

# Stinsford Parish Council

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 October 2020 at 7.00pm in  
The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College

**Present:** Mr George Armstrong (Chairman), Mr Michael Clarke, Ms Liz Crocker, Ms Susan Escott and Mrs Julie Martin

**Also in attendance:** Mr Luke Rake (Principal – Kingston Maurward College), Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and one member of the public (Ms Sally Cooke)

## **34. Apologies for Absence**

34.1 No apologies for absence were received.

## **35. Declarations of Interest**

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

## **36. Public Participation Time**

36.1 There being no members of the public present, the Chairman moved to the next item.

## **37. Casual Vacancy and Co-option**

37.1 The Parish Council formally acknowledged the resignation of Dr Andy Stillman from the Council. The Chairman reported that he had written to Dr Stillman on behalf of the Council to express its gratitude to him for his contribution during his time as a councillor and to send best wishes for his relocation to France.

37.2 The Clerk reported that the notice of casual vacancy had been published and no requests for an election had been received. The Parish Council therefore considered an expression of interest in co-option received from a resident of the parish to fill one of the vacancy.

37.3 It was **resolved** that Ms Susan Escott be co-opted onto the Parish Council for the remainder of the current term of office.

37.4 Ms Escott signed the declaration of acceptance of office and joined the meeting in her capacity as a Parish Councillor.

## **38. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way**

38.1 **Cycle paths** - The Chairman reported that he understood that Dorset Council had received funding specifically for the development of cycle paths. The draft Neighbourhood Plan included the development of a cycle network to improve links to Dorchester. One of these was the upgrading of the cow track through the College estate to a permissive bridleway and funding could then be sought to create a better surface.

38.2 The Principal of the College confirmed that the College was very happy to support any proposals to improve the cycle network, particularly the link to Lower Bockhampton and the underpass from Dorchester, as a lot of students cycled to the campus from the town. He also confirmed that the machine track was on land leased from the Ilchester Estate.

38.3 In relation to the next section of land connecting to Dorchester, it was noted that this was leased by a farmer from the Duchy of Cornwall.

- 38.4 It was **resolved** to investigate how best to submit a joint application for improvements to the cycle network, including surface improvements, by the Parish Council, the College, the Studio School and, if in agreement, St Michael's Church.
- 38.5 **Repair of the River Path and bridge near Three Bears Cottage** – The Parish Council were informed that a meeting was due to take place with David Ackerley, Senior Ranger, Dorset Council about the state of the river path and the bridge near Three Bears Cottage. It was hoped that action would be taken before Spring 2021. Attendees would feedback to the Parish Council in due course.
- 38.6 **Flooding in Lower Bockhampton** – The Chairman reported that during the recent torrential downpours which had caused unprecedented flooding locally there had been significant amounts of water in Lower Bockhampton which had resulted in the flooding of Greenwood Cottage. It was **resolved** to contact Dorset Council and request that gullies be cleared as necessary and that the operatives inform the Chairman of when they would be in the area so that he could ensure the correct gullies were targeted.

### 39. Minutes

- 39.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March and extraordinary meeting held on 29 June 2020 be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.
- 39.2 Further to minute 29.1, Mr Clarke reported that the repaired fingerpost would shortly be installed at Church Lane. He had not yet identified a local tradesperson who would be able to refurbish the fingerpost at Bockhampton Cross who could quote less than the quote received from Normtec. It was **resolved** that if a cheaper quote was received, authority be given to the Clerk to commission the works.

### 40. Finance

#### 40.1 Expenditure

- (i) It was **resolved** to retrospectively approve the following payments made during the pandemic in accordance with Financial Regulation 4.1:
- Dorset Council - supply and installation of grit bin in Church Lane - £519.60
  - Norris and Fisher (Insurance Brokers) Ltd – Insurance renewal for 2020/21 – £227.26
  - Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support (July 2020) - £807.70
  - Ms S Cooke – Reimbursement for purchase of Zoom account for use by the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group - £143.88
  - Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support (August 2020) - £807.70
- (ii) The following items of expenditure were **resolved**:
- The Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk's annual membership fee - £78.00
  - Miss K Riglar – Clerk's salary and expenses - £1,547.09 total:  
Quarter 4 2019/20 - £592.30  
Quarter 1 2020/21 - £442.19  
Quarter 2 2020/21 - £539.60
  - HMRC – PAYE - £9.40 (*£79.00 minus £69.60 credit on account*)

- Dorset Planning Consultant Ltd – Neighbourhood Plan consultancy support (September 2020) - £807.70

#### 40.2 Income

The following receipts were noted:-

- Dorset Council – precept 50% - £2,750.00
- Groundwork UK – Neighbourhood planning grant 2020/21 - £8,443.00
- HMRC VAT reclaim for 2019/20 - £155.20
- Dorset Council – precept 50% - £2,750.00

#### 41. **Planning Matters**

- (i) WD/D/20/001886 - Alterations to existing carport to form garage – 7 Stinsford House, Church Lane, Stinsford, Dorchester DT2 8PT
- (ii) WD/D/20/001887 – Alterations to existing carport to form garage – 7 Stinsford House, Church Lane, Stinsford, Dorchester DT2 8PT (Listed Building Consent)

It was **resolved** to support these applications.

#### 42. **Rural Arts Centre**

- 42.1 As representatives from the Dorset Studio School had been unable to attend the meeting, it was **resolved** to invite them to the next meeting to provide an update on the Rural Arts Centre initiative.

#### 43. **Neighbourhood Plan for Stinsford**

- 43.1 Ms Cooke, on behalf of the Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group, reported that the consultant had produced an initial draft Plan from the material collated by the Group. This had been welcomed by the Group and would form the basis of the consultation with residents due to take place during November. It had still not been decided as to whether to allocate land for affordable housing in the Plan. If it was decided to do this, there would be formal steps to be taken; if not, it was likely that the final Plan could be in place by the end of 2021.

- 43.2 The consultation would be held via a series of meetings held via Zoom; one for each hamlet and incorporating up to 20 households per area. It was also hoped to hold a drop-in session at the College on Saturday 28 November. In order to encourage engagement, a local contact for each area had been sought to act as a link.

- 43.3 The Parish Council welcomed the initial draft Plan which illustrated the large amount of work that had been done by the Steering Group and all those involved.

#### 44. **White Paper: Planning for the Future**

- 44.1 The Parish Council considered whether it wished to submit a response to the consultation on the Government's proposals for reform of the planning system in England. The Chairman proposed that any response should be restricted to those proposals which related specifically to the role of the Parish Council in planning and outlined the key proposals. It was noted that the only reference to local councils in the document was in relation to neighbourhood plans and there was no mention of any mechanism for community involvement or consultation in the proposals. The Parish Council considered that this should be embedded in the system at a pre-publication level.

44.2 It was **resolved** to delegate preparation and submission of the Parish Council's response to the Chairman. Parish Councillors were also encouraged to submit individual responses.

#### 45. Correspondence

45.1 The Parish Council considered an email received from a resident regarding the nuisance caused by bonfires. It was noted that it was not against the law to light bonfires but that the resident be signposted to the Dorset Council webpage about this which set out how a complaint could be made about nuisance bonfires.

*Action by: Clerk*

45.2 The Parish Council considered an email received from a resident of Lower Bockhampton about the impact of increased traffic volume and speed through the hamlet arising from the recent closure of the A35 due to flooding. Many of these were large vehicles which then had to pass over Bockhampton Bridge at a time when there was also flooding in the hamlet. It was suggested that signage on the slip road could be installed to inform drivers that there was a narrow road and bridge ahead and it was not suitable for large vehicles.

45.3 It was **resolved** to:

- (i) write to Dorchester Town Council to propose that a joint meeting be requested with Highways England about the need for improvements to prevent flooding of the A35 and provision of better signposting of alternative routes; and
- (ii) raise this issue with Dorset Council's Transport Strategy Manager.

*Action by: Clerk*

45.4 The Parish Council considered an email from Ms Cooke relating to access to Thorncombe Woods by public transport and a proposal to approach Damory Coaches who ran the services which passed closest to see if they would be willing to include a stop that would aid visitors to the Woods. This proposal was welcomed and it was **resolved** to raise this with Damory Coaches.

*Action by: Clerk*

45.5 The Parish Council considered a letter from the Chairman of Stratton Parish Council proposing increased contact and co-operation between the parish councils within the Charminster St Mary's ward. It was **resolved** to respond that this be supported, in principle, particularly in relation to lobbying the local Dorset Councillor.

#### 46. Items for next/future Agenda

46.1 Rural Arts Centre initiative.

#### 47. Date of next meeting

47.1 It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Council would be on Monday 9 November 2020 and it was **resolved** that this be a virtual meeting held via Zoom.

The meeting concluded at 8:05pm.

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