



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

Present: Cllrs: R Bessant, T Brodie-James, I Church, I. Duckworth, A Patrick, M Sims

Chair: Cllr S. Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr. T. Watton

Also Present: two members of the public

APOLOGIES: Cllr J Ives, Dorset Cllrs B Ezzard and R Holloway

Also Present:

The Chair, Cllr. Cranshaw, welcomed those present to the meeting.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

There was none.

2. Declaration of Interests

23.221 None were made.

3. To receive apologies for absence

23.222 Cllr J Ives, Dorset Cllrs B Ezzard and R Holloway.

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

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

It was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Sims that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18th January 2024 be agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting and signed by the Chair. Agreed unanimously. The Chair signed the minutes at the meeting.

5. Matters arising – for report only

23.224 **D-Day anniversary 6th June 2024.** It was noted that the Clerk is due to meet with the Deputy Clerk of Wareham Town Council on Friday 16th February to discuss this matter and the scope to link with their events. He will provide a report back in due course.

A C T I O N : T H E C L E R K

6. 23.225 Dorset Councillor's Report. 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. 23.226 To confirm the payment of accounts:

The following payments were presented for approval:

ARNE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS – February 2024

Payments due

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Pay Ref	Amount
13/02/2024	T Watton	Salary Feb 2024 (period 11)	BACS 53	£ 540.00
13/02/2024	HMRC	PAYE & employer’s NI Feb (period 11)	BACS 54	£ 135.00
13/02/2924	T Watton	Adjustment for salary payment error periods 9 and 10	BACS 55	£ 20.00
13/02/2024	E Dorset & Purbeck CAB	Grant award	BACS 56	£ 200.00
13/02/2024	Information Commissioners Office	Data protection annual registration	DD	£ 35.00

RESOLVED: That the payments be approved and paid.

ACTION:THE CLERK

The Clerk also presented a report on the current bank balances and a summary of the Financial Report and Budget.

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Sims that the financial report for the period ending 31st January 2024 be received. **RESOLVED**

8. 23.227 To receive and note an update on the Arne Shuttle bus operation and to consider the related request from the RSPB for funding support for it.

Cllr Brodie-James reported on the meeting, arranged by RSPB Arne on this subject, which he and Cllr Cranshaw had attended. He summarised the financial information the RSPB had provided. This indicated that with the cessation of Heritage Lottery Funding the service will require alternative financial support if it is to continue for 2024 and beyond. The RSPB had put forward four possible options for service provision in 2024 with related levels of funding. It was noted that their preferred options were either:

- Option A: service as 2023 – Tues / Weds / Sunday during May - September at £12,450
- Option D: two days per week May – August at £7,071

The financing suggested for this by the RSPB for 2024 is:

- £2700 from PCR (2023-24 financial year funding)
- £2221 from DCT (surplus fare income form 2022 and 2023)
- £500 contribution from RSPB

This therefore leaves funding shortfalls for options A and D in 2024:

- Opt A £7029
- Opt D £1650

At this stage, and noting that the enterprise is for an undefined length of time at an undecided total cost, the Council felt that in principle it was not minded to provide a financial contribution.

It was also noted that Dorset Cllr Ezzard is setting up a Sub-Committee from the PCRCP with representatives from all T&PCs within the catchment area of the service with the intention of discussing the various options. It is understood that she hopes to arrange a meeting on her return from holiday.

9. 23.228 To consider recommendations to purchase replacements for faded and out-of-date signs for Hayricks; and to obtain and install introduce “please clear up” signs.

Cllr Sims reported that he had prepared a specification for the signs and had visited a local supplier to request prices. The signs will be made from a hard-wearing composite material and the quoted prices will include the cost of installation. It was suggested that any replacement signs do not need to show the Clerk’s mobile phone number.

ACTION: CLLR SIMS

10. 23.229 To receive and note an update on the local council elections to take place on 2nd May 2024.

The Clerk reported that he had provided copies of the Nomination Pack to all members in advance of this meeting and emphasised the need for them to be completed and submitted to the Elections Team at Dorset Council before the deadline of 4pm on 5th April 2024. He has arranged an appointment to submit all packs to them from 9:30am on 27th March 2024 on members’ behalf. Completed packs should be passed to the Clerk in good time for them to be included. Members will need the electoral register numbers of their respective proposers and seconders. The Clerk will be able to supply this information to members on request. It was noted that one current council member has decided not to stand for re-election. It is hoped that members of the local community can be encouraged to stand.

ACTION: ALL MEMBERS AND THE CLERK

11. 23.230 To consider the council’s current banking arrangements, and possible alternatives.

The Clerk explained that he had expressed some concerns that Barclays Bank (the council’s current bankers) had now taken over 4 months to action the change of mandate request to enable him to take on the administration of the account; i.e. to receive statements and other correspondence and to deal with the bank on the Council’s behalf. Due to a recent intervention by Cllr Patrick there are signs that the bank may now be moving to expedite this change. It was therefore agreed to give this matter another two weeks before taking any further action.

It was however noted that in the experience of some members of the council Barclays have been consistently slow to action any requests for changes. It was therefore considered prudent to begin the process of reviewing alternatives to improve operational efficiency and flexibility for the future. The Clerk suggested consideration of Unity Trust Bank (UTB). He explained that two other councils he has in the past and / or currently works for both bank with UTB, as do the Dorset

Association of Parish & Town Councils. He indicated that he would provide a link to enable members to look at UTB in more detail.

ACTION: THE CLERK

12. Parish Reports

23.231 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:

Cllrs Cranshaw and Sims attended the Purbeck Area DAPTC meeting. Discussion at the meeting focused mainly on flooding around the represented parishes, and with some discussion on the planning application for the Knoll House Hotel in Studland.

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

Stoborough Village Hall, Furzebrook Village hall, Ridge Residents Association and Stoborough Primary School no matters to report.

23.233 Hayricks: An update was provided on the continuing activity to weed out young saplings.

Cllr Sims also reported that the DC Tree Officer had met him for a site visit to examine the trees alongside footpath SE5/11. The next step is to compare the report to the original Parish Council proposal, devising a means of identifying each tree, and then completing any necessary application forms for the works. Cllr Cranshaw indicated her willingness to help Cllr Sims with this task.

ACTION: CLLRS CRANSHAW AND SIMS

23.234 Allotments: It was reported that the hedge alongside New Road now been laid, as planned, by a local contractor and is looking good. The Council approved the payment of £350 to the contractor.

Cllr Duckworth remarked on a possible funding application to secure some financial support from the Dorset Council Community Tree Fund (managed by the Dorset National Landscapes) for the reconstruction/maintenance of the allotments hedge alongside Corfe Road. He explained that at this stage it is a scoping exercise to note the conditions of such a grant so we can establish eligibility. It was noted that it would be necessary to seek the permission of the landowner for this work to take place. Cllr Cranshaw indicated that she would contact Henry Scott about this.

ACTION: CLLRS DUCKWORTH AND CRANSHAW

23.235 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: Cllr Duckworth reported that he was unable to attend the most recent meeting.

13. 23.236 To consider Planning Applications received

There were none.

14 23.237 Correspondence and items for action and resolution

(a) To consider whether to submit a collective response from the Council to the consultation on the Joint Local Transport Plan 4 - Dorset & BCP Councils

(dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/local-transport-plan). Please see DAPTC email forwarded to members on 9th Feb 2024.

(b) To note the commencement on 13th Feb of the consultation on the terms and application of the “standard tier” of Martyn’s Law which affects the management of meetings / meeting places. Please see NALC newsletter forwarded to all members on 9th Feb 2024.

In both of the above cases the opportunity for individual responses to the consultations was noted, and it was decided not to submit corporate responses to them.

15. 23.238 Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

Cllr Duckworth reported on a request received from Stoborough WI who would like to have use of the Village Green on 14th and 17th August for a tea extension and fayre respectively. It was noted that Dorset Cllr Ezzard is looking into the ownership of / responsibility for the Village Green.

16. 23.239 Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only:

Cllr Cranshaw drew attention to a proposal put forward by Cllr Ives that the Council acquires a dedicated trolley to transport the flood barrier, and a lock to secure it – at costs of £149.99 and £50.00 respectively. The members present indicated their in-principle support for this.

17. 23.240 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960

Resolved: That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business pursuant to Section 1 of The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960 on the grounds that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8:20pm

Date of next meetings:

Thursday, 21st March, 2024 at 7.15pm Stoborough Village Hall

Thursday, 18th April, 2024. At 7.15pm Stoborough Village Hall

APPENDIX 1

DORSET COUNCIL WARD MEMBERS’ REPORT

Cllr Beryl Ezzard DC Report - Arne PC February 2024

Dorset Council (DC)

The next Full DC meeting will on Tuesday 13th February, at 6.30pm when the Council will vote for the proposed Council Tax increase for 2024/2025 to 4.99% Council tax 2.99% and Adult Social care precept to 2%, therefore the Annual C Tax for a Band D property will be £2,001.15 with the Police and Fire & Rescue precepts in addition totalling £2,381.68. Added to this is the Parish Council Precept with a final Total of £2,441.44 Council Tax for 2024/25 for Band D property. The Government, Levelling up Minister, Michael Gove announced recently more funds for Local Councils; DC will receive £3.9 million. This will help offset the overspend reducing it to £8m. Ryan and I are not minded to support the Budget as more efficiency savings are hoped to be made, whilst not cutting services. More one-off Projects funded by Government for a couple of years, are becoming more prevalent supported by the voluntary sector.

The Household Support Fund and DC Community Fund

The last phase of support is being made available from the 6th of February.

There is also a new service available for homelessness and those in fear of losing their homes, this in partnership with Shelter and the Citizens Advice.

DC Road Works

Bere Road (C7) will be closed to through traffic until the middle February. DC are carrying out water issues at the Silent Woman. A road closure will be 24/7 and come into effect on 22nd January to 9th February from the entrance of the Silent Woman pub to the entrance of the Forest Lodge approximately 90 metres to both sides of the road.

There is a DC Contractor currently working replacing unsuitable street lamps fixed to buildings in the conservation area of Wareham; without any notice or consultation with the Wareham TC or DC Members. I have requested the work stop until this issue is resolved.

DC Planning & Enforcement Issues

Any member of the public or local councillor suspecting Planning or Licensing breaches can report to their local T&PC, DC Member, or the DC Website.

Wareham Area Community Speed watch Team

Now we have the minimum of 6 in the Team, we are arranging dates to start training with the Police Team. Any roads that the PC wish to put forward will be considered. More Team members would be welcome; contact Beryl 550138.

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

The PYCF has been a Charity Trust for seven years and appreciates the continued support funding given by the Parish Council and wish to thank you for this years' funding of £600.00.

DC has awarded the Wareham Youth Centre as one of its 8 Family Hubs for the Wareham area to support families from birth thro' life making local services available there – hopefully on a weekly basis.

DC & BCP travel Survey.

A new survey on the local transport plan (LTP) is now open till 3 march to gather feedback and experiences, key opportunities and issues.

Dorset Community Tree fund

A new grant is now available to apply managed by Dorset National landscapes, the scheme is open to any town or parish council and community organisations too in the Dorset area, 25% match funding/volunteers time is required to be successful on receiving a grant. Apply on the DNL website.

Dorset Cllrs Monthly Advice Surgeries: These are on-going in the library. Ryan-Third Tuesday every month at 5-6.30pm. Beryl-Second Friday every month 10.15 -12 noon.