

# Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 June 2023  
at 7:00pm in The Stinsford Centre, Kingston Maurward College**

**Present:** Mr George Armstrong (Chair), Mr Michael Clarke (Vice-Chair) and Mrs Sarah Pattison

**Also in attendance:** Cllr David Taylor (Dorset Councillor), Mr Luke Rake (Principal of Kingston Maurward College) and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

## **54. Apologies for Absence**

54.1 An apology for absence was received from Ms Susan Escott.

## **55. Declarations of Interest**

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

## **56. Public participation time**

56.1 As there were no members of the public present, the Chair moved to the next item.

## **57. Dorset Council update**

57.1 Cllr Taylor provided an update for the Parish Council and reported that any further work on the North of Dorchester Garden Community development was now paused due to the extended timeline for the adoption of a Dorset Local Plan. This would now be in 2026 due to the Dorset Council elections in 2024. He expressed his anger at the announcement made by the Portfolio Holder for Planning a few months beforehand about the site previously being agreed for inclusion in the extant Local Plan, which was incorrect and, in his view, represented predetermination. He also referred to meetings that the Portfolio Holder had had with the landowners of the proposed development site.

57.2 The Chair drew attention to the fact that the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan had not included consideration of the site earmarked for the Garden Community and asked whether this could be considered when the Plan was reviewed. Cllr Taylor felt that this would be appropriate.

57.3 The Parish Council drew Cllr Taylor's attention to concerns about the SOOLE survey about wind turbines on Waterston Ridge and asked that he keep a watching brief on this. Cllr Taylor agreed to do so.

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

58.1 The Parish Council raised with Cllr Taylor its ongoing concerns about road safety in the parish, brought into sharp relief by the recent serious accident on Slyer's Lane. A motorcyclist leaving one of the properties on Waterston Ridge had been hit by a car and sustained life-changing injuries. This had unfortunately demonstrated the significant concerns held by local residents and the Parish Council about the 60mph speed limit on a rural road with blind bends and the impact of increased heavy traffic serving the business units at Bourne Park. Correspondence had been sent to Dorset Council's Portfolio Holder for Highways and representatives of Highways and Dorset Police had visited the scene.

58.2 It was noted that national statistics indicated that road users were twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured on rural roads and whilst Dorset Council had introduced the

ability for local villages to apply for a 20mph speed limit, the cost of this was prohibitive for very small parish councils. It was therefore proposed that the Parish Council begin a campaign to seek a lowering of the speed limit on the rural roads through the parish, linking in with other local councils in the area. It was **resolved** to start at a very local level, with a focus on Slyer's Lane.

- 58.3 Cllr Taylor acknowledged that the issue of speeding on rural roads was well known and that the lack of action in progressing lower speed limits came down to cost and a lack of resources. He referred to the situation through Frampton where a '3,2,1, Slow' approach was being progressed and that there was a call for the speed limit on rural roads to be reduced to 40mph in many areas of Dorset. Mr Rake added that the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils were represented on the Dorset Partnership against Rural Crime, chaired by the Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner, and that perhaps this issue could be raised through that forum.

## **59. Minutes**

- 59.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Electors and Annual Parish Council Meeting held on 9 May 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

- 59.2 Further to minute 46.1, Mr Clarke reported that he was progressing contact with Wessex Water.

- 59.3 Further to minute 49.1, Mr Armstrong reported that the state of disrepair of the play area wall was worse than originally thought as the refurbishment works progressed and more stonemasonry would be required. The contractors were sourcing free local stone wherever possible but due to the increased amount of work, the refurbishment would take longer than anticipated. He also reported that there had been damage to the parish information board and noticeboard where they were attached to the wall had been discovered. He would investigate alternative means of attaching the boards to the repaired wall to prevent future damage. In view of the ongoing work, the play area would remain closed to the public during the school holidays.

- 59.4 Further to minute 47, the Clerk confirmed that the consultation responses had been submitted prior to the respective deadlines. The Parish Council thanked Mrs Pattison for the large amount of work she had put into drafting the submissions.

## **60. Finance**

### **60.1 Expenditure**

- 60.1.1 The following payment approved under Delegated Powers following consultation with the Parish Council was noted:

Thomas Gargrave (Heritage Conservation) - Phase 1 of repair and refurbishment of Lower Bockhampton play area wall - £6,491.86

- 60.1.2 The following items of expenditure were **resolved**:

(i) Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk's annual membership 2023/24 - £80.00

(ii) Paula Harding (Barker-Fox Associates) – internal audit fee 2022/23 - £42.00

### **60.2 Income**

Receipt of £2,750.00 from Dorset Council (50% of precept for 2023/24) was noted.

## **Approval of Annual Governance and Accountability Return 2022/23**

- 61.1 The Clerk introduced the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2022/23 for approval before it was published to comply with the requirements of the Accounts

and Audit Regulations 2015. The Parish Council also considered the report of the Internal Auditor which set out a conclusion of substantial assurance but made seven recommendations.

61.2 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the report and recommendations of the Internal Auditor be received;
- (ii) the Certificate of Exemption be signed by the Chairman and submitted to the External Auditor;
- (iii) the Annual Governance Statement (Section 1) be approved;
- (iv) the Accounting Statements (Section 2) be approved; and
- (v) the period of public rights commence on 20 June 2023 and end on 1 August 2023 and notice of this be published on the parish noticeboards and the Parish Council's website.

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

62.1 This matter having been covered under Cllr Taylor's update, the Chair moved to the next item.

## **63. Climate and Ecological Emergency Strategy**

63.1 The Parish Council discussed the arrangements for the parish boundary walk on 18 June 2023. This had been promoted in the June edition of The Pilot and Mrs Pattison had prepared maps of the route, details of proposed stops and a factsheet. The Parish Council thanked her for her work on this. Mr Rake confirmed that parking was available in the College's lower car park and offered to print copies of the map and factsheet.

63.2 Whilst councillors would seek to be there to launch the walk and see those participating off, it was **resolved** that this be a self-guided activity for those who wished to participate and would not be led by the Parish Council.

## **64. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way (continued)**

64.1 The Clerk reported that she was still awaiting an updated quote from Dorset Council for the installation of a community grit bin at Higher Bockhampton.

64.2 Cllr Taylor reported on an initiative to create a cycle link between Bristol and Portland which was enabling the improvement of cycleways through Charminster and Stratton. He suggested that this could be considered by Stinsford although acknowledged that the parish was not on this link. He would provide details of this work. Mr Rake pointed out that the issue for Stinsford was that the current cycleway infrastructure circumvented the parish but there was a real need for improvements to be made to enable the safety of cyclists between Gray's Bridge and Kingston Maurward.

64.3 Mr Armstrong reported that following recent damage the safety barriers on Lower Bockhampton bridge had been repaired very quickly. Additionally the vegetation along the River Path had been cut back soon after the Parish Council's request was submitted. It was **resolved** to thank Dorset Council for their quick action on these matters.

## **65. Correspondence**

65.1 Mr Armstrong reported that there had been mention of tree extraction at Snail's Creep, off Cuckoo Lane, and concern that this would impact trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order. No information had been received by the Parish Council. It was suggested that Dorset Council be requested to provide a map showing Tree Preservation Orders within the parish.

**66. Items for next meeting**

- Kingston Maurward College update.
- Housing Needs Survey
- Extension of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundaries.

**67. Date of future meetings**

67.1 It was noted that the meeting scheduled for 10 July 2023 would not be quorate and it was resolved that this be cancelled. The next substantive meeting would now be held in August.

67.2 The Clerk reported that dates for the period August 2023 – July 2024 would now be set and circulated as soon as room bookings secured.

**68. Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960**

68.1 It was resolved that in view of the fact that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the following matter the public and representatives of the press be excluded from this meeting during its discussion.

*Cllr Taylor and Mr Rake left the meeting.*

**69. Approval of apologies**

69.1 The Parish Council considered the apologies given by Mrs Escott for her absence from meetings since February 2023. The Clerk reminded the Parish Council that the Local Government Act 1972 stated that a councillor who is absent from all meetings of the Council and any committees of which they are a member for a period of six months automatically ceases to be a member of the Council unless they have been given leave of absence by the Council before the expiry of that six month period or their apology has been approved. Mrs Escott had last attended a meeting on 9 January 2023. However, it was acknowledged that she continued to make a valuable contribution to the activities of the Council outside of meetings when she was able to do so.

69.2 It was **resolved** that in view of the nature of her apologies for attending meetings over recent months, these be approved and Mrs Escott not cease to become a member of the Parish Council at the expiry of a period of six months and this be reviewed again before the end of 2023 if she was unable to attend future meetings.

The meeting concluded at 8:12pm.

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