

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting of Electors
held on Monday 20 May 2019 at 7.00pm in The Whatmoor Room,
Kingston Maurward College**

Present: Mr Will Molland (Chairman of Parish Council – in the Chair) and two other members of Stinsford Parish Council

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

1. Welcome

The Chairman of the Parish Council, Mr Molland, welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mr High Grenville-Jones (parish elector).

3. Report from the Chairman of the Parish Council

The Chairman presented his report for the year 2018/19 (attached as Appendix 1 to these minutes).

As the Chairman had not sought re-election in the recent elections and would be stepping down from the role at the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council, those present thanked him for his hard work during his tenure as Chairman.

6. Report of the Village Hall Trust

Mr George Armstrong provided the report of the Village Hall Trust. He reminded those present that funds could be used for any communal project to enhance recreational activity within the parish.

He explained that the funds were held in M&G Charity Bonds which were currently worth £694. The most recent quarterly cheque had been for £6.54. The income for the past year had been £24.16.

Mr Armstrong reminded those present that the Village Hall Trust could raise other funds, having done so in the past for a refurbishment of the play area via grant applications. He considered that this may be a useful vehicle for fundraising for a specific project in the parish, perhaps in relation to the outcomes of the Neighbourhood Plan.

It was **resolved** that Mr George Armstrong, Mrs Pat Cosgrove and Miss Kirsty Riglar be appointed as Trustees for the year 2019/20.

7. Public Discussion Period

Whilst no members of the public were in attendance, Mr Armstrong reported concerns from residents of Lower Bockhampton about the increasing number of drinks cans and bottles being left by students of Kingston Maurward College in the play area and nearby gardens.

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT TO THE STINSFORD PARISH COUNCIL
MAY 2018 – MAY 2019**

Stinsford Parish Council's year from 2018/19 has been dominated by the DOR 15 proposals to build 3000 homes North of Dorchester; much of this proposed development would be within the parish of Stinsford and have major effects upon Dorchester and the surrounding settlements. In August we held a parish meeting to better understand the proposals and gather resident's views, this enabled the Parish Council to send a comprehensive rebuttal of the scheme to WDDC. Subsequently we gave cautious support for WDDC's Garden Village bid as a, slightly, better proposal, however we still view a large development North of Dorchester as flawed. The Neighbourhood Plan continues, with much hard work and good progress being made by the steering group; setting up consultation events, housing assessments, working up a parish questionnaire and building up the content of the plan itself. The steering group held 2 public consultations; one at the Dorset County Show, in July, and another at Stinsford's Michaelmas Fair in September. Much of this consultation was, inevitably, overshadowed by the DOR 15 proposals, despite this though, useful insight was gained into the issues residents' regard as important for the Parish, now and in the future. A successful funding bid was made to Locality and this has purchased resources for the Neighbourhood Plan, such as mapping, planning consultants and housing research

Once again the Parish Council received a generous £250 donation from the Casterbridge Rotary Marathon, held in May 2018 and it is regrettable that this year's event has been cancelled.

The Thorncombe Wood liaison group continues to meet regularly, providing a forum to inform residents and discuss the activities of Dorset Council and the National Trust whilst also allowing residents and stakeholders to raise issues of concern at the earliest opportunity. Stinsford Parish Council remain vigilant regarding the transport issues around increased visitor numbers and see this meeting as a way to resolve disputes/understand and react to concerns, at the earliest opportunity.

In May last year we started to research repair/replacement options for the Parish's white fingerposts. This has proved a lengthy and protracted process, but with funding received from the CPRE and Dorset Council, plus working with the Men's Shed group. We have embarked on a maintenance program, starting in Higher Bockhampton and with residents' assistance, we hope to repair the post at Bockhampton Cross shortly. Other transport related issues concern the speed limit from Stinsford roundabout to Bockhampton Cross, we believe there is a very strong case for a 30mph limit along this stretch and are continuing to pursue this. And to date we still have concerns over A35 incident diversions and approach speeds at Stinsford roundabout.

In August 2018, a resident of Higher Bockhampton suffered a drone incursion while it was being used for filming of the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre, this was reported to the police and no action was taken due to lack of evidence. This is a first for the Parish and given drones increased popularity and commercial use, this is an area the Parish Council will undoubtedly encounter again.

We continue to keep an eye on the old In-situ concrete plant after the restrictions based on its usage class were enforced last year

Kingston Maurward College presented their Masterplan in October and after presentations from the principal, Luke Rake, we provided a comprehensive response to the areas identified in the college's development plans. The Parish Council welcomed this opportunity for engagement at an early stage as the College plays an important part in Parish life and is the location of significant heritage assets. It was good to see how popular the Scout Jamboree was in the summer and we note the return of the Lakeside Magic concerts in August.

Broadband availability has improved significantly for Higher Bockhampton this year and Lower Bockhampton awaits fibre to the premises, now scheduled for July 2019 – Openreach contractors have been seen working on the lines recently. Dare we ask - is this the final stretch of a broadband marathon lasting over half a decade?

This is the first Parish Council meeting under the new local authority structure for Dorset, and we have received updates from Councillor Jill Haynes on the preliminary processes set up over the last 12 months culminating with this month's elections. As part of the boundary re-organisations for the new council Stinsford is now within the Charminster St Marys ward and Cllr. David Taylor is our Dorset Councillor. I wish to thank all the Parish Councillors and our clerk Kirsty, for all their hard work and dedication over the last 12 months, attending monthly meetings, planning committees, various consultations, all necessary to carry out our roles. Your hard work is much appreciated.