

# Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 October 2022  
at 7.00pm in The Old Library at Kingston Maurward College**

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

**Also in attendance:** Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk).

## **77. Apologies for Absence**

77.1 There were no apologies for absence.

## **78. Declarations of Interest**

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

## **79. Public Participation Time**

79.1 No items were raised, so the Chair moved to the next item.

## **80. Minutes**

80.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

80.2 Further to minute 68.2, the Clerk confirmed that the priority list of nominations for the Heritage Asset List (attached as the Appendix to these minutes) had been submitted by the deadline.

80.3 Further to minute 72.4, the Clerk reported that Chris Loder MP had responded to the Parish Council's invitation but was unavailable to attend the October meeting. He had suggested that a meeting be arranged on a Friday or Saturday morning when he usually undertook work within the constituency. The Parish Council agreed to attend a meeting when convenient to Mr Loder.

80.4 Further to minute 75.1, Mr Clarke reported that the Parochial Church Council had also supported the proposed addition of a Philip Larkin poem to the noticeboard outside St Michael's Church. The final proof was now awaited.

## **81. Finance**

### **81.1 Expenditure**

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

- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 2 2022/23) – £122.40
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 2 2022/23) - £490.20
- Pryce Countryside Services – maintenance of Lower Bockhampton Play area - £490.00

### **81.2 Income**

The following receipt was noted:

- Dorset Council – 50% of 2022/23 precept - £2,750.00

### 81.3 Potential future expenditure

It was **resolved** to seek initial quotes for the re-painting of the telephone box in Lower Bockhampton and installation of shelving in order to decide how best to proceed.

## 82. **Planning Matters**

P/LBC/2022/05084 – Hardy’s Cottage, Higher Bockhampton DT2 8QJ – Dismantle section of boundary wall where damaged by tree roots, remove vegetation and re-build wall including additional small brick piers at cottage end to support wall. Installation of bird cage cowl to parlour chimney flue and flues to northern chimney

It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the submission of the Parish Council’s support for this application but noted that the work was already underway.

## 83. **Stinsford Parish Council Priorities 2022/23**

83.1 The Parish Council considered the progress on the steps agreed at the last meeting in relation to the environmental projects identified in the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan and the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy delivery plan.

83.2 The Chair reported that she had met the Principal of Kingston Maurward College and it was proposed to hold an event for local residents to launch the Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy in conjunction with an update on the progress made by the College to address the Climate and Ecological Emergency on 2 February 2023 in the new university hub. The Parish Council welcomed this.

83.3 In relation to the projects, the Chair reported on progress in identifying organisations who may have data or would be able to provide professional advice to progress these. It was noted that expertise already existed in the parish through the College, the Rangers at Thorncombe Woods and the Forestry Commission. It was agreed that the Principal be asked about the possibility of seeking advice and expertise on arboriculture and countryside management amongst the tutors at the College.

83.4 The Parish Council recognised that there was a need for clarity about the steps that needed to be taken to progress these projects before potential funding streams could be investigated further. It was also acknowledged that there was also a need to know about the ownership of land in the parish in order to engage with landowners about potential projects.

83.5 It was therefore **resolved** that:

- (i) Planning be progressed for a joint event on 2 February 2023;
- (ii) mapping of land ownership in the parish be progressed; and
- (iii) the Principal of Kingston Maurward College be approached about seeking advice and expertise from tutors at the College.

## 84. **North of Dorchester Garden Community**

84.1 The Parish Council noted that a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about the misrepresentation by Dorset Council of the Parish Council’s ‘support’ for the Garden Community Bid had now been submitted. However, whilst there had not been an initial review of the complaint, information had been received which stated that the

Ombudsman would not consider complaints made by parish councils. It was therefore anticipated that the complaint would not be investigated.

- 84.2 It was considered that as the complaint related to the Parish Council's stance in relation to the Garden Community Bid it would not be appropriate for an individual resident to make a submission on its behalf. However, it was resolved to:
- (i) ensure that this information be submitted to the Inspector as part of the inspection of the emerging Dorset Local Plan in relation to engagement and representation of views of local councils' and
  - (ii) approach the Chair of STAND to offer them the information as additional evidence to support their arguments against the Garden Community proposals.
- 84.3 The Parish Council also noted the recent statement received from Turner Associates about the alternative proposals for development.
- 84.4 Concern was also raised about the proposal to extend the timeframe for the adoption of the emerging Dorset Local Plan and the impact of this on the five-year housing land supply. The Chair also expressed her concern about Dorset Council's intention to submit expressions of interest to the Government for investment zones, focussing on Weymouth and Portland.
- 85. Consultation**
- 85.1 The Parish Council agreed its corporate response to Dorset AONB Community Tree Scheme consultation.
- 86. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way**
- 86.1 The Parish Council noted Dorset Council's proposed 20mph speed limit approach. It was considered that there would be implications for rural areas close towns and omitted any reference to streetlighting, which was included in previous guidance. It was noted that this proposed approach had not yet been adopted but, if it was, Dorchester Town Council could be approached to seek support for the introduction of a lower speed limit between the Stinsford Hill roundabout and Grey's Bridge.
- 86.2 The Parish Council identified the specific stretches of road through the parish upon which traffic surveys should be investigated. It was resolved that the following stretches be investigated:
- (i) Stinsford Hill roundabout to Bockhampton Cross; and
  - (ii) a stretch of the B3143 from below Home Farm to the junction with Bridleway S39/39 at the parish boundary.
- 86.3 The Clerk reported that she had now made initial contact with the relevant officer of Dorset Council and would progress a meeting with the relevant agencies regarding the impact of diversion of traffic from the A35. She had shared with him the key concerns from the Parish Council and residents about this and confirmed that she had also raised the issue of the proposed diversion of traffic along Cuckoo Lane during overnight closure of the A35 in early November.
- 86.4 It was noted that a plastic sign for Hardy's Birthplace had been attached to the refurbished fingerpost at Bockhampton Cross. Whilst the Parish Council had previously agreed to this, it was on the basis that the design of the sign would be approved before installation. This had not been submitted for approval and it was resolved that this be raised with the National Trust Area Manager.

**87. Correspondence**

87.1 The Clerk reported that an invitation to attend this meeting had been extended to Chris Loder MP. He was unable to attend and had asked whether representatives of the Parish Council would be available to meet on Fridays or Saturday mornings when he was in the constituency. The Parish Council confirmed this and noted that he was unlikely to be available for some time due to existing diary commitments.

**88. Items for next agenda**

88.1 Update from the Principal of Kingston Maurward College and planning for the event on 2 February 2022.

**89. Date of future meetings**

89.1 It was noted that future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 14 November and Monday 12 December (reserve date) 2022.

The meeting concluded at 8:32pm.

**Chair** ..... **Date** .....

## Appendix: Top Ten Nominated Heritage Assets

Name	Location	Description
Blue Bridge	South of Frome House	A Victorian iron bridge built in 1877
Bockhampton House	Lower Bockhampton	A handsome brick house early/mid 19 <sup>th</sup> century range (formerly separate cottages) of brick and stone, with a detached former coach house or stable.
Dorset County Showground	Coker's Frome Farm / North of Stinsford Hill	Of key cultural importance to the local agricultural industry – the exhibition ground was on the field to the east in Thomas Hardy's time.
*Eagle Lodge	Stinsford Hill	Gate lodge to Stinsford House, thought to have been built together with the two stone piers originally with eagle finials in 1861, and mentioned in Hardy's poem 'The Widow Betrothed'.
Fiddler's or Fidler's Green	Waterston Ridge	Considered to be the most likely site most likely site for Shepherd Fennel's Cottage, where a ruined cottage still stands.
Granite Memorial Stone	Behind Hardy's Cottage	Erected to Thomas Hardy by American Admirers in 1932
Hillcrest to Gardeners Cottage	East of Bockhampton Lane	All with front porches, casements and tall chimneys and pots; of group value; these were apparently single storey and thatched until substantially rebuilt in 1894;
*Stinsford Park Gate & Piers	SY705911	Mid 1800s formally with Eagles on each pier
The Old Vicarage	Church Lane	A mid/late 19 <sup>th</sup> century brick detached house, with central door and wooden sashes, a large return wing off the lane entrance and attached service buildings. A handsome and unspoilt building, in a key position adjacent to the Church and churchyard.
The Victorian School House	Lower Bockhampton	Handsome early Victorian stone and tile Tudor house and schoolroom: altered and extended, but of real presence and with Thomas Hardy connections (he attended the school);
Tumuli Group	South of Eweleaze Barn	Putative Bronze Age cemetery on land south of the hedge field boundary. The barrows were identified due to a reassessment of a post war aerial survey and there may be other ploughed out barrows on the downland leading up to Waterston Ridge.

\*It is requested that those in red text be considered as a single asset.