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

**7.00 PM ON THURSDAY 3rd APRIL 2025 AT THE PORTMAN HALL SHILLINGSTONE**

**PRESENT: I Suter (IS (Acting Chairman);** M Barlow (MB), R Harwood (RH), R Leadbeater (RL), M Pomeroy (MP), Unitary Cllr S Murcer, Footpaths Officer G Rains, the Clerk D Green. In addition, there was 1 member of the public present.

**1234. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllrs McNamara & Ridout.

**1235. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

None.

**1236. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2025 were approved.

**1237. MATTERS ARISING**

The Chairman noted that a Freedom of Information request had been made to Dorset Council concerning its decision to determine the land at the Old Ox planning application by a delegated officer. It is noted that Dorset Council have 20 working days to respond to this request which expires on 9th April 2025. At the time of the meeting a formal reply had not been received.

**1238. PUBLIC SESSION**

The removal of the hedge adjacent to the Big Yellow Bus Project, at the eastern end of the village, was noted. Informal enquires would be made in relation to the reasons for this removal.

A question was raised concerning widened access gates to Hambledon Farm; non-one had any knowledge concerning the reasons for this, and there is no current planning application in place.

**1239. UNITARY COUNCILLOR REPORT** –

Cllr Murcer provided these updates:

**Appointment of a new CEO** - Dr Catherine Howe has been appointed as the new CEO of Dorset Council to replace Matt Prosser. Catherine is currently CEO of Adur and Worthing Council and having previously worked for Cancer Research UK and Capita Group. She has experience of leading large multidisciplinary teams through technological and organisational change.

**Housing Policy** -work is starting to scope new housing policy in an effort to reduce the number of families currently on the Housing Register currently at 6,200. The areas of greatest need are the large towns of Weymouth, Dorchester and Wimborne and typically the type of properties in most demand are 1 bedroomed flats and 2 bedroom houses. The measures proposed are for DC to buy or lease existing properties currently for sale or to re-establish itself as housing provider building homes on existing council sites through a vehicle called ‘Homes Dorset’. Buying or leasing existing properties doesn’t increase the housing supply just moves them from the private to the public sector. The cost of DC becoming a house builder/provider again is a much more complex proposal that requires proper scrutiny.

**Planning -** Currently Jo Witherden is working on 12 new/refreshed Neighbourhood plans. If PC’s are going to object to applications they should advise Cllr Murcer as soon as possible, in order than a joint request is made for these to be determined by planning committees rather than delegated to officers. Government has unveiled plans to bypass planning committees if applications conform to local plans/NPPFs.

**Community Grants** - Community groups, education settings and volunteer organisations can now apply for funding through their Local Alliance Group, aimed at enhancing the wellbeing of Dorset’s children, young people and families. Individual schools or community groups can apply for up to £5000. Partnerships, which include two or more organisations such as a school and a charity working together, can apply for up to £20,000.

**1240. FOOTPATHS OFFICER REPORT**

Grahams Rains updated the Council concerning several issues:

* Bridleway 18 – this requires work and has been reported to Dorset Rangers
* FP32 – Brodham Way – the bridge has still not been repaired
* Gains Cross bench – has been repaired but not replaced
* The issue of debris on the road at Shillingstone Hill has improved due to the lack of rain and hopefully the Rangers will remove any hazardous large branches

**1241. FLOWER FESTIVAL – SHILLINGSTONE IN BLOOM**

The PC agreed to award to £50 to the best kept front garden in support of the June Flower Festival event.

**1242. SUMMER EVENT**

This will hopefully be held at the Old Ox on 16th August and include an Open Mic event and a BBQ. There may be space for a marquee, this will be established in due course.

**1243. COUNCILLOR REPORTS**

**Roads/Drains/Flooding** – MP

* Further clearance work on the Trailway has been undertaken in preparation for the ditch to be re-cut in April; Dorset Rangers have been asked to provide costings for new pipework.
* The hedge at Manor Farmhouse, between The Portman Hall and Church Road has been reported on the DCC Portal following a complaint
* The Community Highways Team have been re-contacted concerning flooding at the Portman Hall and Hine Town Lane but there has not been a response to date
* The overflowing manhole that floods in Hine Town Lane below Stour Close is foul water and runs to the main Sewer under the A357 – the advice is to take pictures when it is overflowing and to report this to Wessex Water using DT11 0SN as a reference postcode
* Some incorrect waterway maps have now been corrected and will appear in the revised Neighbourhood Plan.

**1244. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN REFRESH**

Work on this is virtually complete. The modifications statement has now been submitted to Dorset Council and the refreshed plan will be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on 1st May 2025. The consultation period runs until 13th June. The refreshed plan clarifies some policies and seeks to maintain conservation standards but allows for innovative design changes where appropriate.

**1245. PLANNING**

**New applications:**

**P/HOU/2025/01039 - Ashmead The Cross Shillingstone Blandford Forum DT11 0SP -** Erect single storey rear extension (demolish existing extension).

No objections.

**P/HOU/2025/01732 - Roseland Hine Town Lane Shillingstone Blandford Forum DT11 0SN** - Erect Carport

No objections.

**1246. FINANCES**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Payee Name** | **£ Total** | **Reason** |
| 03/03/2025 | Shillingstone Cricket Club | £ 416.66 | Mowing |
| 04/03/2025 | SSE | £ 112.58 | Pavilion electricity |
| 04/03/2025 | Clifford T Shean | £ 60.00 | PAT testing |
| 05/03/2025 | Dorset Association of Parish Councils | £ 150.00 | Future Planning Event |
| 05/03/2025 | Dorset Council | £ 432.00 | SID screen repair |
| 12/03/2025 | David Green | £ 42.00 | Feb Expenses |
| 17/03/2025 | Edens Landscapes Limited | £ 252.00 | Mowing/strimming |
| 18/03/2025 | Abbey RP Limited | £ 198.00 | Mower shed roof repair |
| 18/03/2025 | Lloyds Bank PLC | £ 4.25 | Service fee |
| 20/03/2025 | TEEC Limited | £ 28.80 | Planning tracker |
| 21/03/2025 | SSE | £ 112.95 | Pavilion Electricity |
| 27/03/2025 | Dorset Planning Consultant | £ 1,401.36 | NP Refresh fee |
| 27/03/2025 | Elizabeth Brecknock | £ 160.00 | Cleaning |
| 28/03/2025 | David Green | £ 837.47 | March 2025 pay |

**ii) New payments approval -** Clerk’s expenses £ 33.00 were approved.

**1247. PAVILION/ PLAY AREAS REPORT**

Changing Rood Pod – loose screws in cladding have been replaced.

**1248. CORRESPONDENCE**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| DATE | FROM | DESCRIPTION |
| 01/03/2025 | Julie Thorne | Planning Application 2/2017/0848/Full |
| 23/03/2025 | Phil Jacques NDR | Silver Birch removal |
| 24/03/2025 | Dorset Highways | TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF SHILLINGSTONE LANE, OKEFORD FITZPAINE 11-04-2025 |
| 27/03/2025 | Dorset CPRE | Dorset CPRE March 2025 Newsletter |

**1249. MATTERS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

* Annual Parish Meeting –

1. Presentation of refreshed Neighbourhood Plan
2. Chairmans Report

* PC Business - Summer Event arrangements

**1250. NEXT MEETING**

The next scheduled meeting will be on **Thursday 1st May 2025 7:00 pm**, at the Portman Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:12