

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 21 September 2015 at 7.15pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

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

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

Public Discussion Period (7.00pm – 7.15pm)

The following matters were raised by a member of the public:

Queries for Dorset County Councillor and West Dorset District Councillor

Mr Grenville-Jones expressed his disappointment that the county and District Councillors were not present at the meeting as he wished to ask questions regarding

- the future of the Charles Street site now that the developer, Simmonds, had pulled out and the current ownership of the land;
- the bid for unitary status by councils in the east of the County;
- details of the changing legislation on household waste and the ability of local authorities to charge for use of household recycling centres; and
- the problems of fly-tipping in and around the parish.

102. Chairman's Welcome

102.1 The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the formal business meeting of the Parish Council.

103. Apologies for absence

103.1 No apologies for absence were received.

104. Declarations of Interest

104.1 Mr Clarke and Mr Payne declared interests in planning application WD/D/15/001812 to be considered by the Parish Council as a Governor and employee respectively of the applicant, Kingston Maurward Agricultural College.

105. Minutes

105.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 August 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

106. Dorset County Council Matters

106.1 In the absence of Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes, the Chairman moved to the next item on the agenda.

107. West Dorset District Council Matters

107.1 In the absence of Cllr Patrick Cooke, the Chairman moved to the next item on the agenda.

108. Finance

108.1 The Clerk reported that there were no payments for the Parish Council to consider.

109. Annual Audit 2014/15

109.1 The Parish Council **resolved** to receive the report of the External Auditor, BDO LLP, following their together with the issues arising report of the annual audit return for the financial year ended 31 March 2015.

110. Governance Documents

110.1 The Parish Council considered updated versions of its governance documents; the Code of Conduct for councillors and co-opted members, Standing Orders and Financial Regulations. Subject to minor amendments, it was **resolved** to adopt these with immediate effect.

110.2 The Clerk informed the Parish Council that there had recently been a number of investigations undertaken by Dorset Police of alleged criminal breaches of the Code of Conduct by parish councillors due to participating in discussions about issues in which they had a disclosable pecuniary interest during public participation time. In a number of cases, whilst it was accepted that this was not part of the formal business meeting, parish councillors were perceived to be participating in this capacity. It was therefore recommended that the public participation time be brought within the formal business meeting and included on the agenda to ensure transparency about the capacity in which a councillor was acting. The time limits set out in the newly adopted Standing Orders would still apply. The Clerk pointed out that this was the approach taken by most principal councils.

110.3 It was **resolved** that the opportunity for public participation be included within future formal business meetings and that the order of agenda items be changed so that this was included after the contributions from the County and District Councillors.
Action by: Clerk to amend documents and publish on website and to amend order of items on future agendas.

111. Planning Matters

111.1 WD/D/15/001615 – Greenwood Grange, Higher Bockhampton – Extension to Henchard Holiday Cottage (Full)

It was **resolved** to **NOT OBJECT** to this application but to request that West Dorset District Council consider the cumulative impact of the significant number of recent planning applications to extend the buildings on the site when determining this application in terms of whether this site in a famously rural setting is becoming over-developed and the impact upon traffic and noise

111.2 WD/D/15/001812 – Kingston Maurward Agricultural College, Kingston Maurward – Refurbishment of existing conference suite. Works to include full internal

refurbishment, new timber glazing and doors to the main garden side (South) and replacing the curtain walling to the East elevation with a new feature window (Full)

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

111.3WD/D/15/001892 – Frome Whitfield Farm, Frome Whitfield, Dorchester – Change of use of agricultural building to two dwellings (Use Class C3) and for associated operational development

It was **resolved** to **NOT OBJECT** this application.

112. Superfast Broadband

112.1 The Chairman reported that he had submitted requests to Dorset County Council under the Freedom of Information Act relating to the omission of most of the parish from the Superfast Broadband project. Contradictory responses had been received. He had since written again commenting on the differences and requesting clarification and further information.

112.2 The Parish Council queried the provision of broadband to Kingston Maurward College and whether this was fibre optic. Mr Payne undertook to seek this information.

112.3 It was also agreed that it would be useful to identify other parish councils who were currently lobbying for inclusion in the Superfast Broadband project.

Action by: Mr Payne to find out about the broadband provision to KMC. Clerk to send communication through the DAPTC to identify other parish councils in a similar position.

113. Traffic Management and Road Safety in the vicinity of Kingston Maurward College

113.1 The Chairman reported that those councillors who had attended the site meeting with Stephen Mepham, Community Highway Team Leader, Dorset County Council, held on Monday 17 August 2015 had raised a number of issues with him relating to road safety in the vicinity of Kingston Maurward College. He had since contacted him to seek an update and had been informed that the painting of 'Slow' signs on the road between the roundabout and Bockhampton Cross should be completed soon.

113.2 Mr Mepham had indicated that it was unlikely that a 30mph speed limit on this section of road would be installed as it did not meet the Highway Authority's criteria. It was noted that few pupils of the Dorset Studio School would walk there along this route. However, it was noted that if the Governing Body of the School were to also campaign for this, it may add greater weight to the case.

113.3 The poor visibility at the Stinsford Hill roundabout was raised and it was noted that the vegetation on the roundabout itself was not maintained. Mr Clarke explained that the College had offered to do this in the past but this had been rebuffed by Highways England (formerly the Highways Agency). Mr Payne reported that the vegetation on the embankment would be cut in the next few days.

113.4 The Clerk drew attention to the agreement by the Parish Council that a representative of Highways England be invited to discuss the issues relating to the A35 at a future meeting. It was **resolved** that it would be better to seek a site meeting in the first instance to enable councillors to raise issues on the ground.

Action by: Mr Payne to raise this issue with the Principal of the Studio School. Clerk to contact Highways England to request a site meeting.

114. Hardy’s Birthplace Visitor Centre

114.1 Mr Armstrong circulated a short scenario for submission to the DAPTC requesting access to legal assistance from the National Association of Local about the outstanding issues relating to the Visitor Centre. He also circulated a draft letter to be sent to the Auditors of the Heritage Lottery Fund.

114.2 It was **resolved** that the two draft documents be amended in line with comments made by the Parish Council, the Clerk submit the request for legal assistance to the DAPTC and the letter to the Auditors of the Heritage Lottery Fund be considered at the next meeting.

Action by: Mr Armstrong to amend scenario and Clerk to submit this to the DAPTC. Mr Armstrong to amend draft letter to the Heritage Lottery Fund’s Auditors and submit it to the next meeting of the Parish Council for approval.

115. Items for next agenda

115.1 Annual inspection of the Lower Bockhampton Play Area.

116. Date of next meeting

116.1 It was **noted** that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 12 October 2015.

The meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

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