

Stinsford Parish Council

**Minutes of the Annual Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 13 May 2024
at 7:55pm in The Old Library, Kingston Maurward College**

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

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

35. Election of Chair

35.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mr Michael Clarke be elected Chair for the year 2024/25. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed and Mr Clarke took the Chair.

35.2 The Parish Council thanked the outgoing Chair, Mr Armstrong, for his contribution whilst in the role over the past year.

36. Appointment of Vice-Chair

36.1 **Resolved** (unanimously) that, there being no other nominations, Mrs Sarah Pattison be appointed Vice-Chair for the year 2024/25 and the Declaration of Acceptance of Office was signed.

37. Election return

37.1 The Parish Council noted the return from the election held on 2 May 2024 and welcomed the filling of all seats on the Council.

38. Apologies for Absence

38.1 An apology for absence was received from Mrs Sue Escott.

39. Declarations of Interest

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

40. Public Participation Time

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

41. Dorset Council matters

41.1 Councillor Taylor provided an update on the Cabinet Member portfolios and initial challenges for the new Liberal Democrat administration of Dorset Council following the recent election.

42. Minutes

42.1 It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meetings held on 11 March and 8 April 2024 be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

43. Accounts

43.1 The Clerk, as Responsible Financial Officer, presented the final accounts for the financial year 2023/24 for approval by the Parish Council. It was **resolved** that the accounts be approved.

44. Preparation for Audit

- 44.1 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 2023/24.
- 44.2 In relation to the Asset Register, it was noted that the two information boards – located at Stinsford and Lower Bockhampton – were potentially beyond repair. If it was not possible to replace these, it was proposed that the assets be removed from the Register in the future.
- 44.3 It was **resolved** that:
- (i) the Council's risk assessment document be approved for consideration by the internal auditor;
 - (ii) the Council's Asset Register be approved;
 - (iii) the Internal Controls be noted; and
 - (iv) Paula Harding of Barker Fox Associates be appointed as internal auditor for the year 2023/24.

45. Finance

45.1 Income

The following income was noted:

Dorset Council – 50% of precept for 2024/25 - £2,750.00

Expenditure

- 45.2 The Clerk reported that the Parish Council's insurance was due for renewal on 1 June 2024. The following quotes had been received:
- Zurich Municipal - £280.00
 - Clear Councils - £487.25
- 45.3 The following items of expenditure were **resolved**:
- Zurich Municipal – Insurance cover 2024/25 - £280.00
 - Dorset Association of Parish and Town Councils – annual subscription 2024/25 - £151.65
 - Society of Local Council Clerks – Clerk's annual membership 2024/25 - £80.00
- 45.4 The following payments made by Direct Debit were **noted**:
- HugoFox – Website – April 2024 – £11.99
 - HSBC – Bank Charges – April 2024 - £9.00

46. Merger of Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College

- 46.1 Further to the update provided by the Principal of Kingston Maurward College at the preceding Annual Parish Meeting for Electors, the responses received from key stakeholders were noted and it was **resolved** to invite the Chairs of both Governing Bodies to attend the next meeting in June to discuss the Parish Council's concerns about the merger process.

47. North of Dorchester Garden Community

- 47.1 The Parish Council noted the recent announcement of the acquisition of land at Lyscombe by Dorset Wildlife Trust and Natural England to offset nitrogen from housing development and the potential implications for the North of Dorchester Garden Community proposals. It was suggested that other local groups with an interest in the development be approached in relation to their views on this.

48. Road Safety, Traffic Management and Rights of Way

- 48.1 The Parish Council noted the significant traffic issues created across the parish during the recent Dorset Balloon Festival, resulting in gridlock on a number of roads and impacting local residents.
- 48.2 The issue of the gap between the slow road markings and the start of the 30mph speed limit in Lower Bockhampton was raised, as this did not encourage drivers to slow to 30mph at the start of the limit. It was suggested that a device such as village gates with flowers could aid visibility.
- 48.3 The continuing concerns about safety on Slyer's Lane and the fact that a number of the properties no longer had safe access and egress was raised. It was compared to Osmington Hill which had a 40mph speed limit but was not as busy with industrial vehicles as Slyer's Lane.
- 48.4 Councillor Taylor undertook to raise these issues with the Community Highways Officer and report back to the Parish Council.

49. Correspondence

- 49.1 It was noted that an initial approach to the Environment Agency seeking a presentation about the potential impact of the North of Dorchester Garden Community on flooding had been misconstrued as a freedom of information request.

50. Items for next agenda

- 50.1 (i) Merger of Kingston Maurward College and Weymouth College.
(ii) Approval of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return.

51. Date of next meeting

- 51.1 It was noted that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Monday 10 June 2024.

The meeting concluded at 9:00pm.

Chairman..... **Date**.....