

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 9 November 2015 at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Dr Andy Stillman (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Chris Hext, Mr Will Molland, Mr Kim Payne and Mr Richard Wheal

Also in attendance: Cllr Patrick Cooke (West Dorset District Councillor), Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Councillor), Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and 1 member of the public.

134. Chairman's Welcome

134.1 The Chairman welcomed all those present and opened the meeting of the Parish Council.

135. Apology for Absence

135.1 An apology for absence was received from Mr George Armstrong.

136. Declarations of Interest

136.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

137. Dorset County Council Matters

137.1 Cllr Mrs Haynes reported the following:-

- (i) she had attended the recent National Adult and Children's Social Services conference in Bournemouth to give a presentation about Tricuro, the standalone company for adult social care created by Dorset County Council, Bournemouth Borough Council and the Borough of Poole which was operating well and expected to deliver the savings forecast;
- (ii) she had also been invited to 10 Downing Street along with other Dorset representatives to be congratulated on the joint working demonstrated in the establishment of Tricuro;
- (iii) the Combined Authority for Dorset and the prospect of further devolution remained large on the County Council's agenda and the Local Government Association was being approached about looking at the costings of one or two unitary authorities and to provide an evidence base for decision-making; and
- (iv) the County Council was exploring how it could best move into outcomes-based accountability through addressing four themes across the whole authority eg safeguarding and prosperity.

138. West Dorset District Council Matters

138.1 Cllr Cooke reported the following:-

- (i) the improving statistics for the validation of planning applications and responses to land charges queries by the Planning Department;
- (ii) a project manager for the Shire Hall development project had been appointed and it was hoped that progress would be made shortly;
- (iii) an application for the development of a wind farm at Milborne Wood had recently been withdrawn after two years and he hoped that there would be a similar outcome in respect of the proposed Slyer's Lane wind farm; and

- (iv) he would be attending a briefing on 15 December for District Councillors on the superfast broadband programme and invited the Parish Council to provide him with a short précis of the position and concerns relating to Stinsford to enable him to raise this matter.

Action by: Chairman to provide Cllr Cooke with context statement regarding superfast broadband.

139. Public Participation Time

139.1 No matters were raised under this item.

140. Minutes

140.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 2015 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the following amendments:-
Minute 121.2 – to read “... *one or more unitary authorities and expressed their concern that rural Dorset should suffer as a result.*”

Minute 122.2 – to read “*Mr Wills asked if the Parish Council had received any further information about the appeal against the refusal of planning application for the land next to his property, Homesclose, Stinsford Hill, to which the Council had objected.*”

Minute 126.1 (iv) – deletion of wording after “... *to be reduced to 450.*”

Minute 131.1 – to read “... *wash-up meeting about the event held on 12 September 2015.*”

140.2 Further to minute 125.3, the Clerk reported that no list of the individual properties within the parish to be affected by the application and how this would be remedied had been received. *[NB Following the meeting it was noted that the case officer's report on this application contained information about how this would be addressed.]*

140.3 Further to minute 127.3, Mr Molland expressed an interest in taking responsibility for the weekly inspections of the play area and would speak to Mr Armstrong about this.

140.4 Further to minute 130.1, Mr Payne reported that this had been addressed and the lighting altered. The Chairman commented that the issue of light pollution and the desire to maintain a dark sky could be a consideration in relation to future planning applications considered by the Parish Council.

140.5 Further to minute 130.2, Mr Hext undertook to investigate the weight limit signs.

140.6 Further to minute 131, the Clerk reported that she had attended the wash-up meeting on the Challenge Weymouth Triathlon 2015 and had relayed the Parish Council's comments. Similar comments had been made by other parishes through which the cycling route had passed and the organisers appeared to have taken these on board. She added that the organisers had announced that they would be running an Ironman and a half Ironman in September 2016 but they were exploring an alternative cycling route.

141. Finance

141.1 There were no items of expenditure to be considered by the Parish Council.

142. Consultation – Working Together Project Report

142.1 The Parish Council considered the Working Together Project Report disseminated by the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils. This summarised the findings of a pilot project across four localities in Dorset – Bridport, Lytchett Minster and Upton, Sherborne and Swanage - to create a picture of public sector service delivery, identify the activity of each tier of local government and ascertain whether public sector partnership working could be achieved within these localities.

142.2 It was noted that this project had been initiated before the current discussions about possible devolution and creation of unitary authorities had begun. The report did not, therefore, reflect any possible implications of such changes in the local government landscape within Dorset. The Parish Council agreed, therefore, that they did not wish to submit any comments on the report at this time.

143. Superfast Broadband

143.1 The Chairman reminded the Parish Council that a meeting with Oliver Letwin MP would be held on Saturday 5 December 2015, in the Whatmoor Room at the College, starting at 10.15am. He proposed disseminating a brief context paper in advance of the meeting to set out the main issues relating to Stinsford.

144. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

144.1 Cllr Mrs Haynes explained that the policy development panel looking at the visitor centres maintained by the County Council had only met once to date and the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre had been included in their considerations. It was agreed that the interpretation area within the building was poor and that there was a need for maps of walking routes to extend beyond Hardy's Birthplace. No date had been set for a further meeting.

144.2 Cllr Mrs Haynes reported that she had passed the Parish Council's concerns on to the Coast and Countryside Service Manager, particularly in relation to the parking problems experienced, and the County Council were continuing to explore the possibility of a traffic regulation order that would allow double yellow lines to be installed on the bridleway. Additionally, the issues of parking for coaches and potential overflow parking were being considered and whether any arrangements put in place would require planning permission.

144.3 The Parish Council considered a paper by Mr Wheal detailing the problems that had been experienced in the first season of operation of the Centre, particularly in relation to traffic. This included the results of surveys held throughout the season as to the number of cars and visitors using the car park and the aspects of the agreed Travel Plan for the Centre which had not yet been enacted. Particular concern was raised about the significant deterioration of the surface of the bridleway caused by the increased traffic flow of vehicles servicing the Visitor Centre and the impact of this on the health and safety of pedestrians, wheelchair users and horse riders.

144.4 It was **resolved** that the Parish Council request that the County Council (together with the National Trust, where appropriate) take the following action over the winter months in readiness for the onset of the 2016 visitor season:-

- Enact the travel plan for the site;
- Ensure that measures are in place to prevent parking either by coaches or by cars in the Cuckoo Lane passing places;
- Restore and maintain the bridleway, especially at the lower end, as passable by foot, wheelchair, horse, bike or car; and
- Redress the balance in the visitor centre between its functions as visitor centre and as cafe.

Action by: Clerk to write to Coast and Countryside Service Manager.

145. Traffic Management and Road Safety

145.1 Mr Payne reported that the Dorset Studio School had submitted its concerns about the safety of the road between the Stinsford Hill roundabout and Bockhampton Cross, as suggested by the Parish Council.

145.2 It was noted that no further communication had been received about addressing the concerns raised during the site visit held with the Community Highways Team Leader (who was currently on long-term sick leave).

Action by: Chairman to follow up with Dorset Highways.

146. Correspondence

146.1 The Parish Council noted the recent emails from Mr Graeme Stephenson regarding the impact on the safety of the road of the new gateway off the roads between the two bridges outside of Lower Bockhampton. As this was not a new access to the fields but rather a widening of an existing gateway, it was noted that there was no need for planning permission. However, the concerns raised by Mr Stephens in relation to the potential hazard created by the mud dragged across the road itself were echoed and the Parish Council agreed that this should be monitored.

Action by: Clerk to respond to Mr Stephens.

146.2 The Chairman drew attention to the response received from the Senior Enforcement Officer at West Dorset District Council stating that the current use of the premises adjacent to the entrance to Birkin House was not contrary to the extant planning permission but that this would be monitored.

147. Items for next Agenda

147.1 No further items were proposed for inclusion on the agenda for the next meeting.

148. Date of next meeting

148.1 It was **noted** that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 14 December 2015.

The meeting concluded at 9:10pm.

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