

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 4 September 2017 at 7.00pm in
The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

Present: Mr Chris Hext (Chairman), Mr Will Molland, Dr Andy Stillman and Mr Richard Wheal.

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk), Mr Jack Daniels (Community Highways Officer, Dorset Highways) and two members of the public.

137. Apologies for Absence

137.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr George Armstrong, Mr Michael Clarke and Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Councillor).

138. Declarations of Interest

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

139. Dorset County Council Matters

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

140. West Dorset District Council Matters

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

141. Public Participation Time

141.1 Residents of Maurward Close expressed their concerns about the activities of In Situ Concrete Ltd at its site at the entrance to Birkin House and the potential impact of the application for a permit submitted to West Dorset District Council. They informed the Parish Council of the noise nuisance experienced by the residents of Maurward Close at any time between 6:30am and 8:00pm and the impact of the dust created by the site which covered cars and meant that they residents were unable to sit in their gardens. It was also noted that the site was within the Conservation Area and a predominantly rural setting. The size of the vehicles servicing the site was also raised.

141.2 Parish Councillors expressed their sympathy with the concerns raised and confirmed that these would be taken into account when the Parish Council's corporate response to the permit application was agreed later in the meeting. It was noted that this was an application made under environmental health regulations, not a planning application and the Parish Council was seeking to make residents of the parish aware of this should they wish to submit an objection.

141.3 The issue of road safety on Hollow Hill was also raised. In addition to the heavy goods vehicles servicing the concrete works, the buses servicing the Dorset Studio School had exacerbated the situation. Residents of Maurward Close were concerned about the safety of the road and drew attention to the number of recent near misses on this stretch, as well as a collision at the entrance to the Kingston Maurward College campus during the summer.

142. Road Safety and Traffic Management

142.1 The Chairman welcomed Mr Jack Daniels, Community Highways Officer (Dorchester Area), Dorset Highways to the meeting. The Parish Council raised the following matters with Mr Daniels:-

- (i) The lack of response to the letter sent in 2015 about the traffic regulation on Cuckoo Lane and Church Lane to which no acknowledgement or response had been received. Mr Daniels apologised for the lack of response. He explained that coaches could currently access Church Lane to drop off or pick up and it would not be possible to enforce a complete ban. It was suggested that an unofficial 'No coaches beyond this point' sign could be installed to prevent coaches proceeding beyond the car park or farm gate.
- (ii) The concerns raised by residents about the hazard sign at the junction of Church Lane which impeded visibility. It was agreed that it would be useful to retain this as the road was often slippery in the winter from the agricultural vehicles. Mr Daniels suggested that this could be moved back by a metre to improve visibility. The Parish Council welcomed this suggestion.
- (iii) The safety concerns about Hollow Hill due to the increasing number of vehicles, particularly HGVs and buses servicing the concrete works, Dorset Studio School and Kingston Maurward College, the high proportion of young drivers and the poor visibility, exacerbated by the overhanging trees. It was pointed out that there were no passing places and vehicles often in the middle of the road. There had been a number of near misses and at least one collision in the past few months. The situation was extremely dangerous for pedestrians. Mr Daniels explained that there was a lack of evidence to enable consideration of a reduction in the speed limit on Hollow Hill; whilst there may have been collisions, there was a time lag in the receipt of information received by Dorset Police. However, he suggested that advisory 'Slow' markings could be installed to act as a deterrent to drivers and that he could seek enforcement action to cutting back the trees to improve the visibility. The Parish Council welcomed these suggestions.
- (iv) The Chairman pointed out that the bollards installed alongside the bridges between Lower Bockhampton and West Stafford were red on both sides, whereas one side should be white.
- (v) The possibility of installing 'gates' at the entrance to the parish was raised. Mr Daniels explained that the Parish Council would need to fund these if it was decided to install them and would provide an indication of cost.
- (vi) The need for school warning signs to be installed on the approach to the Dorset Studio School and Kingston Maurward College was raised, as students under the age of 16 attended both. Mr Daniels undertook to look into this.
- (vii) Concerns about the increase of traffic and speed along Cuckoo Lane, particularly when the A35 was closed, and the need for clear passing places was raised. It was explained that there was a tendency for visitors to Thorncombe Woods to park in the passing places and therefore unofficial passing places were being carved into the verge. The Parish Council requested that clear signage be installed in the designated passing places to deter them being used for parking. Mr Daniels explained that Dorset Highways was seeking to de-clutter the countryside and only install signage which was absolutely necessary. He added that Dorset Highways would not maintain non-regulatory signage.

142.2 The Chairman thanked Mr Daniels for attending the meeting and looked forward to his responses on the various issues raised.

143. Minutes

143.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 August 2017 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

143.2 Further to minute 123.4, the Clerk reported that she had contacted the District Council's Trees Officer. He had requested a call back to discuss this further. Dr Stillman agreed to contact him.

143.3 Further to minute 130.1, the Clerk reported that she had circulated the report to be considered by the District Council's Strategy Committee on 12 September 2017.

144. In Situ Concrete Ltd – Application under the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016

144.1 The Parish Council considered its corporate response to the application submitted by In Situ Concrete Ltd for a permit for activities on its site at the entrance to Birkin House.

144.2 Taking into account the representations made by during Public participation Time, it was **resolved** to object to the application in the strongest possible terms for the following reasons:

(i) The Parish Council has received a large number of representations from local residents about the adverse impact that it has upon them and has raised its concerns about this with West Dorset District Council (both planning enforcement and environmental health).

(ii) Local residents experience nuisance from the current activity on this site in the following ways:-

- A significant amount of dust is emitted from the site, resulting in a layer of cement dust being deposited on plants, cars and outdoor furniture. Some residents have reported that, in fine weather, they are unable to spend time in their gardens as it is unpleasant to breathe in the particles in the air or to dry their laundry outside, as it will be covered by dust.
- Noise ranging from a constant low thrum to bangs arising from the loading of HGVs. Such noise has been experienced as early as 06:30 and as late as 20:00.
- The number of large HGVs accessing the site is increasing. The road used to access this site is narrow, dark and has poor visibility in some places. It is inappropriate for vehicles of this size. There has been a general increase in the traffic on this road servicing both this site, Kingston Maurward College and the Dorset Studio School and there are grave concerns about the safety of both road users and pedestrians.

(iii) The site lies within a rural setting, within an existing Conservation Area and in close proximity to both the Grade II listed building of Birkin House and the Grade II registered parkland, lake and gardens at Kingston Maurward. It is therefore not an appropriate site for such industrial activity.

(iv) Local water courses could be adversely affected by chemicals contained in the run-off from this site.

145. Adoption of Lower Bockhampton Telephone Kiosk

145.1 The Parish Council considered the agreement with BT for the adoption of the telephone kiosk in Lower Bockhampton. It was **resolved**:

- (i) that the agreement be signed and submitted to BT; and
- (ii) expenditure of £1.00 be approved for the acquisition of the kiosk.

145.2 It was suggested that the kiosk be used to house a defibrillator for use in the parish, as was the case in other parishes. Mr Molland undertook to investigate this.

Action by: Mr Molland

146. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

146.1 The Parish Council noted that the local liaison meeting would be held at 4:00pm on Tuesday 26 September 2017 in the Visitor Centre. It was confirmed that all residents of Higher Bockhampton had been informed of the meeting. The Chairman and Dr Stillman confirmed that they would attend.

146.2 Some concern was expressed that there would be no representative of management from the Dorset Coast and Countryside Service present at the meeting and that this could impact upon the success of the meeting as a genuine attempt to liaise with local residents. It was also considered that it would be appropriate for there to be an impartial chairman to facilitate the meeting. Dr Stillman undertook to contact Cllr Mrs Haynes about this.

147. Superfast Broadband

147.1 The Parish Council noted the email received from Mr Grenville-Jones regarding the installation of a fibre cabinet at the eastern end of Heath Cottages. It was understood that this was at the end of the Puddletown exchange and not that serving Lower Bockhampton.

147.2 Mr Molland provided an update on the private broadband solution to Lower Bockhampton. This had gone live during the previous week and was working well, producing a speed of 30mb per second. He explained that he was yet to find out the cost of the phone line and, whilst the solution was costly, it was now available to local residents. However, the Better Broadband Subsidy could be utilised for the set-up cost. He would now notify all residents of Lower Bockhampton about the opportunity to utilise this solution.

148. Correspondence

148.1 The Clerk reported an approach from a resident of Stinsford about the signage to prevent access by large coaches along Church Lane. She had explained that Mr Clarke had liaised with the coach company about this to improve the situation. The Parish Clerk considered that no further action was required at this time.

148.2 The Parish Council noted with interest the recent information received about the Dorset Care Record project.

149. Items for future Agenda

149.1 It was **resolved** that the following item be included on the agendas for future meetings:-

- Feedback from the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre liaison meeting (October).

150. Date of next meeting

150.1 It was noted that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 9 October 2017.

The meeting concluded at 8:50pm.

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