

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 22 June 2015 at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Dr A Stillman (Chairman), Mr G Armstrong, Mr M Clarke, Mr C Hext, Mr K Payne and Mr R Wheal

Also in attendance: Cllr P Cooke (West Dorset District Councillor), Miss K Riglar (Clerk) and 2 members of the public.

Public Discussion Period

A matter was raised that was not included elsewhere on the agenda: the recent announcement of £3M of investment for superfast broadband to reach rural businesses. However, the information provided by the Superfast Broadband Dorset project illustrated that this would not be available to the business parks at Higher Bockhampton. The Parish Council were asked to enquire why these business parks had been excluded.

54. Chairman's Welcome

54.1 The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting and outlined his intentions for the way in which meetings of the Parish Council would be run during his year in office. He also expressed his hope that the Parish Council could revisit the Parish Plan in order to develop an action plan for the coming year.

54.2 It was noted that the status of the Parish Plan had been superseded by the current neighbourhood planning process and it was unknown whether the previous offer of financial and officer support for this was still available from West Dorset District Council. The Chairman undertook to investigate this further.

Action by: Chairman

55. Dispensations

55.1 No applications for dispensation were received.

56. Apologies for absence

56.1 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs J Haynes (County Councillor).

57. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

57.1 In relation to the ongoing concerns about the operation of the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre, the Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should clearly identify the issues that needed to be resolved to alleviate the current problems. It was suggested that the County Council should be asked to prepare a composite management plan to cover all aspects of the operation at the Centre and reflect

changes that had impacted upon the initial proposals, such as the reduction in the presence by Countryside Rangers on site.

57.2 It was also suggested that the operation of the Centre should be monitored during the peak summer period against the conditions set out in the planning permission and the results of this documented. The Parish Council **resolved** that this was the appropriate way forward at the present time; that the current operation of the Centre and the issues arising from this should be addressed as a priority. The concerns relating to the status of the County Council's decision to grant planning permission and the interpretation of the Regulations could be pursued if this was felt to be appropriate once the current issues were resolved.

Action by: Chairman to approach Leader of the County Council to pursue a composite management plan.

57.3 The Parish Council noted the response from Dorset County Council to the request for enforcement action to be taken as the travel plan for the Centre had not yet been implemented in full. It was **resolved** that residents of Higher Bockhampton should be asked to monitor the volume of traffic to the Centre on one or two days during the summer.

Action by: Mr Wheal to liaise with other residents of Higher Bockhampton.

57.4 The Parish Council also noted the statement made by Mr Grenville-Jones during the public discussion period that he had requested the contracts between the County council and the National Trust relating to the Visitor Centre and had to date received parts of this. Once all parts were received, he would distribute copies to the Parish Council.

57.5 Mr Wheal also reported that residents had contacted the County Council expressing their concerns about the possible safety implications of the barbed wire added to the fence running along the lane. They had been informed that the landowner/tenant had every right to use barbed wire as there were animals within the field.

58. WDDC Matters

58.1 Cllr Cooke reported that he had spoken to officers in the Planning Department about the proposed development of housing by Kingston Maurward College. He had been informed that there were two types of land which this could be applying on:-
(i) within the listed park and gardens, in which case it was suggested that the views of English Heritage were sought before submission; or
(ii) land outside of the boundaries of the listed area but also outside of the development boundary.

It was therefore suggested that unless there were very good reasons for an exception to be made, any planning application was unlikely to be allowed.

58.2 The Parish Council welcomed this update but expressed their concern that comments had previously been made that development boundaries were no longer valid and that the closer the Local Plan was to formal adoption, this would take precedence.

58.3 In relation to this, attention was drawn to the receipt of a letter from the Bockhampton History and Heritage Group which sought the Parish Council's support for a request to be made to the District Council that the existing Bockhampton conservation area be extended northwards along Bockhampton Lane to the crossroads in order to incorporate the Millennium Avenue. The Parish Council expressed their support for this proposal and it was **resolved** to support this.

Action by: Mr Armstrong (to amend detail in proposed letter) and Clerk (to finalise and despatch letter).

59. Minutes

59.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors and Annual Meeting of the Parish Council held on 11 May 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

59.2 Further to minute 48.3, Mr Clarke confirmed that he had written to the Clerk to the Governors to request sight of the conveyance from Dorset County Council to Kingston Maurward College's Corporation but had not yet received a response. He would follow this up.

Action by: Mr Clarke

60. Vacancy

60.1 The Parish Council considered the process for the filling of the vacancy arising from an insufficient number of nominations for the recent elections. It was agreed that anyone expressing an interest in filling this vacancy by the deadline of 26 June should be invited to attend a brief interview immediately prior to the next scheduled meeting of the Parish Council on 13 July 2015.

60.2 It was **resolved** that a person specification based upon the NALC model for parish councillors should be used as the basis for assessing the suitability of any candidates. The Chairman undertook to amend the model to make it relevant to Stinsford Parish Council and would send this to all councillors for agreement.

Action by: Chairman (amendment of person specification) and Clerk (contacting candidates to invite them to interview).

61. Finance

61.1 The following items of expenditure were resolved:-

- Society of Local Council Clerks – Membership Renewal - £77.00
- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils – Delegate Fees for New Councillor sessions - £60.00

62. Annual Return to External Auditor

62.1 The Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had completed his stage of the audit and had not identified any issues of concern. It was therefore **resolved** that Section 1 (accounting statements) and Section 2 (annual governance statement) of the annual return for the financial year ended 31 March 2015 be approved and submitted to the External Auditor.

63. Planning Matters

- 63.1 There were no planning applications to be considered by the Parish Council. However, it was **resolved** that an item should be placed upon the agenda for the next meeting to discuss working with West Dorset District Council on planning matters.

64. Kingston Maurward College

- 64.1 It was noted that no planning application by the College for the development of housing had yet been submitted to West Dorset District Council but that it would probably be necessary to hold a discrete meeting to consider the Parish Council's response during the consultation period.

65. Traffic Management and Road Safety

- 65.1 Mr Hext introduced his report on traffic regulation in Cuckoo Lane, Lower Bockhampton and Church Lane, Stinsford regarding access by coaches. Following investigation, it appeared that a review undertaken by Dorset County Council in 1991 of the existing restrictions in place since 1975 had resulted in exceptions for coaches being made. In the light of recent problems experience by the use of Cuckoo Lane and Church Lane and the narrow roads leading to these, he recommended that the Parish Council write to the County Council and request that the exceptions be reconsidered with a view to removing these. It was **resolved** that a letter be sent to make this request.

Action by: Mr Hext (to draft letter) and Clerk (to finalise and despatch letter).

- 65.2 It was noted that the Parish Council had a large number of concerns about traffic and road safety within the parish, including the Stinsford roundabout and the speed limit on the road between the roundabout and Maurward Close, and that these should be considered as a package in order to lobby the County Council for improvements,

66. Clerk's Items

- 66.1 No business was raised under this item.

67. Correspondence

- 67.1 The Parish Council noted the receipt of an email from the residents of Lane House, Higher Bockhampton regarding the traffic problems experienced in relation to the Visitor Centre and their concerns that accidents will happen. It was **resolved** to acknowledge the email and confirm that the Parish Council shared their concerns and were keeping the situation under review.

Action by: Mr Wheal

- 67.2 The Clerk drew attention to the request received from the Save SCBU and Kingfisher Ward DCH Group that the Parish Council write to the Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group to express concerns about the proposed reduction in paediatric care, including the closure of the Special Care Baby Unit. It was **resolved** that a letter should be submitted.

Action by: Clerk

- 67.3 The Clerk drew attention to the correspondence received regarding consultation on the Local Government Boundary Commission for England's draft recommendations for

electoral arrangements for Dorset County Council. The deadline for the submission of responses was 6 July and she suggested that a the Parish Council respond supporting the proposal that Stinsford continue to be within the Three Valleys electoral division but expressing concern that the parish did not feature by name on the Commission's mapping or in the narrative supporting the draft recommendations. It was **resolved** that a submission be made on this basis.

Action by: Clerk

68. Items of next agenda

68.1 No additional items were proposed.

69. Date of next meeting

69.1 It was **noted** that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 13 July 2015.

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm.

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