

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 13 April 2026
at 7:00pm in The Old Library, Coastland College – Kingston Maurward Campus**

Present: Mrs Sarah Pattison (Chair), Mr George Armstrong, Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Kevin Henville and Mr Edd Maynard (Vice-Chair)

Also in attendance: Ms Kate Wills, Principal, and Mr Mark Burgess, Director of Estates and Capital Projects, Coastland College, Dorset Councillor David Taylor and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

43. Apologies for Absence

43.1 An apology for absence was received from Mrs Sue Escott.

44. Declarations of Interest

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

45. Public participation time

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

46. Coastland College

46.1 The Parish Council received an update from Ms Kate Wills, Principal, and Mr Mark Burgess, Director of Estates and Capital Projects, Coastland College. It was reported that the curriculum was now completely merged and the College was meeting all of its key performance targets as set by the Department for Education (DfE) but monthly meetings continued to be held with a focus on finances and quality. Work was now underway to re-introduce a wider curriculum, particularly at the Kingston Maurward campus. Apprenticeship courses for countryside workers and farm workers were being re-launched on a roll-on, roll-off programme which did not require a minimum number of students to run. Whilst the challenge was securing employers to support apprenticeships, there had been a positive turnout at a recent information evening.

46.2 Ms Wills reminded the Parish Council that funding from the DfE could only be used to benefit the students and their education. A key focus was therefore to develop commercial approaches to fund the maintenance of the wider Kingston Maurward estate and a range of potential opportunities were being explored to build on the existing use for weddings, funerals, etc. The Christmas event had been well-received and the current dragon quest was proving to be very popular attracting around 25,000 visitors to the estate. A residents' evening had been held for this to allow an understanding of the event and how it would be managed. It was hoped to establish a resident's group to listen to ideas and concerns. The profit from such events would be reinvested back into the estate. Ms Wills explained the current estate strategy was to retain everything. This would be reviewed once the end of the post-merger improvement plan was reached.

46.3 Members of the Parish Council welcomed the engagement with local residents, which had been positively received. It was considered that the parking and traffic had been well-managed and had not caused any issues for residents. However comments had been received about the accessibility of the dragon quest event for those with mobility issues. Mr Burgess confirmed that comments about this had been received from visitors and lessons had been learned which would enable accessibility to be

addressed for future events. Ms Wills added that whilst this event had been running there had been other events held on the campus and this had demonstrated that this could work well. It was acknowledged that events were likely to lead to an increase in traffic around the campus but that with careful management the impact of this could be minimised.

- 46.4 The Chair drew attention to correspondence received in respect of trees in Church Lane, situated on College property. Mr Burgess confirmed that this had been passed to him and he would address this.
- 46.5 The Parish Council raised the issue of student behaviour in relation to the Lower Bockhampton play area. This was happening more often and the amount of damage being caused to the play equipment was increasing. Whilst staff would attend when the students' presence was reported, they would often have left beforehand. Whilst the Parish Council had made the decision to close the play area and the gate was locked, students had ripped off the closure notice and were still gaining access. As it was not possible to prevent the damage being caused, it was likely that the equipment would have to be removed and the play area closed permanently. Ms Wills agreed to approach the relevant department where these students were believed to be based and would report back to the Parish Council.
- 46.6 In response to a question, Mr Burgess explained that work was ongoing on a programme of events which would be informed by the debrief of the dragon quest event. Once this was completed and the programme approved by the College's Board, this would be shared with the Parish Council.
- 46.7 The Chair thanked Ms Wills and Mr Burgess for attending and providing such a comprehensive update.

Ms Wills and Mr Burgess left the meeting at 7:36pm.

47. Dorset Council matters

- 47.1 in response to a question about the level of council tax agreed by Dorset Council, Cllr Taylor drew attention to the challenges presented by demographics in Dorset and the continued increase in retirement accommodation being built in the area. He acknowledged that there was a lack of social housing and genuinely affordable housing.
- 47.2 In relation to the North Dorchester Garden Community development, Cllr Taylor reported that campaigners against this were looking to arrange a meeting with representatives of Stinsford and Charminster Parish Councils and Dorchester Town Council. He added that the issue of sewage and run-off into the Poole Harbour catchment from the proposed development was becoming more prominent.

48. Finance

Expenditure

- 48.1 The following item of expenditure was **resolved**:
- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 4 2025/26) - £327.60
 - Clerk's salary and expenses (Quarter 2025/26) - £493.80
- 48.2 The following payments made by Direct Debit were **noted**:
- HugoFox – Website – March 2026 – £11.99
 - HSBC – Bank Charges – March 2026 - £1.00
 - HugoFox – Email addresses – March 2026 - £11.99

48.2 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for Quarter 4 2025/26 showing a net balance of £15,233.04 as at 21 March 2026 was **received**.

49. **Accounts**

49.1 The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the final accounts for the financial year 2025/26 for approval by the Parish Council. It was **resolved** that the accounts be approved.

50. **Preparation for Audit**

50.1 The Parish Council considered a number of documents prepared by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, in readiness for the annual audit of the financial year 2025/26.

50.2 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the Council's risk assessment document be approved;
- (ii) the Council's Asset Register be approved;
- (iii) the Internal Controls be noted; and
- (iv) Paula Harding of Lantern Accounting Ltd be appointed as internal auditor for the year 2025/26.

51. **Consultations**

51.1 Dorset Wildlife Trust – Potential for wild beaver release in the River Hooke and Frome catchment

The Parish Council considered this consultation and **resolved** to submit a corporate response supporting the proposals on the basis of biodiversity and nature recovery.

51.2 Local government Boundary Commission for England – Ward boundaries for Dorset Council (initial consultation)

The Parish Council considered this consultation and resolved to submit a corporate response stating that as there had been no changes to its relationships in with neighbouring areas, it wished to continue to be within a ward aligned with Charminster Parish Council.

52. **Lower Bockhampton Play Area**

52.1 Mr Armstrong confirmed that the play area had been open over the Easter weekend but reiterated his concerns about the damage being caused to the swingset from misuse by College students. He proposed that from now on the play area remain closed to the public on weekdays but open at weekends.

52.2 He reported that he had still not identified a contractor to undertake work on the play area and suggested that the Parish Council's insurance be checked to ascertain whether it would be possible to use volunteers to undertake the necessary work.

52.3 It was **resolved** that

- (i) the play area remain locked Monday to Friday but open at weekends;
- (ii) one general cut of the play area be undertaken to be followed by the cutting of a path from the gate to the swingset; and
- (iii) the possibility of using volunteers to work on the play equipment be investigated.

53. North Dorchester Garden Community

53.1 The Chair reported that she had attended the stakeholder preview session ahead of the recent public consultation events held by the North Dorchester Consortium but no answers to any key questions had been forthcoming. She had asked about the publication of a statement of community involvement for the proposed development but had not received a satisfactory response. It was noted that there had been more information about the houses that it was proposed to build provided during the online consultation event.

54. Correspondence

54.1 Mr Clarke reported that he had written to Dorset Highways about the need for the speed limit between Grey’s Bridge and Stinsford Hill roundabout to be reduced in the light of the new stretch of 50mph speed limit being implemented on the A35. He had not received a satisfactory response so it was **resolved** that the Parish Council also write to Dorset Highways in relation to this matter – and the need for the other main routes in the parish linked to the A35 to also have reduced speed limits.

55. Communications

55.1 It was **resolved** that Mr Armstrong would draft the next article for The Pilot outlining the road safety and transport related issues that the Parish Council had raised with Dorset Council.

55.2 The Chair reported that she would be unable to attend meetings of the Parish Council in May and June. She noted that there was already a vacancy for a councillor and considered that it was necessary to encourage further participation from residents.

56. Items for next meeting

56.1 No specific items were proposed as the next meeting would be the Annual Parish Council meeting.

57. Date of next meeting

57.1 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 11 May 2026 (Annual Parish Meeting of Electors followed by the Annual Parish Council meeting).

The meeting concluded at 8:54pm.

Chair **Date**