

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January 2020 at 7.00pm in
The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr George Armstrong (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke, Ms Liz Crocker and Dr Andy Stillman

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and one member of the public (Ms Sally Cooke)

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 An apology for absence was received from Cllr David Taylor (Dorset Councillor) due to recovery from an operation. The Parish Council wished Cllr Taylor well for his recovery.

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 Ms Crocker declared a pecuniary interest in the urgent planning matter relating to Loma House, as one of the applicants, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this.

3. Dorset Council Matters

- 3.1 In the absence of Cllr Taylor, the Chairman reported that he attended the climate change seminar held on 19 November 2019 for representatives of parish and town councils. This provided an overview of all aspects of Dorset Council's approach to climate change and the work in progress across the organisation. This had been quite positive but the Chairman considered that the Council needed to work harder to bring its plans to fruition. At the present time, there had been no specific requests for action made of parish and town councils and it was likely that more seminars would be held as the work progressed.

4. Public Participation Time

- 4.1 Ms Cooke drew attention to Dorset Council's call for ideas from the community as to how the Council could tackle climate and ecology concerns and that a public inquiry day was due to be held on 21 February. Anyone wished to speak at the inquiry day needed to submit their ideas by 16 February. The Parish Council considered that it did not currently have any ideas to put present.

5. Minutes

- 5.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the amendment of minute 121.3 to read "... *However, he felt that there was no real sense of exploring the process for establishing partnership working.*"
- 5.2 Further to minute 128.2, it was proposed that Dorset Council's Tree Officer be asked to attend a site visit with the residents of The Old Vicarage and a representative of the Parish Council.
- 5.3 Further to minute 129.2, the Clerk reported that an operator's licence had been approved for a period of five years to park and operate one heavy goods vehicle and trailer from the yard at the entrance to Birkin House.

- 5.4 Further to minute 130.2, the Chairman reported that he had spoken about wildflower planting at the recent climate change seminar and was seeking approval in writing for planting on verges. When this was received, a call for volunteers to plant seeds would be placed in The Pilot.
- 5.5 Further to minute 132.2, it was proposed that a call for volunteers to assist with the repainting of the telephone kiosk in Lower Bockhampton be placed in The Pilot in the Spring. The Chairman also proposed that Kingston Maurward College and the Dorset Studio School be approached to seek volunteer support.

6. Finance

6.1 Expenditure

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

- Groundwork UK – unspent Neighbourhood Planning grant (retrospective) - £322.78
- HMRC - PAYE (Q3 2019/20) - £117.40
- Miss K Riglar – Clerk's salary and expenses and operational expenses for 2019/20 (Q3 2019/20) - £669.03

6.2 Budget and Precept

The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, setting out a proposed draft budget for 2020/21 and recommending a precept of £5,500. This was the same as for the current year and equated to a Council Tax charge of £37.54 for a Band D property.

6.3 It was **resolved that:**

- (i) the proposed draft budget estimates for 2020/21 be approved; and
- (ii) a precept of £5,500 for 2020/21 be approved.

7. Planning Matters

7.1 WD/D/19/002925 – Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre, Higher Bockhampton, DT2 8QH – Variation of Condition 8 of planning permission 1/D/12/001028 to extend opening hours

Further to minute 131.3/2019, the Parish Council noted that an application had now been submitted to vary Condition 8 of the planning permission for the Visitor Centre to enable extended opening hours for up to 10 days a year for the sole purpose of providing facilities to those partaking in pre-booked organised events in keeping with the Thorncombe Woods landscape, wildlife and its strong heritage with Thomas Hardy. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to some local residents but no objections about this limited variation of the opening hours had been raised.

The Parish Council therefore **resolved** to confirm support of this proposal subject to the following restrictions:

- (i) the number of events held at 4pm should be restricted to 10 per year;
- (ii) the Visitor Centre should be closed by 10pm; and
- (iii) no amplified music should be played.

7.2 WD/D/19/003114 – Higher Burton Farm, Higher Burton Farm Access Road, Higher Burton DT2 7SA – Change of use of agricultural buildings to 5 no. dwellinghouses (Class C3) and associated operational development

The Parish Council noted that this site lay within the adjoining parish but close to the parish boundary and was subject to permitted development as a change of use application.

- 7.3 Request for Environmental Impact Assessment screening opinion for proposed development of Solar Farm and Associated Development at land south west of Home Farm, Slyers Lane, Waterston

Whilst acknowledging that this is not a planning application and merely a request for an opinion from Dorset Council, it was **resolved** to submit a comment that this proposal should be subject to a full Environment Impact Assessment.

8. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford

- 8.1 Ms Cooke, Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, reported that the drafting of the policies to be incorporated in the Neighbourhood Plan was proving to be more challenging than initially anticipated and there was further work required to combine this with the evidence base. Discussions were being progressed with relevant organisations, such as Kingston Maurward College, prior to formal consultation with stakeholders. She explained that she would be standing down as Chair after the meeting of the Steering Group in March and was seeking to tie up loose ends prior to this. She added that there would be a need for the Steering Group to revisit the timescale and funding for the development of the Plan after March.
- 8.2 It was noted that the Housing theme had reached an impasse as there was no route to follow to prioritise, given the uncertainty about the future of the DOR15 proposals and the garden village bid, and this would be discussed at the Steering Group meeting in February, to which Cllr David Taylor would be invited.
- 8.3 The Parish Council thanked Ms Cooke for all of her efforts in driving and co-ordinating the work on developing the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan.

9. Consultation – Pre-submission draft of Puddletown Area Neighbourhood Plan and its accompanying Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 9.1 The Parish Council welcomed the opportunity to comment on the documents and considered them to be clear, well-written and free of jargon. It was **resolved** to welcome the documents and express a wish to work with the Puddletown Area Parish Council to learn from its experience of the process.
- 9.2 It was noted that the Chair of the group leading on the development of the Puddletown Area Neighbourhood Plan would be attending the meeting of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group in March.

10. Climate Change Meeting

- 10.1 The Clerk reported that she had approached a possible guest speaker to lead the proposed public meeting on climate change to inform whether a motion should be passed declaring a climate change emergency, however he was currently unwell and therefore unable to commit to a date.
- 10.2 It was **resolved** to postpone the proposed meeting and seek to identify possible speaker(s) for a meeting at a later date.

11. Road Safety and Traffic Management

- 11.1 Mr Clarke reported that he had repaired the white fingerpost pointing towards 'Stinsford Church and Village' and would shortly replace this.
- 11.2 The Chairman drew attention to the fact that both speed signs at the northern entrance to Lower Bockhampton were damaged and becoming illegible. It was **resolved** to request that these be repaired or replaced.

12. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

- 12.1 No issues were raised under this item.

13. Correspondence

- 13.1 Dr Stillman reported that he had recently attended a meeting of the Dorchester Civic Society regarding the garden communities bid for the land north of Dorchester. The Society had received a copy of the formal bid and considered that this referred to support which had not been expressed and made no mention of Stinsford Parish Council or neighbourhood planning.

It was therefore proposed that a letter be sent to Dorset Council about the discrepancies and requesting an update on the progress of the garden village, including the use of the funding.

Action by: Dr Stillman

- 13.2 The Chairman referred to feedback from walkers, horseriders and residents about the river path; this had been further eroded by the recent flooding. There was now significant erosion, exacerbated by the lack of action taken since this issue was first reported to Dorset County Council.

14. Urgent item – Planning Matter

(Ms L Crocker withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.)

- 14.1 WD/D/19/002537 – Loma House, Bockhampton Lane, Lower Bockhampton DT2 8PZ – Erect single storey rear extension and alterations to raise ridge line of roof, install dormer windows and installation of solar panels to garage roof

The Parish Council reconsidered this application which had been revised following discussions with the Planning Officer and Conservation Officer. The minor amendments were intended to be more complimentary to the nearby Grade II Listed Buildings.

It was **resolved** to reiterate the Parish Council's support for this application.

15. Items for next/future Agenda

- 15.1 Climate change meeting arrangements.
15.2 Appointment of Flood Warden and/or Resilience Officer.

16. Date of future meetings

- 16.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 9 March 2020.

The meeting concluded at 8:46pm.

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