

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 11 November 2024
at 7:00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

Present: Mr Michael Clarke (Chair), Mr George Armstrong, Ms Sue Escott, Mr Kevin Henville, Mr Edd Maynard (from 8:15pm), Mr Justin Morris and Mrs Sarah Pattison (Vice-Chair)

Also in attendance: One member of the public (Mr Hugh Grenville-Jones), Dorset Councillor David Taylor and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) – attending remotely

99. Apologies for Absence

99.1 No apologies for absence were received.

100. Declarations of Interest

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

101. Public participation time

101.1 Mr Grenville-Jones raised the issue of the use of the Nextdoor neighbourhood app and that this did not allow users to control the use of cookies. It was noted that this app was not promoted by the Parish Council. However the need for a mechanism for sharing information with local residents was acknowledged. In addition to promoting the Facebook group, it was suggested that a WhatsApp group could be established for this purpose but residents would need to agree to be added to this. It was agreed that a letter relating to this be drafted for circulation with in a future edition of The Pilot.

101.2 Mr Grenville-Jones also referred to a recent report that Edward Morello, Member of Parliament for West Dorset, would visit all towns within his constituency but there had been no mention of parishes. In view of the impact of the proposed North Dorchester Garden Community, Mr Grenville-Jones considered that the MP should be asked to set out his position on this to the Parish Council. The Chair explained that a meeting was being sought with the MP to discuss this issue.

101.3 Mr Grenville-Jones also raised the issue of road closures within the parish and the diversion routes included within the traffic orders. The Clerk reported that she had received a response from Dorset Council's Traffic Team relating to the equestrian event in June and would forward this to Mr Grenville-Jones and the members of the Parish Council.

102. North of Dorchester Garden Community

102.1 In relation to the proposed Garden Community development, Cllr Taylor informed the Parish Council that he understood a report by Hyas Associates was due to be delivered to the Strategic Planning team in the near future. He also reported that Ilchester Estates were currently moving tenants out of cottages in Lower Burton in order to sell the properties.

102.2 In addition to concerns about the housing number targets that were likely to be required by the government, Mrs Pattison expressed her concern about the duty to co-operate coming to the fore ahead of any changes to legislation as Dorset could be negatively impacted by this. Cllr Taylor agreed that the Secretary of State appeared to be over-riding some of the current targets and the possibility of two new towns being developed in Dorset had been raised.

Mr Grenville-Jones left the meeting at 7:20pm.

103. Dorset Council matters

103.1 Cllr Taylor referred to the draft Dorset Council Plan and welcomed the comments made by the Parish Council on this. He also drew attention to the renewed focus on transformation of the Council's services.

Cllr Taylor left the meeting at 7:30pm.

104. Minutes

104.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of meetings held on 9 September and 14 October 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

104.2 Further to minute 84.5, the Chair undertook to follow up on the current state of repair of the Higher Kingston bus shelter.

104.3 Further to minute 95.3, the Clerk reported that she had approached Stratton and Charminster Parish Councils but neither had a transport issue reporting system to collate evidence. However, she had drafted an e-form on the Parish Council's website which could be used to collate details of issues in Stinsford. She would circulate this to the Parish Council for comments ahead of promoting this to residents.

105. Finance

Expenditure

105.1 The following item of expenditure were **resolved**:

- Clerk's Salary (backpay for Quarters 1 and 2 following confirmation of local government services pay agreement) - £76.80

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

- HugoFox – Website – September 2024 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank Charges – September 2024 - £10.00
- HugoFox – Website – October 2024 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank Charges – October 2024 - £8.00

105.3 Income

The following income was noted:

Dorset Council – 50% of precept for 2024/25 - £2,750.00

105.4 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for Quarter 2 2024/45 showing a net balance of £15,539.21 as at 21 October 2024 was **received**.

106. Application for gov.uk domain and email address(es)

106.1 The Parish Council considered whether it should purchase a .gov.uk domain and email address(es). Whilst using a gov.uk domain for council business, email, and website was not a mandatory requirement, it was acknowledged that it was a sign of good practice, trust and professionalism. During 2024 there had been a national push towards encouraging parish and town councils to move to a .gov.uk domain and use official .gov.uk email addresses with a grant of £100 available from the Central Digital and Data Office to help pay for this.

106.2 HugoFox, the platform on which the Parish Council's website was hosted was now certified, allowing them to provide .gov.uk domains and emails for Parish Councils. They had confirmed that these domains would be completely free through HugoFox, and they would arrange purchase, setup and maintenance at no extra cost to the Parish. The Clerk outlined the cost of the various email packages available.

106.3 The Parish Council agreed that a .gov.uk domain was more professional and it was **resolved** to engage with HugoFox to:

- (i) purchase and set up the domain stinsfordparishcouncil.gov.uk;
- (ii) purchase an email package of 5 email addresses at a cost of £9.99 plus VAT per month; and
- (iii) apply for the £100 grant from the Central Digital and Data Office to contribute to the cost of the email package in the first year.

107. Parish Council Assets

107.1 *Lower Bockhampton play area*: 2024 inspection – The Parish Council considered the 2024 inspection report supplied by The Play Inspection Company. It was noted that this identified an overall moderate risk with the majority of individual risks were rated as low or very low. Moderate risks were attributed to the swings. Mr Armstrong reported that he had arranged to meet with a contractor the following week to go through the works required, with a view to these being completed before the end of the year.

107.2 It was **resolved** to delegate authority to Mr Armstrong to commission the remedial maintenance works required to respond to the risks identified in the inspection report.

107.3 It was noted that the cutting of the grass in the play area by Kingston Maurward College had become sporadic due to the changes over recent months. It was **resolved** to contact the College and ask whether the cutting of the play area could be put on a more formal, contractual footing.

107.4 *Parish noticeboards* – Mr Armstrong reported that the works to reinstate the Lower Bockhampton noticeboard without damaging the newly refurbished wall would be completed shortly. The Clerk reported that following the last meeting she had written to residents at all properties in Frome Whitfield to seek their views as to whether the noticeboard should be reinstated. Only two responses had been received; one in favour of not spending money on replacing the noticeboard and one in favour of having a noticeboard in the area but stating that the respondent was unaware of the location of the vandalised board.

107.5 Taking these views into account, it was **resolved** to not replace the noticeboard at Frome Whitfield.

107.6 *Lower Bockhampton telephone kiosk* – Mr Armstrong reported that he had spoken again to the residents of the property next to the kiosk about cutting the tree back. However, he noted that there were a number of kiosks of this type for sale on the internet and, given the difficulties in finding a contractor to refurbish the kiosk, wondered whether it would be better if the Parish Council sold this. It was **resolved** to look into whether this was possible and further consider this at a future meeting.

108. Consultations

108.1 The Parish Council considered its corporate response to the government consultation: Enabling remote attendance and proxy voting at local authority meetings. It was **resolved** to submit the response attached as the Appendix 1 to these minutes.

108.2 It was also **resolved** to retrospectively approve its corporate response to the consultation on Dorset Council's draft Council Plan, attached as Appendix 2 to these minutes.

109. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

109.1 The Parish Council noted that there had been no update about the replacement of the Dorset Studio School and discussed the need to ensure that the issue of road safety and traffic management were included in Department for Education's (DfE) plans. It was **resolved** to invite the representatives of the DfE to a future meeting to specifically discuss the road safety and traffic management proposals.

110. Correspondence

110.1 The Parish Council were informed of concerns raised by a number of residents about bonfires in the Church Lane area. The Clerk explained that nuisance arising from bonfires could be reported to Dorset Council on their [website](#) and residents should therefore be signposted to this.

111. Items for next meeting

111.1 No specific items were raised.

112. Dates of future meetings

112.1 It was noted that the future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 9 December 2024 (reserve date) and Monday 13 January 2025.

The meeting concluded at 9:00pm.

Chairman..... **Date**.....