



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2024**  
**AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: R Bessant, T Brodie James, I Church, I. Duckworth, J Ives, A Patrick, and M Sims

**Chair:** Cllr S. Cranshaw

**Clerk:** Mr. T. Watton

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

The Chair, Cllr. Cranshaw, welcomed those present at the meeting. She thanked and paid tribute to Cllr Richard Bessant, who is standing down in May, for his long and valuable service on both the Parish Council and the Wareham Burial Joint Committee. Cllr Patrick added her thanks to Cllr Bessant for his contributions and for the knowledge and expertise he has given. A vote of thanks was unanimously agreed.

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

A number of residents present voiced objections to the planning proposal P/HOU/2024/01422 Alexander House 33 Stoborough Meadow; in particular the proposed application of grey cladding up to the dado line of the building, which they felt would compromise the visual impact and distinctive design & character of the Stoborough Meadow development and therefore be detrimental to the overall street scene. A request was made to the Parish Council to object to the application, and to ask for it to be determined by the DC Planning Committee rather than delegated to a Planning Officer.

**2. Declaration of Interests**

**24.01** Cllr Ives declared an interest in item 15i (Planning application P/HOU/2024/01422 Alexander House 33 Stoborough Meadow) as a resident of Stoborough Meadow.

**3. To receive apologies for absence**

**24.04** Dorset Cllr R Holloway.

**4. confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024**

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

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Church that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 21<sup>st</sup> March 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**

**24.04 D-Day anniversary 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024.** Cllr Cranshaw indicated that she would approach Stoborough Primary School to encourage attendance at the beacon lighting event on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> June, and to bring a picnic supper.

**6. 24.05 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.

Cllr Ezzard expressed her thanks to everyone for the past five years during which she has served as a Dorset Council member for the Ward which includes the Parish of Arne.

**7. 24.06 To confirm the payment of accounts:**

The following payments were presented for approval:

<b>ARNE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS - April 2024</b>				
<b>Payments due</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Reference</b>	<b>£</b>
18/04/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Secure storage for generators with battery smart charger, Jan 24 (Inv 212251)	BACS 70	£36.00
18/04/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Secure storage for generators with battery smart charger, Feb 24 (Inv 212931)	BACS 71	£36.00
18/04/2024	T Watton	Salary Apr 2024 (period 1)	BACS 01/25	£540.00
18/04/2024	HMRC	PAYE & Employer’s NI - T Watton (period 1)	BACS 02/25	£135.00
18/04/2024	Dorset Council	SID Deployment Apr 24-Mar 25	BACS 03/25	£900.00
18/04/2024	Smart Garden Services	Inv 590 tree clearance FP11, plus March monthly fee	BACS 04/25	£615.83
18/04/2024	DAPTC	Annual subscription	BACS 05/25	£560.06
18/04/2024	Dorset Council	Repair for SID PCB panel	BACS 06/25	£196.80
18/04/2024	Viking Office UK Ltd	Printer ink (S Cranshaw) inv 4034857	BACS 07/25	£25.30
18/04/2024	Scott Estate Management	Allotment ground rent (6 months)	BACS 08/25	£72.00
18/04/2024	Wareham Burial Joint Committee	2023/24 contribution (2 <sup>nd</sup> Part)	BACS 09/25	£2220.10
18/04/2024	Richard Bessant	Reimbursement for expenditure on behalf of council - printer ink	BACS 10/25	£15.47
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£5352.56</b>

**RESOLVED:** That the payments be approved and paid. It was noted that two of the above payments, (BACS 70 and BACS 71 to OHE Horticultural for generator storage) had been authorised at the March meeting but had inadvertently not been made. Consequently, they have been included again here.

ACTION:THE CLERK

The Clerk also referred to the year-end Bank Reconciliation, Financial Report and report of performance against budget which he had circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. There were no comments or questions. It was proposed by **Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Church** that the financial reports for the year ending 31st March 2024 be received. **RESOLVED**

**8. 24.06 To receive and note an update on the local Council Elections to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024**

It was noted that Cllrs Brodie James, Church, Cranshaw, Duckworth, Ives, Sims and Patrick had all been confirmed as Nominated for election on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2024. Declarations of Acceptance of Office will be due to be signed at the Annual Parish Council Meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> May after which fresh Declarations of Interests will be required. The Clerk will arrange for the necessary Acceptance of Office forms to be available at the meeting, and the link to the Declaration of Interests online page on the DC website to be sent to each member.

ACTION:THE CLERK

**9. 24.07 To further consider the council’s current banking arrangements, and possible alternatives.**

The Council confirmed its **APPROVAL** for the Clerk to prepare an application to open an account with Unity Trust Bank.

ACTION:THE CLERK

**10. 24.08 To consider a grant request submitted on behalf of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (PCRP) for a contribution of £500 to support the running of the 2RN Mini Bus to RSPB Arne 2 days a week from May to Sept 2024 inclusive.**

Cllr Ezzard remarked on the matter of the Arne Shuttle Bus by stating that sufficient funding has now been achieved for the 2024 operation. The Council Chair referred to the Arne Parish Council criteria for its award of grants from locally held funds, and commented on the strong views expressed, mostly by residents of Ridge, that public money should not be spent on funding the shuttle bus to RSPB Arne. She also pointed out that on average five out of every six passengers have been from Wareham.

Cllr Ezzard went on to remark that the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership will be reviewing the shuttle bus operation, and that a Steering Group involving the affected local councils would be formed. She suggested that in future the shuttle bus need not visit RSPB Arne, but could offer a regular service to other local destinations which may be of interest to residents instead. In response, the Council Chair indicated that the Parish Council would continue to listen to the views of its parishioners on this matter.

**11. 24.09 Proposal to reappoint Paula Harding of Barker Fox as the Council’s Internal Auditor for the year ended 31 Mar 2024.**

This was unanimously **APPROVED**.

**12. 24.10 To consider the annual review of the process of Internal Audit.**

It was **AGREED** that Cllr Patrick and the Parish Clerk would review the current Internal Audit checklist and report back on this to the next meeting of the Parish Council.

**13. 24.11 Consideration of arrangements for Annual Parish Meeting 2024.**

It was noted that the Annual Parish Meeting would take place in Stoborough Village hall at 18:45 immediately before the Council meeting scheduled for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

**14. Parish Reports**

**24.12 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:**

Cllr Bessant reported that he had attended a finance meeting of the Wareham Burial Joint Committee.

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

Stoborough Village Hall – Mr Morgan reported that the upgrading the lights in the main hall is still to be done.

Furzebrook Village hall – nothing to report.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association – the submission of planning application P/HOU/2024/01422 Alexander House 33 Stoborough Meadow was noted.

Ridge Residents Association – nothing to report.

Stoborough Primary school – nothing to report.

**24.14 Hayricks:** Cllr Sims reported that a quote of £238.00 had been received from Southern Playground Services for work to address the fault with the Fireman's Pole, to tighten the handles on the Springer and to deal with gaps on the Multi Play Equipment. These defects had been identified in the Annual ROSPA play safety inspection. An estimate of approximately £400 had also been obtained for repainting the benches. It was agreed to request that these are painted green to match the existing. All of the above was **APPROVED**.

It was noted that the grass is currently quite long. However, this is due to the prolonged wet weather and the fact that the ground has remained saturated until very recently. The contractor is awaiting suitable conditions to cut it. It is hoped that this will be done very soon.

ACTION: CLLR SIMS

**24.15 Allotments:** It was noted that there remains one vacant plot. Cllr Duckworth reported that a local resident has been indentified who may be interested in it. He will arrange for the contact details to be provided to the Clerk.

ACTION: THE CLERK & CLLR DUCKWORTH

**14.16 Stoborough Village Green:** Cllr Church reported that he had approached three fencing contractors regarding repairs to / or renewal of the fencing around the Village Green. So far only one response has been received. He agreed to continue trying to get at least one further response so that some comparison between quotes can be made in line with the Council's Financial Regulations 10.4 and 11.1a.

ACTION: CLLR CHURCH

**24.17 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group:** nothing to report.

**14. 24.18 To consider Planning Applications received**

P/HOU/2024/01422 Alexander House 33 Stoborough Meadow Wareham BH20 5HP. Grey cladding above the dado line, replacement of UPVc soffits and fascias on porch with same cladding, new aluminium white double-glazed windows.

The Parish Council noted the 20+ local neighbours' responses expressing an objection to this proposal. The reasoning for the objection expressed by neighbours matches the views of the Parish Council - that the proposed introduction of the cladding is out of keeping with the original excellent design philosophy of the Stoborough Meadow as a whole. The Parish Council believes that the proposed change to this very prominent property within the overall award-winning development will seriously damage the traditional "Dorset Village" style of Stoborough Meadow as a coherent whole. The Council therefore wished to register an **OBJECTION** to it. In addition, and in view of the strong views expressed by neighbours, the Parish Council wishes to request that this application is not delegated, but instead it is determined by the Planning Committee.

**15 24.19 Correspondence and items for action and resolution**

There were none.

**16 24.20 Correspondence received since the agenda was set:**

The following items of correspondence were noted:

Council insurance renewal document – due for renewal on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024. A review of Insurance cover will be undertaken by the Clerk with Cllrs Cranshaw and Patrick ready for report back at the May Council meeting.

Opportunity to attend a Tourism Workshop on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> April at Swanage Town Hall. This was circulated to all Council members.

Feedback from the DC Tree Officer to the Council's submitted Tree Works application for trees adjacent to FP11. This was forwarded to Cllr Sims for information and response.

**17. 24.21 Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only:**

There were none.

**18. 24.22 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 8:27pm

Date of next meetings:

Annual Parish Council meeting Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall. This will be preceded at 6:45pm by the Annual Parish Meeting.

**APPENDIX 1**

**DORSET COUNCIL WARD MEMBERS' REPORT**

## Cllr Beryl Ezzard DC Report - Arne PC April 2024

### Dorset Council (DC)

The next full DC meeting will be after the DC and T&PC Elections on 2 May, on Thursday 16 May at 6.30pm with the new elected Councillors for a term of five years to May 2029.

The support service for homelessness and those in fear of losing their homes is available with DC in partnership with Shelter and the Citizens Advice Teams.

I have been liaising with the Wareham Men's Shed Group and Care Dorset (Trading Company of DC), to ensure support for the continuation of their arrangement in using the DC owned Purbeck Connect Building and garages, in Sandford Lane, in doing woodworking projects for the local area.

### DC Road Works

Currently there is urgent Gas repairs in West St and Mill Lane in Wareham' hopefully this will be finished by 10 April. Early notice of BT Open Reach road closure of Morden Road checking Telegraph Poles at the Sherford bridge to Chitten Hill junction with A35 on 24 June.

### Wareham Area Community Speedwatch Team

We have had the initial training and will be out and about, weather permitting, later in April.

Residential roads that the Parish Council have 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 support funding given by the Town and Parish Councils. Hopefully with ongoing support to ensure the Youth Centre continues to thrive for Young People to have a place to be with their friends. As well as the Family Hub being set up, PYCF have taken on the Community Fridge and fresh fruit/vegetables and excess Supermarket Bakery goods, from Not Just Sundaes, who, unfortunately, have stopped trading due to lack of volunteers. PYCF is to become the registered body for the Purbeck Duke Of Edinburgh Award Scheme, as DC have this year relinquished their registration status for the DofE Groups in Dorset. The Purbeck DofE have been meeting in the Wareham Youth Centre on Sundays for 6 years.

### Cordite Way – Footpath 30 – update

With the help, donated by Jade-Aden, a JCB and dumper has carried away the mud slurry to ensure the path will be habitable, a layer of scalping's will be needed now. An informal meeting of the Design group of the Friends of the Cordite Way are gathering at the Labour Club on Wednesday, 10 April at 7.30 with Maria Burns to determine the 3 illustrative Notice Boards. All Parish Cllrs are welcome.

### 2RN Arne Shuttle Bus – Trial over

This initiative was set up by RSPB Arne, with a project worker, with a Heritage Lottery Grant, with an "active travel" incentive, to encourage folk out of their cars; to use public transport. The project was in conjunction with the Dorset Community Transport supplying the Mini-bus, driver and cover the Insurance. The Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (PCRP) and RSPB Arne also supported with funding. The shuttle bus, still running until the end of April, starts at the Wareham Railway Station, meeting trains and buses, and takes visitors and local people to Arne, stopping at the Quay, and various place along the way. Statistics show that 40% of passengers were local folk. It is timetabled for currently 4 days a week, during the Easter Holidays, There is adequate funds left, with the help of £600.00 from Wareham TC and hopefully some from Wareham St Martin PC and your Council? to enable the shuttle bus to run this summer from May to October, 2 days a week. A Steering Group, with the PCRP taking the lead, was decided, to get local support and grants/ funding for a Shuttle Bus in 2025 to benefit the local rural folk. For connections not just to RSPB Arne and Purbeck Park (Norden) for Swanage Railway, but with No40/X54 & to visit places of interest. Local PC's are invited.

**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.

As this is the last PC Meeting before the local Elections, I wish to thank you all; the Parish Clerk, Chairman and Members, for all the hard work that you do, and have done over the years I have been reporting to you; as Dorset County Council Cllr & Dorset Council Cllr from 2017. It has been an honour, privilege and enjoyable to have worked together in sharing information and to achieve improvements to this unique Parish. Thank you.