

# Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors  
held on Monday 11 May 2015 at 7.00pm in The Old Library,  
Kingston Maurward College**

**Present:** Mrs Lynda Pain (Chairman of Parish Council), four other members of Stinsford Parish Council and three members of the public

**In attendance:** Miss K Riglar (Clerk), Cllr Mrs J Haynes (County Councillor) and Cllr P Cooke (District Councillor).

## **1. Welcome**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mrs Pain, welcomed everybody to the meeting, including the two newly elected parish councillors, Mr C Hext and Mr K Payne.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Dr A Stillman (Parish Councillor).

## **3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chairman presented her report for the year 2014/15. This had been a very busy year with many full meetings held. There had been some changes to the membership of the Council during the year, with the co-option of Mr C Byrne, Mr R Wheal and Dr A Stillman. She thanked Mr Byrne, who had resigned due to personal circumstances, for his contribution during his time in office.

The Parish Council had considered many planning applications during the year, including the proposed Slyer's Lane Wind Farm. The Parish Council had objected to this application but had supported a smaller renewable energy application for a solar park at Higher Kingston Farm. Unfortunately this had been refused by West Dorset District Council but the outcome of an appeal lodged by the applicant was now awaited. The building of the Studio School on the Kingston Maurward College campus and the impact of this on the very sensitive local environment had continued to be a concern. The application submitted by the College for outline planning permission for up to 70 houses at Lower Bockhampton had prompted a large amount of concern both within and outside of the parish and the Parish Council had objected strongly to this. Whilst this application had been withdrawn, it was now understood that the College intended to submit an application for 20 houses at Lower Bockhampton which the Parish Council would need to consider in due course.

The Parish Council had continued to consider many unresolved issues in relation to the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre at Higher Bockhampton, including traffic, parking and the appropriate use of the building. An objection had been made to the application for a premises licence for the Centre but this had been granted by West Dorset District Council. The Parish Council also continued to question the legality of the building of the Centre.

Mrs Pain expressed her thanks to Cllr Mrs J Haynes, the local County Councillor, and to Cllr A Chisholm and Cllr Mrs S East, who had been the local ward members for West Dorset District Council until the recent elections. She also thanked the Clerk for her support during the year.

Mrs Pain was thanked for her report and her work as Chairman during the past year. Following her decision to stand down as a parish councillor at the recent elections, her contribution to Stinsford Parish Council over many years was recognised and best wishes extended for her 'retirement'.

The opportunity was also taken to thank another retiring councillor, Mr Grenville-Jones, for his invaluable contribution to the Parish Council and his assiduous and rigorous analysis of documents and issues.

#### **5. Report from County Councillor**

Cllr Mrs J Haynes presented her report for the year 2014/15. (A copy of this is attached to these minutes.)

#### **6. Report from District Councillor**

It was acknowledged that Cllr Mrs S East and Cllr A Chisholm had kept the Parish Council up to date throughout the year but, following the implementation of boundary changes to the wards of West Dorset District Council, Stinsford parish now lay within the Puddletown Ward. Cllr P Cooke introduced himself as the new District Councillor.

Cllr Cooke presented his report for the year 2014/15. The major issues for the District Council had been the completion of the partnership with Weymouth and Portland Borough Council and the decision to include North Dorset District Council in an extended tri-partnership.

#### **7. Report of the Village Hall Trust**

Mr George Armstrong reported that the Village Hall funds could be used for any communal project to enhance leisure within the parish. There had been a small increase in the value of the charity bond shares over the past year, with an income of £38.56. Whilst the Parish Council now held reserves for maintenance of the playground, there was a possible requirement for the continuation of the Trust in order to be the body to apply for funding through grants and rewards.

It was **resolved** that Mr George Armstrong, Mrs Lynda Pain, Mrs Pat Cosgrove and Miss Kirsty Riglar be appointed as Trustees.

## **8. Public Discussion Period**

Mr Grenville-Jones raised the issue of parking and traffic in relation to the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre at Higher Bockhampton. He pointed out that the Parish Council and local residents had voiced their concerns about this through the preparation of the plans, particularly in relation to coaches, and serious problems were now being experienced. He showed a series of photos taken on the recent Bank Holiday, 4 April 2015, which illustrated the chaos on the access roads to Higher Bockhampton with cars parked on verges and in designated passing places. He also showed a photo of a coach parked in the road as there was nowhere else for it to stop. He drew attention to the fact that the measures which the County Council had undertaken to put in place to mitigate the impact of traffic created by the opening of the Visitor Centre had not been implemented. He requested that the Parish Council demand that the measures detailed in the approved management plan be implemented as a matter of urgency.

Mr Hext stated that it was his understanding that the traffic regulation order in place for Cuckoo Lane prohibited coaches. He undertook to investigate this and report back to the Parish Council.

Attention was drawn to the report by Sarah Meggs, Solicitor, Dorset County Council arising from her review of the granting of planning permission for the Visitor Centre. It was noted that whilst Ms Meggs concluded that she did not find any substance to the claims raised, the report did not contain any recommendations. There was also no mention made of the review of the County Council's interpretation of Regulation 9 as committed to by Cllr Peter Finney at a meeting held with representatives of the Parish Council on 30 January 2015.

Mr Thomas requested that all of the parish councillors review three documents; the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting when planning permission was sought and the transcript of a phone call between an investigator within the office of the Local Government Ombudsman and Ian Madgwick, Highways Engineer, Dorset County Council. He considered that these would enable the parish councillors to form an opinion and decide what action should be taken, if any. He suggested that if it was agreed that the information was fundamentally misleading, the Parish Council may wish to consider referring this to the Police for investigation.

The Parish Council agreed to consider this issue further under the appropriate item on the agenda for their Annual Meeting, which would follow the conclusion of this meeting.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm

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

## **Annual Report to the Parish Council**

### **Three Valleys Division DCC Councillor Jill Haynes**

This has been a very busy year indeed at County Hall with a lot of interesting projects and changes to ways of working. The County Council has reviewed its priorities and reduced these to just two areas Economic growth and Health and Wellbeing. All work is now focused on these two themes. This report would be very long indeed if I tried to detail all of the work happening so I intend just to bullet point some areas of work. Many of these I have reported in greater during the year.

We went out as a council in a new event called Ask Dorset where we tried to meet the public where they were at supermarkets, fetes and shows. We looked to see what the public priorities were for our reduced spend. There will be another event this summer asking how DCC can work with Parish councils and other organisations. The themes will explore areas that may be taken on by other bodies.

We are reviewing all our mixed IT systems and look to make them more efficient and joined up. BIG task!

The way we maintain our highways has been recognised as good (10<sup>th</sup> best in the country) and therefore as we are committed to prevention work we are able to apply for additional funding for repairs. We are in the middle of a Holistic Transport review. DCC spends £22M on moving people about and often it is possible to make this more productive across the directorates and with the NHS.

The Public Health function which came back to the County Council from the NHS last year continues to perform well. It was over £1M under budget this year mostly by reviewing contracts that are let out to provide information. We are working here in partnership with Bournemouth and Poole and there is interesting work with GP localities to encourage better access for people to exercise and help with counselling.

We are struggling with the budget in children's services as there are so many teenage children in care in the County. We need to catch the problem much earlier and support families to bringing up their children rather than home difficult teenagers which is extremely expensive. This work is starting and involves some very interesting partnerships including the Fire Service.

We are looking to be much more involved as a council in green energy and agreed this week to build a number of solar farms on our county estates. We are also investigation being an energy supplier for the whole of the county providing cheaper energy for our residents and businesses.

We are forming a Local Authority Trading Company with Bournemouth and Poole for all our Adult provider services. (day centres, care homes, re-ablement) The new company will be called Tricuro and will start trading in July of 2015. The ability to

trade will mean that the company can provide services to people who pay for their care and also to compete for NHS work. The extra money will go towards the ever growing costs of looking after the large number of elderly people in the county.

This year councillors were given a personal budget of £5K to spend in their Division. This is easy if you just have one town council but my area has 21 parishes! Some did request help but the bulk of my budget went to the Dorchester and Sherborne CAB. I asked them to use it for travel for the volunteers so that they could go out to the people in the community who needed help but had problems accessing transport.

This is just a small snapshot of the work going on at DCC and I would be pleased to discuss any particular area in greater depth if required.