

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 12 January 2026 at 7:00pm
in The Old Library, Coastland College - Kingston Maurward Campus**

Present: Mrs Sarah Pattison (Chair), Mr Michael Clarke, Mr George Armstrong and Mr Kevin Henville

Also in attendance: Mr Peter Dangerfield (Director of The Pilot), Mr Francis Kates (Editor of The Pilot), Dorset Councillor David Taylor and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Sue Escott and Mr Edd Maynard.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Public participation time

3.1 Speaking in his capacity as a member of Charminster Parish Council, Mr Dangerfield reported that there had been a discussion about the latest Environment Impact Assessment scoping report submitted for the North Dorchester Garden Community. Charminster Parish Council had resolved to request that the factors within the report should also be considered in relation to the impact on Charminster and the local area rather than merely the proposed development site.

4. The Pilot

4.1 Mr Dangerfield, Director of The Pilot, informed the Parish Council that currently 1,750 copies of each edition of The Pilot were printed and provided free of charge to every household in Charminster and Stinsford parishes. However the print run was being increased in line with the increase in properties, particularly in Charminster. Each edition contained 16 pages of editorial and 16 pages of advertising. He confirmed that print runs were fully funded for 2026 due to contributions from the parish councils, the parochial church councils and funding from advertisers. He reminded the Parish Council that The Pilot was produced by a company limited by guarantee run on a not for profit basis.

4.2 Mr Kates, Editor of The Pilot, added that the electronic versions of the The Pilot were published on Charminster Parish Council's website. In the February edition, there was a report from Stinsford Parish Council and a full page report about planning applications as they impact Charminster. He confirmed that it was the intention to include as much content as possible relating to both parishes. However he considered that content needed to be balanced and that The Pilot should not be used as a campaigning vehicle.

4.3 It was noted that the Parish Council had recently printed a separate insert for delivery to households within Stinsford relating to the response to the Dorset Local Plan consultation. Mr Kates explained that this was a better approach when the content was lengthy as it did not require editing down in the same way as it would if included within the body of the magazine.

4.4 The Parish Council welcomed the opportunity to include a report in each edition but it was felt that some issues, such as the North Dorchester Garden Community proposals, impacted both parishes and it was suggested that a thematic approach

could also be an advantage. Mr Kates acknowledged this and explained that one of the regular contributors was working on an idea for themes. However he reiterated that active campaigning should be avoided to ensure that The Pilot itself was not seen to be taking a stance on issues. It was agreed that any articles setting out a particular viewpoint would need to be attributed to the Parish Council. It was also considered that as there was more information to be shared about the North Dorchester proposals, it might be more appropriate to produce an addendum to the main magazine to focus on these issues – or a link be provided in articles to signpost residents to more information.

4.5 Mr Dangerfield welcomed the prospect of the two parish councils working together to inform their residents about this major development impacting both parishes. The Chair added that if Charminster Parish Council would like to meet Stinsford Parish Council to discuss this it might be useful.

4.6 It was **resolved** to:

- (i) publish the electronic version of The Pilot on the Parish Council's website; and
- (ii) seek opportunities to contribute jointly with Charminster Parish Council on issues that impact both parishes.

4.7 The Chair thanked Mr Dangerfield and Mr Kates for attending the meeting.

5. Dorset Council matters

5.1 Councillor Taylor reported that the application for the first phase of the North Dorchester Garden Community was expected to be submitted imminently. He also drew attention to the recent presentation given to the Dorchester Civic Society by Turner Associates about alternative proposals.

5.2 In relation to the Environmental Impact Assessment scoping reports submitted for the site, Councillor Taylor explained that he was not aware whether there had been pre-submission discussion with Planning Officers or how the requests would be handled. He reiterated that it was important that decisions were made locally and took into account local views.

5.3 He also reported that the surface works to ensure the A37 was fit for purpose had been due to be completed by the end of December but this had slipped and would now be in the Spring.

5.4 Councillor Taylor reported that further to the consideration of community assets at the last meeting he had sought information as to what would happen to any assets not taken on by the local council. He had been told that it was possible that these could be sold off. He assured the Parish Council that he would keep a watching brief on this matter.

6. Minutes

6.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes meetings held on 10 November and 8 December 2025 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

7. Finance

Expenditure

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

- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 3 2025/26) – £327.60
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 3 2025/26) + operational expenses for 2025/26 + expenses - £721.88

- Graham Caves – Play area grounds maintenance - £137.50

7.2 It was also **resolved** to cancel the stinsford.org.uk domain to avoid incurring any further costs associated with this.

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

- HugoFox – Website – December 2025 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank Charges – December 2025 - £1.00
- HugoFox – Email accounts – December 2025 - £11.99

7.4 Income

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

- HMRC – VAT refunds for 2023/24 and 2024/25 - £54.60

7.5 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for Quarter 3 2025/26 showing a net balance of £16,487.96 as at 21 December 2025 was **received**.

7.6 Budget and Precept

The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, setting out a proposed draft budget for 2026/27 and recommending a precept of £5,500. This was the same as for the current year and equated to a Council Tax charge of £35.92 for a Band D property. In the current year this was £36.16 due to the slightly larger taxbase.

7.7 The Parish Council were also invited to review the level of reserves and the Clerk's salary.

7.8 It was **resolved** that:

- the current level of reserves be noted;
- the Clerk's salary be increased to the LC1 'above substantive benchmark' range starting at SCP 13 with effect from 1 April 2026;
- the proposed draft budget estimates for 2026/27 be approved; and
- a precept of £5,500 for 2026/27 be issued.

8. Planning Matters

8.1 P/FUL/2025/07331 – Yalbury Cottage, Bockhampton Lane, Lower Bockhampton DT2 8PZ – Change of use of restaurant to residential and current rooms into air B&B and

P/LBC/2025/07474 – Yalbury Cottage, Bockhampton Lane, Lower Bockhampton DT2 8PZ – Carry out internal and external alterations to facilitate change of use and conversion of restaurant to residential and current rooms into air B&B (*Listed Building Consent*)

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

8.2 The Parish Council **resolved** to retrospectively approve the submission of the following comment on the following planning application to meet the deadline:

P/TRC/2025/07342 – Coastland College, Kingston Maurward, Stinsford, DT2 8PY – Walnut (T1) – Prune to reduce crown by up to 1.25m all around Pine x2 (G1) –

Selective reduction of over-extended lateral branches by up to 1.25m and remove deadwood

Stinsford Parish Council supports this application.

9. Lower Bockhampton Play Area

- 9.1 The Parish Council was informed that following suggestions for suitably qualified play area maintenance contractors from other local Parish Clerks, Mr Armstrong had approached one of them who was also an installer of play equipment. He would be coming to take a look at the Lower Bockhampton play area.
- 9.2 Mr Armstrong reported that currently the main concern was that the frame of the swing set was rotting but also twisting from the abuse from College students. He would seek advice as to whether this was safe and an idea of the cost of maintenance or replacement to bring to the next meeting.
- 9.3 The Parish Council noted that the following decision was made at its meeting on 8 July 2024:

- 69.2 *It was **resolved** to develop a long-term plan, subject to resources, to:*
- (i) remove the football posts as these were not used;*
 - (ii) when the swings needed to be replaced, relocate these to the lower, more accessible area currently allocated as the football pitch;*
 - (iii) use the vacated upper area for wildflower planting; and*
 - (iii) publish an article in The Pilot outlining these proposals.*

10. North of Dorchester Garden Community

- 10.1 No further matters were raised.

11. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 11.1 Councillor Taylor reported that there had been no progress in relation to the issues he had raised on behalf of the Parish Council, in relation to Slyer's Lane and Cuckoo Lane.
- 11.2 Mr Armstrong reported that he would be approaching the College's Director of Estates and Major Capital on behalf of the Parish Council to discuss some simple practical solutions to aid traffic safety on the roads surrounding the campus.
- 11.3 The Parish Council noted the response from the Police Community Support Officer confirming that the accident at Bockhampton Cross had been reported as a minor incident in the statistics.
- 11.4 Councillor Taylor was asked to inform the Parish Council if he was made aware of any traffic surveys being undertaken within the parish.

12. Correspondence

- 12.1 The Clerk submitted her resignation to the Parish Council.

13. Items for next meeting

- 13.1 The Chair drew attention to the latest consultation on the National Planning Policy Framework which contained around 250 questions. In view of the amount of work that would be required to draft a response to this, it was **resolved** not to respond to this consultation. Councillor Taylor added that he had recently discussed this with Dorset

Council's Head of Planning and it was generally felt that the latest proposals would further reduce any local decision-making about planning matters.

13.2 Recruitment arrangements for Parish Clerk position.

14. Date of future meetings

14.1 It was noted that the future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 9 February (reserve date) and Monday 9 March 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8:55pm.

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