

Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 March 2017 at 7.00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

Present: Mr Richard Wheal (Chairman), Mr George Amrstrong, Mr Chris Hext, Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Will Molland and Dr A Stillman

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and one member of the public (Mr Terry Linee).

36. Apologies for Absence

36.1 An apology for absence was received from Cllr Mrs Jill Haynes (Dorset County Councillor).

37. Declarations of Interest

37.1 There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests.

38. Dorset County Council Matters

38.1 In the absence of Cllr Mrs Haynes, the Chairman moved to the next item.

39. West Dorset District Council Matters

39.1 In the absence of Cllr Cooke, the Chairman moved to the next item.

40. Kingston Maurward College Update

40.1 The Clerk reported that the Principal of the College was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

41. Public Participation Time

41.1 Mr Terry Linee, a resident of Higher Bockhampton, informed the Parish Council that fibre broadband had been installed at the top of the lane to serve the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre. He asked whether the Parish Council were aware of the range at which this would operate if advertised as available by the Visitor Centre. The Chairman added that many local residents and business owners were upset and angry at this, as they were unable to access fibre broadband and that, if this was being funded by Dorset County Council for the Visitor Centre only, this would be a cost to council tax payers but would not advantage them.

41.2 The Parish Council also noted the letter sent to the Dorset Echo by another resident, Mrs Pat Cosgrove, regarding the recent works in Thorncombe Woods and the significant impact upon the nature of the woods and local nature reserve, particularly in relation to the felling of trees and the creation of further paths. Her concerns were reiterated by Council members who considered that the recent developments signalled further urbanisation of a small local nature reserve. It was also noted that the material used as a surface on these paths was not locally sourced and unsympathetic to the local environment. It was also queried whether this was limestone, which was not permitted to be used on acid soil within a nature reserve.

42. Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre

42.1 In relation to the queries raised by Mr Linee, it was **resolved** to write to Dorset County Council asking the following questions:-

- (i) Who is paying for the installation and provision of fibre broadband to the Visitor Centre – Dorset County Council, the National Trust or the lessee of the cafe?
- (ii) Is it intended that the fibre broadband installation will benefit other businesses and residents of Higher Bockhampton or will it serve the Visitor Centre only?
- (iii) Now that fibre broadband is available within 100m of residential properties in Higher Bockhampton, will this expedite the availability of residential provision and when will this be available?

Action by: Clerk

42.2 In relation to the issues raised by Mrs Cosgrove, it was **resolved** to write to the Leader of the County Council to:

- (i) request that a liaison group or management committee be introduced for Thorncombe Woods and the local nature reserve to involve local residents in future plans for works; and
- (ii) request an update on the plans for charging for car parking.

Action by: Clerk

42.3 It was also **resolved** that the Chairman would draft a letter to the Dorset Echo setting out the Parish Council's views on this matter.

Action by: Chairman

43. Minutes

43.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of meeting held on 13 February 2017 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to the amendment of minute 30.1 to read "... *Higher Bockhampton remained in the programme for 2017 ...*".

43.2 Further to minute 29.1, the Chairman confirmed that he supported the permanent repair of the first stretch of bridleway past the Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre with tarmac, particularly if this was covered in gravel or sand, and that the Parish Council's support had been conveyed to the Area Manager – West and North, Dorset Coast and Countryside. He also reported that the views of residents of Higher Bockhampton had been sought by the Rangers. It was agreed that the repair needed to be carried out as soon as possible, before the opening of Hardy's Cottage for the season and that Dorset Coast and Countryside be requested to expedite the works.

44. Planning Matters

44.1 WD/D/17/000198 – Pump Cottage, Bockhampton Lane, Lower Bockhampton, DT2 8PZ – Erect new boundary fence between Pump Cottage and adjacent property – Rimstead Fence to be traditional metal Estate Fence (Full)

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

44.2 WD/D/17/000168 – Kingston Maurward Agricultural College, Kingston Maurward, DT2 8PY – Installation of solar panels on roof (indoor riding arena building) (Full)

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

44.3 WD/D/17/000253 – Unit 4, Lakeside Industrial Estate, St Georges Road, Dorchester, DT1 1PE – Erect single storey extension (Full)

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

45. Consultation – West Dorset, Weymouth and Local Plan Review: Issues and Options

- 45.1 The Parish Council considered whether it wished to submit a corporate response to this consultation. It was noted that Mr Armstrong, Mr Clarke, Mr Hext and Dr Stillman had attended a meeting earlier in the day with representatives of Dorchester Town Council to inform the formulation of the Town Council's response to the consultation. This meeting had been facilitated by a planning consultant to provide context and focus on the questions most relevant to the Dorchester area. All who had attended felt that this had been a useful exercise.
- 45.2 In view of the complexity of the issues and options being consulted upon and the potential significant impact on Stinsford parish of the proposed housing numbers required to serve Dorchester, it was agreed that a workshop-style meeting should be held specifically to focus on this to formulate the Parish Council's response, enabling input from any members of the public present. It was also agreed that it would be an advantage to have a presentation by officers from the Dorset Councils Partnership, similar to that given to Charminster Parish Council in February, to provide both councillors and members of the public with the context to the consultation.
- 45.3 It was **resolved** to:
- (i) hold an extraordinary meeting of the Parish Council at 5:00pm on Monday 27 March 2017 to formulate a corporate response to the West Dorset, Weymouth and Portland Local Plan Review issues and options consultation;
 - (ii) invite an appropriate officer from the Dorset Councils Partnership to give a presentation to provide the background and context; and
 - (iii) approach the planning consultant acting for Dorchester Town Council to facilitate consideration of the Parish Council's response.
- Action by: Clerk*

46. Neighbourhood Planning

- 46.1 Further to the decision at the last meeting that further clarification should be sought about the status of neighbourhood plans in the context of the review of the Local Plan, it was noted that advice had been received that emerging neighbourhood plans aided communities in responding to proposals during the review process as well as identifying sites and types of development supported locally. Council members considered that the initial process of consultation on the focus and principles of a neighbourhood plan for Stinsford would be timely in terms of the Local Plan review timetable.
- 46.2 It was therefore **resolved** that the decision to progress a neighbourhood plan for Stinsford be confirmed and the formal application for the designation of the neighbourhood area be submitted.
- Action by: Clerk*

- 46.3 The Clerk reported that the planning consultancy working on behalf of the Ilchester Estate and Persimmon Homes who wished to engage with the Parish Council on very early proposals in relation to land north of Dorchester had confirmed that they would be willing to attend the next full meeting in April. The Parish Council confirmed that they wished to receive a presentation at this meeting.

47. Lower Bockhampton Play Area Maintenance

- 47.1 It was **resolved** that the quote for the maintenance work at the Play Area received from Pryce Countryside Services, in the amount of £725.00, be accepted and the Clerk be authorised to place the formal order.
- 47.2 Mr Armstrong reported that he was awaiting quotes from specialist play equipment providers for replacement chains for the swings.

48. Superfast Broadband

48.1 No further issues were raised in relation to superfast broadband.

49. Road Safety and Traffic Management

49.1 The Parish Council expressed its concerns about the recent announcement by Highways England that the public toilets at the Kingston Pond lay-by were to be demolished the following week. It was noted that there had been no consultation with, or notice given to, the Parish Council about this. It was resolved that a letter be sent to express these concerns.

Action by: Clerk

49.2 It was noted that the thick white lining had now been implemented on Bockhampton Bridge. Mr Armstrong reported that he had noticed that this had deterred a number of large vehicles from driving over the bridge.

50. Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole Draft Waste Plan

50.1 The Parish Council noted receipt of an update on the progress of the Draft Waste Plan by email. Consultation was currently underway on additional sites in the Wareham and Blandford areas and the final draft was expected to be published later in 2017.

51. Correspondence

51.1 The Clerk reported that she had arranged for an alternative email address (stinsford@dorset-aptc.gov.uk) to be established in order to comply with the requirements introduced by the planning department of the Dorset Councils Partnership for the transition to online-only consultation on planning applications. She did not propose to move all communications to this email address at the present time.

51.2 The Parish Council supported this and reiterated its concerns about the transition to online-only consultation and the fact that this presented barriers for those living in areas with slow broadband speeds being able to view planning applications via dorsetforyou.gov.uk. It was felt that this further diminished the role of parish councils as a consultee at the most local level.

52. Items for future Agenda

52.1 No further items were raised for inclusion in future agenda.

53. Date of next meeting

53.1 It was confirmed that an extraordinary meeting would be held on Monday 27 March 2017 at 5:00pm.

53.2 It was noted that the next full meeting would be held on Monday 10 April 2017.

The meeting concluded at 9:00pm.

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