

# Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 January 2021 at 7.00pm  
via Zoom

**Present:** Mr George Armstrong (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke (Vice-Chairman), Ms Susan Escott, Mrs Julie Martin and Ms Sarah Jane Pattison

**Also in attendance:** Cllr David Taylor (Dorset Council), Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and one member of the public (Ms Sally Cooke)

## 1. Dorset Council update

1.1 Cllr Taylor provided the following update:

- (i) the issue of the proposed development north of Dorchester was coming to the fore once again as consultation on the proposed Dorset Local Plan was due to commence shortly;
- (ii) he had been working with MP for West Dorset in relation to this application and he had confirmed that he was against this;
- (iii) there was continuing pressure on Dorset County Hospital arising from the Covid-19 pandemic;
- (iv) Dorchester Market had been hit hard by the pandemic, more shops had closed in the town centre but it had been a reasonable Christmas for local businesses;
- (v) the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange had begun with a replacement roof and seating as part of the permanent move by Dorchester Arts to the building;
- (vi) new junctions were being progressed in Dorchester to improve the traffic flow; and
- (vii) improvements to the potholes and the flooding issue under the bridge across the A37 at Bradford Peverell would shortly be progressed.

1.2 Cllr Taylor left the meeting following his update.

## 2. Apologies for Absence

2.1 No apologies for absence were received.

## 3. Declarations of Interest

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

## 4. Co-option

4.1 The Parish Council considered an expression of interest in co-option received from a resident of the parish to fill one of the current vacancies.

4.2 It was **resolved** that Ms Sarah Jane Pattison be co-opted onto the Parish Council for the remainder of the current term of office.

4.3 Ms Pattison signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting in her capacity as a Parish Councillor.

## 5. Public Participation Time

5.1 No issues were raised under this item.

## 6. Minutes

6.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

- 6.2 Further to minute 55.1, the Parish Council acknowledged receipt of the mitigation strategy for bats on the site of the proposed development from the applicant, Mr Molland.
- 6.3 Further to minute 58.3, it was noted that no action had been taken to improve the safety of the River Path and the Clerk asked to chase this.

## **7 Finance**

### **7.1 Expenditure**

It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the following payments made in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1:

- GeoXphere Ltd – Planning Online mapping software subscription - £60.00
- Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support (November 2020) - £807.70

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

- Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support (December 2020) - £807.70
- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 3 2020/21) – £125.40
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 3 2020/21) + expenses + operational expenses for 2020/21 - £527.00

### **7.3 Budget and Precept**

The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, setting out a proposed draft budget for 2021/22 and recommending a precept of £5,500. This was the same as for the current year and equated to a Council Tax charge of £39.40 for a Band D property. In the current year this was £37.54 due to the slightly greater taxbase.

It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the proposed draft budget estimates for 2021/22 be approved;
- (ii) a precept of £5,500 for 2021/22 be approved; and
- (iii) the allocation of the Parish Council's reserves be considered at the next full meeting.

## **8. Maintenance of Lower Bockhampton Play Area**

- 8.1 Further to consideration at the last meeting of the annual inspection report, the Parish Council considered an updated safety report by the Chairman and maintenance plan developed to respond to the recommendations set out in the report. It was noted that this was mostly basic maintenance but the repointing of the wall would possibly require a specialist contractor which could be costly.
- 8.2 It was **resolved** that:
- (i) a quote be sought from the usual contractor for the basic maintenance;
  - (ii) quotes be sought from specialist mortar technicians for the repointing of the wall; and
  - (iii) the briar patch be reduced but not removed so as to preserve wildlife habitat.

## **9. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford**

- 9.1 Ms Cooke, on behalf of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, reported that the virtual consultation meetings for each settlement within the parish on the draft Plan had now concluded. The attendance had varied and a number of hard copy responses had been received. It was hoped that formal consultation on a revised draft

of the Plan would commence in late February. It was hoped that this would be ready for consideration by the Parish Council at the reserve meeting on 8 February 2021. If it was not, it was proposed that a separate extraordinary meeting be convened to endorse the Plan for formal consultation.

- 9.2 The Parish Council expressed their gratitude to Ms Cooke for organising the consultation meetings and to those residents who facilitated these.

## **10. Consultation – Dorset Council’s Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan**

- 10.1 The Parish Council considered its response to the consultation on Dorset Council’s Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy and Action Plan. It was felt that this was well presented and provided a good vision, with positive emphasis upon partnership working between sectors and organisations.
- 10.2 However, concerns were raised in relation to the following:
- (i) there was no acknowledgement of the fact that some of the work proposed had already commenced under the legacy councils, such as on renewable energy, and that there was likely to be delay and repetition from commissioning such work again;
  - (ii) a lot of the content did not directly relate to Dorset as a predominantly rural county and that the document gave the impression of being a city model imposed upon a rural area;
  - (iii) there were no links made to equalities and accessibility outcomes;
  - (iv) there was a lack of recognition of the need for non-car-based tourism in Dorset and there was no mention of the impact of the transition from car to bicycle as a more sustainable means of transport.
- 10.3 It was **resolved** to submit the above comments as the Parish Council’s response to the consultation.
- 10.4 It was noted that a public meeting had been planned in March 2020 to consider declaring a climate and ecological emergency. It was **resolved** to consider making this declaration at the next full meeting.

## **11. Planning for future work**

- 11.1 The Parish Council considered how best to respond to large issues which would require additional effort in response, such as the Dorset Local Plan consultation (which was expected to commence on 18 January 2021), the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan policies and actions and declaration of a climate and ecological emergency.
- 11.2 It was **resolved** to use the reserve meeting dates for extraordinary meetings to focus upon consideration of certain large issues and the following initial issues be considered at the following meetings:

8 February (reserve) – response to Dorset Local Plan consultation

8 March (full) – consideration of declaration of climate and ecological emergency

## **12. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way**

- 12.1 The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that at the last meeting attended by the Principal of Kingston Maurward College, the proposal had been raised that the ‘machine track’ and ‘cow track’ on the Estate be upgraded to cycle tracks and that a joint application for this be submitted by the Parish Council, the College, the Dorset Studio School and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group. He added that the draft Plan included a cycling policy. He sought approval that he progress this with the other organisations.

12.2 It was **resolved** that the Chairman be delegated authority to progress a joint application for cycle tracks and circulate this to the Parish Council in due course.

12.3 It was noted that some concern about the possible urbanisation of surfaces had been raised through the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group and by local horse riders. The Chairman agreed that tarmac was not appropriate for such tracks and that the surface would need to be rurally appropriate material.

### **13. Correspondence**

13.1 No issues were raised under this item.

### **14. Items for next/future Agenda**

14.1 February – response to Dorset Local Plan consultation, approval of formal consultation on draft Neighbourhood Plan

14.2 March – consideration of climate and ecological emergency, reserves allocation policy, use of adopted Lower Bockhampton phone box, wildflower planting proposals, update on Lower Bockhampton play area maintenance.

### **15. Dates of future meetings**

15.1 It was noted that future meetings of the Parish Council would be held on:  
Monday 8 February 2021 (extraordinary meeting to consider the Dorset Local Plan consultation) and Monday 8 March 2021 (full meeting).

The meeting concluded at 8:08pm.

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