

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 January 2019 at 7.00pm in
The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

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

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and 5 members of the public (Ms Sally Cooke, Ms Liz Crocker, Mr Theo Hawkins, Mr Clive Matthews and Cllr Tim Yarker)

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 An apology for absence was received from County Councillor Mrs Jill Haynes.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Dorset County Council Matters

3.1 In the absence of Cllr Mrs Haynes, the Chairman moved to the next item.

4. West Dorset District Council Matters

4.1 In the absence of Cllr Cooke, the Chairman moved to the next item

5. Kingston Maurward College Matters

5.1 It was reported that the Principal of the College was unable to attend the meeting but would provide an update at the next meeting in February.

6. Public Participation Time

6.1 Cllr Tim Yarker, West Dorset District Councillor for the Cerne Valley Ward, introduced himself and informed the Parish Council that he was one of the prospective candidates for the new Charminster St Mary's ward in the Dorset Council election in May 2019, which included Stinsford.

6.2 In response to a request for an update on the Kingston Maurward College Masterplan, the Chairman explained that this would be considered by the Governors in March. However, it was reported that a copy of the latest version of the Masterplan document would shortly be made publicly available on the Parish Council's website, together with the Parish Council's response to this. Ms Cooke added that the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group had recently considered the draft Masterplan and would be submitting its comments by the end of January, as well as placing an article about this in the parish magazine. It was anticipated that the Principal of the College would be at the next Parish Council meeting and provide an update on the development of the Masterplan.

6.3 Mr Clive Matthews explained that he lived close to Hampton Park and expressed his concern that he knew nothing of the planned agricultural buildings included within the Masterplan until earlier that day. The Parish Council explained that the Local Plan Review preferred options consultation had included a paragraph stating that a Masterplan was under development and this had been presented to the Parish Council as part of early stakeholder consultation. This included a proposal to re-site the College's dairy near to Hampton Park. The Parish Council had expressed concerns about the access to this and had suggested that an alternative access be considered from the Tincton road.

7. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford

- 7.1 The Parish Council noted the progress on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan being made through the Steering Group. A presentation had been received at the recent meeting from a developer who had alerted the Group to factors it should be aware of if it wished to influence the North Dorchester development if this was progressed. Evidence continued to be gathered, particularly in relation to sense of place, and it was anticipated that a survey would be sent to all households and businesses within the parish in the next few months. It was recognised that a great deal of work was being undertaken by a lot of local people.
- 7.2 Dr Stillman reported that Homes England had agreed to provide some funding and assistance to help prepare a housing need questionnaire. This would focus on need from within the parish itself and focus on tenure, size and type of housing.
- 7.3 Dr Stillman also informed the Parish Council that, as the final quote from FERIA Urbanism for training was higher than anticipated, the Steering Group had agreed to put this on hold for the time being. It was hoped that funding for this could be secured through the grant for 2019/20.
- 7.4 It was acknowledged that there was a need for the Parish Council to consider the amount of technical support to the Steering Group that could be supported. It was agreed that costs should be brought forward for consideration in due course.
- 7.5 In response to a question, it was explained that the original target for publication of the Neighbourhood Plan by the end of 2019 was unlikely to be met. When the final version was submitted to Dorset Council, it would then be passed for examination before proceeding to referendum within the parish. Conversations with planners at West Dorset District Council had shown that this process could take up to a year.

8. Minutes

- 8.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2018 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the amendment of minute 184.1 to read:
*Mr Armstrong informed the Parish Council that he had received correspondence from local residents about light pollution from the Dorset Studio School, the Science Block at Kingston Maurward College and the car park at the RSPCA Taylor's Rehoming Centre. He suggested that it would be appropriate to make contact with the relevant people at each of the establishments to raise these concerns and, if necessary, offer to attend a site visit to consider how the level of light pollution could be reduced. The Parish Council **resolved** that this was a sensible proposal.*

9. Finance

9.1 Expenditure

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

- Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – professional planning support for development of Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan for period September 2018 – March 2019 (December 2018 invoice) - £456.20
- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 3 2018/19) - £74.80
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 3 2018/19), expenses and operational expenses for 2017/18 - £544.07

9.2 Future expenditure

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's laptop was reaching the end of its life and sought agreement for the purchase of a new one to a reasonable professional specification. It was **resolved** that a new laptop be purchased at a maximum cost of £500 to be met from the IT equipment reserve.

9.3 Budget and Precept 2019/20

The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, setting out a proposed draft budget for 2019/20 and recommending a precept of £5,500. This was an increase of £500 on the current year and equated to a Council Tax charge of £37.16 for a Band D property.

9.4 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the proposed draft budget estimates for 2019/20 be approved; and
- (ii) a precept of £5,500 for 2019/20 be approved.

10. **Road Safety and Traffic Management**

10.1 The Parish Council received the following update on the replacement of the white fingerpost at Higher Bockhampton and refurbishment of the fingerpost at Bockhampton Cross:-

- (i) repair and replacement of the fingerpost at Higher Bockhampton had been commissioned from the Dorchester Men's Shed on a like for like basis and it was hoped that this would be completed shortly;
- (ii) the refurbishment of the fingerpost at Bockhampton Cross was raised at the meeting of the Hardy's Birthplace Liaison Group on 18 December 2018, to see if other organisations were willing to contribute towards the cost and these had been confirmed by the National Trust, Dorset County Council and the Underwood the Greenwood Tree cafe totalling £350;
- (iii) the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England had agreed to provide a grant of £300; £100 for the Higher Bockhampton fingerpost and £200 for the Bockhampton Cross post.

10.2 Dr Stillman added that the cost and wording of the Bockhampton Cross post had been discussed at the recent Liaison Group meeting and it was agreed that the quote for complete refurbishment including metal lettering was expensive and that an alternative option should be sought in order to reduce the cost. It was also noted that the post originally listed 'Higher Bockhampton' but this had been amended to 'Hardy's Cottage' only on the current post. It was therefore proposed that Higher Bockhampton be reinstated on the post when it was refurbished.

10.3 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) Greenwood Grange be approached for a contribution to the cost of refurbishing the Bockhampton Cross post; and
- (ii) a quote be sought for alternative, cheaper lettering to include 'Higher Bockhampton'.

10.4 It was also queried whether the fingerposts now belonged to the Parish Council and should be included on the asset register. The Clerk undertook to seek clarification of this from Dorset County Council.

10.5 In relation to road safety, Mr Wheal reported that he had witnessed a child caught on the barbed wire fence on the northern side of the bridleway opposite the Visitor Centre and was increasingly concerned at the danger that this proposed, particularly as the amount of pedestrian space was reduced and there were no animals in the field. He drew attention to Section 164 of the Highways Act 1980 and proposed that the Parish

Council request that Dorset County Council, as the Highways Authority, require the landowner to remove the barbed wire as this was injurious. It was **resolved** that this request be made.

Action by: Clerk

11. Hardy’s Birthplace Visitor Centre

11.1 Dr Stillman provided the following feedback from the liaison meeting held on 18 December 2018:-

- (i) information had been shared with those present about the development of the neighbourhood plan;
- (ii) the new Visitor Experience Manager for Hardy’s birthplace had been in attendance;
- (iv) the National Trust was moving to ticket allocations for visitors to the cottage;
- (v) the issue of the poor quality of the five year plan for Thorncombe Woods had been raised; and
- (vi) the installation of the shipping container was progressing but no services were being installed.

11.2 Mr Wheal welcomed these meetings as an opportunity for local residents to raise issues of concern with the key stakeholders. At the present time, the major issue was the number of vehicles driving along the lane.

12. Correspondence

12.1 The Chairman reported that Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary had awarded the Parish Council £150 from the profits of the 2018 Dorchester Marathon to support a local community project. He would attend the celebration event on 28 January 2019 to formally receive the cheque.

12.2 The Clerk added that correspondence had been received earlier in the day to say that the 2019 half marathon event would start and finish at Kingston Maurward. She would circulate the information received to the Parish Council following the meeting.

13. Items for next/future Agenda

13.1 No items were raised for the next or future agenda.

14. Date of next meeting

14.1 It was noted that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 11 February 2019.

The meeting concluded at 8:10pm.

Chairman..... Date.....