



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 15th AUGUST 2024
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

Present: Cllrs: I Church, S Cranshaw, I. Duckworth, M Sims and A Patrick

Chair: Cllr S. Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr. T. Watton

Also Present: Dorset Cllr B Ezzard and three members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

24.98 Cllrs J Ives and T Brodie James. Dorset Cllr R Holloway also sent his apologies.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

24.99 A local resident built on remarks made during public participation session during the July meeting regarding the difficulties and dangers presented by heavy / large vehicles using the junction between the A352 and Puddletown Rd at Worgret. He remarked that several years ago there were road signs on Puddletown Rd showing “no right turn” for HGVs on Puddletown Road approaching the junction with the A352. Any such vehicle planning to travel west along the A352 was therefore firstly directed down to the Worgret roundabout on the Wareham bypass. Similarly, he recalled that there had been a sign on the A352 to the west of the Puddletown Rd junction indicating “no left turn” for heavy / large vehicles travelling east. He wondered if these signs could be reinstated to help improve safety at this junction. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would take this matter up with DC Highways.

ACTION: THE CLERK

3. Declaration of Interests

24.100 There were none.

4. confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th July 2024

24.101 A copy of the minutes had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th July 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

5. Matters arising not covered by the agenda – for report only

24.102 5.1 Knoll Farm campsite: Cllr Duckworth reported that he is continuing to monitor activity at the site. It was noted that the owners have no licence to operate beyond the 28 days, and as at the date of this meeting are now up to 20 days operation for this year so far. Cllr Duckworth observed that they appear to be restricting site operation to special events only. It was noted that the recent planning application for the site remains “not yet determined” by Dorset Council.

6. Dorset Councillor’s Report

24.103 Cllr. Ezzard had provided a written report covering issues relating to Dorset Council. This had been circulated to Council members prior to the meeting. A copy is associated at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

7. To confirm the payment of accounts for August 2024 and consider the banks reconciliation and position against budget for the year to date:

24.104 The following payments were presented for approval:

ARNE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS – August 2024				
Payments due	Payee	Purpose	Reference	£
15/08/2024	T Watton	Salary August 2024 (period 5)	BACS 31/25	£540.00
15/08/2024	Smart Garden Services	Monthly Grounds maintenance - Inv 707 dated 06/08/2024	BACS 32/25	£590.83
15/08/2024	Fluvial Ltd	6 x multi hubs and 20 x base gaskets for flood barrier	BACS 33/25	£1034.40
15/08/2024	Viking Office UK Ltd	Printer ink, printer toner cartridge	BACS 34/25	£140.74
Total				£2305.97

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Sims and **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved and paid. It was noted that no payment was made to HMRC for the PAYE, due to the credit remaining in the Council’s tax account from a previous overpayment.

ACTION: THE CLERK

It was also **RESOLVED** to receive and note the bank reconciliation and position against the budget for the year to date. A copy of these documents is associated at Appendix 2 to these minutes.

8. Governance matters

(a) 24.105 To note and consider for adoption the May 2024 NALC Model Financial Regulations for Parish & Town Councils.

The Parish Clerk explained that he had examined the new NALC model / template version of the Financial Regulations and compared it section by section with the Council’s current adopted version. He pointed out that there are two types of changes between them:

- (i) a general reorganisation / re-ordering of the numbered sections - with some parts of previous ones being combined (e.g. “risk management” now being combined with “internal control”), and
- (ii) updates reflecting changes to legislation or financial rules, and / or use of clearer wording – such as for banking and payments (particularly electronic payments), and procurement.

The Clerk went on to explain that he had, where permissible and necessary to do so, made the local adjustments on the new model version in accordance with the previous adjustments which had been made to the existing adopted version of the Regulations. He then drew members’ particular attention to the details within sections 5, 6 and 7 of the new version proposed for adoption. Regulations 5.15, 5.18 and 6.9 incorporate optional levels of expenditure or authorisation responsibility under “delegated powers” which the Council should give particular consideration to before approving (or not) the proposed adoption of the new version.

It was **AGREED** to receive and note the proposed new version for adoption, and then use time between the August and September meetings to consider the two versions and the relevant optional adjustments, before formally deciding on this proposal at the September meeting.

(b) 24.106 Review of Clerk’s contract in accordance with recommendation 5 in the Internal Auditor’s report for YE 31 Mar 2024. It was noted that this was in response to a recommendation in the Internal Auditor’s report for Year ended 31 Mar 2024. It was agreed to remove from the Clerk’s Contract of Employment the refence to an explicit pay rate, so that it simply references the nationally agreed rate for salary point SPC11 instead. This was **AGREED**.

ACTION:THE CLERK

9. Parish Reports

24.107 Councillors’ Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Cranshaw reported on two on-site meetings at the Allotments, firstly with the Parish Clerk to review the condition of several neglected plots as referred to in Cllr Duckworth’s report to the July Council meeting; and then secondly to meet Adam Smart to identify a “wilderness” area and drainage ditch which needed to be cleared for the benefit of the site as a whole.

Members noted Cllr Ives’ written report of a meeting in Wareham on 29th July called by Dorset Cllr Ezzard to discuss the future use of and funding for the Shuttle Bus within the wider Purbeck area. A copy of Cllr Ives’ notes of this meeting had been circulated to all members on 13th August. Cllr Duckworth remarked that this indicated valuable potential for the beginnings of a local service which may help to reduce traffic and therefore lower the carbon footprint - as and when it’s use grows in the future.

24.108 Reports from Stoborough Village Hall, Furzebrook Village Hall, Stoborough Meadow Residents Association, Ridge Residents Association and the Stoborough Primary School

Stoborough Village Hall – Nothing to report.

Furzebrook Village Hall – Nothing to report.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association Nothing to report.

Ridge Residents Association – Nothing to report.

Stoborough Primary school – School on holiday.

24.109 Hayricks: Cllr Duckworth remarked on the success of the wildflower areas and that the hedgerows were doing very well. It was also noted that a member of the public had been particularly appreciative of the circular path, which he observed was kept especially well and was proving very useful in helping him achieve his “couch to 5K” goals.

Cllr Sims reported that the work to replace signs, which was scheduled to be complete by mid-August, has still not been done. He also remarked on two dead tree branches over the BMX track which may need to be assessed for safety reasons, and he drew attention to Goat Willow which is falling over footpath 11. Cllr Sims also reported that approval had now been received from the Tree Officer for the proposed works to the trees alongside footpath 11. Three identified arboriculturist companies have been contacted and quotes requested from them for this work.

The Parish Clerk reported that he has identified two further contractors to request quotes from for the replacement (supply and install) of the two back-to-back benches.

ACTION: CLLR SIMS,
THE CLERK

24.110 SANG: Members noted that the Clerk had drawn the attention of the Scott Estate Office to the problem of the north-eastern corner of the SANG, which is very boggy, and requesting that something is done to make this passable for walkers. Cllr Duckworth reported that in the meantime he had found an un-signposted but practical route around the mire. This is through the kissing gate into the field and alongside the wood and then back in.

24.111 Allotments: Cllr Duckworth reported that the willows on the western boundary are leaning heavily into Corfe Road – and may be affecting passing buses etc. It was noted that these trees are quite substantial and that it would present a very significant operation to cut them down and remove the arisings. It was noted that this has been brought to the attention of Adam Smart, who has indicated that he would bring in a specialist to look at the matter.

Cllr Duckworth also referred to a communication he had received from the Clerk reporting on responses to the letters and emails sent to the tenants of the plots which appear to have been neglected. It was agreed that Cllr Duckworth and the Clerk would discuss the detail of these matters outside of this meeting.

Cllr Cranshaw remarked on a listed oak tree of considerable size on the boundary of the allotments which has some near-dead branches. Adam Smart has been asked to look at these – which may also be a matter for the specialist he brings in to look at the willows as described above.

24.112 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: no meeting / nothing to report.

10. To consider Planning Applications received

24.113 Delegated – P/CLE/2024/03877 (Certificate of Lawfulness only) Tanglewood Holme Lane East Stoke BH20 5DH. Use of the barn other than in accordance with condition 2 of permission 6/2006/0082 by a hedge and fencing contractor. It was noted that this is a matter for information only and is not consultation request from Dorset Council. **NOTED**

To note correspondence concerning application P/CSC/2024/04321 - Goodens Farm Melancholy Lane Wareham BH20 5AQ. Council members noted this correspondence and that the Clerk had responded indicating that the Council’s view was that the use of this site for camper vans was inappropriate, due to the very unsuitable road for access and egress.

11. To consider a revised date, time and venue for members of the council to meet with Mr Robert Kenward to discuss the proposed survey of the Parish.

24.114 It was confirmed that this meeting is scheduled to take place at 10am on Tuesday September 3rd at 10am at Cllr Cranshaw’s home.

12. Correspondence and items for action and resolution

24.115 There were none.

13. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

24.116 Cllr Duckworth referred to the correspondence regarding the proposals from Swanage Ferry and Motor Road Company for a significant increase in fares. He expressed concern that if these proposals are approved by Government (Department For Transport) this may result in many current ferry users choosing to drive around the harbour instead – thereby causing a potential significant increase in traffic through Stoborough. It was noted that Studland Parish Council have arranged a public meeting at 7:30 on Wednesday 4th September 2024 in Studland Village Hall. Cllr Duckworth indicated that he would try to attend on behalf of Arne Parish Council.

14. Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only:

24.117 There were none.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20:07

Date of next meetings:

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 19th September 2024, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

Appendix 1

Cllr Beryl Ezzard DC Report – Arne Parish Council August 2024

Dorset Council (DC)

The meeting of the Full Council took place on Thursday 18 July at 6.30pm. The council declared a Nature Emergency which will result in the council in reducing use of Glyphosate “weed killer”. Also, from 1 July coastal tourist car parks have had parking charges reduced as promised in the run up to the DC election campaign. Recently the Chief Executive Matt Prosser, visited Wareham for a walkabout with Ryan and me.: We called in at the Town Council, Youth Centre (Family Hub), the Rex Cinema’s new Cafe, the railway station and level crossing.

DC Wareham “Conversation” day 8 am – 13.00 pm

On Saturday 31 August DC Officers and Ryan & me, will be on the Quay having a “conversation day”, welcoming all to come along for a chat to let us know your input for our next five years’ plans.

DC Highways

Wareham Wednesdays: Four Wednesdays commencing 7 – 28 August have arranged closure of the Quay and Stoborough Causeway from 16.00 – 01.00 am.

Openreach will be closing Nutcrack Lane on 21 October from 9.30 – 15.30 pm; diversions will be in place.

DC-Cabinet- Cost of Living Support for families on Income Support /Pension Credit.

This will be available through the partnership with Citizens Advice, who have a local office in Mill Street, Wareham.

Wareham Area Community Speedwatch Team

We have the go-ahead for our first session to start monitoring the speed of traffic in the Sandford area on 20th August at 5pm, weather permitting. More volunteers would be welcome; contact Beryl 550138.

Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation - Wareham Youth Centre now a Family Hub

The Opening of the Family Hub at the Youth Centre was a great success, with the transition and changes to the Centre now complete to meet the new challenges in servicing the needs of families from birth to 25 years. Funding from DC is initially for two years so ongoing support from Wareham Town Council, and Arne and Wareham St Martin Parish Councils is crucial for its continuation as a Youth Centre, for young people to be with their friends and feel safe. New volunteers are always welcome. Please contact Joyce: 552934,

Lidl Planning Application decision date Weds 4 September

The decision on this Planning Application by the Eastern Area Planning Committee at 10am Allendale Centre, Wimborne. As I am now a Member of the Planning Committee, my objection to the application excludes me from taking part in the debate and voting. However, I and Ryan, as the local DC Members, will be speaking to put forward our objections.

Wareham Level Crossing

Network Rail has released the long-awaited report we have been waiting for 18 months, Ryan & I are very disappointed with the report as we were led to believe it was going to be a feasibility study into “Automation” of the crossing, by an independent Consultant. Instead, it was just a risk assessment conducted showing options that we already knew.

We have had a meeting with Wareham Town Council and Wareham Town Trust. We will be attending a DC meeting this week to discuss the report and covering letter from NR (copied to the Clerk) how DC will respond to it going forward.

Dorset Cllrs Monthly Advice Surgeries: These are on-going in the library New Surgery Times

Ryan on fourth Saturday every month; 10 - 12noon. Beryl on second Friday every month 10.00 -12

Appendix 2

Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

See associated .pdf file