

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20 May 2019 at 7.00pm in The Whatmoor Room, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr George Armstrong (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke and Dr Andy Stillman

Also in attendance: Mr Will Molland (Outgoing Chairman) and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

58. Election of Chairman

58.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mr George Armstrong be elected Chairman for the year 2019/20. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Mr Armstrong took the Chair.

58.2 On behalf of the Parish Council, Mr Armstrong thanked the outgoing Chairman, Mr Molland, for his hard work over the past year. As Mr Molland had not sought re-election as a parish councillor, the Parish Council wished him well.

59. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

59.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mr Michael Clarke be appointed Vice-Chairman for the year 2019/20 and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

60. Election return

60.1 The Parish Council noted that following the election held on 2 May 2019, there were now only three parish councillors and four vacancies. Whilst there were sufficient councillors to form a quorum and for the Parish Council to function, there was little resilience. It was **resolved** to encourage local residents with an interest in the community to come forward for co-option onto the Council and to advertise the vacancies on the parish noticeboards and through established networks.

60.2 It was noted that the current pattern of monthly meetings might deter people from coming forward and that this could be revisited if it proved to be a blocker.

61. Apologies for Absence

62.1 There were no apologies for absence.

62. Declarations of Interest

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

63. Minutes

63.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 April 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

63.2 Further to minute 48, it was noted that planning application WD/D/18/002915 had been withdrawn but the reason for this was unknown.

64. Accounts

64.1 The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the final accounts for the financial year 2018/19 for approval by the Parish Council in advance of the annual audit process. It was **resolved** that the accounts be approved.

65. Annual Audit

65.1 The Clerk explained that the current annual audit regime required that all aspects of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return be completed and published as in previous years, the Parish Council would not be subject to a limited assurance review by the External Auditor. However, it was necessary for the Parish Council to submit a Certificate of Exemption.

65.2 It was **resolved** that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman and submitted to the External Auditor.

66. Finance

66.1 Income

Receipt of £2,750.00, 50% of the precept, from Dorset Council was noted.

66.2 Expenditure

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

- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils – annual subscription 2019/20 - £144.23
- Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd – annual insurance renewal - £226.72 (NB The Parish Council were reminded that it had been previously resolved to enter into a three year Long Term Agreement expiring in 2021 and therefore quotes had not been sought.)

67. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford

67.1 The Parish Council noted progress on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. Dr Stillman drew particular attention to the Housing Needs Assessment produced by AECOM which had been circulated for comment before it was finalised. The Parish Council acknowledged the large amount of information collated to produce the report which would help to inform the Plan.

67.2 It was noted that assistance was also being sought in relation to informing design as there was an opportunity to influence lasting change in the design of developments within the parish through the Neighbourhood Plan.

67.3 Further to a request from the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, the Parish Council **resolved** that an annual fee for survey software be paid to enable this to be used for the forthcoming surveys of businesses and residents in the parish.

68. Consultation

68.1 The Parish Council considered its corporate response to a consultation by the Campaign to Protect Rural England on public transport in small to medium sized communities. The responses to this were being collated to demonstrate that large numbers of people lived in “transport deserts” created by the ongoing decline in bus services, particularly in rural areas.

68.2 It was **resolved** to respond to this with the following points:-

- (i) whilst there was access to long-distance bus services on the edge of the parish, there was minimal provision serving the small communities within the parish;
- (ii) local residents were entirely reliant upon their cars for accessing local services and facilities;

- (iii) there was a lack of integration with local rail services;
- (iv) bus provision had reduced over the past five years; and
- (v) the lack of public transport impacted upon the ability of children and young people to participate in extra-curricular activities.

69. Hardy’s Birthplace Visitor Centre

69.1 No issues were raised.

70. Road Safety and Traffic Management

70.1 Installation of a salt bin in Church Lane

Dr Stillman reported that he had met the Community Highways Officer to discuss the prospect of installing a salt bin in Church Lane. The 200 litre salt bin would need to be placed on either a flat concrete or paving slab foundation and back from the road by about 450mm. Dorset Council would install this if the Parish Council and Kingston Maurward College (as the landowner) agreed but this would be at the Parish Council's cost as it would be a ‘Community’ bin.

70.2 It was **resolved** to seek formal permission from the College for the installation of a salt bin on their land in Church Lane.

70.3 Street lighting in Stinsford

Dr Stillman reported that the street lights in Newcombe Lane, Stinsford had been replaced with LED lights which gave a green-tinged hue. He had complained to SSE about this as an individual but considered that this should be kept under review by the Parish Council should it be rolled out in other areas of the parish.

71. Correspondence

71.1 Concerns about noise from the In Situ cement site at the entrance to Birkin House had been raised by a local resident. Whilst cement working was no longer undertaken there, it was not known what the site was being used for and the Parish Council **resolved** to keep activity there under review.

71.2 The Parish Council noted correspondence from the owner of Pump Cottage explaining that the pump itself was being moved and stored securely whilst the building work was underway. It would be moved to its new location as soon as it was safe to do so.

72. Items for next/future Agenda

72.1 No specific items were identified.

73. Date of next meeting

73.1 It was noted that the next meeting would be held on Monday 17 June 2019.

The meeting concluded at 8:25pm.

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