

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14 May 2018 at 7.45pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr Will Molland (Chairman), Mr George Armstrong, Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Chris Hext and Dr A Stillman.

Also in attendance: Cllr Patrick Cooke (West Dorset District Councillor) and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

64. Election of Chairman

64.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mr Will Molland be elected Chairman for the year 2018/19. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Mr Molland took the Chair.

64.2 On behalf of the Parish Council, Mr Molland thanked the outgoing Chairman, Mr Hext, for his efforts over the past year.

65. Appointment of Vice-Chairman

65.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mr George Armstrong be appointed Vice-Chairman for the year 2018/19 and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

66. Apologies for Absence

66.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Richard Wheal and Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Councillor).

67. Declarations of Interest

67.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary or other interests.

68. Minutes

68.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of meeting held on 9 April 2018 be taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

69. Accounts

69.1 The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the final accounts for the financial year 2017/18 for approval by the Parish Council in advance of the annual audit process. It was **resolved** that the accounts be approved.

70. Annual Audit 2017/18

70.1 The Clerk explained that the annual audit regime had changed and that whilst all aspects of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return needed to be completed and published as in previous years, the Parish Council would not be subject to a limited assurance review by the External Auditor. However, it was necessary for the Parish Council to submit a Certificate of Exemption.

70.2 It was **resolved** that the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman and submitted to the External Auditor.

71. Finance

71.1 Income

The following income was noted:-

- West Dorset District Council – 50% of precept for 2018/19 - £2,500,00

Expenditure

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance was due for renewal on 1 June 2018. The following quotes had been received:

- Zurich Municipal - £257.60
- Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd - £225.05 (subject to a three year Long Term Agreement expiring in 2021)

A third quote had been sought but a response had not been received prior to the meeting.

It was **resolved** to accept the quotation from Norris & Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd and enter into a three year Long Term Agreement expiring in 2021.

72. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford

72.1 The Chairman reported that he had attended a meeting of the co-ordinating group. It had been requested that a member of the Parish Council be nominated to act as the liaison between the neighbourhood plan groups and West Dorset District Council. Dr Stillman offered to do this.

72.2 It was resolved that the appropriate governance arrangements were for the topic groups to report to the co-ordinating group and that group to report to the Parish Council. How the Parish Council could best retain oversight of the neighbourhood plan process was discussed. It was noted that the Parish Council should drive the process, providing direction, with the co-ordinating group ensuring that milestones were met and effort was not being duplicated. Members of the Parish Council were encouraged to attend meetings of the co-ordinating group.

72.3 It was noted that the co-ordinating group were seeking to identify and agree costs for the next year, which would enable bids for funding to be submitted.

73. Local Plan Review

73.1 Following discussion of the Local Plan Review during the Annual Parish Meeting for Electors, no further updates were provided.

74. DAPTC Survey on LGR Matters

74.1 The Parish Council considered its response to the survey on local government reorganisation (LGR) matters issued by the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils (DAPTC). This sought the views of parish and town councils on what services should be realistically retained and how local decision making should operate. Responses were sought by 20 May 2018 to enable these to be considered by the DAPTC Executive Committee at its meeting on 2 June as part of its work towards a vision of what town and parish councils would like to see under the new unitary council.

74.2 Some concern was expressed that the list of services contained statutory functions which the new Dorset Council would have to undertake, as well as some services which were already provided by town and parish councils. It was felt that if funding was not an issue, all of the services listed were important and should be retained and this should be reflected in the Parish Council's response.

74.3 The survey also sought the Parish Council's views on how local decision making should operate under the new council. It was considered that structural links should be made between the parish councils surrounding market towns and that devolved budgets and devolved planning decisions should be encouraged but an emphasis should be placed on ensuring that these were informed by neighbourhood plans.
Action by: Clerk to submit response by deadline.

75. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

75.1 Mr Hext reported that he had commenced the review of the rights of way in the parish and expressed his concerns that the degradation of the culvert and surface of the bridleway below St Michael's Church made this dangerous to traverse. It was also noted that the Bockhampton end of the river path was at risk of being split into two due to the bank collapsing. It was **resolved** to inform Dorset County Council of these issues, particularly as this was part of the Hardy Way route.
Action by: Clerk

75.2 The response received from Dorset County Council in relation to the unfenced culvert in London Road was noted. It was queried whether the safety of the culvert was the responsibility of the Duchy of Cornwall as the landowner, particularly as some of the older estate fencing remained in situ, representing a potential danger to pedestrians. However, it was noted that the degradation of the tarmac on the pavement was a Dorset County Council issue. It was **resolved** to write again to raise this hazard.
Action by: Clerk

75.3 It was noted that no formal response had been received from Highways England to the Parish Council's concerns about the displacement of the lanes at Stinsford Hill roundabout. It was resolved to follow this up, adding concerns about the tidiness of the roundabout and the removal of the broken light column. It was reiterated that a site meeting with representatives of Highways England would enable a full exploration of the Parish Council's concerns.
Action by: Clerk

76. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

76.1 The next meeting of the liaison group was due to be held in June. Dr Stillman would contact those involved to identify a date.
Action by: Dr Stillman

77. Superfast Broadband

77.1 The Parish Council noted that fibre to premises broadband was currently being installed in Higher Bockhampton.

78. Correspondence

78.1 The Clerk reported that notification had been received that the planning application to vary the delivery times to the Lidl Store would be considered by the District Council's development Control Committee. As the Parish Council had resolved to support this application, it was agreed that it was not necessary for a representative to attend this meeting.

78.2 The Parish Council noted the receipt of an email from a resident of Charminster about various issues relating to the state of the roads and flooding issues and the initial response sent by Mr Hext. It was noted that a number of the sites referred to were actually within Charminster parish but an offer could be made to write jointly with Charminster Parish Council to Dorset County Council about these matters.

78.3 The Parish Council noted the receipt of an email from a resident of Lower Bockhampton about the impact on Bockhampton Bridge of large agricultural vehicles driving over it at speed. It was noted that these tended to be contractor's vehicles and that the only deterrent would be a width restriction being placed upon the bridge.
Action by: Clerk to write to Dorset County Council to request a width restriction.

79. Items for future Agenda

79.1 No items for future agenda were suggested.

80. Date of next meeting

80.1 It was noted that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 18 June 2018.

The meeting concluded at 8:50pm.

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