

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 November 2019 at 7.00pm in
The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr George Armstrong (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke, Ms Liz Crocker and Dr Andy Stillman

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

119. Apologies for Absence

119.1 An apology for absence was received from Mr Luke Rake, Principal of Kingston Maurward College.

120. Declarations of Interest

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

121. Dorset Council Matters

121.1 Cllr Taylor reported that:

- (i) the process for developing a Dorset Council-wide Local Plan was beginning to stabilise following changes from the government and he anticipated that consultation would begin fairly soon;
- (ii) progress was being made on affordable housing schemes in Dorchester and Wareham to try and keep young people in the areas, with consideration being given to land swaps of Council-owned land to facilitate this; and
- (iii) the work of the Climate Change Executive Advisory Panel was ongoing, with 150 various projects already identified in order to address this and a seminar for parish and town council representatives would be held on 19 November.

121.2 Increasing concerns about road safety on the Tincton Road was raised, as parents of students attending the Studio School were increasingly parking in the road and students walking to the entrance due to the insufficient size of the on-site car park. There was significant concern that, given that this road was subject to the national speed limit, a young person would be injured. It was recognised that road safety was an emerging theme through the development of the Neighbourhood Plan but that action needed to be taken urgently to ensure the safety of young people attending the Studio School. This issue had also been raised by the Principal of Kingston Maurward College in his report. It was **resolved** to contact the Community Highways Officer to request that this issue be looked at in order to progress and road safety improvement measures.

121.3 The Chairman reported that he had attended one of the workshops for representatives of parish and town councils held by Dorset Council to inform the new relationship between the two tiers of local government. However, he felt that there was no real sense of wishing to work in partnership.

122. Kingston Maurward College update

122.1 In the absence of the Principal of the College, the Parish Council noted his written update (appended to these minutes).

123. Public Participation Time

123.1 Mr Jones informed the Parish Council that he had been informed by the case officer that she was recommending refusal of his planning application for a dwellinghouse at Hampton Farm Business Park as it was considered to be an unsustainable site. He had approached Cllr Taylor about this but he was unable to comment as he was a member of the Planning Committee. Cllr Taylor explained that as a member of the Northern Area Planning Committee, if he commented on the application now, he would be unable to participate in the decision-making should it be considered by the Committee, which he anticipated it would.

124. Minutes

124.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2019 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

124.2 Further to minute 100.1, Dr Stillman reported that he had attended a site visit with representatives of Dorset Highways and Kingston Maurward College to agree the location for the installation of a grit bin on Church Lane. This would now be progressed.

125. Finance

125.1 Expenditure

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

- Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support - £636.00
- GeoXphere Ltd – Parish Online mapping services annual subscription - £60.00
- Miss K Riglar – Clerk's salary and expenses (Q2 2019/20) - £582.98
- HMRC - PAYE (Q2 2019/20) - £117.20
- Kingston Maurward College – refreshments for Neighbourhood Plan policy planning meetings held on 14 and 18 October 2019 - £42.00
- Ms S Cooke – reimbursement for Neighbourhood Plan printing and stationery - £34.20

125.2 Income

The Parish Council noted the receipt of the following income:

- Dorset Council – 50% of 2019/20 precept - £2,750.00

126. Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford

126.1 It was noted that the development of the Neighbourhood Plan was moving forward with a number of recent meetings held to focus on the development of policies. Each theme was now be looked at individually.

126.2 The Parish Council expressed their gratitude to Ms Sally Cooke and the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for their considerable work in progressing the development of the Plan. This was very much appreciated by both the Parish Council and the residents of the parish.

127. Climate Change Meeting

127.1 The Parish Council considered holding a public meeting on climate change to inform whether a motion should be passed declaring a climate change emergency. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council did not deliver physical services but that such a declaration could inform its responses to planning applications. It was also considered that such a meeting would provide the basis of consultation on climate change to inform the Neighbourhood Plan.

127.2 It was **resolved** to:

- (i) use the reserve date in February 2020 to hold a public meeting on climate change;
- (ii) invite representatives from the Neighbourhood Plan, Kingston Maurward College and Dorset Studio School to attend the meeting; and
- (iii) identify a possible speaker.

128. Protection of mature trees behind The Old Vicarage, Stinsford

128.1 The Parish Council noted the response from the Principal of Kingston Maurward College about the mature trees located within the Animal Park, behind The Old Vicarage. He considered that there were no issues as the individual veteran trees were widely spaced and were not being impacted by grazing animals, which was in line with normal parkland usage as in other areas of the estate. He confirmed that no arboriculture work would occur without appropriate procedures being followed and he would ensure that the Estates Team kept an eye on things. As these trees were located within the Conservation Area, they were already protected in line with statutory guidance.

128.2 Whilst acknowledging this response, the Parish Council considered that it would be useful to meet with Dorset Council's Tree Officer in the future to advise on best practice in relation to such veteran trees.

129. Operators Licence application

129.1 The Parish Council considered an application submitted by J F Y Construction Ltd to a licence to use The Yard, Birkin House, Stinsford, as an operating centre for one goods vehicle and one trailer. It was noted that the Parish Council was not a statutory consultee for such applications but could make representations. However, if any such representations were on road safety these could only be submitted by the Highways Authority.

129.2 It was **resolved** to request that Dorset Council, as the Highways Authority, object to this application on road safety grounds for the following reasons:

- (i) the entrance to The Yard is on a hillcrest, close to a blind bend on a road subject to the national speed limit;
- (ii) there is no footway along the road to aid the safety of pedestrians; and
- (iii) there is an extant planning permission for an additional entrance to Birkin House which will also impact upon the safety of this road.

130. Road Safety and Traffic Management

130.1 The Chairman drew attention to the future of verges in the parish. He acknowledged that Dorset Council's verge cutting policy had changed to encourage biodiversity but considered that there were a small number of places in the parish which would benefit from more regular cutting for safety reasons, such as Bockhampton Cross, in order to enable good visibility from all directions. It was **resolved** to request more regular cutting of such areas of Dorset Council.

130.2 The Chairman also expressed his concern that the wildflower diversity in the verges had reduced over the past decade and proposed that the Parish Council encourage local volunteers to engage in wildflower seeding or propagation for the coming spring. The Parish Council welcomed this idea and it was **resolved** to make a request for volunteers in The Pilot, as well as seeking participation from Kingston Maurward College.

131. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

131.1 Dr Stillman explained that he had not yet arranged the next meeting of the Liaison Group but would now look to do so early in the New Year.

131.2 The Parish Council considered a letter from the Chairman of the Thomas Hardy Society regarding the licensing hours of the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre. A planning condition was currently applied to the planning permission which allowed for opening up to 4pm. The Society wanted to lift this restriction to allow for limited appropriate occasional evening extensions to enable refreshments and access to the toilets for Hardy-related events and sought the support of the Parish Council for this.

131.3 Members of the Parish Council acknowledged that this restriction had been placed on the opening hours in response to concerns from local residents that the Visitor Centre would be used as a public house, causing noise nuisance, light pollution and leading to anti-social behaviour and criminal activity. However, as the Centre was now well established, it was considered that such impacts would be less likely and it was **resolved** that, if the site owners and Planning Department were to review the planning condition, the Parish Council would make the following comment:

That a relaxation in the planning condition restricting opening after 4pm be supported subject to the following restrictions:-

- (i) the number of events held after 4pm should be restricted to 10 per year;
- (ii) the Visitor Centre should be closed by 10pm; and
- (iii) no amplified music should be played.

131.4 The Parish Council also considered a letter from community arts group ScreenPLAY regarding a project entitled Rites of Way with Mr Hardy that was being developed to create an audio journey through the ancient woodland near to Hardy's Birthplace. This would engage groups of sixth form students with learning disabilities and adults with mental health issues in working with artists and therapists as well as volunteers from the Thomas Hardy Society, the National Trust and members of the New Hardy Players.

131.5 It was **resolved** to confirm the Parish Council's support for this project, subject to engagement with the Countryside Rangers and Dorset Council.

132. Lower Bockhampton Telephone Box

132.1 The Parish Council noted that some maintenance was necessary of the telephone box in Lower Bockhampton which it owned. It was proposed that specialist materials should be purchased and a call made for volunteers to undertake the maintenance in the spring, as well as for the future use of the kiosk.

132.2 It was **resolved** to:

- (i) purchase specialist primer and paint at a cost of approximately £73.00 plus VAT and delivery; and
- (ii) call for volunteers to participate in the maintenance in the spring.

133. Correspondence

133.1 The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by a resident of Lower Bockhampton about the 'missing' plaque from Bockhampton Bridge. This had been collected by a representative of Dorset Council but not yet reinstated. It was resolved to request an update and urge that the plaque be reinstated as soon as possible.

Action by: Clerk

134. Items for next/future Agenda

134.2 Final arrangements for a public meeting on Climate Change.

135. Date of future meetings

135.1 It was noted that:

- (i) the next meeting of the Parish Council would be held on Monday 13 January 2020;
and
- (ii) the reserve date of Monday 10 February 2019 would be used for a public meeting on Climate Change.

The meeting concluded at 8:33pm.

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



Kingston Maurward College

Principal's Update For Parish Council – November 2019

We have begun a new chapter in the KMC story this term with the arrival of effectively a completely new Senior Team with two new Deputy Principals and a commercial manager, as well as a new systems specialist in the last six months. This will allow the College to now accelerate in terms of its educational offer and quality of provision, whilst at the same time freeing me up to work strategically across the county to raise our profile and work with key partners such as the council(s), local politicians, the Local Enterprise Partnership etc. The Parish may be interested to know the extent of this work in due course, but for clarity the College is well placed, locally and nationally... partly in terms of the following roles I now have:

LEP Full Board Member

LEP Rural Group Chairman

LEP Skills Board Member

Local Nature Partnership Board Member

AONB Management Board Member

Chair of Dorset Careers Hub Steering Group

Member of National Careers and Enterprise Company Headteachers' advisory body

Member of National Climate Change Commission (HE and FE Leaders)

In my spare time I run a college...

Local Industrial Strategy

Dorset LEP is now in the final stages of the development of Dorset's Local Industrial Strategy (LIS), which is now in the final stages of consultation alongside the incipient Local Plan and Dorset Council strategic economic planning process as a Unitary Authority (UA). It should be evident that KMC is very well placed within this. As this document will drive investment, and also curriculum and skills priorities, this has been a key bit of work, particularly around environment.

Clearly these are nuanced and political activities but they provide key opportunities for the college and increase the awareness of what we do significantly, as well as allow for the positioning of the organisation as and when capital funding becomes available. It is through this work, for example, that college has been awarded £111k of additional funds this summer to some remedial repair and development work, which would otherwise be impossible given the current funding constraints.

The latter continue, for all FE providers, with the rate of funding for a student now frozen for a decade. As such the pressure we face in inflationary periods continue unabated and we continue to have to make very tough decisions about what we spend our diminishing pot of available resource on. The only way forward is to try to grow, alongside the Studio School, and enable more income.

Student Recruitment

Student recruitment this autumn has been reasonably positive with a small increase in our sixth form provision, but more noticeable locally will have been the dramatic increase in the Studio school to much nearer its planned capacity of 375. The school is receiving huge interest, and will be oversubscribed next September.

We have been in touch with the UA very recently regarding safety on the Tingleton Road but have received rapid short shrift. Again, if the Parish Council wish to pursue speed limits and/or traffic calming we would happily support this, not least because the traffic along the Tingleton Road is largely not ours outside of the short periods at the beginning and end of the day, but this plus Cuckoo Lane are increasingly affected as rat runs to other areas. A lobby for some Dorset Council traffic survey at Bockhampton Cross would be instructive for everyone I suspect, and in particular the Council to persuade them of the need for (less) speed.

Commercial Activity

Commercial areas had a busy summer, with Music by the Lake and National Citizens' Service on site, caravan rallies, many weddings and receptions and a number of conferences. We have invested in a new barn in the animal park this year which opened recently (photo attached), which will hopefully increase footfall, but more importantly provide an undercover seating and eating area which was very much lacking. This will enable the farm park to operate in more inclement weather, and for longer in the calendar.

The prospects for this facility to enable income growth are significant and I am very pleased to have it onsite. MBTL will return next year, I will naturally keep the PC aware of these events – band suggestions are warmly welcomed!



Barn grand opening

Finance

The sector nationally is in appalling shape and the funding rates are frankly shameful. We are blessed with both a commercial wing but mostly a very dedicated group of staff who enable the place to run on a shoestring in many cases. As such, we remain robust and just about viable with 'Good' financial health but things do need to change as we are reaching crisis points nationally. The PC will be aware we sold a cottage recently to provide a financial buffer. We will be lobbying very hard every potential MP for this constituency that there needs to be a paradigm shift in funding for young people if they intend organisations such as ours to survive, much less thrive. I would request local parishioners might ask the same questions of their canvassers.

Curriculum Development

We will be launching a number of programmes in September 2020. Aquaculture, in partnership with commercial organisations and the economic development wing of the UA, alongside the Department for International Trade, which may facilitate estate investment in due course. We have also seen good Horticulture numbers this year due to our Chelsea success and will be running a Level 3 programme in Horticulture for the first time in many years, and we will be creating a new pathway in Equine to facilitate students who wish to work in the industry but are less focused on actually *riding* horses.

Looking forward is extremely exciting – we are already in discussion with a university partner regarding the potential for 2021 programmes in Archaeology, heritage tourism and management and rural business, and this would create opportunities at the sixth form age range as well. These tie in with the developing Dorset Tourism Association strategic plan, and

would help enhance both numbers and profile of the organisation alongside organisations such as the National Trust or the Institute of Chartered Surveyors.

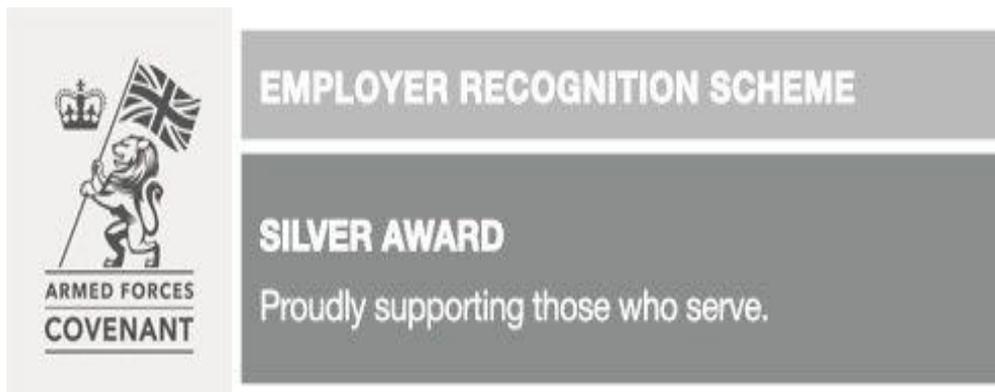
Awards and other items of note

The College has been recognised again for its excellent support for students, winning a national commendation in this area from the Association of Colleges Beacon Award Scheme with shortlisting for the overall national award in January



BEACON AWARD
COMMENDED 2018/19

The College has been recognised for its support for the Armed Services, with the award of the Silver Employers' Recognition Scheme Award, presented by the Lord Lieutenant recently at a ceremony at KM itself. We only signed the covenant one year ago so to reach this award so quickly is extremely good news for the staff involved.



The ripples from RHS Chelsea continue. Not only have we had 20 students sign up this year for Level 2 Horticulture (zero last year!) but we continue to get good press, with features in a number of magazines, not least of which was Homes and Gardens last month.

One our (very) recent students and a student governor, Jay has been awarded Dorset Wedding Florist of the Year in the last month.



"Flowers don't tell, they show"
 Locally crafted with love
 Weddings | special occasions | funerals

Our services cover a huge range of different floral requirements, whether you are looking to celebrate a wedding, remember a loved one at a funeral, or enjoy any other events or occasions. Jay will ensure you have the best quality flowers and service.

Floral Couture by Jay opened its doors in October 2018 and a year on they are celebrating a blooming good year! Jay & the team have worked hard to produce beautiful floral master pieces creating a large impact on the people of Dorset. They have increased their home and gift ware stock as well as the amazing choice of plants and fresh cut flower, now displayed in their fantastic floral cooler flo.

Jay as well as running the shop, has also completed his Level 4 Diploma in Floral design, which he studied at Kingston Maurward College and supported by the amazing Floral design team lead by Tracey Nadin. This now makes him one of the highest qualified florists in the area. This will enable him to bring floristry to a new level for his clients. Highlights for Jay and the team have been, working on beautiful weddings, creating fitting funeral tributes plus

working with some high-profile clients, tv productions teams, Sponsoring Weymouth's first pride event and becoming finalists in the Dorset Wedding supplier awards and English wedding awards. Jay & the team would just like to thank all of their clients for their amazing support and custom throughout the year and looking forward to amazing 2020 full of exciting projects.


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We have started our Combined Cadet Force and this has sprinted from the blocks, with 45 students signed up and a whole range of activities already planned.



Finally, we have committed to the aspiration of Net Zero Carbon by 2025, and indeed wish to push this further to become the most sustainable college in the country. We had a nice start to this at the recent Climate Strike Day – whilst others were protesting (and have the right to of course), we actually thought we'd be productive, planting 70 trees for 70 years of land education at the KM site. Parish involvement in this aim is most welcome going forward.

