

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 8 July 2019 at 7.00pm in
The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr George Armstrong (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke and Dr Andy Stillman
(Ms Liz Crocker joined the meeting following her co-option onto the Parish Council.)

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and two members of the public (Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones and Mr Michael Jones)

90. Apologies for Absence

90.1 An apology for absence was received from Dorset Councillor David Taylor.

91. Declarations of Interest

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

92. Dorset Council Matters

92.1 The Chairman explained that, whilst unable to attend the meeting, Cllr Taylor was happy to be contacted about any issues that the Parish Council wished to raise.

93. Public Participation Time

93.1 Mr Michael Jones, owner of Hampton Farm Business Park, shared with the Parish Council his intention to demolish existing chicken sheds on the site and replace these with something similar to the Precision Acoustics building. He confirmed that the apex of the proposed building would be the same height as that of the Precision Acoustics building.

93.2 He explained that he had withdrawn the recent application for development of a house in the paddocks following comments from local residents that this area would be used for more than one dwelling in the longer term. Mr Jones was intending to submit a revised application for a house which would use more of the paddocks area. He considered that this would provide an element of security for the site whilst it continued to develop. He had also shared this proposal with Kingston Maurward College.

93.3 The Parish Council thanked Mr Jones for the update and confirmed that they would formally consider his planning applications in due course.

93.4 Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones referred to the expansion of the hedge at the junction with Cuckoo Lane, which had effectively reduce the road to a single-track, and suggested that the landowner be requested to cut this back.

93.5 Mr Grenville-Jones also referred to the report in the local press that the Government had awarded funding to Dorset Council for the development of a Garden Village north of Dorchester, within Stinsford parish. He sought clarification as to the implications of this grant. The Parish Council agreed that there was a need to seek clarification as a matter of urgency from Dorset Council. Any information received would be added to the Parish Council's website.

Action: Dr Stillman to contact Ms Hilary Jordan of Dorset Council.

94. Minutes

94.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

95. Co-option

95.1 The Parish Council considered an expression of interest in co-option received from a resident of Lower Bockhampton to fill one of the vacancies arising following the elections in May 2019.

95.2 It was **resolved** that Ms Liz Crocker be co-opted onto the Parish Council for the remainder of the current term of office.

95.3 Ms Crocker signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting in her capacity as a Parish Councillor.

96. Finance

96.1 Expenditure

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

- Miss K Riglar – Clerk's salary and expenses (Q1 2019/20) - £499.00
- HMRC – PAYE (Q1 2019/20) - £117.20
- Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk's membership for 2019/20 - £76.00

97. Future pattern of meetings of the Parish Council

97.1 The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk setting out options for the future pattern of meetings. Since the scheduled elections in May 2019, the Parish Council had comprised only three parish councillors, with four seats remaining vacant. In discussing how to attract potential co-optees to fill these vacant seats, it was agreed to revisit the pattern of meetings. Since May 2015, the Parish Council had met monthly, usually on the second Monday of the month.

97.2 It was generally felt that the current level of business of the Parish Council could be transacted in meetings on alternate months, with reserve meetings scheduled on the intervening months should there be any urgent matters. It was also proposed that a Planning Committee be established to allow for planning applications to be considered in the intervening months when it was not necessary to hold a full meeting of the Parish Council.

97.3 Having regard to the options set out in the report, it was **resolved** that:

- (i) the Parish Council move to a pattern of scheduled meetings on alternate months, commencing in September 2019;
- (ii) reserve meetings be scheduled on the intervening months; and
- (iii) a Planning Committee be established to which all parish councillors be appointed.

98. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford

98.1 The Parish Council noted progress on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Dr Stillman reported that a meeting had been held earlier in the day to consider how to close down the current grant account. Agreement had been reached to apply to Locality to re-allocate the remaining monies to cover the survey activity and events in the current year.

98.2 It was noted that Mr Chris Mervik was hosting the draft Plan document, with sections allocated to theme groups or individuals for drafting. Responses to the business survey were being chased up and a household survey was scheduled for September. A paper copy would be delivered to each household in the parish but this would also be made available electronically.

- 98.3 AECOM had submitted their final housing needs report and it was proposed that terminology and evidence from this be used in the final draft of the Plan. AECOM could also assist in the call for sites but this had not yet been requested by the Steering Group.
- 98.4 A number of events to take place during August were being publicised and Lord Fellowes had also agreed to host a function to promote the Neighbourhood Plan.
- 98.5 Dr Stillman drew attention to the report on Natural Capital which provided evidence of how Dorset had changed over the last eighty years.

99. Consultations

99.1 Dorset Local Plan – Statement of Community Involvement

It was **resolved** to submit a response to the consultation supporting the Statement of Community Involvement but drawing attention to the lack of adequate broadband speeds in some rural areas and requesting that a hard copy of any documents be made available to all parish councils for public inspection in an accessible place. It was suggested that Kingston Maurward College could be asked to hold such documents to be accessed by local residents.

100. Road Safety and Traffic Management

100.1 The Clerk reported that Kingston Maurward College had formally agreed that the Parish Council install a grit bin on land belonging to the College in Church Lane and to also refill this if necessary in the event of severe weather. It was **resolved** that Dorset Council be requested to install the bin at a cost of £433 plus VAT.

Action by: Clerk

100.2 The Parish Council noted the success of the recent Open Day held by the College and, in particular, welcomed the improved approach taken to traffic management which had resulted in very few issues on the surrounding roads and considerably less impact on local residents. It was **resolved** to write to the Principal to express this.

Action by: Clerk

100.3 Further to the comments made during public participation time regarding the overgrown hedge blocking Cuckoo Lane, it was **resolved** to report this to Dorset Highways.

Action by: Clerk

100.4 Mr Clarke reported that there had been damage to the footpath sign at the bottom of Church Lane, marking the river path, and also to the bracket and white fingerpost pointing to Stinsford. It was **resolved** to:

- (i) report the damage to the footpath sign to Dorset Highways; and
- (ii) contact the Dorchester Men's Shed about repairing the white fingerpost.

Action by: Clerk

100.5 Mr Armstrong reported that the bridge at Lower Bockhampton had been damaged by a tractor and trailer. It was noted that much of the bio-waste carried by contractors was now taken to the anaerobic digester plant near Monkey's Jump. It was **resolved** to contact Dorset Waste Partnership to ascertain whether there was a prescribed route to the plant set out in a management plan which would negate the damage to the roads and infrastructure through the parish.

Action by: Clerk

101. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

101.1 Dr Stillman reported that he intended to arrange the next meeting of the Liaison Group in September.

102. Correspondence

102.1 The Parish Council noted the receipt of correspondence about the further deterioration of the river path at both the Lower Bockhampton and the Stinsford end. This had previously been raised with the Rights of Way Team in 2018 who had indicated that they were awaiting permission from the Environment Agency to carry out the works. However no progress had been made and further erosion was affecting the integrity of the path. Additionally, the section from the kissing gate to the underpass was becoming impassable due to overgrown vegetation. It was **resolved** to raise this again with Dorset Council.

Action by: Clerk

103. Items for next/future Agenda

103.1 Next meeting - Clarification as to Garden Village funding.

103.2 October – special meeting to consider a formal resolution to declare a Climate Emergency and ideas and initiatives that could be progressed by the Parish Council and through the development of the Neighbourhood Plan.

104. Date of next meeting

104.1 It was noted that the next scheduled meeting would be held on Monday 16 September 2019.

The meeting concluded at 8:20pm.

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