

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 January 2023
at 7:00pm in The Whatmoor Room, Kingston Maurward College**

Present: Ms Sarah Jane Pattison (Chair), Mr George Armstrong (Vice-Chair), Mr Michael Clarke and Ms Susan Escott

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 No apologies for absence were received.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Ms Pattison declared a personal and pecuniary interest in planning application P/HOU/2022/07985 as the applicant and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

3. Minutes

- 3.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record
- 3.2 Further to minute 110/22, it was suggested that followers of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Facebook page be signposted to the new Parish Council Facebook page. It was agreed that Ms Sally Cooke be approached about this.
- 3.3 Further to minute 111, Mr Armstrong reported that he had spoken the relevant person at Kingston Maurward College about the bad weather plan and agreed minimum actions to protect Knapwater in ice and snow.

4. Finance

Expenditure

- 4.1 The following items of expenditure were **resolved**:

- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 3 2022/23) – £134.40
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 3 2022/23) + expenses + operational expenses for 2022/23 - £719.95

Budget and Precept

- 4.2 The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, setting out a proposed draft budget for 2023/24 and recommending a precept of £5,500. This was the same as for the current year and equated to a Council Tax charge of £38.76 for a Band D property. In the current year this was £37.90 due to the slightly larger taxbase.
- 4.3 Mr Armstrong provided an update on a quote for the specialist restoration of the boundary wall of Lower Bockhampton play area received from Thomas Gargrave following a site visit. This was in the region of £8-10,000 for the entire wall, addressing both the brickwork and coping stones. Having regard to the current level of reserves, it was considered appropriate that this work be undertaken section by section with an initial focus on the most degraded section. Subject to further details of cost implications being received, it was therefore possible to spread the costs across financial years if required.

- 4.4 It was **resolved** that:
- (i) the quote for the proposed restoration of the play area wall be accepted in principle with further details sought for consideration at the next meeting;
 - (ii) the proposed draft budget estimates for 2023/24 be approved with the addition of an item for the specialist restoration of the play area wall; and
 - (iii) a precept of £5,500 for 2023/24 be approved.

5. Stinsford Parish Council Priorities 2022/23 – Climate Change meeting – 2 February 2023

- 5.1 The Parish Council discussed the arrangements for the event for local residents to launch the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in conjunction with an update on the process made by Kingston Maurward College to address this issue. Flyers had been delivered to all households in the parish with the January edition of The Pilot and notices placed on the parish noticeboards.

- 5.2 It was **resolved** that:
- (i) the presentation and ‘script’ be shared with the Parish Council for any final comments;
 - (ii) a press release about the event be issued nearer the time;
 - (iii) a small number of business cards be printed and made available to interested residents at the event;
 - (iv) a final briefing be held virtually if felt necessary.

- 5.3 The Chair reported that she and Ms Escott had met with Brian Heppenstall at Kingston Maurward College. He had shared information on ecological surveys on two sites in the parish and was keen to get students involved in more such work. There were possibly also students would be interested in becoming councillors. It was agreed to send details of qualifications for becoming parish councillors to him to pass on.

6. North of Dorchester Garden Community

- 6.1 The Chair drew attention to the letter sent by STAND in relation to the false statement made by the Cabinet Member for Planning about the North of Dorchester site in a recent article in the West Dorset Magazine.

- 6.2 The Parish Council also noted the contradictory communications issued by Dorset Council updating on their position on nutrient neutrality implications for planning.

7. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 7.1 Further to minute 108/2022, Mr Armstrong reported that he had contacted the Community Highways Officer about how road safety measures or a lower speed limit could be pursued on the basis of the vulnerability of regular users of the relevant stretch of road. He had subsequently spoken to a number of officers within Highways. It had become clear that the vulnerable user rationale had not been used in Dorset so there was uncertainty about how this could be pursued. However, it had been confirmed that whilst the traffic speed surveys could be progressed, there was no requirement for Dorset Council to take the results on board and take any action.

- 7.2 Further to minute 108.3/2022, it was noted that the issue relating to signage on Cuckoo Lane had been resolved and that relating to signage on Slyers Lane was under investigation.

- 7.3 The Clerk drew attention to the Working Together webinar being held by the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils and Dorset Council about the new approach to 20mph speed limits in residential areas scheduled to be held on 7 February 2023.

8. Delegation of Powers

- 8.1 The Parish Council reviewed the decision initially made on 24 May 2021, that
- (i) authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to take any actions necessary with associated expenditure to protect the interests of the community and ensure council business continuity, informed by consultation with members of the Parish Council; and
 - (ii) the scheme of delegation be reviewed no later than September 2021.
- 8.2 This had been extended a number of times and the review date was currently January 2023.
- 8.3 It was considered that as Covid case rates continued to fluctuate, it was sensible to retain the option to operate via delegation to the Clerk if it was felt that in-person meetings were not appropriate. It was **resolved** that the scheme of delegation should remain unchanged and be reviewed again no later than July 2023.

9. Correspondence

- 9.1 The Parish Council noted correspondence from residents of Stinsford about the College using the lane past their property for practising the reversing of tractors. This has begun when the construction of the Stinsford Centre was underway and the routes on the campus could not be used. It was therefore agreed that the Principal be approached about this and it be requested that an alternative place be used that impacted less on residential properties.

Action by: Clerk

10. Items for next meeting

- Detailed proposal for restoration of play area wall
- Overview of meeting with Chris Loder MP
- Overview of climate change meeting on 2 February
- Replacement of Higher Bockhampton noticeboard

11. Date of future meetings

- 11.1 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 13 February 2023. However this meeting would be held in The Stinsford Centre.
- 11.2 The Clerk reported that she would be unavailable for the meeting scheduled to be held on Monday 13 March 2023. It was therefore **resolved** to postpone the meeting by a week to Monday 20 March 2023.
- 11.3 The Clerk also drew attention to the fact that the annual meetings were currently scheduled to be held on Monday 8 May 2023. However, this was now the Coronation Bank Holiday. It was therefore **resolved** to reschedule these meetings to Tuesday 9 May 2023.

12. Urgent item - Planning Matter

Ms Sarah Pattison declared a personal and pecuniary interest in this item as the applicant and withdrew from the meeting at 8:29pm.

- 12.1 P/HOU/2022/07985 – Home Farmhouse, Slyers Lane, Waterston, Dorchester DT2 7SL – Erect single storey extension

Having considered the material planning considerations, it was **resolved** to support this application.

The meeting concluded at 8:32pm.

Chairman..... Date.....