

# Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors  
held on Monday 14 May 2018 at 7.00pm in The Old Library,  
Kingston Maurward College**

**Present:** Mr Chris Hext (Chairman of Parish Council – in the Chair), four other members of Stinsford Parish Council and two members of the public (Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones and Mr Paul Thomas)

**Also in attendance:** Cllr Patrick Cooke (West Dorset District Councillor) and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

## **1. Welcome**

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Hext, welcomed everybody to the meeting.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Richard Wheal and Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Councillor).

## **3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council**

The Chairman presented his report for the year 2017/18 (attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes).

## **4. Report from County Councillor**

In the absence of Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes, the Chairman referred to her report for the year 2017/18 (attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes).

## **5. Report from District Councillor**

Cllr Patrick Cooke reported the following:-

- (i) that a great deal of work was underway to ensure that the new unitary Dorset Council would be safe and legal on 1 April 2019; and
- (ii) that Christchurch Borough Council continued to object to local government reorganisation and had instigated a Judicial Review of the Secretary of State's decision.

In response to a question, Cllr Cooke confirmed that he had heard no more about the environmental health case relating to In Situ Concrete Ltd.

## **6. Report of the Village Hall Trust**

Mr George Armstrong provided the report of the Village Hall Trust. He reminded those present that funds could be used for any communal project to enhance leisure within the parish and welcomed any proposals for the usage of these funds.

He explained that the funds were held in M&G Charity Bonds and, as a result of changing investment strategy, the Trust was likely to see a lower distribution. The most recent quarterly cheque had been for £6.52. The income for the past year had been £26.00.

Mr Armstrong reminded those present that the Village Hall Trust could raise other funds, having done so in the past for a refurbishment of the play area via grant applications. He considered that this may be a useful vehicle should there be significant further development in the parish.

It was **resolved** that Mr George Armstrong, Mrs Pat Cosgrove and Miss Kirsty Riglar be appointed as Trustees for the year 2018/19.

## **7. Public Discussion Period**

Mr Grenville-Jones expressed his concerns at the lack of information available to the public about local government reorganisation and the impact of this on the role and funding of parish councils. He also raised the issue of the number of councillors and the electoral boundary review for the new council. The Clerk explained that it had been agreed that there would be 82 councillors, each representing 3,760 electors, and that the Local Government Boundary Commission for England would commence the formal electoral review once the Structural Change Order had passed through Parliament. It was anticipated that the public consultation on the new wards would commence on 3 July 2018.

In relation to the assets and reserves of West Dorset District Council, Cllr Cooke explained that the assets and reserves would be transferred to the new unitary council although some funds had already been earmarked for projects within the existing district area. Cllr Cooke informed those present of his concerns that the unitary councils would represent a democratic threat to small parishes.

Mr Thomas raised the matter of the possible development by the North Dorchester Consortium, noting that the next stage of the District Council's local plan review would be a consultation on the preferred options for housing development. This was likely to commence in the summer. Mr Hext and Dr Stillman provided an update on the discussions held with representatives from Charminster Parish Council and Dorchester Town Council about this, reminding those present that all three councils objected in principle to large-scale development north of Dorchester. However, if this was identified as a preferred option, it would be necessary to seek co-ordinated infrastructure and design through a masterplan. One of the options discussed was to establish a special purchase vehicle and seek Garden Village status for the proposed development. It was noted that land value capture was a major issue.

In response to a question about the provision of facilities in Dorchester to meet the needs of the residents of any new housing, Cllr Cooke acknowledged that this could increase the viability of the Charles Street proposals. However, it was the projection of costs of archaeological investigation which was considered to prohibitive.

Mr Thomas raised the issue of the need for the Dorset Countryside Rangers to liaise with residents of Higher Bockhampton. He acknowledged the progress made through the liaison group but requested that pressure continue to be applied to ensure that this was undertaken

in a meaningful way. Mr Grenville-Jones pointed out that drones from National Geographic had recently flown over the area and no notice had been given to residents. He reiterated the importance of engagement from the National Trust with local residents. The Parish Councillors present acknowledged these comments and confirmed that it was the Council's intention to continue to campaign for improved consultation and communication with local residents.

The meeting ended at 7:45pm.

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

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL  
MAY 2017 – MAY 2018**

Early in the Council year an offer was received from British Telecom to purchase the redundant Lower Bockhampton telephone box, priced at £1. This was accepted, although the actual box ownership didn't pass to the Council until 19 February 2018.

Following the very successful Casterbridge Rotary Club's Half Marathon, an invitation to the Corn Exchange, Dorchester was received and community donations were presented to the areas over which the race took place. The PC received a cheque for £250 for the Parish use.

An invitation to the Kingston Maurward Agricultural College's Open Day was received in June 2018. A very pleasant afternoon was spent looking around the grounds, the various exhibitions and in particular the stables containing numerous fine horses. The smithy's demonstration was of interest too.

A liaison group was convened and chaired by the PC, to bring together the DCC Thorncombe Woods warden team, local residents and the NT. The aim is to ensure an awareness of the planned development work to be undertaken by the warden team, its effect locally, to monitor the traffic use generated by the visitor centre, the CC car park and the NT adjacent property. Progress can be identified: there is at least a liaison but we do require ensuring that prior consultation takes place.

A number of planning permissions were commented upon throughout the year, notably, proposed single bedroom properties at Bhompston, these were unsuccessful. A proposal under permissive development of a multi garage structure at Lower Bockhampton raised certain concerns of what could meet approval in a conservation area.

A new, replacement picnic table was purchased and installed in the 'play area' at Lower Bockhampton.

Superfast broadband made no real progress despite all the efforts and promises hitherto.

The Joint Venture Development Consortium invited the PC to attend a public meeting at KMH to enable us to be made aware of their proposals for an extensive (4000 properties) housing development, extending from the Eastern edge of Charminster parish, through our Western Parish boundary to approximately Kingston Pond on the A35 (TR) to the East. Included in the proposal were three schools and shops with associated infrastructure.

An invitation to attend a meeting with Charminster PC and Dorchester TC at their offices to discuss our common interests on the proposed developments North of the River Frome was accepted. We found that there were a number of points that could be agreed upon:

- We stressed that infrastructure and a masterplan would be required from day one of any approval of development. A bypass extension/local distributor, link road should have limited access, i.e. not too many roundabouts/controlled junctions.
- There were concerns about the purchase costs of the land impacting on the viability and the provision/delivery of infrastructure. A wide housing mix would be needed with an emphasis on affordable housing and the Local Plan should specify this.
- The Parish Council intended that their Neighbourhood Plan would establish what would be acceptable development within the parish boundaries. The flood plain/river valley had a number of individual features that should receive protection, as this area could not absorb too much change.

An inaugural public meeting was held at Kingston Maurward House in February to commence the Neighbourhood Plan process; it was attended by thirty or so residents of the Parish. Groups were formed to evaluate and present, in due course, a summary of each completed section into the final NP submission.

General maintenance of the various Parish notice boards was completed successfully.

We wrote to the consortium 'Connect', operators of the trunk road, with concern on the Stinsford R/A - A35 (T), pointing out the feint, to non-existent carriageway markings and poor lane displacement. We requested a meeting on site, despite this a reply has yet to be received but the entire R/A was subsequently resurfaced and re-lined as if by magic!

**Annual Report to the Parish Council 2018**  
**Cllr Jill Haynes, Three Valleys Division**

It has been an extremely busy and I feel productive year at DCC. Much of the work in health issues that I am involved in is not particularly visible to the public but is making a difference. As there is so much happening I am going to keep my report brief in each area but I am happy to discuss any particular area in greater detail as required.

Over a year ago Dorset provided a submission to central Government to change from two tiers to single tier local government. This means that the District and County Councils would be dissolved and replaced by new councils. This was finally agreed in February and there will now be two councils instead of nine. The first area being the urban area, including Christchurch, Bournemouth and Poole and the other covering the rest of Dorset.

This now gives a very tight timescale to create these two new councils. A shadow authority for each council will be formed in June of this year and a shadow Executive of 10 county councillors and 10 district councillors will oversee the setting up of the new council. In this area the new council will be called the Dorset Council. We are currently advertising for the three principal officers for the new authority. Across the area the number of councillors will reduce from 211 to 82 with each councillor representing just under 4000 people. The new areas for the councillors will be out to consultation shortly with elections in May next year. The new council will “go live” on the 1st April 2019. All staff from the current councils will be transferred to the new organisation. This includes some 15,000 people from the county council and 900 from the districts. A large amount of work needs to be done to confirm the governance and policy arrangements for the new council. We also need to ensure that the IT systems talk to each other and rationalise the Council Tax across the area. Most importantly we need to ensure that people who are in receipt of council services remain safe and have a seamless move to the new authority.

We were expecting this announcement over a year ago and at this late stage it will not be possible to make big changes to staffing or building use. Certainly this will need to be tackled as a matter of urgency when the new councillors are elected.

There have been considerable pressures in both the children’s and adult’s budgets in the last financial year. In addition to the savings that have to be found due to the cuts in Government Grant for these areas we are finding increasing complex needs are making the cost of caring for people much more expensive. Although the budget for adults will be balanced this year we still need to find further savings of £9 M next year. (Total budget £89M) The Children’s budget will be overspent this year but covered by some “one off” money; the directorate will be trying to find a further £6M next year on a £60M budget. This amounts to savings of some 10% on each budget and is going to be very hard to achieve without cuts to services.

Dorset Waste Partnership on the other hand is performing very well. We are currently rated as the best waste service in the country and they look to be about £900K underspent.

I feel that I must say a big thank you to all our staff for their hard work in the two big falls of snow that we had recently. Many were working very long days in terrible conditions to keep people safe and the roads open as best they could. When this kind of weather happens there is a 24 hour incident control room permanently staffed and in contact with all the emergency services. Also a big thank you to the many people with 4X4 vehicles who went out and helped others, took nurses to work, or carers to their clients. It was a massive effort and we often forget the hard work of the council employees. Another bit of good news is that

the government has given the Council an additional £1.4M to help with potholes caused by the bad weather on top of the £750K we received in November.

We are the first county in the country to use modular housing for Adult Social Care needs. Cabinet has agreed to put forward £1.5M to start the process and we have been working to put together a package with social investors, developers and housing associations to provide a total of 130 units on council owned land in the next two years. We know that over five years we will need some 250 new units of housing to keep those who need our support living in county. Many of these are people with a physical or learning disability, in particular those on the autistic spectrum, where living in shared accommodation will not work for them. Some of the units will be used for key workers to support those who need care.

We continue to work hard with other health organisations and the NHS locally to better integrate our services. We have set up the Dorset Care Record which allows health professionals to access and share patient information. Using this system paramedics will soon be able to see the case history and GP notes and patients will have to only tell their story once. It has started to be used in Poole hospital area and will roll out across the county in the coming months. We are now jointly commissioning day care and residential care with the NHS, this gives us much greater purchasing power and has stopped the competition between organisations for a scarce resource.

The Council is working closely with the District, blue light services and Health to look how the whole of the public estate could benefit the people of Dorset. Property, if it becomes surplus now, is offered to other public organisations first and in each area we are looking to create a master plan of what facilities are needed over a 10 year period. In particular we are looking to build a number of care villages across the area to provide various solutions to people as they get older.

We all know that there are not enough care workers for our older population, particularly in rural areas. We are looking at ways we can help set up micro businesses and let the workers operate in their immediate communities. We will be offering more personal budgets for people to decide what care they want and when they receive it using these local agents.

Rural transport has been an issue for many years now. We have all seen the busses with just one or two passengers going through our villages. We know how very important these links are for people but we cannot continue to subsidise busses in this way. We have been doing a big piece of work with the NHS non-emergency transport and also the transport to our day centres to see how we can find a more holistic solution to this problem. This seems to now be working well in most of our communities and we hope that more options will continue to be rolled out in future months.