

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7:08pm in The Old Library, Coastland College - Kingston Maurward Campus

Present: Mr George Armstrong (Chair), Mr Michael Clarke (Vice-Chair) and Mr Edd Maynard

Also in attendance: Dorset Councillor David Taylor and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk).

58. Election of Chair

58.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mr George Armstrong be elected Chair for the year 2026/27. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Mr Armstrong took the Chair.

58.2 The Parish Council thanked the outgoing Chair, Mrs Pattison, for her significant contribution whilst in the role over the past year.

59. Appointment of Vice-Chair

59.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mr Michael Clarke be appointed Vice-Chair for the year 2026/27 and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

60. Apologies for Absence

60.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Kevin Henville and Mrs Sarah Pattison.

60.2 The Parish Council acknowledged the recent resignation of Mrs Susan Escott from the Parish Council. Gratitude was expressed for her contribution to the work of the Parish Council during her time as a member.

61. Declarations of Interest

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

62. Public Participation Time

62.1 There being no members of the public present, the Chair moved to the next item.

63. Dorset Council matters

63.1 Cllr Taylor reported that:

- (i) the new clerk to Dorchester Town Council would start soon and he would raise the need for ongoing communication with Charminster and Stinsford Parish Councils in relation to the North Dorchester development as a priority;
- (ii) he had attended a webinar held by Wessex Water to outline their current priorities at which it had been announced that there would be investment of £66M in Dorset;
- (iii) a planning application had been approved for a new quarry at Wareham extracting ball clay, gravel and sand but there had been a lot of comments made about traffic impact and nature recovery;
- (iv) he would no longer be Vice-Chair of Dorset Council's Northern Area Planning Committee and was moving to the Western and Southern Area Planning Committee;
- (v) the Dorset Local Plan would be submitted to the Secretary of State at the end of the year; and

(vi) he was still awaiting responses from Highways about the issues raised on behalf of the Parish Council.

63.2 Community Conversation feedback

The Chair reported that he, Mr Maynard and the Clerk had attended the recent had attended the recent online introduction to Dorset Council's Community Conversation initiative. It was proposed that community conversations would be held based on area clusters incorporating parish and town councils and voluntary community organisations to identify opportunities for working differently in local communities. Whilst welcoming the concept, it was recognised that this approach would culture change at Dorset Council and the Chair considered that there was also a need for 'issue-based' clusters for specific issues, such as those areas impacted by the A35.

64. Minutes

64.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 9 March and 13 April 2026 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

64.2 Further to minute 37.2, the Parish Council noted that no further information had been received in relation to the cost implications and detail of the proposed hydrological impact report.

64.3 Further to minute 38.1, it was noted that no response had been received.

64.4 Further to minute 38.2, Cllr Taylor had not yet received a response from Dorchester Town Council and was asked to follow this up.

64.5 Further to minute 39.2, it was noted that no action had yet been taken and this should be followed up with the College.

64.6 Further to minute 46.5, it was noted that the College had placed signage up to deter students from leaving the campus and abusing the Lower Bockhampton play area. This was currently having a positive impact.

65. Finance

65.1 Income

The following income was noted:

Dorset Council – 50% of precept for 2026/27 - £2,750.00

Expenditure

65.2 The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance was due for renewal on 1 June 2026. Only one quote had been received as other suppliers could not compete with the premium paid in 2025/26.

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

- Zurich Municipal – Insurance cover 2026/27 - £280.00
- Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils Ltd – Annual subscription for 2026/27 - £134.55

65.4 The following payments made by Direct Debit were **noted**:

- HugoFox – Website – April 2026 – £11.99
- HugoFox – Email accounts – April 2026 - £11.99

66. Lower Bockhampton Play Area

- 66.1 The Chair reported that there had been no further acts of vandalism since action was taken by the College. However the play area remained locked on weekdays during term time. He continued to explore contacts to undertake repairs to the play equipment and would bring a plan of work and more information to a future meeting once this was available.

67. North of Dorchester Garden Community

- 67.1 Cllr Taylor informed the Parish Council that Charminster Parish Council had engaged a barrister to help fight any future planning applications within its parish. It was **resolved** to contact the Clerk to Charminster Parish Council to seek further information about this.

68. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 68.1 Further to the proposal for the Parish Council to conduct a survey of roads in the parish in order to record and collate all of the issues, the arrangements for doing so were discussed. It was **resolved** that:
- (i) the following parish councillors be responsible for specific areas, namely:
 - Mr Clarke – Grays bridge to Stinsford Hill roundabout and Slyer's Lane / Cokers Frome to Frome Whitfield
 - Mr Armstrong – Higher and Lower Bockhampton
 - Mr Maynard – Stinsford Hill roundabout to Bockhampton Cross
 - (ii) where possible photos and reference details using what3words be recorded for specific issues;
 - (iii) that when complete, the information be collated and sent as complete report to Dorset Council.
- 68.2 The Chair reported that the College had recently installed a new pedestrian gate at the back entrance of the campus on a public Bridleway but this was not wide enough to get a walker or similar through. It was **resolved** to raise this with the College.
- 68.3 The Parish Council noted that the River Path was collapsing in the middle. This had been reported by two parish councillors and one of the big dams had been cleared but Dorset Council had stated that approval from the Environment Agency was required to take further action. It was also noted that the River Path at Stinsford Bridge once again required maintenance.

69. Parish Clerk recruitment

- 69.1 The Clerk reported that the recruitment advert was now live on the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils website and this had been put in the latest edition of The Pilot, with a closing date of 17 June 2026.
- 69.2 in relation to the next steps, it was **resolved** that:
- (i) shortlisting be carried out by the Chair and Clerk;
 - (ii) interviews be conducted by the whole Parish Council;
 - (iii) a date for interviews be set once shortlisting was completed.

70. Correspondence

- 70.1 No items of correspondence were raised.

71. Communications

- 71.1 The article relating to highways and traffic issues written by Mr Armstrong would be submitted for the next edition of The Pilot.

72. Item for next agenda

Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

73. Date of next meeting

73.1 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 8 June 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8:14pm.

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