

Stinsford Parish Council

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

Present: Mr George Armstrong (Chair), Mr Michael Clarke (Vice-Chair), Mr Edd Maynard, Mr Justin Morris and Mrs Sarah Pattison

Also in attendance: Mr Luke Rake (Principal of Kingston Maurward College), Mr Kevin Henville (Prospective Parish Councillor), Mr Nigel McRae (Prospective Dorset Councillor) and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk)

28. Apologies for Absence

28.1 A apologies for absence were received from Ms Susan Escott and Dorset Councillor David Taylor.

29. Declarations of Interest

29.1 Mrs Pattison declared a personal interest in the Dorchester Sheroes Statue item by reason of being Secretary of the Sylvia Townsend Warner Society.

30. Public participation time

30.1 No issues were raised under this item so the Chair moved to the next item.

31. Merger of Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College

31.1 The Parish Council received an update from the Principal of Kingston Maurward College about the merger with Weymouth College. He confirmed that the merger was to go ahead with the dissolution of the Kingston Maurward College Corporation on 31 July 2024. The next stages of the process were to provide proof of concept to the Department for Education and HM Treasury and a public consultation that would commence at the end of March. Both governing bodies wanted a fair and transparent process to appoint a single Chief Executive to take the merged college forward and for both sets of staff to have confidence in the process.

31.2 In response to a question about the future of access to the animal park and gardens, Mr Rake explained that the future governing body may wish to review this. He confirmed that the public amenity value of the estate had been emphasised through the process to date.

31.3 In response to a question, Mr Rake confirmed that once merged, the governing body would be able to sell off parts of the Kingston Maurward Estate to fund work at the Weymouth College campus as it would be a single entity.

31.4 In response to a question about the impact of the merger on the Dorset Studio School developments, Mr Rake explained that the Estate had now exchanged on the land for the new site with the Department for Education. There should therefore be no impact on the developments as the College remained very committed to the Studio School.

31.5 The Chair thanked Mr Rake for the update and confirmed that the Parish Council would respond to the public consultation once this was live.

Mr Rake left the meeting at 7:16pm.

32. Dorset Council matters

- 32.1 The Parish Council noted the update provided by Cllr Taylor in advance of the meeting, in particular that he would be meeting with the Rights of Way Officer later in the week about Stinsford Bridge.

33. Minutes

- 33.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes meetings held on 15 January and 12 February 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.
- 33.2 Further to minute 5, the Chair reported that as this would be impacted by the merger of the two colleges, he would raise this with Mr Rake after the public consultation period.

34. Finance

Expenditure

- 34.1 The following items of expenditure were **resolved**:
- CCDSCP Ltd – Annual contribution to The Pilot for 2024/25 - £250.00
- 34.2 The following payments made by Direct Debit were **noted**:
- HugoFox – Website – January 2024 – £11.99
 - HSBC – Bank Charges – January 2024 - £9.00
 - HugoFox – Website – February 2024 – £11.99
 - HSBC – Bank Charges – February 2024 - £8.00

35. Parish Council Assets

- 35.1 The Chair reported that he felt that holding a public meeting about the future of the Lower Bockhampton play area during May or June alongside a consultation article in The Pilot about this would be best. He was currently seeking to collate the information about the cost of the play equipment to include in the presentation and article.
- 35.2 Work was underway to refurbish the parish noticeboards which it was hoped would be completed by the end of March. There had been no progress in relation to the phone kiosk. Mr Maynard offered to look at this.
- 35.3 In relation to the proposal to install a defibrillator at Higher Bockhampton, the Clerk reported that she had contacted Knightsford Parish Council but the unit in West Stafford had been undertaken by the local GP practice and no information was available. It was resolved to investigate costs and possibly approach the National Trust, the Visitor Centre, local business parks and Kingston Maurward College about contributing to installation together with a potential second site at the Stinsford end of the College campus.

36. Dorset Community Tree Fund

- 36.1 The Parish Council noted that any bid for funding for a project through the Dorset Community Tree Fund required community support, 25% match funding and some element of public access. It was therefore difficult for residents to access funding for a project on their own land and the Parish Council did not own any land for such a project.
- 36.2 It was therefore **resolved** that the Parish Council would support in principle any project that was brought forward within the parish but was unable to progress any such project itself.

37. Dorchester Sheroes Statue initiative

- 37.1 The Parish Council considered the shortlist for Dorchester's first non-royal female statue and **resolved** to submit its support for Aileen Chevallier Preston and Mary Mullet Moule due to their links with Stinsford parish.

38. Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan

- 38.1 The Parish Council considered whether a supplementary element of the approved Stinsford Neighbourhood Plan should be developed in relation to the water meadows. The area west of the A35 had not been included within the Plan on the advice of Dorset Council. However given the delays in developing the Dorset Local Plan, this had left a gap in the Neighbourhood Plan and it was felt that a piece of work focussed on the water meadows would contribute to the protection of this important part of the parish.
- 38.2 However, it was noted that no examples of supplementary planning documents for neighbourhood plans had been identified so it was unknown whether this was a possibility. It was **resolved** to contact Jo Witherden, the planning consultant engaged on the development of the Neighbourhood Plan, to ask whether there was a mechanism for such a supplementary element.

39. North of Dorchester Garden Community

- 39.1 The recent article in the West Dorset Magazine by the Chair had been impactful and the editor very supportive. Sadly the Dorset Echo had shown no interest in this.
- 39.2 Further to the success of the public meeting about the impact of the proposed development on water resources, it was **resolved** to contact the Environment Agency and ask a representative to give a presentation about the impact on flooding, etc.

40. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 40.1 Further to the A35 Parishes Group meeting held for all parishes through which the trunk road passed, the Chair suggested that a more localised meeting for parishes along the stretch from Monkey's Jump to Bere Regis would be helpful. It was **resolved** to contact local parishes to ascertain interest levels.
- 40.2 The Parish Council considered whether an annual review of rights of way in the parish should be undertaken so that any issues could be raised with Dorset Council. It was agreed that this would be helpful but would need to be mapped in some way, perhaps using Dorset Explorer or Parish Online.
- 40.3 The Chair reported that an email had been received from Mr David Ackerley, Senior Ranger (Central), in relation to the repair of Stinsford Bridge stating that he would be investigating costs for the repairs to the riverbank and the path surface over the next few weeks. He planned to rebuild the riverbank using concrete filled sandbags or similar, then get the surface of the path which is now in the river, back onto the path and top up to make a good surface again. The issue would be to seek funds for the works and the plans would need to be approved by Natural England.
- 40.4 Mrs Pattison reported that she had met the Chair of Piddle Valley Parish Council about road safety issues on Slyer's Lane and the possibility of working jointly to improve this. It was recognised that the expansion of the enterprise parks was significantly contributing to the volume of large vehicles along the route. It had been agreed that each Parish Council would inform the other of any planning applications which could impact on the traffic through both parishes.

41. Correspondence

41.1 There were no items of correspondence for consideration.

42. Items for next meeting

- Corporate response to the public consultation on Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College merger

43. Date of future meetings

43.1 It was noted that the future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 8 April and Monday 13 May 2024.

The meeting concluded at 8:30pm.

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