

# Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Electors  
held on Monday 11 May 2026 at 7.00pm in  
The Old Library, Coastland College - Kingston Maurward Campus**

**Present:** Mr George Armstrong (Member of Stinsford Parish Council – in the Chair) and two other members of Stinsford Parish Council (Mr Michael Clarke and Mr Edd Maynard)

**Also in attendance:** Dorset Councillor David Taylor and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk to the Parish Council).

## **1. Welcome**

Mr Armstrong welcomed everyone to the meeting.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Kevin Henville and Mrs Sarah Jane Pattison (Chair of Stinsford Parish Council).

## **3. Minutes**

The minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting for Electors held on 12 May 2025 were confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

## **4. Report from the Chair of the Parish Council**

In the absence of the Chair of Stinsford Parish Council, Mr Armstrong presented her report for the year 2025/26 (attached as the Appendix to these minutes).

Those present expressed their gratitude to the Chair for her detailed report.

## **5. 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, or to help raise additional funds, having done so in the past for a refurbishment of the play area via grant applications.

He explained that the funds previously held in M&G Charity Bonds had been transferred to a capital accumulation fund due to the original product being wound up. He reported that the funds had totalled £734 in 2025 but had increased to £874 in 2026.

He reported that he had previously written to the Charity Commission in relation to its programme of removal of small charities but no response had been received.

It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the Village Hall Trust continue to exist for the time being pending consideration by the Charity Commission; and

(ii) Mr George Armstrong, Mrs Julie Morris and the Clerk to the Parish Council, Miss Kirsty Riglar, be appointed as Trustees for the year 2026/27.

**7. Public Discussion Period**

There being no members of the public present, the meeting ended at 7:07pm.

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

**Chair of Stinsford Parish Council's Annual Report 2025-2026****1. Introduction**

The purpose of this report is to provide a brief account of what Stinsford Parish Council has worked on over the 2025/26 council year.

**2. Planning Applications**

The council received a regular flow of applications requiring us to pass comment as a statutory consultee. The number of applications was however down on previous years. Out of only 10 applications many of these related to tree cutting or removal in the conservation areas. Many of these were old and decaying trees that required no detailed consideration. Indeed it is pleasing to see tree work going on at Kingston Maurward so as to help preserve this valuable parkland and garden for future generations.

**3. Neighbourhood Planning**

In May we gave serious consideration to the value of updating the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan. It is not dated as such but a serious consideration was the potential that it could have in impacting on any development in the parish north of Dorchester. After careful consideration it was felt that present provisions would suffice, that they were still relevant and that developers and Dorset Council had sufficient grounds to ignore any relevant part of the plan. It was decided that resourcing any update to a plan with so little influence on development would not be in the public interest.

**4. Highways**

Highways have been an issue throughout the year. There are a number of roads of concern. These include Cuckoo Lane, Hollow Hill, Slyers Lane, London Road and the A35. The issues are wide-ranging and relate, amongst other things to Cuckoo Lane / Hollow Hill on one side of the A35 and Slyers Lane / London Road on the other been used as alternatives to the A35. This is especially so in the instance of blockages on the A35. There is the added issue of heavy traffic to industrial areas outside of the parish using Slyers Lane. Events held at Kingston Maurward can be a serious issue and inconvenience to residents in Stinsford, Higher and Lower Bockhampton. We have intervened on a number of occasions to request that the college and organisers show greater consciousness of the needs of residents and have received a positive response. London Road / Slyers Lane also also face major disruption through events like Iron Man over which no resolution has been possible. National Highways have made changes to signage and lanes on the A35 but not acted on any of the suggestions that the council has made in its representations leading to serious inconsistencies in speed limits and other issues.

Work on the network beyond the A35 has developed throughout the year with highways being set as a standard item on every council meeting agenda. The situation on Cuckoo Lane and Hollow Hill is simply unacceptable with neither suitable to take the volumes of traffic. Passing places and edges are inadequate at best. On the opposite side of the A35 the speed limit on London Road and the junction from the B3143 is unacceptable and dangerous. The road edges are seriously damaged by heavy traffic, the speed limit is too high for a country lane as is the volume of traffic. Regardless of working with and the support of ward Cllr. Taylor on highways issues across the parish Dorset Council highways continues to fail to work with the parish council. They have been made fully aware of the risk to life and limb posed by the highways situation but give every impression of treating the council and residents with complete contempt. It would appear that the attitude of Dorset Council Highways is unlikely to change. It is therefore reasonable to believe that there is little chance of this situation improving over the coming year. Much of the council's position was included

in a response to the Dorset Council Local Transport Plan consultation in September but it is difficult at this stage to ascertain if any of the council's suggestions were accepted.

### **5. Footpaths and Bridleways**

We continue to monitor public rights of way throughout the parish in order to maintain the network.

### **6. North of Dorchester Development**

The year started with a resident making a Freedom of Information request about the necessity of community engagement in the garden community programme as required by the guidance. We held a well-attended residents' consultation event in Kingston Maurward House to be fully aware of and up to date with the views of residents. Opposition to the development of around 4,000 houses in the parish north of Dorchester remains strong. A summary of findings from the consultation was circulated in paper copy to all households in the parish. We have continued to follow this issue throughout the year. In July an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Scoping Report was delivered by the developers' consultants to Dorset Council. Regardless of the fact that this is not a consultation document we put forward our findings to suggest that the approach was not fit for purpose. A further EIA scoping report was submitted to Dorset Council in December but with few significant changes to the original. We were pleased to note that Dorset Council's position on its inadequacies was not unlike our own findings. In March the developers held a public consultation over two days. Whilst representatives of Stinsford Parish Council attended there was still little evidence to demonstrate that the initial site east of Slyers Lane or the overall North Dorchester site is viable.

### **7. The Studio School**

We have met with the backers of the development and expansion of the school a number of times and established a working relationship. We have outlined our concerns over issues such as parking provision and believe that with ongoing work our concerns can be effectively addressed.

The council continues to track progress.

### **8. Coastland College (Kingston Maurward Campus)**

We have regular meetings with representatives of the college and are keen to support its future development and the continued free access to the gardens, animal park and lake that benefits local residents and those from further afield. We look forward to continuing to maintain a positive working relationship with the college.

### **9. Consultations**

We have contributed to a number of consultations over the year including Dorset Council's Minerals and Waste Plan consultation; Local Transport Plan Consultation and the Local Plan options consultation. By January 2026 we were faced with a new National Planning Policy Framework consultation only a short time after the last update of this document. Unfortunately with 250 questions and little chance of meaningful influence on the outcome it was felt that we did not have the resource available to do a full response.

### **10. Lower Bockhampton Play Area**

This has become a significant issue. It is little used and the annual inspection showed a need for considerable maintenance to the facilities. It was therefore closed over the winter months and we continue to look at how this can best be addressed.

## **11. Funding**

Once again the council was able to continue to deliver services without any rise in the local government precept over the last year.

**Sarah Jane Pattison**

Chair

Stinsford Parish Council

May 2026