**Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 20th September 2023 Venue**: Shroton Village Hall.

**Present:**  Cllr Gredley (Chairman) Cllr Hewitt (Vice Chairman), Cllr Christmas, Cllr Barrett, Unitary Councillor Somper. **In attendance**: The Clerk

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| **Agenda Item** | **Discussion Points** | **Action** |
| **1. Apologies** | None received. |  |
| **2. Minutes of Previous Meeting** | The Minutes of the meeting held on 19th July 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed and duly signed by the Chairman. |  |
| **3. Chairman’s Announcements**  | The Chairman noted that good progress had been made in several areas. The agenda setting meeting in August 2023 had worked well. |  |
| **4. Declaration of Interests** |  None declared. |  |
| **5. Matters Arising**  | A possible co-option candidate was due to attend the meeting. | **JG to confirm if still available** |
| **6.** **Democratic Period:** a. Dorset Councillor Somperb. Public & Parish Council  | 1. **Dorset Councillor Somper**  - had submitted a written report prior to the meeting. Cllr Somper raised two items:

**i) The Dorset Council Housing Strategy consultation** – hopefully awareness of this will be raised locally, the closing date being 3rd October. **ii) Compton Abbas Airfield –** the Compton Abbas Airfield consultative panel, including parish councils near to the airfield (Compton Abbas, Fontmell Magna, Ashmore), had recently met and been advised of procedural changes at the airfield, including the prohibition of unscheduled ‘fly-ins’. Safety was a priority and rule breaking will not be tolerated. New road signage will be introduced when events are being staged to prevent hazardous parking.1. **Public Participation -** There were no questions
2. **Parish Council Participation -** Cllr Gredley would attending a meeting with the Crime Commissioner. It was noted that there were local incidences of low level crime, including thefts and break-ins, and all should be advised to be aware. Councillors briefly discussed that there are no advisory notices at the Village Hall and The Cricketers Pub to guide victims of domestic abuse. Cllr Hewitt will raise the item with the Village Hall Committee. Post Mtg note – Cllr Gredley confirmed with the Landlady at the Cricketers that there are no such notices in the pub but she advised that the pub would be happy to post them as appropriate.
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| **7. Correspondence** | The Clerk had circulated a list of correspondence received in the period 19/07/2023 to 19/09/2023 and highlighted items noted within the minutes.  |  |
| **8. Parish Council Representatives**  | **a) Play Area Report**Cllr Hewitt noted that signage had been attached to the gates to warn against picking toadstools.**b) Parish Footpaths and Bridleways**Cllr Hewitt noted the proposal to modify parts of Bridleway 10 & Footpath 15, and had raised the issue of the long standing incorrect marking of FP13 with Dorset Council. DC had advised that they were satisfied that this path had been correctly marked according to historic records. Cllr Hewitt noted that the 1950’s map was in fact in error when originally made and this had not been subsequently corrected. **c) The Glebe & Parish Trees** Cllr Hewitt noted that there had not been any follow-up correspondence from Dorset Council concerning the damage to the wildflower reserve caused by SSEN vehicles in June. It was agreed not to take the matter any further. **Lombardy Poplars -** it was noted that these had been inspected by the Dorset Council Tree Team who had agreed that they are in a poor condition and that an objection to the felling of these would not be made. The Clerk had asked Dorset Council to quote for the work. Further quotes may subsequently be obtained. It was agreed that any replanting would be carefully considered and a tree in memory of Tim Sullivan would be given priority. **d) Highways issues**JG noted that the dropped kerb application had been successful but it would be sensible if the installation of these could be concurrent with the scheduled resurfacing. It was agreed that the resurfacing of Fairfield Road and Newfield Lane had been completed to a very high standard and many residents had praised the quality of the work and the co-operation of the installation team. A letter of thanks would be sent to Dorset Highways. It was noted that there had been a delay to the resurfacing of Bessells Lane and Telegraph Street, which is now anticipated to take place in October. The damage to village signs arising from verge cutting activity was noted. This will be raised with Dorset Highways. Cllr Gredley offered to repair the signs. The question of ‘Please Slow Down’ signage was discussed. All agreed that the proposed sign format was inappropriate for the village and would add to signage clutter without having any real impact on behaviours. It was agreed to review this question at the November meeting after the resurfacing of the other roads has been completed. **e) Parish Council Website Development**Cllr Christmas advised, following assistance from Aubergine, the new website was virtually complete and ready to go live. It has been agreed that a planning applications page, restricted to two calendar years ,would be added to the site. All necessary documentation has been made ‘accessible’. It was **RESOLVED** to request that Aubergine now activate the website. Post meeting note – the website is live as of 21 Sep 23. **f) DAPTC**The Clerk reported that information relating to the 2024 Elections would be provide when this is received.  | **JG will make appropriate enquiries with DC****Clerk/JG to draft a letter****JG to raise with DC****Clerk to request live activation of the site**  |
| **9. Planning Matters** | 1. An updated version of the register had been circulated to the Parish council

Updates notified:

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| **Status** | **Date of DC decision**  | **Reference** | **Address** | **Work description**  |
| **Granted** | **11/08/2023** | **P/HOU/2023/03736** | **4 Rectory Gardens Shroton DT11 8RQ** | **Erect single storey side extension. Erect 6' closed boarded fence to side boundary** |
| **Granted** | **08/09/2023** | **P/LBC/2023/03865** | **Stepleton House A350** | **Carry out internal & external works to the main house and west wing.** |

**b) New applications:** **P/HOU/2023/00886 - Old Barn Main Street Shroton Dorset DT11 8QF - Carry out structural repairs to restore existing outbuilding.** No objections raised.**P/LBC/2023/03951 & P/FUL/2023/03950 Manor Farm Telegraph Street Shroton Dorset DT11 8QQ - Internal and external alterations and rebuilding of single storey wing to change the use of existing barns to dwelling house. Demolition of existing modern agricultural building and erection of new agricultural barn.**No objections raised.**P/VOL/2023/04594 & P/VOC/2023/04601 0 FORMER TITHE BARN AT CHURCH FARM FAIRFIELD ROAD SHROTON - Conversion of the barn to office space & one unit if residential accommodation -** It was noted that this amended application had already been agreed, issues of concern including the ‘welfare block, had been resolved and there were no outstanding concerns for the Parish Council save for the question of the protection of the roof, although the PC understands that the Conservation Officer is aware of this issue. It was **AGREED** to support the application. **c) Parish Council response to Dorset Council’s Housing strategy consultation** – it was agreed to respond as individuals rather than make a collective PC response.Link to consultation: <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/housing-strategy-consultation>  |  |
| **10. Finance Matters** | 1. Retrospective payments approved: Clerks pay 28/07 /2023 and 28/08/2023 **£ 270**
2. Council approved payment to Iwerne Valey Lawn Maintenance – Glebe mowing - **£ 208.00**
3. Council approved payment to Clerks expenses May– July 2023 - **£13.05**
4. Payment approvals– Proposed Cllr Hewitt, 2nd – Cllr Barrett
5. Online Banking update – Cllr Gredley now has online access and should be able to approve payments
6. Financial Report for the period July to September 2023 was approved
7. The receipt of donated funds from Wessex Internet of £ 8,400 was noted and the PC thanked Wessex Internet for this support. This sum will be ring fenced for Play Park capital replacements.
8. The Clerk had reviewed the level of reserves from a detailed calculation made when the precept had been set in 2022. It was agreed that the Parish would maintain reserves allocations in respect of the Solar Fund Project (small project works), Play Park capital equipment, Play Park maintenance, Election costs, and a defibrillator reserve. Other reserves will be created if necessary. These will be reviewed again when the budget is set in November. The matter of a high general reserve is not of immediate concern.
 | **Clerk to set-up payments for authorisation** |
| **11. Other Matters for discussion/information and tabling for next meeting** | **a)** Budget proposal**b)** Next meeting date –**Wednesday 15th November 2023 at Shroton Village Hall 7.00 pm**  |  |

**The presiding Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:15 pm**

**Chairman ………………………………………… Date…………………………………………….**

**Iwerne Courtney & Stepleton Parish Council**