

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 July 2022
at 7.00pm at Kingston Maurward College

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

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

52. Apologies for Absence

52.1 An apology for absence was received from Ms Sue Escott.

53. Declarations of Interest

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

54. Public Participation Time

54.1 No members of the public were present, so the Chair moved to the next item.

55. Minutes

55.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the annual meeting held on 16 May 2022 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

55.2 Further to minute 33, it was noted that planning permission had been granted for the installation of the substation and cable extension in Church Lane.

56. Finance

Expenditure

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

- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 1 2022/23) – £122.40
- Clerk's salary and expenses (Quarter 1 2022/23) - £500.19

57. North of Dorchester Garden Community

57.1 The Parish Council reflected upon the presentation received at the last meeting from representatives of Turners Associates about an alternative concept for the North of Dorchester Garden Community and the additional map received following this. It was considered that what was proposed was an actual garden community rather than merely an urban extension to Dorchester and would be more in keeping with local need. The emphasis placed on road infrastructure would also provide a linkage with Charminster and Dorchester and would prevent any new development from being isolated from existing settlements and facilities. However, some concern was expressed that this concept would open the site up and encourage further development.

57.2 The Chair drew attention to a survey conducted by Oxford Brookes University Surveying Opinion on Local Energy (SOOLE) that was delivered to residents of Waterston Ridge. She reported that this had caused quite a lot of upset to residents as it was unsolicited and appeared to be designed in such a way that respondents would express support for some level of wind turbines. She reminded the Parish Council that the previous application to install large wind turbines on Waterston Ridge had been turned down on environmental and habitat grounds. It was noted that the Parish Council had not been invited to respond to the survey. In addition, the Clerk

reminded the Parish Council that when the previous application was considered in January 2015, the need for the development of renewable energy installations locally was acknowledged but a strong preference was expressed for smaller, decentralised programmes rather than large, industrial schemes such as that being considered.

- 57.3 The Parish Council reviewed its position in relation to the North of Dorchester Garden Community Board. When invited to participate in the Board, the Parish Council had resolved not to do so, as had Dorchester Town Council (which remained the case). However, whilst not actively participating, Charminster Parish Council was sending an observer to meetings of the Board.
- 57.4 Some frustration was expressed that by not engaging with the Board at all, Stinsford Parish Council was out of the loop and not sighted on the latest updates on the masterplanning work of Hyas Associates. It was therefore **resolved** to request that the Parish Council send an observer to future meetings of the Board.
- 57.5 The Parish Council acknowledged the further response from Dorset Council's Service Manager for Spatial Planning in relation to the complaint submitted about the Garden Community Bid. Having regard to this and the substantive response received, it was resolved to submit a complaint to the Local Government Ombudsman about the misrepresentation by Dorset Council of the Parish Council's 'support' for the Garden Community Bid.

58. Stinsford Parish Council Priorities 2022/23

- 58.1 Further to consideration of how best to identify the Parish Council's priorities for 2022/23 at the last meeting, it was **resolved** to invite representatives of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group to attend the meeting in September to focus on how to take forward the projects and actions set out in the adopted Plan and how to build synergy with the Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Strategy.

59. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 59.1 The Parish Council noted that the River Path was very overgrown and required maintenance for approximately 120 yards west from Bockhampton Bridge. It was **resolved** to submit a request to Dorset Council for this to be addressed.
- 59.2 The status of Dorset Council's Rights of Way Improvement Plan the consultation about which the Parish Council had previously responded was queried. The Clerk undertook to ascertain the latest position.
- 59.3 Mr Armstrong reported that there appeared to be an increase of issues with sat-nav directions to Kingston Maurward College; users being directed to the rear entrance past Knapwater rather than the main entrance. He undertook to raise this with the College.

60. Correspondence

- 60.1 No items were raised under this item.

61. Urgent item – Nomenclature of person presiding over meetings

- 61.1 The Parish Council considered the nomenclature of the person elected to preside over its meetings with a view to agreeing a gender-neutral approach.
- 61.2 It was **resolved** that the person elected to preside over meetings of the Parish Council be referred to as the 'Chair' and their substitute as 'Vice Chair' with immediate effect.

62. Urgent item – Extension of Delegation of Powers

- 62.1 The Parish Council reviewed the decision initially made on 24 May 2021, that
- (i) authority be delegated to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to take any actions necessary with associated expenditure to protect the interests of the community and ensure council business continuity, informed by consultation with members of the Parish Council; and
 - (ii) the scheme of delegation be reviewed no later than September 2021.
- 62.2 This had been extended twice and the review date was currently no later than September 2022.
- 62.3 It was considered that as Covid case rates were currently rising and the progress of the pandemic remained uncertain, it was sensible to retain the option to operate via delegation to the Clerk if it was felt that in-person meetings were not appropriate. It was **resolved** that the scheme of delegation should remain unchanged and be reviewed again in January 2023.

63. Date of future meetings

- 63.1 It was noted that future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 8 August (reserve date) and Monday 12 September 2022

The meeting concluded at 7:50pm.

Chair **Date**