that because a watercourse traverses the site, a Flood Risk Assessment including a Surface Water Drainage Strategy, should have accompanied the application. They have advised that a ‘holding objection’ should be raised at this stage.

**ii) New applications**

**Application No: P/FUL/2024/00230, Ham Farm Land Off Brodham Way Shillingstone DT11 0TE**

*Proposal: Erect Two livestock barns for housing cattle and access track from existing gateway*

There were no objections to this application for necessary additional livestock barns.

**Application number P/LBC/2023/07459 Location Maypole Cottage The Cross Shillingstone Dorset DT11 0SP**

*Change first floor windows and install new window at first floor level. Remove chimney breast & stack*

There were no objections to this application which would clearly improve the property.

**ii) Review of Asset of Community Value (ACV) status**

The Parish Council **AGREED** to defer any decision concerning the status of the ACV until the outcome of the planning application is known.

**1221. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **Total** | **Reason** |
| 02/01/2024 | Mr Kevin Sullivan | £ 40.00 | Cleaning |
| 02/01/2024 | Mrs Jill Sullivan | £ 40.62 | Cleaning |
| 02/01/2024 | Public Works Loan Board | £ 1,359.72 | Loan repayment |
| 02/01/2024 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 02/01/2024 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Mowing/strimming |
| 15/01/2024 | David Green | £ 33.00 | Dec 2023 expenses |
| 15/01/2024 | HM Revenue & Customs | £ 327.89 | PAYE Q3 2023-2024 |
| 16/01/2024 | Morelock Signs Limited | £ 3,192.00 | Speed Indicator Device |
| 19/01/2024 | Elite Playground Inspections | £ 63.00 | Play area inspections |
| 28/01/2024 | David Green | £ 742.05 | January 2024 pay |

**ii) New payments approval**

Clerk’s expenses £ 59.00 were approved.

**1222. PLAY AREAS, RECREATION GROUND AND PROPERTY CHECK**

**The Pavilion**

The Clerk provided a report of the flood incident at the Pavilion on 19th January which involved a partial collapse of kitchen ceiling; this required emergency plumbing work. Cllr Barlow dealt with electrical issues. Quotes for restoration of ceiling are being obtained. A loss adjuster has been appointed. The PC now also needs to hire new cleaners.

**Mowing/strimming**

The Clerk advised that the contract for renewal of mowing/strimming services by Edens in 2024/2025 has been agreed.

**1223. CORRESPONDENCE**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **DATE** | **FROM** | **DESCRIPTION** |
| 08/01/2024 | Dorset Council | Fly Tipping - blue cabling and wooden reels |
| 08/01/2024 | DAPTC | Working Together Webinar 18 January 2024 |
| 09/01/2024 | Dorset Council | ACV query |
| 18/01/2024 | Sturminster Newsletter | What’s Happening in Stur - Town Newsletter |
| 25/01/2024 | Dorset Council Tree Team | Application TPO/2023/0052 - TPO notification |
| 26/01/2024 | Gigaclear | Gigaclear - Shillingstone Build Update |
| 29/01/2024 | Shillingstone PCC | Churchyard - Lych-gate Grant request |
| 29/10/2024 | Gigaclear | Request to use Recreation ground for a Treasure Hunt |

08/10/2024 – Reports of fly tipping of cable around the village were under investigation by Dorset Council

26/01/2024 – A request to use the Recreation Ground for an Easter Treasure Hunt by a broadband provider was refused

**1224. ITEMS FOR THE NEXT AGENDA**

* Speedwatch update
* 2024 Election – collection of nomination forms
* EV charging points

**1225. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 7th March 2024 at 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall. There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:40