

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 April 2016 at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr George Armstrong, Mr Chris Hext, Mr Kim Payne and Mr Richard Wheal (Vice-Chairman – in the Chair)

Also in attendance: Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and 1 member of the public (Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones).

47. Apologies for Absence

47.1 Apologies for absence were received from Dr Andy Stillman (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Will Molland, Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Council) and Cllr Patrick Cooke (West Dorset District Council).

48. Declarations of Interest

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

49. Dorset County Council Matters

49.1 In the absence of Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes due to illness, the Vice-Chairman moved to the next agenda item.

50. West Dorset District Council Matters

50.1 In the absence of Cllr Patrick Cooke, the Vice-Chairman moved to the next agenda item.

51. Public Participation Time

51.1 Mr Grenville-Jones drew attention to the presence of two horse riders in Puddletown Forest and Thorncombe Woods who gave the impression of being Police officers but were clearly not once you could see their outfits up close. He expressed concern that once you were aware that they were not actually Police this was not an issue but that visitors might assume that they were and seek assistance from them. The Parish Council noted this but felt that this did not require any action to be taken.

51.2 Mr Grenville-Jones also noted that many of the hedges along the lanes in the parish, particularly on Cuckoo Lane and Bockhampton Lane, had now been cut resulting in a lack of blackthorn blossom. Mr Payne pointed out that there was new legislation regulating when hedges could be trimmed. It was resolved to raise this with landowners in the parish in readiness for spring 2017.

52. Minutes

52.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2016 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Vice-Chairman as a true record.

52.2 Further to minute 35.2, the Clerk read explained that she had not yet written to the organisers of the Iron Man triathlon or Dorset County Council, as Highways Authority, as the cycle route had now been published. This included Slyer's Lane, leading onto London Road and into Dorchester and would therefore have an impact on the parish.

The Clerk explained that she was seeking further information from the team within Dorset Highways who dealt with such events to ascertain the approach that would be taken to restricting traffic on this route. Once this information was received, she would send letters as requested.

52.3 Further to minute 38.1, Mr Payne reported that he had spoken to the Hospitality Team at Kingston Maurward College and a credit note would be forthcoming for the payment of £159.84.

52.4 Further to minute 42.2, the Clerk reported that PCSO Sarah Pilcher had confirmed that the 30mph speed limit stretch through Lower Bockhampton was suitable for Community Speed Watch. A minimum of 6 volunteers were required to be trained on the use of the equipment, etc. A piece about this seeking expressions of interest would be included in the May edition of The Pilot.

52.5 Further to minute 43.3, Mr Payne undertook to speak to the relevant person at the College about the planting to the front of the Studio School as well as that parallel to Bockhampton Lane as screening for the sports hall.

53. Finance

Expenditure

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

- HMRC (PAYE)
 - 1 – 31 January 2016 - £34.40
 - 1 – 29 February 2016 - £34.40
 - 1 – 31 March 2016 - £34.60
- Miss K Riglar - Clerk's Salary (Quarter 4 2015/16) - £413.38
- Pryce Countryside Services – maintenance of Lower Bockhampton playground - £248.00

54. Preparation for Audit

54.1 At the Clerk's request, it was **resolved** to defer consideration of this item until the next meeting.

55. Planning Matters

55.1 There were no planning matters to be considered.

56. Superfast Broadband

56.1 The Parish Council noted that the Chairman had been in contact with the office of Oliver Letwin MP to identify a date for a public meeting but this had not yet been fixed. It was agreed that it would be sensible to agree in advance a list of questions to be asked at this meeting.

56.2 Mr Grenville-Jones reported that he met Dr Letwin on 1 April but this had been inconclusive. There had been insufficient time to cover crucial aspects of the superfast broadband initiative. A key point was who was allowed to direct the three tranches of money – the original 2013 individual and joint funding, the second tranche given to counties (£3M in Dorset) and the cashback from BT when take-up exceeded expectation – and to what end. He considered that the issues associated with the 10Mbs universal service obligation was also far from clear. Mr Grenville-Jones explained that he would continue to correspond with Dr Letwin in the hope of further clarity in advance of the forthcoming meeting with BT and the Superfast Dorset team. He considered that it was essential that the public had sufficient information to judge

what was said and hold both organisations to account if necessary. He added that there was no news about bringing superfast broadband to Higher Bockhampton.

57. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

57.1 The Parish Council considered an update report from Mr Wheal now that Hardy's Birthplace was open for the 2016 season. This set out the problems encountered over the first two weekends of opening, including continued parking in the designated passing places and crowding and congestion in the car park.

57.2 The Parish Council noted the email from Mr Giles Nicholson received via Cllr Mrs Haynes in response to the concerns raised in February. It was noted that both Mr Nicholson and the National Trust representative at Hardy's Birthplace felt under pressure to try and resolve the issues relating to the Visitor Centre but the Parish Council agreed that the responsibility lay with more senior members of staff of both organisations who would have greater authority to implement changes.

57.3 The need for action to be demanded as a priority to address the outstanding issues or 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, was reiterated.

Action by: Mr Armstrong and Mr Wheal to finalise letters to Dorset County Council and West Dorset District Council and to circulate for comments.

58. Traffic Management and Road Safety

58.1 The Parish Council noted that Dorset County Council had been very active on the footpath across the meadows from Grey's Bridge with hogging installed before the bridge at Teddy Bear Cottage as this was part of the initiative to improve the footpath from Dorchester to the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre.

59. Consultation – A30/A35 Exeter to Bere Regis Trunk Road – speed limits review

59.1 The Parish Council considered its response to the invitation to contribute to the review of speed limits on the A35 being undertaken on behalf of Highways England. It was resolved that the following comments be submitted:-

(i) the posted speed of the road as it passes through the parish is too high. The end of the dual carriageway section at Yellowham Hill leads to a bottleneck and a sudden slowing of traffic. In addition, there is a trend of illegal right-turns across the single carriageway to access the toilets and refreshment facilities;

(ii) the introduction of a gradual reduction in the speed limit from 60mph on the final stretch of dual carriageway, to 50mph on the single carriageway and then to 40mph on the approach to the Stinsford Hill roundabout would improve safety;

(iii) the Parish Council continue to have concerns about the safety of the roundabout which was altered in readiness for the Olympic Games in 2012. The layout encourages fast entries and exits from the trunk road but provides little awareness or safety for vehicles using the other exits, particularly for slower moving farm vehicles; and

(iv) whilst not within the parish of Stinsford, the stretch of the trunk road from the Stinsford Hill roundabout to the exit onto the A352 is also a cause for concern. Vehicles increase their speed after the roundabout and are not prepared for the possibility of having to slow down again very shortly afterwards. A phased increase in the speed limit on this stretch from 40mph near the roundabout to 50mph until the exit to the A352 is passed would improve safety.

Action by: Clerk to submit comments.

60. Items for future Agenda

60.1 The following items were proposed for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting:

- consultation on mobile library service

- frequency of meetings

60.2 The Clerk reported that she had arranged for Jo Witherden, planning consultant, to give a presentation on neighbourhood planning at the Annual Parish Meeting.

61. Date of next meeting

61.1 It was **noted** that the next meeting would be held on Monday 9 May 2016 (Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting of Electors).

The meeting concluded at 8:25pm.

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