

Stinsford Parish Council

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

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

Also in attendance: Cllr Patrick Cooke (West Dorset District Councillor), Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and 1 member of the public (Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones).

32. Apologies for Absence

32.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Kim Payne and Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Council).

33. Declarations of Interest

33.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests or any other interests.

34. Dorset County Council Matters

34.1 In the absence of Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes due to illness, the Clerk reported the receipt of an email in which Mrs Haynes stated that there was little further to inform the Parish Council about than was included in her recent written report. The only additional matter was that the County Council have expressed their support for the creation of a single tier council based on the rural Dorset area, which had been widely reported in the local press.

35. West Dorset District Council Matters

35.1 Cllr Patrick Cooke added that there was concern amongst the District/Borough Councils that there would be a stifling of discretionary services as a result of the restructuring of local government in Dorset and that these were often the services most valued by local residents.

35.2 He also reported that Puddletown Area Parish Council had received a presentation from the organisers of the Iron Man Triathlon (which had replaced the Challenge Weymouth triathlon) about the cycling route which would this year pass through the Piddle Valley to Dorchester and back to Weymouth via Martinstown. He expressed his concerns about the proposed road closures and the lack of willingness for these to be stewarded properly and suggested that the Parish Council might wish to express its support for those areas affected. It was noted that the route would not pass through Lower Bockhampton, as it had in the previous two years, and would therefore not impact directly upon the parish. However, it was likely that there would be traffic implications for the parish arising from the displacement of road users from the course. It was **resolved** to write to the organisers of the triathlon and the Highways Authority to express the Parish Council's concerns.

Action: Clerk to write to the Iron Man triathlon organisers and Dorset County Council, as Highways Authority.

36. Public Participation Time

36.1 No matters were raised which were not included elsewhere on the agenda.

37. Minutes

37.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2016 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

37.2 Further to minute 24.2, the Clerk read out an email received from Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes setting out a response to the Parish Council's concerns about the unsympathetic repair of the Swimming Hole Bridge. This confirmed that the way in which the work was undertaken was driven by cost but also due to the need to complete the repair as quickly as possible and noted that some of the original material had been salvaged.

37.3 Further to minute 27.2, the Clerk reported that PCSO Sarah Pilcher had confirmed that as the road from Bockhampton Cross to the entrance to the College's campus had a 60mph speed limit, this was not suitable for Community Speed Watch.

38. Finance

Expenditure

38.1 The following item of expenditure was **resolved**, retrospectively:-

- Kingston Maurward College – Hire of room for meeting with Oliver Letwin MP on 5 December 2015 - £159.84

Maintenance of Lower Bockhampton Playground

38.2 Mr Armstrong reported that a quote of £280 had been received from Pryce Countryside Services for the maintenance work required to the Lower Bockhampton playground. It was **resolved** that an order for this work be placed with Pryce Countryside Services.

39. Planning Matters

39.1 WD/D/15/002971 – Gardener's Cottage, Bockhampton Lane, Lower Bockhampton – erect detached oak frame garage with cinema room, hobbies room and home office space above (Full) – revised site plan

Following consideration of the revised site plan received, it was **resolved** to reiterate the Parish Council's objection to this application as agreed at the last meeting.

39.2 WD/D/16/000233 – Land for access track, East of Slyer's Lane, Waterston – Closure of an existing agricultural access and formation of replacement access and track (Full)

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

39.3 WD/CA/16/00085 – Greenwood Cottage, Bockhampton Lane, Lower Bockhampton – Treeworks - 1 No. Laburnum – fell

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

40. Superfast Broadband

40.1 The Chairman reported that he had contacted Oliver Letwin MP, Dugald Lockhart of the Superfast Dorset team and Grant Munn from BT about the prospect of arranging a meeting to enable local residents to hear direct from them about the issues relating to the lack of superfast broadband in the parish. They had all confirmed that they would be willing to participate in such a meeting.

Action: Chairman to seek a date from Dr Letwin.

- 40.2 Mr Grenville-Jones reported that he was meeting with Dr Letwin on 1 April to discuss issues relating to superfast broadband, including the lack of explanation as to why those areas now marked as purple on the delivery maps would not actually be supplied with the service.
- 40.3 Mr Molland reported that he had updated the residents of Lower Bockhampton about the latest position, as well as the likely cost should the community wish to fund its own installation of the infrastructure required to enable superfast broadband.

41. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

- 41.1 The Parish Council considered a paper in which Mr Wheal had compared the current situation surrounding the Visitor Centre now that Hardy's Birthplace had re-opened for the 2016 season with the outcomes of the meeting held with Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes, Dr Phil Sterling and Mr Giles Nicholson of Dorset County Council on 9 December 2015. There was little evidence that any aspects of the Travel Plan agreed as part of the planning conditions were being implemented and the temporary surface on the bridleway outside the Visitor Centre building was beginning to degrade. The Parish Council expressed their disappointment that no action had been taken and that the situation surrounding traffic and parking would be as chaotic as it had been during the 2015 season.
- 41.2 It was noted that Cllr Mrs Haynes had forwarded Mr Wheal's paper to Mr Nicholson seeking an update on the position.
- 41.3 The Parish Council reiterated the need for action to be taken as a priority to address the outstanding issues and agreed that it was now necessary to request that enforcement action be taken as the conditions attached to the planning permission for the Visitor Centre were currently being breached and there was little evidence that any action was being taken to improve the situation. It was **resolved** that:
- (i) a letter be sent to the County Council's Planning Enforcement Officer requesting that the Visitor Centre be closed until such times as the planning conditions are met in full, including the implementation of the Travel Plan;
 - (ii) a letter be sent to West Dorset District Council's Enforcement Officer requesting that action be taken in relation to the breach of Section 3 of Regulation 9 of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 1992 arising from the approval and operation of the Visitor Centre;
 - (iii) that the National Trust be made aware of the Parish Council's action; and
 - (iv) that, depending on the responses received, the Parish Council consider engaging with the local media.
- Action: Clerk to send letters; Mr Armstrong and Mr Wheal to provide technical detail to be included.*

42. Traffic Management and Road Safety

- 42.1 The Parish Council noted that Bockhampton Bridge had recently been damaged again and discussed what measures could be put in place to protect this Scheduled Ancient Monument from further damage caused by the volume of traffic passing over it, particularly heavy vehicles. It was agreed that the speed and type of vehicles passing through Lower Bockhampton and travelling over the bridge was impacting upon the preservation of the structure and that ways of controlling this should be investigated.
- 42.2 It was **resolved** to:
- (i) request that a Community Speed Watch area be established along the 30mph limit through Lower Bockhampton;
 - (ii) the County Archaeologist be requested to provide advice on the protection of the bridge as a Scheduled Ancient Monument; and

- (iii) a request be submitted to Dorset County Council that the weight restriction on the bridge be reviewed.

Action: Clerk

42.3 The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the Planning and Environment Committee of Dorchester Town Council held on 7 March 2016 to seek their support for the Parish Council's call for improvements at Grey's Bridge to aid the safety of pedestrians. This had been received positively and the Committee had agreed unanimously that the traffic lights should be changed and a pedestrian crossing should be included at the junction.

43. Kingston Maurward College and Dorset Studio School

43.1 It was noted that the post of Principal and Chief Executive of Kingston Maurward College was currently being advertised, as Dr Clare Davison intended to retire at the end of the current academic year. Once a successor had been appointed, it was resolved to write to Dr Davison to thank her for her stewardship of the College during her tenure as Principal and for her contribution to the work of the Parish Council.

43.2 Mr Armstrong reported that he had spoken to the Business Manager of the Studio school regarding the issue of continued light pollution from the external lighting on the building. She had investigated this and had identified that there had been an issue with the overriding of the lighting controls which had now been resolved. It was noted that the situation had now improved.

43.3 Mr Armstrong added that he had taken the opportunity to mention to her that planting of trees which would provide screening had been completed on the east and west sides of the site but no planting had yet taken place to the front of the building. She had undertaken to speak to Mr Payne about this.

43.3 It was noted that the junction signs had now been installed at the entrance to the Studio School site but the recent response from the Community Highway Team Leader had stated that the criteria were not met for the installation of a school warning sign on the road. It was agreed that the circumstances were such at this site that a specific analysis should be carried out which could override the standard policy criteria. It was **resolved** to raise this with Cllr Mrs Haynes.

Action: Clerk to write to Cllr Mrs Haynes.

44. Clerk's items

44.1 The Clerk reported that she had been in contact with Jo Witherden, Dorset Planning Consultant, about attending a meeting to speak to the Parish Council about the process for developing neighbourhood plans. She was unfortunately unable to attend the April meeting, so it was agreed that she should be invited to attend in May (at the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors) or any subsequent scheduled meeting.

44.2 The Clerk reported that the Parish Council had received a complimentary medal to commemorate HM Queen Elizabeth II's 90th birthday. The Chairman drew attention to the letter received from the Lord Lieutenant of Dorset inviting local communities to arrange commemorative events. It was **resolved** not to arrange any specific events in the parish.

45. Items for future Agenda

45.1 No additional items were proposed for inclusion on the agenda for future meetings.

46. Date of next meeting

46.1 It was **noted** that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 11 April 2016.

The meeting concluded at 9:07pm.

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