

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 9 September 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, and Mrs Sarah Pattison (Vice-Chair)

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

76. Apologies for Absence

76.1 An apology for absence was received from Dorset Councillor David Taylor.

77. Declarations of Interest

77.1 Mr Maynard declared a personal interest in the agenda item regarding the merger of Weymouth College and Kingston Maurward College by reason of being an employee of Kingston Maurward College.

78. Public participation time

78.1 Mr Grenville-Jones referred to the consultation on the Government's proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework to be considered by the Parish Council and shared his view that this should include the establishment of a process where anyone objecting to a planning decision should be required to fund their own objection.

78.2 Mr Grenville-Jones addressed the Parish Council in relation to the recent road closure due to horse trials hosted by Kingston Maurward College. He expressed his concern that the closure order had essentially isolated Stinsford hamlet, that there had been no warning signage along the route to forewarn road users, no communications had been sent to residents to notify them of the closure and during the closure there was no signage to prevent vehicles over 7.5T from using Cuckoo Lane. He also questioned the grounds on which Dorset Council had agreed to the closure and asked that the Parish Council raise this and the lack of signage with Highways.

Mr Grenville-Jones left the meeting at 7:22pm.

79. Dorset Council matters

79.1 in the absence of Cllr Taylor, the Chair moved to the next item.

80. Minutes

80.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of meetings held on 8 July 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

81. Finance

Expenditure

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

- John Kimber – supply and installation of Higher Bockhampton grit bin - £498.00
- Michael Clarke – reimbursement for payment made to Dorchester Men's Shed for repair of Stinsford noticeboard - £60.00

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

- HugoFox – Website – July 2024 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank Charges – July 2024 - £11.00
- HugoFox – Website – August 2024 – £11.99
- HSBC – Bank Charges – August 2024 - £9.00

82. Planning Matter

82.1 P/VOC/2024/02581 - Greenwood Grange, Henchard, Access to Hardys Cottage, Higher Bockhampton DT2 8QH - Make alterations to convert existing tea rooms into 1No. holiday cottage removal of Condition 2 under planning consent 1/E/03/002098

The Parish Council considered whether to submit a written representation in respect of the appeal against the refusal by Dorset Council of this application, however the content of this had not been seen. It was noted that the Parish Council's written submission in respect of this application had been submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.

82.2 It was **resolved** in principle to make a further written representation to the Planning Inspectorate once the appeal had been seen and for this to be agreed via email in order to meet the deadline of 2 October 2024.

83. Consultation

83.1 The Parish Council considered its corporate response to the government consultation: Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system. Mrs Pattison was thanked for her work on a draft response.

83.2 It was **resolved** to submit the response attached as the Appendix to these minutes.

84. Parish Council Assets

84.1 *Lower Bockhampton play area* – Mr Armstrong reported that the grass needed cutting but it might not be possible for Kingston Maurward College to assist with this on this occasion. It might therefore be necessary to seek a contractor to do this or to hire / purchase equipment for the Parish Council to undertake the job.

84.2 *Lower Bockhampton Telephone Kiosk* – Mr Armstrong added that he had spoken to the residents of the neighbouring property about cutting back the tree next to the kiosk in order to allow refurbishment to be progressed. He suggested that it would be useful to seek advice on the extent of the necessary treeworks.

84.3 *Parish noticeboards* – Mr Armstrong reported that he was exploring how best to restore the Lower Bockhampton noticeboard without damaging the newly refurbished wall. The Chair reported that the Dorchester Men's Shed had repaired the door on the Stinsford noticeboard. He would now paint this in order to weatherproof it. In relation to the Frome Whitfield noticeboard that had been damaged and removed, it was **resolved to**

- (i) write to residents in the area to seek their views about the value of replacing this; and
- (ii) explore whether an insurance claim could be made in respect of the damage.

84.4 *Installation of grit bin at Higher Bockhampton* – This was now completed.

84.5 *Higher Kingston Bus Shelter* – The Chair undertook to have a look at whether any repair was required.

85. North of Dorchester Garden Community

- 85.1 The Parish Council noted the response received to its Freedom of Information request relating to the purchase of land of Lyscombe. It was noted that whilst the questions had been answered, there was little information provided about the how the purchase had been funded. It was noted that the Dorset Wildlife Trust's annual report had shown a significant increase in donations / legacies but there was little information about where these had been received from.
- 85.2 The Vice-Chair reported that she had recently met Cllr Taylor about the issue of mitigation of proposed development. She had raised the issue of Dorset Council's aspiration to purchase Middle Farm at Kingcombe as another site that would be utilised for nitrogen mitigation. She was particularly concerned about Dorset Council's proposal to withdraw its current Nitrogen Reduction Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which had been introduced to reduce the impact of nitrogen on the Poole Harbour catchment area. This was due to be considered by Dorset Council's Cabinet on the following day.
- 85.3 It was **resolved** that the Chair contact Cllr Taylor about the recommended withdrawal of the Nitrogen Reduction SPD to outline the Parish Council's concerns.

86. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 86.1 The Parish Council noted that the repair of Stinsford Bridge had commenced, although there had been a slight delay due to the theft of a significant amount of stone from the contractor's compound. Mr Armstrong reported the new repair needed a chance to bed in and it would be useful for the surface along Church Lane to be compacted.
- 86.2 The Chair reported that he had now received a list of road issues in specific areas of the parish from Parish Councillors. He had collated these for consideration and suggested that, given the wide-ranging nature of the issues raised, these be prioritised in relation to how attainable solutions might be. It was **resolved** that the October reserve date be used for this purpose.
- 86.3 In relation to the concerns raised by residents about the significant impact on Cuckoo Lane following recent incidents resulting in the closure of the A35 and the need for there to be control to prevent the use of this single track rural road with restriction by road users as an alternative route, the Clerk reported that she had raised this with the Community Highways Officer. A response had been received from Dorset Council's Road Safety Manager explaining that a review of the current emergency diversion routes across the County had commenced. This was being co-ordinated through the Dorset Road Safety Partnership and was being led by the Head of Road Safety and Head of Operational Road Policing, Dorset Police. The Clerk reported that she had written to these representatives of Dorset Police to set out the impact on local roads and residents, particularly concerns that during such incidents emergency service vehicles would be unable to reach properties in the area, and had expressed the Parish Council's interest in contributing to the review. Whilst noting that there had been another recent incident when this had been an issue, the Parish Council welcomed this update and looked forward to receiving more information about the review in due course.

87. Merger of Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College

- 87.1 The Parish Council noted that the merger of Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College had taken effect on 1 August and the Interim Principal and Chief Executive Officer, Kate Wills, was now in post.

87.2 The Clerk reported that she had yet to receive a response to the request for accommodation for the Parish Council meetings during 2024/25 as this was yet to be raised with Ms Wills. She would make contact with the Hospitality Team again following this meeting.

88. Correspondence

88.1 There were no items of correspondence for consideration.

89. Items for next meeting

89.1 Road safety priority setting.

90. Date of future meetings

90.1 It was noted that the future meetings were scheduled to be held on Monday 14 October (reserve date) and Monday 11 November 2024 – subject to confirmation of accommodation bookings.

The meeting concluded at 9:09pm.

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