

# Stinsford Parish Council

## **Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 July 2015 at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

**Present:** Dr A Stillman (Chairman), Mr G Armstrong, Mr M Clarke, Mr K Payne and Mr R Wheal

**Also in attendance:** Miss K Riglar (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

### **Public Discussion Period**

The following matter was raised that was not included elsewhere on the agenda:

#### Challenge Weymouth Triathlon – Sunday 15 September 2015

It was noted that the road race route would once again pass through Lower Bockhampton and concerns were expressed about the impact upon local residents and the road safety implications, particularly at Bockhampton Cross. The need for early signage off of the roundabout to alert drivers heading towards Bockhampton Cross of the need to slow down in readiness to stop at the closures was acknowledged.

The Clerk reported that she had recently been in contact with the organisers of the event and requested an article for inclusion in the August edition of The Pilot. This had been provided but had indicated that there would be no impact within Stinsford. The Clerk had taken the opportunity to clarify with the organisers that Lower Bockhampton was within the parish of Stinsford and the road race route would therefore be passing through the parish and the event would impact upon local residents and businesses.

It was suggested that Kingston Maurward College be asked to open the Knapwater gate to allow local residents to traverse through the campus on this date to avoid the disruption created by the road closures. Mr Payne undertook to make arrangements for this.

It was agreed that the County Council should be asked to comment on the road safety implications of the closures, as well as to confirm when the temporary TRO notice would be published to alert local residents and businesses to the impact. The Clerk was also asked to contact the event organisers to confirm that they had been in contact with local businesses in relation to the impact of the road closures.

### **70. Chairman's Welcome**

70.1 The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the formal business meeting of the Parish Council.

### **71. Dispensations**

71.1 No applications for dispensation were received.

## **72. Apologies for absence**

- 72.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Hext and Cllr P Cooke (District Councillor).

## **73. Minutes**

- 73.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 73.2 Further to minute 57.2, the Chairman reported that consideration was being given to compiling a Freedom of Information request to be submitted to the County Council. He had not yet pursued a meeting with the Leader of the County Council but would do so.
- 73.3 Further to minute 57.3, Mr Wheal reported that he had begun to identify volunteers amongst the residents of Higher Bockhampton to monitor the volume of traffic to the Visitor Centre.
- 73.4 Further to minute 54.2, the Chairman informed the Parish Council that officers from West Dorset District Council would make a presentation about neighbourhood planning at the next meeting.
- 73.5 Further to minute 65.2, the Chairman also reported that he had spoken with the Senior Technical Officer – Traffic Engineering in the County Council's Highways Section about the large number of concerns about traffic and road safety within the parish and he had offered to meet with the Parish Council on site to discuss this.

## **74. Vacancy**

- 74.1 It was **resolved** that Mr William Molland be co-opted to the Parish Council for the period to the next elections to the Parish Council in May 2019. Mr Molland signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and joined the meeting.

## **75. Dorset County Council Matters**

- 75.1 In the absence of Cllr Mrs J Haynes, the Chairman expressed his disappointment that this item could not be considered and moved to the next item on the agenda.

## **76. West Dorset District Council Matters**

- 76.1 In the absence of Cllr P Cooke, the Chairman moved to the next item on the agenda.
- 76.2 The Parish Council agreed that there was a need to discuss the performance of the District Council's planning department with Cllr Cooke and it was **resolved** that this should be included on the agenda for the next meeting.

## **77. Finance**

- 77.1 The following items of expenditure were **resolved**:-
- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils – Annual subscription for 2015/16 - £131.93
  - HMRC (PAYE) – 1–30 April 2015 - £33.40
  - HMRC (PAYE) – 1–31 May 2015 - £33.40
  - HMRC (PAYE) – 1–30 June 2015 - £33.40

- Clerk's salary (Quarter 1 2015/16) (£413.58) plus expenses (£10.86) - £424.44

## 78. Planning Matters

*(Mr M Clarke and Dr A Stillman declared pecuniary interests in application WD/D/15/001440 and WD/D/15/001259 respectively by reason of being the applicant and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the respective items. The Vice-Chairman took the Chair during consideration of application WD/D/15/001259.)*

- (i) WD/D/15/001327 – Garden House, Frome Whitfield Farm Access Road, Frome Whitfield – Replace existing garage with new garage/carport building

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

- (ii) WD/D/14/002611 – Land adjacent to Slyers Lane, Waterston – Erection of six wind turbines and construction of associated infrastructure

It was **resolved** that no further representation be submitted in relation to this application.

- (iii) WD/D/15/001440 – Eagle Lodge, Stinsford – Single-storey rear extension

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

- (iv) WD/D/15/001259 – 3 Newcombe Lane, Stinsford – Replace existing greenhouse with a new workshop

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

## 79. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

- 79.1 Mr Armstrong read out an email from Mr Paul Thomas outlining his proposal to seek legal advice from a solicitor with planning expertise in relation to the outstanding issues relating to the Visitor Centre. Mr Thomas asked whether the Parish Council would be willing to seek such advice or, alternatively, whether any members of the Council would contribute towards the cost as individuals.

- 79.2 In response to a question from the Chairman, Mr Armstrong confirmed that the issues had been raised with the Local Government Ombudsman, Oliver Letwin MP who had in turn raised it with the Secretary of State, and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). No approach had been made to the County Council's external auditors.

- 79.3 The Clerk, in her capacity as the Council's Responsible Financial Officer, stated that she did not believe that funding such legal advice was a use of public funds that would benefit the whole parish and that this could set a costly precedent. In response to the issue of how such legal advice would benefit local residents, Mr Armstrong explained that the existing Visitor Centre did not reflect that set out in either the HLF bid or the planning application. He considered that the County Council had a legal and moral responsibility to be above suspicion but that there had been a major flaw in its handling of the planning application and the granting of permission.

- 79.4 The Chairman pointed out that the Parish Council could access some legal assistance from the National Association of Local Councils and undertook to investigate how this could be pursued. It was also resolved that the County Council's external auditors should be approached about the Visitor Centre issues. Mr Armstrong was asked to draft a covering letter setting out the main issues to be considered by the Parish Council at its next meeting.

*Action by: Chairman (investigation of access to legal assistance from NALC) and Mr Armstrong (drafting of letter to the County Council's external auditors to be considered by Parish Council at next meeting.)*

## **80. Kingston Maurward College**

- 80.1 Mr Clarke reported that the Corporation of the College had met the previous week and it had been stated by the Chairman that there were no covenants attached to the conveyance from Dorset County Council.

- 80.2 The Chairman reported that he had recently met with the Principal of the College who had reiterated that there were no finalised plans for development yet and that other sites around the campus were being looked at. She had, however, confirmed that there were no proposals to build upon the upper car park made available for use by St Michael's Church in Stinsford. He undertook to continue to feedback any information that he received direct from the College.

## **81. Traffic Management and Road Safety**

- 81.1 The Parish Council noted the proposed road closures and diversions to be put in place during the Dorset County Show in September. It was **resolved** that no comments be submitted to the County Council on these proposals.

## **82. Clerk's Items**

- 82.1 The Clerk drew attention to the fact that the new website had been live for a few months and invited suggestions as to how this could be further developed. The Chairman suggested that there should be a brief statement about the current issues facing the parish and an article about what it is like to be a councillor, both of which could be amended on a regular basis. It was **resolved** that these articles be added to the website.

*Action by: Mr Wheal to draft statement about current issues facing the parish.*

- 82.2 The Clerk asked all members of the Council who were not currently signatories to the Parish Council's bank account to complete the bank mandate form in order to action their addition as set out in minute 45.2/2015.

## **83. Correspondence**

- 83.1 No business was raised under this item.

## **84. Items for next Agenda**

- 84.1 It was noted that a specific item on traffic management in the vicinity of Kingston Maurward College should be added to the agenda for a future meeting, following the meeting with a representative of Dorset Highways.

**85. Date of next meeting**

85.1 It was **noted** that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 10 August 2015.

The meeting concluded at 8:55pm.

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