

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 March 2026 at 7:00pm
in The Old Library, Coastland College - Kingston Maurward Campus**

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

Also in attendance: Dorset Councillor David Taylor, Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and one member of the public (Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones)

28. Apologies for Absence

28.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Sue Escott.

29. Declarations of Interest

29.1 Mr Clarke declared a personal interest in two of the treeworks applications on the agenda for consideration.

30. Public participation time

30.1 Mr Grenville-Jones raised the issue of the state of the river between Minnow Bridge and Lower Bockhampton Bridge and the fact that the area was so overgrown you could not see the river. He considered that as the Environment Agency was not fulfilling its statutory duty to this area, it should allow others to take action. Members of the Parish Council agreed that in their experience the Environment Agency were very unresponsive to any issues raised with it. It was also noted that during the development of the Neighbourhood Plan these issues had been looked at with the Senior Rights of Way Officer from Dorset Council and it was proposed that the bridge would be made good. However funding had not been forthcoming for this and when it was recently inspected, the decision had been that no action was necessary.

30.2 Mr Grenville-Jones also asked whether it had been confirmed that the British Eventing equestrian event would be held at Kingston Maurward again in 2026. The Chair explained that the Parish Council had been told that it would [advertised as being on 27 and 28 June] but had received no further details.

30.3 Additionally Mr Grenville-Jones drew attention to the erosion of the edges of the road between Bockhampton Cross and Stinsford Cross. The Parish Council acknowledged this, expressing their concerns about similar damage to the road edges in other areas of the parish, particularly on Slyer's Lane. It was suggested that the members of the Parish Council could survey the major roads in the parish to enable a comprehensive approach to Dorset Council.

30.4 In relation to the flood risk presented by the North Dorchester Garden Community proposals, Mr Grenville-Jones shared his views that the Planning Authority should demand that the developers detail what they would do about this. He considered that the water meadows should be restored but it was acknowledged that the issue would be who would manage these.

Mr Grenville-Jones let the meeting after this item.

31. Dorset Council matters

- 31.1 Cllr Taylor reported new planning legislation was awaited and it was his understanding that this would prevent any objections being made after a decision on an application was made by a planning committee. He also reported that phase 5 of the Charminster Farm development was being progressed.
- 31.2 Mr Armstrong informed Cllr Taylor that he had written to Dorset Council's Cabinet Member for Planning and the Head of Planning asking when the results of the Dorset Local Plan options consultation would be made publicly available. No response had been received yet.

32. Minutes

- 32.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes meetings held on 12 January and 9 February 2026 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

33. Finance

Expenditure

- 33.1 The following payments made by Direct Debit were **noted**:
- HugoFox – Website – January 2026 – £11.99
 - HSBC – Bank Charges – January 2026 - £2.00
 - HugoFox – Email accounts – January 2026 - £11.99
 - HugoFox – Website – February 2026 – £11.99
 - HSBC – Bank Charges – February 2026 - £3.00
 - HugoFox – Email accounts – February 2026 - £11.99

34. Planning Matters

(Having declared a person interest in applications P/TRC/2026/00845 and P/TRC/2026/00844 as the applicant, Mr Clarke withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.)

- 34.1 P/TRC/2026/00927 – Coastland College, Kingston Maurward, Stinsford DT2 8PY – Paulownia (T1) – Pollard southern most stem to just above the union (as per annotated photo submitted) at a height of approximately 3.5 – 4m from the ground; Playcladus (T2) – Fell

It was **resolved** to support this application.

- 34.2 P/TRC/2026/00845 – Three Bears, Church Lane, Stinsford DT2 8PS – T1 Sycamore – Fell

It was **resolved** to support this application.

- 34.3 P/TRC/2026/00844 – St Michael's Church, Church Lane, Stinsford DT2 8PS - T1 Sycamore – Fell; Elder and Portuguese Laurel - Remove

It was **resolved** to support this application.

35. Parish Clerk recruitment

- 35.1 The Parish Council considered the advert and draft contract and any other outstanding arrangements for the recruitment to the Parish Clerk post. It was noted that the draft contract, based on the NALC template, referred to a suite of policies which the Parish Council did not currently have in place.

- 35.2 It was **resolved** that:

(i) the draft recruitment advert be approved for publication;

- (ii) the draft contract, as amended, be approved; and
- (iii) the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils be approached to identify template policies and procedures that the Parish Council could consider adopting as best practice.

36. Lower Bockhampton Play Area

- 36.1 The Parish Council was informed that, as agreed at the January meeting, the play area was currently locked and a notice placed on the gate to say that it was closed to the public.
- 36.2 Mr Armstrong reported that he was still unable to identify a suitably qualified play area maintenance contractor who could do the required maintenance work. The local installer of play equipment who had been approached had not responded.
- 36.3 Mr Armstrong also informed the Parish Council of a recent incident during which five students from the College had attempted to vandalise the equipment in the play area. This was the worst attack on the equipment he had witnessed. He was proposing to draft a letter to the Dorset Echo which we would share with the Principal and Chair of Governors of the College. He considered that there was no point in seeking to replace the equipment until this situation was resolved and it might be necessary to retain the closure of the play area past Easter due to the threat of vandalism.

37. North Dorchester Garden Community

- 37.1 The Parish Council noted the responses from Dorset Council to the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping requests submitted in respect of the North Dorchester Garden Community sites. The responses were welcomed as they had demonstrated the need for a masterplan for the whole development and reflected a lot of the Parish Council's views on the proposals. It was noted that there was a lot of focus placed upon highways, hydrology and landscape.
- 37.2 The Chair drew attention to an approach from Mr Alistair Nesbit requesting that the Parish Council jointly commission an independent report on the hydrological impact of the proposed development together with Charminster Parish Council and Dorchester Town Council. He had reported that the Community Planning Alliance had recommended a flood risk assessment consultant from Aegaea. The Parish Council considered this but considered that the cost was unlikely to be within its capabilities in addition to the fact that a geo-hydrology study would also be necessary. As there was a lack of details available, it was **resolved** to respond to request that the Parish Council be update on the cost implications once known and the details of what would be delivered.
- 37.3 The Parish Council also noted the public consultation events being held over the next week by the North Dorchester Consortium on the emerging proposals for the Garden Community. The Chair confirmed that she would attend the stakeholder preview on 16 March representing the Parish Council. Other members of the Parish Council confirmed that they would attend the public sessions as individuals.

38. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 38.1 The Parish Council noted the response from National Highways in relation to the concerns raised about the A35 Charmouth to Yellowham Safety Scheme. A number of 50mph signs were now in place on the A35 and ongoing concerns were expressed about road safety arising from the location of these. The need to reduce the speed limits on the roads off the 50mph stretch was raised. It was **resolved** to write to

Dorset Council's Head of Highways and the relevant Cabinet Member to request that this be progressed.

38.2 Further to minute 35.2, Cllr Taylor undertook to seek a response from Dorchester Town Council about the proposal that no right turn at the A352 junction be implemented.

38.3 The Parish Council noted the correspondence received from a resident of Lower Bockhampton setting out their experience of the Coastland College student charity tractor run held on 1 March 2026. Mr Armstrong explained that there had been mixed views expressed about this on the Lower Bockhampton WhatsApp group; whilst most people were indifferent the impact of the tractor run was greater for those whose properties abutted the road. However it was **resolved** to request greater communication from the College to ensure residents were aware of future events, request that alternate routes be used that had less impact on residents' properties and ensure that participants' driving licences, insurance documents, etc were checked.

39. Correspondence

39.1 The Clerk reported that the Principal of the College had offered to attend the next meeting of the Parish Council. This was welcomed. It was **resolved** to take the Principal up on this offer and that, in particular, the Parish Council would welcome an update about the programme of events being planned at the Kingston Maurward campus and to discuss the impact on local residents of events such as the British Eventing event in June and the recent charity tractor run.

39.2 The Parish Council noted correspondence received from a resident of Church Lane regarding the need for maintenance of overgrown trees belonging to the College. It was **resolved** to raise this with the College's Director of Estates and Major Capital.

39.3 The Parish Council noted correspondence received from the Tourism Development Officer, Dorchester Town Council regarding a proposed heritage lottery bid for a selection of projects to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Thomas Hardy's death in 2028. It was **resolved** to invite her to attend a future meeting to discuss the proposed projects.

40. Communications

40.1 The Parish Council discussed the topic of the next article for inclusion in The Pilot. It was agreed that continuing a thematic approach would be an advantage and ideas for what should be focussed on next shared after the meeting.

41. Items for next meeting

41.1 Update from the Principal of Coastland College

41.2 Preparation for internal audit

41.3 Feedback from the North Dorchester Consortium consultation sessions.

42. Date of future meetings

42.1 It was noted that the future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 13 April (reserve date) and Monday 11 May (Annual Meetings) 2026.

The meeting concluded at 9:10pm.

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