

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on Monday 8 December 2025
at 7:00pm in The Old Library, Coastland College - Kingston Maurward Campus**

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

Also in attendance: Miss Kirsty Riglar (Clerk) and Dorset Councillor David Taylor (attending remotely).

117. Apologies for Absence

117.1 No apologies for absence were received.

118. Declarations of Interest

118.1 There were no declarations of interest.

119. Public Participation Time

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

120. Dorset Council matters

120.1 Cllr Taylor reported that there was a likelihood that the Dorset Local Plan would not now be finalised until 2028/29 due to the workload of the national planning teams. He also reported that he had been discussing the issue of housing numbers allocations with Edward Morello MP as well as the experience of flooding in Charminster arising from the development at Charminster Farm. In response to the possible delay in the adoption of the Local Plan, concerns were expressed that the evidence base and data being relied on would be extremely out of date.

120.2 In relation to the North Dorchester Garden Community, he informed the Parish Council that an application for in the region of 870 houses was expected imminently. The Chair pointed out that in the Environmental Impact Assessment request submitted to Dorset Council had not included the likely impact of flooding on the Lodgers and lower areas of Dorchester arising from the proposed development.

120.3 Cllr Taylor confirmed that he was still trying to get answers from officers in relation to some of the issues that the Parish Council had asked him to progress, particularly in relation to road safety.

121. Finance

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

- Mr Graham Caves – Play area grounds maintenance - £125.00
- Charminster, Charlton Down and Stinsford Community Publications Ltd - Contribution to The Pilot for 2026 - £250
- Mr Michael Clarke – Reimbursement for cost of printing of North Dorchester insert for circulation with The Pilot - £104.00

121.2 The following payments made by Direct Debit were noted:

- HugoFox – Website – November 2025 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank charges - £3.00

121.3 In relation to the contribution to The Pilot, it was resolved to invite the new Editor to attend the next meeting to discuss the relationship with the Parish Council and how the publication can best work for Stinsford.

122. Lower Bockhampton Play Area

122.1 Further to consideration of the annual inspection report at the last meeting, the Parish Council considered the issues raised in the report with a particular focus on those deemed to be a moderate risk. It was acknowledged that it was necessary to identify a new contractor to undertake the work required to address these issues who had the required skills and insurance cover. It was suggested to approach Dorchester Town Council and other local parish councils for ideas as to who could be approached.

122.2 Mr Armstrong reported that during November the play area had been used by residents for approximately 45 minutes; this had reduced to 15 minutes in December to date. However there continued to be misuse of the play equipment by students of the College which was contributing to the wear identified in the inspection report. It was therefore proposed that the play area be closed over the winter period. This would enable maintenance to be carried out once a contractor was identified but also help to limit the misuse of the equipment.

122.3 It was **resolved** to:

- (i) close the play area to the public for the winter to provide opportunity for maintenance and prevent misuse, re-opening at the start of the Easter holidays in March 2026;
- (ii) identify suitably qualified and insured people to undertake the maintenance work, seeking recommendations from other local councils;
- (iii) establish a risk-based inspection checklist;
- (iv) reinstate a monthly inspection regime;
- (v) use the monthly inspection checklist to provide evidence of monitoring for health and safety and for insurance purposes; and
- (vi) add the maintenance of the play area a standing agenda item.

123. Future community use of new Dorset Studio School

123.1 Further to the update on the Dorset Studio School capital project at the last meeting, the Parish Council considered its position in relation to any future opportunities for community use of the new building and its facilities. Following discussion, it was **resolved** to welcome the prospect of community use of the building and to seek further information about the proposals to enable the Parish Council to review and comment upon these.

123.2 In relation to the Dorset Studio School, it was resolved that Mr Armstrong approach the Principal in relation to the current traffic and road safety issues and the Parish Council's concerns about these increasing due to the construction of the new building.

124. Transfer of community assets

124.1 The Parish Council considered Dorset Council's approach to transfer of community assets to town and parish councils. It was noted that the two assets listed as being within the parish were:

- Hardy's Birthplace Visitor Centre and Thorncombe Woods; and
- the Lodgers to Sun Inn cycleway.

124.2 Whilst it was agreed that given the size of the Parish Council it was not viable to seek transfer of these assets, it was noted that according to the criteria, they would be

unlikely to be transferred to the Parish Council. It was therefore **resolved** not to progress a request for transfer of assets.

124.3 In response to a question, Cllr Taylor undertook to find out whether any assets not taken up by a local council would be offered to private sector organisations instead.

125. North Dorchester Garden Community

125.1 The Parish Council noted that the flyer setting out the its response to the Local Plan options consultation in respect of the North Dorchester Garden Community proposals had been delivered to households in the parish alongside the December edition of The Pilot. The Chair and Mr Clarke were thanked for their work on this.

125.2 It was also noted that a response had been received from Dorset Council’s Strategic Planning Manager confirming that the Roman Road was included within the Dorset Historic Environment Record and therefore archaeological investigations of the site should be picked up by an archaeological consultant or contractor undertaking a check of that database for the desk-based assessment. He confirmed that an archaeological assessment of the site would be required before any development takes place.

126. Road safety, traffic management and rights of way

126.1 The Parish Council raised ongoing concerns about road safety with Cllr Taylor. In particular, it was flagged that the serious accident at Bockhampton Cross which had occurred earlier in the year did not appear to be recorded on any road traffic collision maps. Cllr Taylor explained that it was likely that this information would be provided via Dorset Police.

126.2 Particular attention was also drawn to the replacement of the hedge alongside the road between Slyer’s Lane and Stinsford Hill roundabout, opposite Birkin House, with post and wire fencing.

127. Correspondence

127.1 No items of correspondence were raised.

128. Communications

128.1 It was **resolved** that Mrs Escott draft an article for the next edition of The Pilot covering the recent flooding in the parish and the likely future impact of North Dorchester within the context of the climate and ecological emergency, the update provided on the Dorset Studio School capital project and a brief round-up of other current issues together with encouraging other residents of the parish to get involved in the Parish Council.

129. Items for next / future Agenda

- Invitation to the Editor of The Pilot
- Setting of budget and precept for 2026/27

130. Date of next meeting

130.1 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 12 January 2026.

The meeting concluded at 8:26pm.

Chair..... **Date**.....