

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 November 2023
at 7:00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

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

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

104. Apologies for Absence

104.1 No apologies for absence were received.

105. Declarations of Interest

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

106. Dorset Council update

106.1 In relation to the North Dorchester Garden Community proposals, Cllr Taylor referred to recent information circulating as a result of an update on the developers' website that a roundabout was to be installed to be linked to the development site. He confirmed that this was merely a rumour. He added that he had once again challenged the Portfolio Holder for Planning for comments made in the press about the provision of 3,500 houses at this site as this was not a formal proposal.

106.2 He reported that an extensive programme of resurfacing was underway around Dorchester and that in the context of work to join cycle routes within his ward he had raised the possibility of linking the old underpass path to lower Stinsford but there was no funding available for this. He explained that Dorset Council was currently facing financial challenges and there were currently a lot of meetings taking place about setting the 2024/25 budget.

106.3 In response to a question from the Parish Council about any further update about the safety of Slyer's Lane, Cllr Taylor referred to the highways inspection assessment undertaken by Dorset Council which had recommended further road markings and that the owners cut the hedges back to improve visibility. The Parish Council queried whether this was the report previously referred to and expressed their concern that these recommendations were insufficient to improve the safety of this stretch of road. Cllr Taylor agreed to go back to the Traffic Safety Co-ordinator on this.

106.4 In addition, the Parish Council asked Cllr Taylor to:

- (i) seek updates about the repair of Stinsford Bridge which had become even more dangerous for cyclists following the recent floods and the blockage of the bridleway recently reported to Dorset Council; and
- (ii) how the passing places in Cuckoo Lane could be prevented from being used as parking spaces by visitors in the peak season.

107. Public participation time

107.1 No issues were raised under this item, so the Chair moved to the next item.

108. Minutes

108.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes meeting held on 25 September 2023 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

109. Finance

109.1 Expenditure

The following item of expenditure was **resolved**:

Clerk's salary (Q2 2023/24) - £403.80 - plus backpay for Q1 and Q2 following agreement of national pay award for 2023/24 - £120.00 = £523.80

109.2 The following payments made by Direct Debit were **noted**:

- (i) HSBC – Bank Charges – September 2023 - £9.00
- (ii) HugoFox – Website – October £11.99
- (iii) HSBC – Bank Charges – October 2023 - £10.00

109.3 Income

Receipt of the following income was **noted**:

- (i) Dorset Council – 50% of precept for 2023/24 - £2,750.00

110. Planning Matter

110.1 P/TRC/2023/06364 – Roller Cottage, Bockhampton Lane, Lower Bockhampton, DT2 8PZ – T1 Ornamental Pear – Remove dead and damaged branches and reduce entirely by up to 2m and shape

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

111. Lower Bockhampton Play Area

111.1 The Parish Council considered the annual inspection report supplied by The Play Inspection Company. It was noted that this identified an overall moderate risk but that the majority of individual risks were rated as low or very low. The report recommended cleaning and ongoing maintenance actions.

111.2 The Chair provided a summary of the risks and the suggested action to be taken in response to these, some of which may require input from a contractor. Whilst it was agreed at the previous meeting to consider the future of the play area, pending consultation with local residents about this, he considered that the public could challenge the Parish Council on a lack of maintenance when the play area was reopened for use. Additionally he proposed that a simple form be created so that a member of the Parish Council could undertake monitoring of the play area on a monthly basis. He therefore proposed that some of the maintenance works be undertaken in order to ensure safety ahead of the consultation and any final decision being made.

111.3 The Parish Council discussed these proposals. It was discussed whether the play area should instead be kept closed to the public for the time being pending the consultation rather than spending money on maintenance. However given the consultation period and any bid made to Awards for All for the repurposing of the play area as a public greenspace, this was likely to be several more months. In relation to the proposed consultation, the Chair explained that he had been awaiting the inspection report before drafting the article for inclusion in The Pilot. The Clerk added that she had received confirmation from Fields in Trust that it was not a requirement of the Parish Council's stewardship of the site that this be used as a play area with play equipment. However, they requested that they be informed if the play equipment was removed so as to cease the annual inspection.

111.4 Following discussion, it was **resolved** that:

- (a) the annual inspection report be received;
- (b) a remedial maintenance plan be developed to respond to the recommendations in the report; and
- (c) a monthly monitoring plan be put in place with a simple checklist.

112. Parish Council Assets

112.1 In relation to the Lower Bockhampton telephone kiosk, Mr Clarke reported that he had discussed this with the Head of Fabrication at Kingston Maurward College as a potential local community project with which students could be involved. However it was felt that there was not enough blacksmith work involved in this to be sufficient to engage students. Instead Mr Clarke would put some more feelers out about potential contractors who could undertake the refurbishment.

112.2 The Chair provided an update in relation to the maintenance of the parish noticeboards which it was hoped could be completed by the end of the year. It was **resolved** to:

- (a) seek quotes from local contractors for the installation of new concrete posts to secure the Lower Bockhampton noticeboard; and
- (b) order the materials required for the maintenance of the boards.

112.3 Mr Clarke also undertook to speak to Mr Stuart Holland about the maintenance needs of the bus shelter at Higher Kingston.

113. Climate and Ecology Bill

113.1 The Parish Council considered a Motion supporting the Climate and Ecology Bill promoted by Zero Hour. It was noted that this was a Private Member's Bill seeking to address the challenges of the climate and ecology emergency by creating a whole government approach to deliver a net zero and nature positive future.

113.2 Whilst some concern was raised about the potential for this to be used to override democratic process, it was generally felt that this should be supported as a way to drive the required change forward.

113.3 Upon being put to the vote, it was resolved to support the Motion as follows :

Stinsford Parish Council notes that:

The Climate and Ecology Bill has been introduced in the UK Parliament on four occasions since 2020, including most recently in the House of Commons 10 May 2023. The Bill is backed by 180 cross-party MPs and Peers, 237 local authorities, alongside the support of eminent scientists, such as Sir David King; NGOs, such as the Wildlife Trusts, the Doctors' Association, Oxfam, the W.I. and CPRE; businesses, such as The Co-operative Bank, Riverford and The Body Shop; and 42,000 members of the public.

The CE Bill would require the UK Government to develop and achieve a new environmental strategy, which would include:

1. Delivering a joined-up environmental plan, as the crises in climate and nature are deeply intertwined, and require a plan that considers both together;
2. Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in line with 1.5°C to ensure emissions are reduced in line with the best chance of meeting the UK's Paris Agreement obligations;

3. Not only halting, but also reversing the decline in nature, setting nature measurably on the path to recovery by 2030;
4. Taking responsibility for our overseas footprint, both emissions and ecological;
5. Prioritising nature in decision-making, and ending fossil fuel production and imports as rapidly as possible;
6. Providing for re-training for those people currently working in fossil fuel industries; and
7. Giving the British people a say in finding a fair way forward via a temporary, independent and representative *Climate & Nature Assembly*, as part of creating consensus and ensuring that no one and no community is left behind.

Stinsford Parish Council therefore resolves to:

1. support the Climate and Ecology Bill;
2. Inform local residents and inform local press/media of this decision;
3. Write to the local Member of Parliament to inform them that this motion has been passed, and urge them to sign up to support the CE Bill — or thank them for already doing so;
4. Write to Zero Hour, the organisers of the cross-party campaign for the CE Bill, expressing Stinsford Parish Council's support.

Mrs Pattison abstained from this vote.

114. North Dorchester Garden Community

114.1 Ms Escott referred to an article in the Dorset Echo about a North Dorchester Residents Survey in which there was no mention of Stinsford and its residents. She also expressed concern about the questions asked in the survey and the fact that this had not been made known to the Parish Council. It was therefore **resolved** that a letter be submitted express concern about this and to reaffirm the Parish Council's stance on the development.

114.2 Mr Clarke reported that he had made contact with Wessex Water to seek a meeting with the Parish Council either in person or virtually but had not yet received a response. He would therefore follow this up.

115. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

115.1 In relation to the attempted ongoing dialogue between Dorset Council and local residents about the safety of local roads following the recent serious accident on Slyer's Lane, the Parish Council expressed their frustration at the lack of action. Whilst noting the update from Cllr Taylor earlier in the meeting, it was **resolved** that:

- (a) there be liaison with Piddle Valley Parish Council about the traffic issues on Slyer's Lane affecting both parishes; and
- (b) a virtual meeting with representatives of Puddletown Area, Piddle Valley and Knightsford Parish Councils be sought to discuss road safety issues affecting the local area.

115.2 The Chair updated the Parish Council about the meeting of the A35 Parishes Group held on 13 October 2023 that he and the Vice-Chair had attended. This was a useful first meeting of the group of parishes along the route of the A35 with representatives

from National Highways which had illustrated that issues varied. It was felt that continued involvement with this group would be an advantage and it was **resolved** to make a £50 donation to the Group when the request was formally received.

115.3 The Parish Council noted the blockage of Bridleway S39/31 by works which appeared to be for the creation of a slurry lagoon or similar. The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted a report of the issue to Dorset Council, together with the photos supplied. No response had yet been received. It was proposed that an annual review of the rights of way review within the parish would be a useful exercise and that this be discussed in early 2024.

116. Correspondence

116.1 The Clerk drew attention to the update received about the Dorset Community Tree Project and the Working Together webinar about this taking place via the DAPTC on 16 November. The Chair confirmed that he had registered to attend this.

117. Items for next meeting

- Dorset Studio School Capital Project
- New Facebook page
- Provision of defibrillator at Higher Bockhampton and engagement with other local stakeholders

118. Date of future meetings

118.1 It was noted that future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 11 December 2023 (reserve date) and Monday 8 January 2024.

The meeting concluded at 8:34pm.

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