

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting
held on Monday 14 November 2016 at 7.00pm in The Old Library,
Kingston Maurward College**

Present: Mr Richard Wheal (Chairman), Mr George Armstrong (Vice-Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Chris Hext, Mr Will Molland and Dr A Stillman

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Councillor), Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and 3 members of the public (Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones, Ms Clare Ruston and Mr Paul Thomas).

144. Apologies for Absence

144.1 There were no apologies for absence.

145. Declarations of Interest

145.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

146. Dorset County Council Matters

146.1 Cllr Mrs Haynes reported drew the Parish Council's attention to the development of a Sustainability and Transformation Plan by NHS Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group. The initial focus of this was the acute hospitals across Dorset but would encompass all aspects of NHS provision, including primary care. She considered that this needed to be developed in partnership with other organisations but there had been a lack of engagement with Adult Social Care. She expressed concern that some of the proposals coming forward from the Plan might not be subject to public consultation as the driver was the need to make savings of £4.2M in 2017/18 and £4.5M in 2018/19.

146.2 She added that the consultation on the CCG's Clinical Services Review would commence shortly. The challenge faced was to take funding out of hospitals in order to channel into primary care to achieve early intervention.

146.3 She also drew the Parish Council's attention to the fact that there was due to be a call-in in relation to the traffic issues caused by the Weymouth Iron Man event in September.

147. West Dorset District Council Matters

147.1 In the absence of Cllr Cooke, the Chairman moved to the next agenda item.

148. Public Participation Time

148.1 No issues were raised under this item that were not elsewhere on the agenda.

149. Planning Matters

WD/D/16/001985 – Birkin House, Stinsford – Form new entrance drive and access to public lane (Full)

and

WD/D/16/001986 – Birkin House, Stinsford – form new entrance drive and access to public lane (Listed Building Consent)

149.1 Ms Ruston, a resident of Maurward Close, detailed her concerns about the proposed formation of a new entrance drive to Birkin House due to the increased level of traffic on the road servicing the cement works at the entrance to the existing drive and the

Dorset Studio School. She highlighted the lack of safety for both pedestrians and drivers. Additionally, she outlined the impact of the operations at the cement works on local residents.

149.2 Members of the Parish Council echoed these concerns and considered that, whilst it was understandable that the owners of Birkin House would wish to establish a new entrance to their property which avoided the cement works, the poor sight lines of the proposal would further reduce the safety of the road and increase the risk to road users and pedestrians.

149.3 It was **resolved** to OBJECT to this application on the grounds that safety concerns have been identified by the Parish Council and discussed with Dorset County Council's Highways Department on a number of occasions in relation to the stretch of road onto which the proposed entrance will exit. This stretch of road – known locally as Dark Hill – has a 60mph speed limit. Cars leave the Stinsford Hill roundabout at speed and continue this up to the brow of the hill. There is limited visibility on this stretch, exacerbated by the shading of the trees. There is no pavement or footpath for pedestrians and there are limited parts of the verge onto which pedestrians can move to ensure their safety when faced by oncoming vehicles. It was also agreed that concerns should be raised about the impact of the proposed entrance on the established trees which sit within the Conservation Area and the poor quality of the plan as it was reproduced on the planning portal. A number of local residents commented that this was unreadable.

149.4 In relation to the operation of the cement works, it was **resolved** to:-
(i) revisit the noise and dust issues with the Environmental Health Officer; and
(ii) request that the Enforcement Officer review the operation to ascertain whether there was any breach of planning conditions.
Action by: Mr Armstrong (i) and Clerk (ii)

149.5 Additionally, it was **resolved** to:-
(i) contact the Principal of Kingston Maurward College to re-open a dialogue about the volume of traffic, in particular double-decker buses, accessing the campus and the Studio School, with a view to reaching an improved solution which would have lesser impact upon local residents;
(ii) engage with the owners of Birkin House to explain the Parish Council's concerns about road safety and seek their support in trying to achieve improvements; and
(iii) contact Dorset Highways and request that a site visit be held to this area at either end of the school day so as to assess the risk and ascertain whether any safety measures could be put in place.
Action by: Chairman (i) and (ii) and Clerk (iii)

149.6 WD/D/16/002306 - 4 Maurward Close, Stinsford – Replace a flat roof side extension with a single storey lean-to

It was **resolved** to SUPPORT this application.

150. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

150.1 The Parish Council noted the response received from the County Council's Coast and Countryside Service Manager to the email sent regarding issues at the Visitor Centre. Concerns were expressed that there was little indication that the situation regarding coaches accessing the site and parking in inappropriate places was likely to improve. Similarly, it was acknowledged that it was necessary to raise the increasing number of cars attempting to park at Hardy's Birthplace itself with the National Trust.

150.2 It was **resolved** to:

- (i) write to the National Trust expressing concerns about the number of cars parking at Hardy's Birthplace itself and requesting that this be better managed, as well as urging that the trampers be made available before the beginning of the 2017 season;
- (ii) write to Dorset County Council to request that the management of coaches bringing visitors to Hardy's Birthplace be improved as a matter of urgency; and
- (iii) contact PCSO Sarah Pilcher to request that she keep the situation regarding the parking of coaches under regular review.

Action by: Clerk

151. Minutes

151.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of meeting held on 10 October 2016 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Annual inspection of Lower Bockhampton Play Area

151.2 Further to minute 136, Mr Armstrong reported that he had sought advice about the insurance position and, whilst the overall assessment of the annual inspection was of low risk, as a number of recommendations had been made to address the findings where maintenance was necessary to ensure that the level of risk did not increase, he proposed that a thorough overhaul of the play area equipment should be undertaken. He explained that the necessary work could be progressed without the input of a play specialist if the equipment were to be replaced on a like-for-like basis. The Clerk confirmed that reserves were available to fund this work.

151.2 The Parish Council supported this approach and asked Mr Armstrong and Mr Molland to outline a plan of work to be undertaken so that quotes could be sought.

Action by: Mr Armstrong and Mr Molland

151.3 Mr Armstrong informed the Parish Council that a resident of Knapwater had noticed the broken lock on the service gate to the play area and had repaired this. It was **resolved** to send an email to thank him for doing this.

Action by: Clerk

152. Neighbourhood Planning

152.1 The Parish Council considered whether to progress a Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford. Particular attention was drawn to the response received from planning consultation Jo Witherden in respect of the Parish Council's query as to whether it was possible to undertake a more focussed plan. She had confirmed that this would be possible but it would be necessary to focus on issues that it would be relatively easy to evidence. This would not, however, necessarily reduce the timescales but would mean it would require less manpower.

152.2 Attention was drawn to recent mentions of the influence of Neighbourhood Plans on development which indicated that it was worthwhile pursuing. The Parish Council also noted an email received from a member of Charminster Parish Council about the likelihood of housing development to meet the need of Dorchester being placed in both parishes. It was agreed that it would be useful to meet with Charminster Parish Council to discuss this and explore ways in which working together could be an advantage. It was also suggested that, following this, it might be worth also seeking a meeting with Dorchester Town Council.

152.3 It was resolved that:

- (i) a meeting be sought with Charminster Parish Council; and
- (ii) the process for designating a Neighbourhood Plan area be investigated.

Action by: Clerk

153. Chairmanship Succession Planning

153.1 The Parish Council considered arrangements for the succession of the Chairman, given that the newer members had not yet had the opportunity to take on the role.

153.2 It was resolved that:

- (i) Mr Hext be appointed Vice-Chairman for the remainder of 2016/17, in Mr Armstrong's place;
- (ii) Mr Hext be nominated as Chairman for 2017/18, with Mr Molland nominated as Vice-Chairman; and
- (iii) Mr Molland be nominated as Chairman for 2018/19.

154. Road Safety and Traffic Management

154.1 Bockhampton Bridge

The Parish Council noted the ongoing concerns of residents of Lower Bockhampton about the instances of damage to the bridge, particularly by agricultural contractors. It was noted that, given the age of the bridge, it was unlikely that the weight restriction could be amended. It was therefore **resolved** that Dorset County Council be requested to introduce a width restriction on the bridge to deter the number of large vehicles passing over it and causing damage.

Action by: Clerk

154.2 Lower Bockhampton signage and speed limit markers

The Parish Council noted the correspondence between a resident of Lower Bockhampton and Dorset County Council about possible signage and speed limit markers to improve road safety on the bends south of the village. The County Council officer had suggested a number of signs and road markings which could be introduced but the Parish Council's support was required for this to be progressed. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council:-

- (i) support the proposal and make a formal request that the suggested signs and road markings be introduced; and
- (ii) the introduction of 'gateways' to the village to reinforce the speed limit not be progressed at this time.

Action by: Clerk

154.3 Stinsford Hill roundabout and the A35

The Parish Council noted the response received from Highways England in relation to concerns about the safety of the roundabout. Mr Hext drew attention to the annual report published by Connect about its management of the A35.

It was **resolved** to write to Connect noting the report but setting out that the Parish Council were saddened to see that there was no mention of complaints received relating to congestion, pollution, noise, safety and poor surfacing.

Action by: Clerk

155. Superfast Broadband

155.1 The Parish Council noted that no further communication had been received following the meeting with Sir Oliver Letwin MP.

156. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan

156.1 No current matters were raised.

157. Correspondence

157.1 In response to the email received inviting a representative of the Parish Council to attend a Flood Warden Seminar on Wednesday 30 November 2016, Dr Stillman volunteered to attend this.

Action by: Clerk to make booking.

158. Items for future Agenda

158.1 No items were raised for inclusion in future agenda.

159. Date of next meeting

159.1 It was **noted** that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 12 December 2016.

The meeting concluded at 9:15pm.

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