

# Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 9 February 2026  
at 7:00pm in The Old Library, Coastland College – Kingston Maurward Campus**

**Present:** Mrs Sarah Pattison (Chair), Mr George Armstrong, Mr Michael Clarke, Mr Kevin Henville and Mr Edd Maynard (Vice-Chair)

**Also in attendance:** Dorset Councillor David Taylor and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

## **15. Apologies for Absence**

15.1 An apology for absence was received from Mrs Sue Escott.

## **16. Declarations of Interest**

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

## **17. Public participation time**

17.1 There being no members of the public present, the Chair moved to the next agenda item.

## **18. Dorset Council matters**

18.1 Cllr Taylor drew the Parish Council's attention to the works currently underway on the A35 to slow down traffic in a number of areas.

18.2 In relation to the North of Dorchester Garden Community development, he reported that he had discussed this with the Planning Enforcement and Legal Services teams in relation to the flood risk given the recent unprecedented flooding. As a known floodplain, it was likely that homeowners would be unable to secure insurance. He considered that this was a possible barrier to the development and the impact of new development on flooding could be evidenced in Charminster.

18.3 He added that the adoption of the Dorset Local Plan was now delayed until 2028/29 and confirmation of the site allocations and the outcome of the options consultation had not yet been released.

18.4 It was noted that Dorset Council had not yet published a response to the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping report. In relation to flooding, the report focusses only on the proposed development area and not the wider run-off area.

18.5 Cllr Taylor added that he would again raise the issue of road safety on Cuckoo Lane and Bockhampton Lane with Dorset Highways, drawing attention to the likely impact of the A35 speed reduction.

## **19. Parish Clerk recruitment**

19.1 Following the Clerk's resignation, the Parish Council considered the arrangements and timetable for the recruitment to the post and reviewed the draft job description, person specification, advert and contract.

19.2 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the Clerk's resignation be formally received;
- (ii) the draft job description and person specification be agreed;
- (iii) the draft contract be amended to reflect the size and role of Stinsford Parish Council;

- (iv) the draft job advert be amended to include information about the parish itself; and
- (v) the vacancy be advertised for a period of four weeks from publication of the advert on the Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils website, the Parish Council's website and community Facebook page, Coastland College's intranet, and direct approaches be made to other local parish clerks.

## **20. Dorset Council Town and Parish Council Forum**

20.1 The Chair reported that she had attended the Forum covering planning and building control held on 3 February 2026 virtually and drew attention to the slide deck that had been circulated. She expressed her continuing concern about the Flexible Development Policy which would enable changes to town and parish boundaries, as well as the impact of this on Neighbourhood Plans. The North Dorchester Garden Community proposals therefore posed a serious risk to the parish boundary and the future of Stinsford Parish Council.

## **21. North Dorchester Garden Community**

21.1 The Chair drew attention to the comments received from Mr Michael Oram in relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) scoping reports on the North Dorchester site. It was **resolved** to thank Mr Oram for sight of this which largely echoed the Parish Council's own views. As the EIA scoping reports were not subject to statutory consultation, the Parish Council had not commented but would continue to object to the proposals whenever the opportunity arose.

21.2 The Parish Council were informed that STAND had recently raised issues relating to the archaeological and cultural value of the development site. The Thomas Hardy Society was also keen to commission a report on its cultural value. There were also plans for an exhibition of paintings and photographs of the proposed site.

## **22. Lower Bockhampton Play Area**

22.1 Mr Armstrong reported that the play area was currently closed the public, with sheep grazing on the site. Unfortunately the contractor who had previously said he would come and look at the site had not been in contact. Mr Armstrong would instead approach the other contractors suggested by local parish clerks.

22.2 He drew attention to the fact that the rot in the swingset frame was advancing as a result of the wet weather and it was possible that this would need to be condemned and removed prior to the re-opening of the play area at Easter. A product specification would be developed for replacement.

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

23.1 The Parish Council considered the information received from National Highways about the A35 Charmouth to Yellowham Safety Scheme which would introduce 50mph speed limits on some areas of the trunk road. Whilst welcoming the reduced speed limit, concerns were expressed that this did not go far enough.

23.2 In relation to the new 50mph speed limit between Stinsford Hill roundabout and the overbridge at Cuckoo Lane junction, significant concerns were expressed that the positioning of the de-restriction sign at this point could reduce safety on this stretch of road still further and that the sign should be placed beyond the junction. Doing so would result in a safety improvement.

23.3 Concerns were also raised about the lack of consistency with other roads such as London Road and Hollow Hill which would now have a higher speed limit than parts of the trunk road and that this should be raised with Dorset Highways.

- 23.4 It was **resolved** to write to National Highways to request the positioning of the sign as set out above as a matter of urgency but to also take the opportunity to request the following additional actions to improve road safety:
- (i) on Stinsford Hill Roundabout remove the overtaking lanes in both directions. These are actually signed on the approach from directions and there are frequent near-misses at this point and due to confusion about the lanes;
  - (ii) improve the sight line from the Tincton road; and
  - (iii) provide a road-marked slip road for vehicles leaving and joining the A35 at the eastbound exit to Cuckoo Lane. The need for this will be increased if vehicles reach the de-restricted stretch of the road immediately before the junction.
- 23.5 It was also **resolved** to:
- (i) request that Dorset Highways reduce the speed limit on other roads in the parish where safety is a significant concern;
  - (ii) request that Cllr Taylor raise with Dorchester Town Council the proposal that no right turn at the A352 junction be implemented as this lies within the town boundary, as well as with Dorset Highways, requesting that both support this proposal and communicate this to National Highways.
- 23.6 The Parish Council also considered the impact of the recent flooding within the parish. It was noted that Lower Bockhampton had been flooded twice within a six week period but it had taken some time for the road to be closed once this was reported to Dorset Council. It was suggested that the Community Highways Officer be asked for a direct number to which this request could be made.
- 23.7 It was also noted that there had been flooding on the Tincton road and in at least three areas of Slyer's Lane, further eroding the edges of the carriageway. Residents of Higher Bockhampton who were on private water supplies had also been warned of the increased risk of contamination due to the flooding and advised to boil water before drinking it.

**24. Correspondence**

- 24.1 No correspondence was raised under this item.

**25. Communications**

- 25.1 It was **resolved** that the Chair would draft an article for the April edition of the Pilot focussed on water, flooding and the impact of the North Dorchester proposals.

**26. Item for next meeting**

- Recruitment advert and amended contract for Parish Clerk position.

**27. Date of next meeting**

- 27.1 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 9 March 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8:53pm.

**Chair** ..... **Date** .....