

# Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 14 November 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:** Mr Luke Rake (Principal – Kingston Maurward College) and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk).

## 90. Apologies for Absence

90.1 There were no apologies for absence.

## 91. Declarations of Interest

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

## 92. Public Participation Time

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

## 93. Minutes

93.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 October 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

93.2 Further to minute 80.4, Mr Clarke reported that the Parochial Church Council had now seen the final proof of the Philip Larkin poem to the noticeboard outside St Michael's Church.

93.3 Further to minute 81.3, Mr Rake asked whether the maintenance of the telephone kiosk in Lower Bockhampton was something that the College's Construction Department could assist with. The Parish Council welcomed this offer. It was confirmed that a local resident had been approached about the possibility of sandblasting the paintwork. Mr Clarke would liaise with Mr Rake once a response was received about this.

## 94. Kingston Maurward College Strategic Plan

94.1 The Parish Council received an update from the Principal of the College about the renewed Strategic Plan and other recent developments. The Strategic Plan had been renewed in the Summer and now covered the period 2022-2025 and set out the ambition for the development and evolution of the College including a focus on sustainability and biodiversity.

94.2 Mr Rake also reported that

- (i) the Stinsford Centre, the university hub, was now operational and would enable the College to catalyse higher education and research partnerships;
- (ii) the ground source heat pump project funded by a £2.3M government grant was now complete and contributing towards the College's aim of achieving Net Zero by 2025;
- (iii) an Ofsted inspection in the Summer had rated the College as 'good';

- (iv) recruitment was strong and student numbers were good, however the demographic was strongly negative at sixth form age;
- (v) there remained significant financial stress on the College due to inflation, fixed funding rates and the costs associated with maintaining the estate;
- (vi) access to the public and community remained free of charge;
- (vii) planning permission had been granted for three houses in Maurward Close and development was now starting; and
- (viii) the outcome of this development was awaited before any further capital plans were proposed.

94.3 In response to a question, Mr Rake confirmed that whilst the College had received £4M via the Local Enterprise Partnership over the past three years, there was no obvious next tranche of capital funding. Government support per student had increased slightly but was still 30% below what it was a decade earlier.

94.4 He also explained that the College was in the process of withdrawing from its relationship with the Royal Agricultural University and was now working with Bournemouth University with a view to offering a range of additional degree courses from September 2023.

94.5 In relation to the land leased by the College from the Ilchester Estate, Mr Rake reported that no indication had been given of wanting the College to quit. His view was that until it was known what proposed developments were included within the emerging Dorset Local Plan, it was unlikely that there would be any suggestion of this. However the College would have to be given 12 months' notice to quit.

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

95.1 The Parish Council considered the 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. It was confirmed that this would be held on 2 February 2023 in the Stinsford Centre and would include:

- (i) an introduction to the Parish Council's Strategy and how this dovetailed with the projects in the Neighbourhood Plan;
- (ii) a presentation about the College's Net Zero progress; and
- (iv) launch of a project and a call for engagement from local residents in progressing this.

95.2 Mr Rake confirmed that he would present an update and welcomed the opportunity for local residents to see the new building. He offered to make refreshments and displays available and suggested the use of Eventbrite to gain an idea of numbers.

95.3 It was proposed that the event include the announcement of a Parish Council initiative being progressed with support from the College, eg a woodland survey. Mr Rake confirmed that he was supportive of this and had some very keen staff and students who may wish to be involved. He suggested that representatives from the Parish Council meet the College's Conservation Lead to discuss what capacity there may be. Work had commenced on identifying landowners within the parish but a map on which to base this was still being sought.

## **96. Finance**

96.1 There were no payments for consideration at the meeting so the Chair moved to the next item.

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

97.1 The Parish Council noted that confirmation had been received that the complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about the misrepresentation by Dorset Council of the Parish Council's 'support' for the Garden Community Bid would not be investigated as the Ombudsman would not consider complaints made by parish councils. The Chair confirmed that she had shared this information with the Chair of STAND should that group wish to progress a complaint to the Ombudsman.

97.2 It was also noted that Hyas Associates were holding a further stakeholder event on 16 October with a focus on landscape. It was **resolved** that the Parish Council would not participate in this.

97.3 The Chair reported that she had recently attended a meeting with Dorset Council's Cabinet Member for Planning as part of the Dorset Deserves Better delegation and updated the Parish Council on the outcomes of this.

## **98. Consultation**

98.1 The Parish Council agreed its corporate response to the Let's Talk Libraries consultation which focussed on developing a new Dorset Council Library Strategy.

98.2 It was **resolved** to respond in general terms confirming that the Parish Council supported the proposals to extend the role of libraries as community hubs but in order to be effective there needed to be a Council-wide initiative to remedy the participation deficit.

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

99.1 The Parish Council proposed some dates to be offered to the relevant officer of Dorset Council for a meeting with the relevant agencies regarding the impact of diversion of traffic from the A35. The Clerk would offer these to him with the aim of a meeting taking place before the end of December. The offer from a former member of the Parish Council to brief those who would be attending this meeting about traffic issues in the parish was noted.

99.2 The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted a request to Dorset Council for information about the cost of conducting traffic surveys on the following stretches:

- (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.

99.3 The need for resurfacing of the footway from Eagle Lodge to the Stinsford Hill roundabout was reiterated. A request would be submitted to Dorset Council as a matter of urgency as this was the key walking route from Dorchester to the College campus.

## **100. Correspondence**

100.1 The Chair reported that the Annual General Meeting of the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils would be held on Saturday 19 November and she would attend on behalf of the Parish Council.

## **101. Items for next agenda**

101.1 Preparation for the event on 2 February 2022 and publication of the Communications Strategy.

**102. Date of future meetings**

102.1 It was noted that future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 12 December 2022 and Monday 9 January 2023.

The meeting concluded at 8:37pm.

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