

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 14 April 2025
at 7:00pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

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

Also in attendance: Police Community Support Officer Sarah Pilcher and Dorset Councillor David Taylor and Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) - attending remotely

32. Apologies for Absence

32.1 There were no apologies for absence.

33. Declarations of Interest

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

34. Dorset Council matters

34.1 Cllr Taylor informed the Parish Council that it was anticipated that a planning application for the North of Dorchester Garden Community development would be submitted by October 2025. He did not know if this would be for the entire site or part of it. He confirmed that he had submitted the questions about the publication of the Hyas Associates report and Dorset Council's brief for this but had not yet received a response. Parish Councillors expressed their concern that the Hyas Associates report was not yet in the public domain and the fact that it was unknown whether this focussed solely on the Garden Community or on a range of potential sites across Dorset.

34.2 Cllr Taylor also drew attention to the deferral of a decision on the Rainbarrow Farm Anaerobic Digester planning application and added that he was still awaiting responses from officers to some of the questions he had asked on behalf of the Parish Council including in relation to highways and road safety but would chase these up.

Cllr David Taylor left the meeting at 7:15pm.

35. Public participation time

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

36. Rural Crime

36.1 The Parish Council welcomed Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) Sarah Pilcher to the meeting to discuss issues relating to rural crime. PCSO Pilcher drew attention to the monthly reports shared with the Parish Council listing the incidents that had occurred in Stinsford and other parishes in the Dorchester West Neighbourhood Policing area. In particular she highlighted the recent spate of car thefts locally. Stolen vehicles tended to be either moved out of the area quickly or burnt out to destroy evidence. She outlined how the data from ANPR cameras was being used in relation to such incidents. She also reported that beauty spot thefts were increasing at this time of year.

36.2 In relation to a question about resources for responding to incidents such as burglary, PCSO Pilcher explained that response officers for the area were based at Dorchester Police Station. Once a call was received by the Dorset Police control room, this was

triaged to assess the required response based on threat, risk or harm. In relation to burglary, whilst there was an impact on the victim, there was less threat or risk because the offenders were no longer on site. Such incidents were then tasked to the Crime Scene Investigation team who assessed the information provided via the control room in order to decide whether to attend the scene. Due to reducing resources, there was a need for prioritisation as it was not possible for every scene to be attended. Mr Morris shared his experience of the handling of the recent theft from an outbuilding on his property.

- 36.3 PCSO Pilcher explained that she and her fellow PCSOs looked at what had come in each day but the incidents were automatically sorted, allocated or closed. If it was felt that something should be followed up, they would make contact with the victim. She also acknowledged that there were issues relating to the 101 number and online forms and invited anyone who experienced problems with these to report this to her.
- 36.4 In relation to patrolling and visibility, she acknowledged that this could act as a deterrent and if there were reports of issues such as anti-social behaviour, they would try to be more present. She explained that PCSOs work on a shift pattern to 10pm whilst Police Officers worked later. She also explained that the Police Response Officers were tasked to patrol when they were not responding to incidents but due to the current levels of staffing they tended to be in response and not available. It was noted that during the pandemic there was greater visibility and more patrols in the parish. PCSO Pilcher explained that this was due to the fact that there had been fewer incidents reported during the lockdowns so there was more capacity for her and her colleagues to patrol.
- 36.5 In response to a question about the availability of police dogs, it was explained that when an incident was reported it was considered whether the involvement of a dog was required. However there was only one police dog allocated to the Dorset Council area.
- 36.6 In relation to a question about trends in relation to community policing, PCSO Pilcher explained that in addition to vehicle theft – including electric vehicles - this was currently tending to focus on thefts of valuables from outbuildings and properties. She drew attention to the availability of property marking kits as it was sometimes not possible to identify the owner of recovered property. She drew attention to the Dorset Alert facility which residents could sign up to and receive email alerts about incidents and initiatives.
- 36.7 The Parish Council asked whether it was the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset who should be lobbied about the need for greater resources. PCSO Pilcher confirmed that it was the Commissioner who had responsibility for this but resources were dictated by funding. In her view, there was a need for more neighbourhood police officers as currently both police officers and PCSOs were often moved around to assist other teams at short notice.
- 36.8 The Parish Council thanked PCSO Pilcher for attending and for her helpful explanations.

PCSO Pilcher left the meeting at 7:50pm.

37. Finance

Expenditure

- 37.1 The following item of expenditure was **resolved**:
- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 4 2024/25) - £308.40

- Clerk's salary and expenses (Quarter 2024/25) - £512.60

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

- HugoFox – Website – March 2025 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank Charges – March 2025 - £10.00

37.3 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for Quarter 4 2024/45 showing a net balance of £14,934.01 as at 21 March 2025 was **received**.

38. Accounts

38.1 The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the final accounts for the financial year 2024/25 for approval by the Parish Council. It was **resolved** that the accounts be approved.

39. Preparation for Audit

39.1 The Parish Council considered a number of documents prepared by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, in readiness for the annual audit of the financial year 2024/25.

39.2 In relation to the Asset Register, it was noted that the two information boards – located at Stinsford and Lower Bockhampton – were potentially beyond repair and it had not proven possible to replace these. It was also noted that as the decision had been made not to replace the noticeboard located at Frome Whitfield, it was proposed that these assets be removed from the Register.

39.3 It was **resolved** that:

- the Council's risk assessment document be approved for consideration by the internal auditor;
- the Council's Asset Register be approved subject to the removal of the Frome Whitfield noticeboard and the two information boards previously located at Stinsford and Lower Bockhampton;
- the Internal Controls be noted; and
- Paula Harding of Barker Fox Associates be appointed as internal auditor for the year 2024/25.

40. Planning Matters

40.1 The Parish Council **resolved** to submit the following comments in respect of the following applications:

- P/HOU/2025/01789 – 3 Maurward Close, Stinsford DT2 8PU – Render building

Stinsford Parish Council would like clarification on the following two points please:

1. what type of render will be used? There is no information about this in the application documents.

2. what colour will the render be painted? The application documents state that there will be two coats of paint but are silent on the colour which, of course, could be significant in terms of the impact of the proposal.

(ii) P/HOU/2025/01970 – 2 Maurward Close, Stinsford DT2 8PU – Affix Shiplap weatherboard cladding

Stinsford Parish Council supports this application.

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

P/HOU/2025/01063 – Gardener's Cottage, Lower Bockhampton DT2 8PZ – Extend the roof of the existing south facing gable end of the garage block to create carport, with EV charging point and rooflights.

Stinsford Parish Council has no objection to this application.

41. Annual inspection of Lower Bockhampton Play Area

- 41.1 The Parish Council considered the conduct of future annual inspections of the Lower Bockhampton Play Area. It was noted that Fields in Trust would shortly be instructing the contractors to complete this year's playground inspections and would be introducing a charge of £125 (plus VAT) per inspection. It was therefore considered whether to pay this charge or to organise a Third Party contractor to carry out the inspection and pass the report to Fields in Trust.

- 41.2 It was **resolved** to confirm to Fields in Trust that it wished the inspection to be carried out by their contractor and to pay the charge.

42. Consultation

- 42.1 The Parish Council considered its corporate response to the Defra Land Use consultation. It was **resolved** to submit the response attached as the Appendix to these minutes.

43. North of Dorchester Garden Community

- 43.1 The Clerk confirmed that she had submitted the follow-up request to Edward Morello MP in relation to seeking a meeting with the Environment Agency about the impact on water and flooding.

- 43.2 It was noted that no response had yet been received to the questions about the role of Hyas Associates and the availability of their final report submitted to Dorset Council via Cllr Taylor. It was **resolved** to submit these questions as a Freedom of Information request.

- 43.3 It was noted that the Leader of Dorset Council had recently announced that he had finished his first tour of town councils. It was agreed to approach Dorchester Town Council to find out whether an update about the proposed garden community had been provided.

Mr George Armstrong left the meeting at 8:30pm.

44. Correspondence

- 44.1 The Parish Council noted the response from the Vice-Principal of Kingston Maurward College regarding the British Eventing event in June 2024 and the background to the road closure arrangements. As the event was scheduled to happen again in June 2025, it was agreed to keep the arrangements under review.

- 44.2 The Parish Council noted the concerns of residents of Higher Bockhampton about the potential fire risk at Thorncombe Woods due to the recent warm and dry weather and

spate of heathland fires elsewhere in Dorset. It was agreed to approach the Countryside Rangers about the fire risk and the possibility of an advisory sign.

44.3 It was noted that a tree was blocking the channel by Bockhampton Bridge. The Clerk undertook to circulate the route for reporting this to the Environment Agency.

45. Date of next meeting

45.1 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 12 May 2025 (Annual Parish Meeting for Electors and Annual Parish Council Meeting).

The meeting concluded at 8:57pm.

Chair **Date**