

# Stinsford Parish Council

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12 January 2015 at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

**Present:** Mrs L Pain (Chairman), Mr G Armstrong, Mr C Byrne, Mr M Clarke, Mr H Grenville-Jones, Dr A Stillman and Mr R Wheal

**Also in attendance:** Miss K Riglar (Clerk) and 18 members of the public.

### **Public Discussion Period**

No matters were raised that were not included elsewhere on the agenda.

### **1. Casual Vacancy**

- 1.1 It was **resolved** that Dr Andrew Stillman be co-opted to the Parish Council for the period to the next elections to the Parish Council in May 2015. Dr Stillman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

### **2. Planning Matter**

- 2.1 WD/D/14/002611 – Land adjacent to Slyers Lane, Waterston – Erection of six wind turbines and construction of associated infrastructure

The Parish Council resumed its consideration of this application following the deferral agreed at the meeting held on 23 December 2014. A further extension to the deadline for the submission of the Council's corporate view had been agreed by West Dorset District Council, as the Planning Authority, to allow for this.

John Leith, Project Manager for Broadview Energy Ltd, the applicant, reiterated the reasons for having chosen this site for the proposed wind turbines; that it had a good wind resource, higher level technical requirements were manageable, there was good highways access and good access to the electricity grid. He considered that it would represent a valuable contribution to the local community and anticipated that the application would be determined in early March.

Tom Cosgrove of Broadview Energy Ltd informed the Parish Council that it was proposed to make the community benefits fund the subject of a Section 106 agreement, a device used to make an application favourable in planning terms. He explained that it had been proposed to Charminster Parish Council that they undertake a Heads of Terms agreement to establish and administer the fund for the length of its 25 year life. Whilst this was not a material planning consideration, Charminster Parish Council had resolved to support this on condition that a Section 106 agreement would secure the provision of the fund. In response to a question, he explained that it was

industry best practice to provide such a fund in order to aid communities living with the consequences of renewable energy installations.

Having heard further comments from members of the public both in favour of and in objection to the proposed wind turbines, the Parish Council considered their view on this application. Whilst acknowledging the need for the development of renewable energy installations locally, a strong preference was expressed for smaller, decentralised programmes rather than large, industrial schemes such as that being considered. They considered that the size and scale proposed was inappropriate on this site.

It was **resolved** to **OBJECT** to the application on the grounds that the proposed development of a wind farm on this site will have an adverse impact upon the natural environment and landscape in the area arising from:  
the visual intrusion that will be caused by wind turbines of the proposed size, scale and height;  
the overbearing of the landscape that would be created by turbines of the proposed size, scale and height;  
the proximity of the site to the designated Dorset Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and the importance of this landscape for the local economy arising from tourism; and  
the amount of heavy goods vehicle movements that would be created by the construction and commissioning of the turbines and associated infrastructure.  
Additionally, the Parish Council expressed their concerns about the loss of the existing landscape as a significant heritage asset for Dorset.

### **3. Dispensations**

3.1 No applications for dispensation were received.

### **4. Apologies for absence**

4.1 Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mrs J Haynes (County Councillor) and Cllr Mrs S East (District Councillor).

### **5. Minutes**

5.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 18 November and 23 December 2014 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

5.2 Further to minute 144.2, the Clerk explained that she had advised the representative from the Highways Agency not to attend this meeting in view of the other items on the agenda. She explained that he had offered to meet with members of the Parish Council on a future date to discuss the specific issues relating to the A35.

### **6. Dorset County Council Matters**

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

## 7. West Dorset District Council Matters

### 7.1 Cllr A Chisholm reported the following:

- that Cllr Robert Gould had stepped down as Leader of WDDC and had been replaced by Cllr Anthony Alford;
- that the Cabinet would now operate with six members until the elections in May;
- that there had been a lengthy debate on a motion regarding tax-dodging at the recent Council meeting and the only members who voted against this were the members of the Cabinet; and
- the Council had accepted the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan .

7.2 It was noted that a great deal of work and effort had been put into producing the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan and it was questioned whether similar levels of support or resources would be available to other parishes who wished to produce Neighbourhood Plans. Cllr Chisholm explained that WDDC's Planning Department was currently under severe pressure following the loss of a number of qualified staff. He expressed his frustration that the Council's senior management did not acknowledge when such problems occurred and that pressures were not conveyed to the customers. It was suggested that there was pressure to resolve large planning applications and this came at the expense of smaller applications.

## 8. Consultation on possible changes to Dorset's Household Recycling Centres

8.1 The Parish Council considered their response to the Dorset Waste Partnership's consultation on possible changes to Dorset's household recycling centres.

8.2 It was **resolved** that a response be submitted stating that any diminution of services or reduction in the number of household recycling centres in Dorset or the introduction of charging would lead to an increase in fly-tipping, which was a particular problem within the parish of Stinsford. Therefore any reduction was unacceptable.

## 9. Planning Matters

(i) WD/D/14/003224 – Yellowham Farm, Yellowham Wood, Dorchester – Change of use of farm office and general agricultural store to a dwelling (Prior Approval Agricultural to dwelling)

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

(ii) WD/D/14/003243 – Hardy's Cottage, Higher Bockhampton - To dismantle and then reassemble the existing gable end chimney. Alterations to chimney include insertion of tie bars and new detailing of lead flashings. To insert tie rods through the existing cob walls to restrain lateral movement of the roof. (Listed Building Consent)

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

(iii) WD/D/14/003275 – Birkin House, Stinsford – Renewal of rooflight and replacement of south elevation entrance door. (Listed Building Consent)

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

- (iv) WD/D/14/003233 – Kingston Maurward House, Kingston Maurward House West Entrance, Kingston Maurward - Internal alterations for bedroom and toilet facility in annex building (Listed Building Consent)

As this notification of this application was received only two days before the meeting, it was **resolved** to defer consideration of this to the meeting of the Parish Council on 9 February 2014.

- (v) WD/D/14/003242 – Homesclose, Slyers Road, Stinsford – (O/A) Demolition of existing sheds and erection of single storey dwelling (Outline)

As this notification of this application was received only two days before the meeting, it was **resolved** to defer consideration of this to the meeting of the Parish Council on 9 February 2014.

## 10. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

- 10.1 The Parish Council noted the response received from the Acting Director for Corporate Resources to the request made to the Chief Executive for an explanation of the County Council's interpretation of the Town and Country Planning Regulations 1992. Concern was expressed that this was contrary to other interpretations of Regulations 3 and 9.
- 10.2 Councillors also expressed concern that the Visitor Centre appeared to be scruffy and there was a lot of litter in its environs. Questions were raised as to who was responsible for opening and closing the building and how often guides or volunteers were present; it did not appear to be run as a Visitor Centre but merely a cafe.
- 10.3 It was **resolved** that an informal meeting be sought with Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes to discuss these and other concerns relating to the management of the Visitor Centre.

## 11. Finance

### 11.1 Expenditure

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

- 2014/15 contribution to The Pilot parish magazine - £75.00
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 3) - £505.68

### 11.2 Budget and Precept

The Parish Council considered the proposed draft budget for 2015/16 which was based upon that for the current year and recommended a precept of £5,000. It was **resolved** that this be agreed.

- 11.3 Additionally, it was **resolved** that £158 of Local Council Tax Support Grant be requested from the District Council.

## 12. Kingston Maurward College

- 12.1 Mr Armstrong reported that he had spoken to the Planning Officer regarding the determination of the College's planning application for housing development in Lower Bockhampton. He had confirmed that he had gone back to the College's agent with a

recommendation that the application be withdrawn due to insurmountable objections and difficulties. No response from the College has been received to date.

12.2 Additionally, Mr Armstrong reported that several local residents had requested that the Parish council apply for tree preservation orders on the avenue of trees planted as a millennium project in Lower Bockhampton. It was agreed that this should be considered at the next meeting.

**13. Clerk’s Items**

13.1 It was **resolved** that the Clerk should become responsible for the submission of an article to the monthly joint parish magazine, The Pilot, on behalf of the Parish Council.

**14. Date of next meeting**

14.1 It was **resolved** that the Parish Council meet on the reserve date of Monday 9 February 2015 to consider the deferred planning applications

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

The meeting concluded at 10:05pm.

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