

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 January 2018 at 7.00pm in
The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

Present: Mr Chris Hext (Chairman), Mr George Armstrong, Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Will Molland, Dr Andy Stillman, Mr Richard Wheal and Mr Paul Wills.

Also in attendance: Cllr Patrick Cooke (West Dorset District Councillor), Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Councillor), Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and one member of the public.

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 There were no apologies for absence received.

2. Declarations of Interest

2.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interest.

3. Dorset County Council Matters

3.1 Cllr Mrs Haynes provided the Parish Council with an update on local government reorganisation. Whilst the final decision from the Secretary of State was unlikely to be announced until the end of March, a great deal of activity was taking place in preparation for reorganisation, including early work on the review of electoral boundaries and area engagement or decision-making. However, the implications of the continued opposition from Christchurch Borough Council to the reorganisation proposals were not known.

3.2 She also reported that she was holding a series of workshops for borough/district councillors across the County to help their understanding of the implications of adult social care for the setting of the 2018/19 budget, the Dorset Care Record project and the Prevention at Scale agenda. She added that in terms of discharges from care, the picture was improving and below the predicted figure.

4. West Dorset District Council Matters

4.1 Cllr Cooke drew attention to the withdrawal of the application for a permit for bulk cement processing by In Situ Concrete Ltd. Whilst he welcomed this, he informed the Parish Council that he had written to those residents who had been in contact with him in relation to this application to advise them to immediately report any instances of dust pollution from the existing works to the District Council's environmental health department.

4.2 He noted the Parish Council's concerns about the ongoing impact of the current activity at the site at the entrance to Birkin House but explained that the emphasis needed to be on collecting further documentary evidence of this.

Action: Clerk to include advice to report negative environmental impacts in the next edition of The Pilot.

5. Public Participation Time

5.1 The owner of The Old Post Office, Lower Bockhampton addressed the Parish Council in relation to the poor mobile phone signal experienced in the area, giving a recent example when this had had significant implications for guests staying with him. He asked if the Parish Council could take any action to improve this situation.

5.2 The Parish Council acknowledged that signal coverage was quite poor in the area and that, as networks tended not to share their signal, it varied according to each mobile provider. It was noted that greater emphasis was now placed on broadband coverage and opportunities to boost signal via the internet with household solutions. However, if any opportunities to lobby for increased signal coverage were identified, the Parish Council do this.

6. Minutes

6.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2017 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

6.2 Further to minute 196, the Clerk reported that Kingston Maurward College had now issued a credit note for the cost of room hire on 19 October 2017.

7. Finance

7.1 Expenditure

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

- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 3 2017/18) - £106.60
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 3 2017/18), expenses and operational expenses for 2017/18 - £687.79

7.2 Budget and Precept 2018/19

The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, setting out a proposed draft budget for 2018/19 and recommending a precept of £5,000. This remained the same as for the current year and equated to a Council Tax charge of £35.66 for a Band D property.

7.3 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the proposed draft budget estimates for 2018/19 be approved; and
- (ii) a precept of £5,000 for 2018/19 be approved.

8. Planning Matters

8.1 WD/D/17/002736 – The Old Manor, Kingston Maurward, Dorchester DT2 8PX – erection of lean to conservatory to the rear retaining boundary wall and

WD/D/17/002737 - The Old Manor, Kingston Maurward, Dorchester DT2 8PX – erection of lean to conservatory to the rear retaining boundary wall (Listed Building Consent)

It was **resolved** to SUPPORT these applications.

8.2 Gardener's Cottage, Lower Bockhampton

The Parish Council noted the response from the Planning Enforcement Officer who had visited the site of the construction of the garage/outbuilding. She had found that the building met Permitted Development criteria and that no action was necessary.

8.3 Regardless of this, Mr Armstrong expressed his continuing concern about the construction being a major intrusion into the group value of this part of the Conservation Area and the surveying of the ground level to inform the height of the building.

8.4 It was **resolved** to seek clarification as to whether the impact on the heritage value of the Conservation Area was considered by the officer when determining the application for a Certificate of Lawfulness and as to the determination of ground level in relation to Permitted Development.

9. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford

- 9.1 The Parish Council considered the arrangements for a public meeting to launch the neighbourhood plan process, encourage engagement and provide an interactive opportunity for local residents and stakeholders to input into the shape of the neighbourhood plan.
- 9.2 The draft flyer prepared by Mr Wheal was reviewed. This explained what a neighbourhood plan was, why the Parish Council believed it would be an advantage to have one in place, the process for developing a plan and the need for input from residents and stakeholders. This was agreed, subject to some minor amendments, and Mr Wheal was thanked for his efforts on this.
- 9.3 It was **resolved** that:
 - (i) the public meeting to launch the development of a neighbourhood plan and to seek initial engagement from local residents and stakeholders be postponed to 5 March 2018;
 - (ii) this be chaired by the Chairman of the Parish Council;
 - (iii) the final version of the flyer be distributed to residential and business properties within the parish by members of the Parish Council; and
 - (iv) the final arrangements be agreed at the next meeting of the Parish Council*Action by: All*

10. Hardy’s Birthplace Visitor Centre

- 10.1 Dr Stillman reported that the next liaison meeting would be held on the following day at 3:00pm in the Visitor Centre and an agenda for the meeting had been circulated. He would report back on this at the next meeting.
- 10.2 Mr Wheal noted that the Visitor Centre was currently closed on the same days that Hardy’s Cottage was closed.

11. Superfast Broadband

- 11.1 No matters were raised under this item.

12. Road Safety and Traffic Management

- 12.1 No matters were raised under this item.

13. Correspondence

- 13.1 The Parish Council noted comments received from a number of residents about the poor state of the rights of way in the vicinity of St Michael’s Church and Three Bears Cottage, which in some places were becoming impassable. It was agreed to report this to Dorset County Council and request that action be taken to improve the situation.
Action by: Clerk

14. Items for future Agenda

- 14.1 Review of rights of way in the parish (April).

15. Date of next meeting

- 15.1 It was noted that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 12 February 2018.

The meeting concluded at 9:07pm.

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