

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 13 January 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 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

1. Apologies for Absence

1.1 An apology for absence was received from Mr Justin Morris.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Public participation time

3.1 Mr Grenville-Jones drew attention to his written concerns about the approach taken to the road closure for the equestrian event hosted at Kingston Maurward College in June 2024. It was understood that the event would be repeated in 2025 and it was agreed that the organisers at the College be contacted to request early information and effective communication with local residents about this.

3.2 Mr Grenville-Jones also shared his concerns about the Government's proposed changes to the planning system. The Parish Council acknowledged this and reiterated concerns about the new housing numbers that were likely to be required in Dorset and the possibility of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council seeking to pass some of its allocation to Dorset. Concerns were also expressed about mitigation processes and landowners being granted credits for this with no information provided to the local town or parish council. Cllr Taylor confirmed that this issue had already been raised with the Planning Department.

Mr Grenville-Jones left the meeting at 7:33pm.

4. Dorset Council matters

4.1 Councillor Taylor drew attention to the emergency response information recently circulated to all parish and town councils. It was noted that whilst the occasional tree had come down in Thorncombe Woods there had been no major issues in the parish arising from the recent storms.

4.1 In relation to Dorset Council's gritting policy it was pointed out that this worked very well for the main roads but did not assist road users to reach those roads from the untreated network. It was asked whether an additional 10% along the rural roads leading onto the main network could be treated. Councillor Taylor undertook to raise this with officers.

5. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

5.1 Councillor Taylor reported that he had not yet received a response from officers about the issues he had raised on behalf of the Parish Council, particularly in relation to Slycer's Lane and Cuckoo Lane. He would chase this and report back to the Parish Council.

5.2 The Parish Council noted the e-form that had been added to its website to enable residents to report traffic safety issues. It was noted that photos could not be uploaded to this but that this would be helpful. The Clerk undertook to raise this with the website platform provider.

5.3 It was **resolved** that the e-form should be publicised along with the routes for reporting both highways and rights of way issues on the Dorset Council website to local residents.

6. Minutes

6.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes meeting held on 11 November 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

6.2 Further to minute 101.1, it was clarified that it was not the intention for the Parish Council to establish and administer WhatsApp groups for communicating with local residents but instead to seek to be included in existing groups who would be content for the Parish Council to be represented.

6.3 Further to minute 101.2, the Clerk reported that no response had yet been received from the Member of Parliament for West Dorset and she would follow this up.

6.4 Further to minute 107.3, the Clerk reported that she had received a holding response from the Head Gardener, Weymouth and Kingston Maurward College about the possibility of entering into a contract for the cutting of the play area grass. He would be raising this matter with the Estate Manager.

6.5 Further to minute 109.1, the Clerk reported that she had contacted the Department for Education regarding an update on the Dorset Studio School capital project but had not yet received a response.

7. Finance

Expenditure

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

- John Kimber – installation of noticeboard and maintenance of play area at Lower Bockhampton - £470.00 (*retrospective approval*)
- HMRC (PAYE) (Quarter 3 2024/25) – £333.60
- Clerk's salary (Quarter 3 2024/25) + operational expenses for 2024/25 - £487.40

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

- HugoFox – Website – November 2024 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank Charges – November 2024 - £10.00
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7.3 Income

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

- Dorset Council – Community Infrastructure Levy contribution - £945.55

7.4 Bank reconciliation

The bank reconciliation for Quarter 3 2024/45 showing a net balance of £15,893.98 as at 21 December 2024 was **received**.

7.5 Budget and Precept

The Parish Council considered a report by the Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, setting out a proposed draft budget for 2025/26 and recommending a precept of £5,500. This was the same as for the current year and equated to a Council Tax charge of £36.16 for a Band D property. In the current year this was £38.17 due to the slightly smaller taxbase.

7.6 The Parish Council were also invited to review the level of reserves held as recommended by the Internal Auditor in their report issued in June 2024 to ensure that they were still required, relevant and sufficient.

7.7 In addition, further to Recommendation 5 from the Internal Auditor in June 2024t he Parish Council reviewed the Clerk's salary in line with the new spinal column point (SCP) system with consideration to bringing the pay to the substantive benchmark range.

7.8 Cllr Taylor drew attention to the devolution agenda and the possibility that Dorset Council would seek to pass more responsibilities onto parish councils. Whilst acknowledging this, the Parish Council noted that without any details about this it was difficult to estimate any additional costs arising from further responsibilities and therefore this could not usefully be considered in terms of the budget for 2025/26.

7.9 It was **resolved** that:

- (i) the current level of reserves be noted and that £1773.60 of the Neighbourhood Plan reserve be transferred to the Play Area reserve with effect from 1 April 2025;
- (ii) increase the Clerk's salary to SCP 7 with effect from 1 April 2025 and this be reviewed during the 2025/26 financial year;
- (iii) the proposed draft budget estimates for 2025/26 be approved; and
- (iv) a precept of £5,500 for 2025/26 be approved.

8. Planning Matters

8.1 The Parish Council **resolved** to retrospectively approve the submission of comments on the following planning applications to meet the deadlines:

- (i) [P/LBC/2024/06391](#) – Hardy's Cottage, Cuckoo Lane, Higher Bockhampton DT2 8QJ - Dismantle and rebuild timber porch to match existing

Stinsford Parish Council has no objection to this application.

- (ii) [P/HOU/2024/06610](#) – 1 Church Lane, Stinsford, DT2 8XW – Replace twin single garage doors with single wide electric-assist sectional garage door

Stinsford Parish Council has no objection to this application.

- (iii) [P/TRC/2024/07177](#) – The Old Manor, East Entrance Lane, Kingston Maurward DT2 8PX – T1 Leylandii - Fell

Stinsford Parish Council has no objection to this application.

9. Consultation – Knightsford Neighbourhood Plan

9.1 It was **resolved** to respond to this consultation as follows:

Stinsford Parish Council would like to congratulate Knightsford Parish Council on completing its neighbourhood plan and would welcome the opportunity to work together on issues that affect the two parishes where there is synergy between the two neighbourhood plans

10. Parish Council Assets

10.1 The Chair reported that he had looked at the Higher Kingston bus shelter. No maintenance was required but the header board needed to be done again.

11. Heritage Assets

11.1 The Parish Council considered the published list of nominated heritage assets that met the criteria for inclusion on the Dorset Council Local Heritage List. It was noted that some of the assets put forward by the Parish Council had been accepted whilst others were not and some had been duplicated or included in the lists for different areas. It was understood that a period of consultation had been conducted between 9 December 2024 – 8 January 2025 but the Parish Council had not been informed of this. Some residents whose property was included or impacted by the proposed lists had received letters but these had been unintelligible. In general there was disappointment about the process, the lack of awareness and the poor quality of the list and report.

12. Portland Incinerator

12.1 The Parish Council considered the latest position on the proposed incinerator on Portland and any potential impact on Stinsford parish. It was noted that the Secretary of State had given approval to the incinerator despite opposition from Dorset Council and other local councils. However as Dorset Council was seeking to challenge this, it was considered whether the Parish Council should submit a statement to support that particularly in relation to the high number of vehicle movements that would be required to support the site and the air pollution considerations. However it was acknowledged that this could dilute more significant objections made from Portland and Weymouth Town Councils.

12.2 Cllr Taylor undertook to approach the Leader of Dorset Council to see how the Parish Council could add any value to this as it was a Dorset issue.

13. North of Dorchester Garden Community

13.1 No further matters were raised.

14. Correspondence

14.1 No items of correspondence were raised.

15. Items for next meeting

15.1 Government consultation on strengthening the standards and conduct framework for local authorities (reserve date in February)

15.1 Update on Strategic Plan for Weymouth and Kingston Maurward College

16. Date of future meetings

16.1 It was noted that the future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 10 February (reserve date) and Monday 10 March 2025.

The meeting concluded at 9:09pm.

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