

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 March 2015 at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mrs L Pain (Chairman), Mr G Armstrong, Mr M Clarke, Mr H Grenville-Jones and Mr R Wheal

Also in attendance: Cllr Mrs S East (West Dorset District Councillor), Miss K Riglar (Clerk) and 6 members of the public.

Public Discussion Period

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

21. Dispensations

21.1 No applications for dispensation were received.

22. Apologies for absence

22.1 Apologies for absence were received from Dr A Stillman and Cllr Mrs J Haynes (County Councillor).

23. Minutes

23.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 12 January and 9 February 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the deletion of all wording in minute 18.2(iii) after "...dwelling".

23.2 Further to minute 19.2, the Chairman reported that she had spoken to West Dorset District Council's Tree Officer who had explained that the land on which the avenue was planted was likely to be owned by the County Council. He had undertaken to check and report back.

23.3 Further to minute 7.2, Mr Grenville-Jones drew attention to the similarities between the Cerne Valley Neighbourhood Plan and the content of the Stinsford Parish Plan and considered that if the Parish Council decided to pursue a neighbourhood plan, this was the existing document would provide a solid basis for this.

23.4 Further to minute 19.1, the Clerk requested approval to contact HugoFox, a company offering to establish and host community websites, as advertised in the recent Chief Executive's Circular released by the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils. It was **resolved** that the Clerk contact HugoFox and establish a new website through their platform if she was content with their offer.

24. Resignation

24.1 The Parish Council acknowledged the recent resignation of Mr C Byrne from the Parish Council. It was **resolved** that the casual vacancy arising from his resignation should not be filled as the quadrennial elections for the Parish Council were due to be held in May 2015.

25. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

25.1 The Parish Council heard a number of concerns from local residents about the operation of the Visitor Centre, the difficulties being experienced in relation to overflow parking occurring on the road and in the designated passing places and the recent removal of a number of trees from the area around the Centre. Councillors heard that the Centre itself was very crowded over the recent weekends and there was no evidence of any presence from the National Trust or Rangers. Concerns were raised that the food provision exceeded that detailed in the planning application and that to date none of the intended interpretation material about the Thorncombe Woods had been installed.

25.2 It was noted that a press event was being held on the following day to launch the opening of the Centre and the beginning of the season for Hardy's Birthplace itself but the Parish Council had not been invited to this. It was **resolved** that the Dorset Echo should be contacted and the reporter covering the event be asked to meet with Mr Grenville-Jones, representing the Parish Council, to allow the views of local residents to be reported as a contrary view on the Centre.

25.3 The Parish Council also noted that the outcomes of the review into the planning process in relation to the Centre was still awaited. At the recent meeting with County Councillors Mrs J Haynes and Mr P Finney about the Centre it had been inferred that this would be made available imminently. It was **resolved** that a formal, public meeting of the Parish Council be arranged with Cllr Mrs Haynes , Cllr Finney and a senior representative of the National Trust to discuss the outcomes of the review were published.

25.4 It was also **resolved** that the Legal Adviser to West Dorset District Council's Licensing Sub-Committee be asked how the decision to permit the premises licence had been reached.

26. Dorset County Council Matters

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

27. West Dorset District Council Matters

27.1 Cllr Mrs S East reported the following:

- that she considered that it was unlikely that the Slyer's Lane Wind Farm application would be determined in April, as originally anticipated, as officers were considering the points made by the statutory consultees;
- the District Council had agreed to increase Council Tax by 1.9%;

- the budget had been agreed unanimously by the Council and did not include an increase in charges for short stay parking;
- new parking metres were being installed in car parks which requested the vehicle registration number and represented a move towards a system of paying upon exit;
- the tri-partnership had now been formally agreed by all three councils resulting in one staff corps serving three sovereign councils;
- the problems within the Planning Department were being addressed and new staff were being recruited including a new Building Control Manager who would start in April; and
- the proposed modifications to the Local Plan were now out to consultation and the report from the Inspector was expected in June and it was hoped that the Plan in its entirety would be adopted in the autumn.

27.2 In response to a question, Cllr Mrs East drew attention to the recent reports in the media that the Leader of the District Council had been quoted as saying that, as far as he knew, phase two of the Charles Street development would be going ahead. She acknowledged that the closure of this major town centre car park would be a serious issue.

27.3 It was noted that this would be the last meeting of the Parish Council that Cllr Mrs East would attend, as Stinsford would lie within the Puddletown ward after the elections on 7 May 2015. The Parish Council thanked her for her consistent and persistent hard work and support as their local ward member and for her attendance at their meetings.

28. Kingston Maurward College

28.1 The Chairman reported that she had been invited to attend a meeting arranged by the Principal of the College for a number of representatives with an interest in the College to inform them that a detailed planning application for twenty or less houses on part of the northern plot at Lower Bockhampton would be submitted in due course. Mr Clarke, who was also present at the meeting, reported that the College would share a detailed plan with the Parish Council before the application was submitted.

28.2 The Chairman added that she had invited the Principal to attend a meeting of the Parish Council to further discuss this in a public forum and respond to any questions that councillors or residents might have but she had declined.

28.3 The Parish Council noted this and agreed that an opportunity should be sought to enable councillors to have an open and constructive dialogue with a senior representative of the College, particularly to understand why the land at Lower Bockhampton had been identified and to explore the possibility of situating the proposed development elsewhere on the campus where it would not impact upon an existing local community or agricultural land. It was **resolved** that the Principal of the College be invited to attend an informal discussion with the Parish Council about the proposed development and that this take place before 25 March 2015.

29. Finance

29.1 The Clerk reported that there were no payments or financial matters to be considered.

30. Planning Matters

(i) WD/D/15/000217 – Birkin House, Stinsford – Repairs, internal alterations and relocation of kitchen (Listed Building Consent)

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

(ii) WD/D/15/000320 – 2 Newcombe Lane, Stinsford – Erect a single-storey lean-to side extension

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

31. Challenge Weymouth Triathlon 2015

31.1 The Clerk reported that the Challenge Weymouth Triathlon would take place on 13 September 2015. Given the negative experience of local residents when this event had been held in 2014 and the bicycle race leg passed through the parish, she had already contacted both organisers and a representative on the local Safety Advisory Group to request much earlier notification of the impact of this event to allow for dissemination locally. She reported that the experience in Stinsford had been repeated by other parishes through which the race had passed.

31.2 The Parish Council also expressed their concerns about the potential impact of the consequent road closures upon local businesses and horse riders. It was **resolved** that the Clerk also make the Parish Council's views known to the Highways Authority.

32. Footpaths and Cyclepaths

32.1 The Parish Council welcomed the recent suggestion made by Dr Stillman that a footpath to West Stafford be investigated and/or established.

33. Clerk's Items

33.1 No business was raised under this item.

34. Correspondence

34.1 The Parish Council considered its response to the consultation on the modifications to the joint West Dorset District Council/Weymouth and Portland Borough Council Local Plan. It was **resolved** that this should combine the comments submitted by email by Mr Grenville-Jones and Dr Stillman respectively.

34.2 Additionally, it was agreed that the point should be made that whilst some of the policies applied to the same subject, there were contradictions and it was unclear how these would be balanced and where the greatest weight would be placed.

35. Other information for report only

35.1 No business was raised under this item.

36. Date of next meeting

36.1 It was **noted** that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 11 May 2015 (Annual Meeting) and would be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

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