

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 25 September 2023
at 7:00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr George Armstrong (Chair), Mr Michael Clarke (Vice-Chair), Ms Sue Escott and Mrs Sarah Pattison

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and two members of the public.

88. Apologies for Absence

88.1 No apologies for absence were received from members of the Parish Council. Dorset Councillor David Taylor had sent his apologies as he was unable to attend the meeting.

89. Declarations of Interest

89.1 Mrs Pattison declared a personal interest in the Dorset Council Housing Strategy consultation due to being an active member of the Residential Landlords Association.

89.2 There were no further declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interest.

90. Public participation time

90.1 Mr Felstead, resident of Maurward Close, addressed the Parish Council in relation to the treeworks application at 1 Maurward Close, outlining the concerns that he and Mrs Felstead had about the proposal. He confirmed that these had been formally submitted to Dorset Council objecting to the application.

91. Planning Matters

91.1 P/TRC/2023/05148 – 1 Maurward Close, Stinsford, DT2 8PU – T1 Sycamore – Fell

Having considered the comments made by Mr Felstead and those received by email from another resident of Maurward Close, it was **resolved** to object to this application on the following grounds:

- (i) There is no evidence that the tree is unsafe and presents a danger to people or property.
- (ii) The tree contributes to the screening of the properties in Maurward Close from the heavy traffic flow on Hollow Hill.
- (iii) The tree is located within the Stinsford Conservation Area.
- (iv) Felling of the tree will be contrary to the following sections of the adopted Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan:
 - 2.2;
 - Policy SNP2 - Local Landscape Character; and
 - SNP Project 1 - 2 Local Landscape Character.
- (v) Felling of the tree will be contrary to the Stinsford Parish Council Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan which supports the aims and objectives of the Neighbourhood Plan.

92. Dorset Council update

92.1 In Cllr Taylor's absence, the Chair moved to the next item.

93. Minutes

- 93.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes meeting held on 14 August 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

94. Finance

94.1 Expenditure

The following item of expenditure was **resolved**:

- (i) HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 2 2023/24) – £268.80

94.2 The following payments made by Direct Debit were noted:

- (i) HSBC – Bank Charges – April 2023 - £8.00
(ii) HSBC – Bank Charges – May 2023 - £8.00
(iii) HSBC – Bank Charges – June 2023 - £13.00
(iv) HSBC – Bank Charges – July 2023 - £10.00
(v) HSBC – Bank Charges – August 2023 - £10.00

94.3 Income

Receipt of the following income was **noted**:

- (i) HMRC VAT refund for 2021/22 - £1,136.01

94.4 Current financial position

The Parish Council **noted** the current financial position. To date in the 2023/24 financial year, expenditure totalled £13,737.28 and there was currently £12,830.65 in the bank.

95. Lower Bockhampton Play Area

- 95.1 The Parish Council considered the future of Lower Bockhampton Play Area. It was noted that there had been a significant reduction in usage of the play equipment or goalposts over the last few years with very few families with young children living or visiting the area. The majority of visitors were now tourists or walkers using the picnic table. As the play equipment and goalposts were coming towards the end of their useful life, it was suggested that in future these could not be replaced. Additionally, when the wire fencing had been removed during the maintenance work on the boundary wall it had become clear that a significant number of the wooden posts needed to be replaced. This would not be necessary if the area was not designated as a play area with goalposts.

- 95.2 Whilst the area was owned by Fields in Trust and under the stewardship of the Parish Council, it was not a requirement that this be used as a play area with play equipment. It was suggested that the area could instead be repurposed as a public greenspace with a wildflower area, tree planting and possibly an additional picnic table.

- 95.3 It was **resolved** to launch a consultation with an article in The Pilot to seek the views of local residents about the future of the play area. If there was sufficient interest in this, a public meeting could then be arranged to enable engagement before any final decision was made.

96. Parish Council Assets

- 96.1 In relation to the Lower Bockhampton telephone kiosk, Mr Clarke reported that he had been approached by the Head of Fabrication at Kingston Maurward College about potential local community projects with which students could be involved. He

suggested that the preparation of the kiosk in readiness for painting be put forward. It was **resolved** to progress this.

96.2 In relation to the parish noticeboards, following further review of the condition, it was **resolved** to

- (i) repair the noticeboards at Lower Bockhampton and Higher Bockhampton in situ with marine ply at an approximate cost of £200; and
- (ii) remove the hinged door and the inner lining, paint the back and this be used for laminated notices.

96.3 The Clerk reported that a quote for the purchase of a grit bin and installation of this by a local contractor had been received and would potentially be cheaper than that provided by Dorset Council. However this would not be progressed pending an update from Cllr Taylor.

96.4 In relation to other assets, it was resolved that any maintenance needs of the bus shelter at Higher Kingston and the bench on Church Lane be assessed.

97. North of Dorchester Garden Community

97.1 Mr Clarke reported that he had not yet made contact with Wessex Water to seek a meeting with the Parish Council either in person or virtually but would do so.

98. Consultations

98.1 The Parish Council resolved to submit responses to the following consultations and publish these alongside the minutes on the website:

- (i) Dorset Council Housing Strategy;
- (ii) Natural England Survey on Local Landscape Designations in England;
- (iii) Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities - Consultation on additional flexibilities to support housing delivery, the agricultural sector, business, high streets and open prisons; a call for evidence on nature based solutions, farm efficiency projects and diversification; and
- (iv) Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities – Plan-making reforms: consultation on implementation.

99. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

99.1 The Chair referred to the ongoing email exchanged between Dorset Council and local residents about the safety of local roads following the recent serious accident on Slyer's Lane. He expressed concern that the tone of the correspondence was to in effect shut down communications on this issue and lacked any acknowledgement of the fact that Dorset Council was responsible as the Highways Authority, not the Parish Council.

99.2 Mrs Pattison reported that she had received an update from Cllr Taylor earlier in the day. He had explained that a Transport Officer had been tasked to look at this issue properly and provide a report on this. It was **resolved** to write to the officer to reinforce the Parish Council's concerns about the safety of Slyer's Lane and other local rural roads and to support the issues raised by local residents in their correspondence.

99.3 It was **resolved** that the Parish Council also write to Dorset Council to fully support the calls made by local residents for a reduced speed limit to improve safety for road users, making reference to the relevant policy in the adopted Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan and drawing attention to another recent near-miss on this stretch of road.

99.4 The Parish Council considered the invitation received to attend a meeting of the A35 Parishes Group on 13 October 2023. This would allow parishes along the route of the A35 to engage with representatives from National Highways. The invitation was welcomed and it was resolved that the Chair, Vice-Chair and Mrs Pattison would represent the Parish Council at this meeting.

99.5 The Chair reported that the stretch of the River Path between Stinsford Bridge and London Road was very overgrown and required cutting in order that the bridleway could be used by all users. It was resolved to submit a request for this to Dorset Council.

100. Parish Bounds Walk

100.1 The Parish Council considered the feedback received from those who had undertaken the recent self-guided parish bounds walk, which was generally positive, and whether this should be repeated in 2024.

100.2 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) arrangements be made for the next walk to take place in 2025, by which time it was hoped that there would be some new parish councillors in place; and
- (ii) the same route be used for this.

101. Correspondence

101.1 The Clerk reported that a message had been received via the website requesting that a dog waste bin be made available by the Church. It was **resolved** to respond to this to say that as the Parish Council did not have the facilities for regular emptying of any such bin, this was not something that would be progressed at this time and would prefer that dog owners disposed of any waste themselves.

101.2 The Chair reported concerns raised by residents of Lower Bockhampton about agricultural contractors travelling over Bockhampton Bridge in heavy vehicles and the impact on the structure. It was **resolved** to write again to the landowner to request that he remind contractors not to take the route over the bridge due to it being a historic monument and the structural impact of heavy vehicles.

101.3 The Chair also reported contact with a resident of Knapwater who had complained to Magna in June about the one of the air source heat pumps serving the houses not working but no action had yet been taken. It was **resolved** to contact Magna about this.

102. Items for next meeting

- Dorset Studio School Capital Project
- Future of Lower Bockhampton play area

103. Date of future meetings

103.1 It was noted that future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 9 October (reserve date) and Monday 13 November 2023.

The meeting concluded at 8:44pm.

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