



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 18th JULY 2024
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

Present: Cllrs: T Brodie-James, I Church, S Cranshaw, I. Duckworth and A Patrick

Chair: Cllr S. Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr. T. Watton

Also Present: Four members of the public

1. To receive apologies for absence

24.77 Cllrs J Ives and M Sims. Dorset Cllrs B Ezzard and R Holloway also sent their apologies.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

24.78 A local resident wished to voice his concerns and grounds for an objection to planning application P/PAAF/2024/03670 (item 11 on the meeting agenda) concerning Knoll Farm Soldiers Road Norden - the change of use of two agricultural buildings to a use comprising outdoor sport or recreation (Class F.2c) under Schedule 2, Part 3 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 otherwise known as Class R permitted development rights.

The resident had prepared a detailed objection based on four points which he talked through in sequence, namely (i) evidence of apparent contradictions by the applicants about the date up to which the land had been solely used for agriculture, (ii) concerns about the likelihood of highway issues arising from this proposal, (iii) reference to the topography of the site and actual noise nuisance caused to surrounding properties during previous events held there over the past 10 or more years, and (iv) concerns that the orientation of the buildings which are subject to this application, and in relation to the situation of other buildings and trees on the site - which suggest that the community of Ridge would be directly exposed across open heathland to noise and nuisance.

The Parish Council members noted these points, for deliberation during consideration of the application under item 11 below.

In relation to point (i) referred to above, Cllr Cranshaw drew members' attention to the Town & Country planning (General permitted development) (England) (Amendment) Order 2024, which recently introduced changes related to permitted development rights allowing for their flexible commercial use (or dwelling houses) - from 21 May 2024. Cllr Cranshaw explained that previously the requirement was that the building had to be used solely for agricultural purposes as part of an established agricultural unit. However, the recent changes to permitted development rights now allow for the conversion of former agricultural buildings even if they are no longer part of an established agricultural unit. However, prior approval is still required regarding transport, noise, contamination and suitable access to a public highway. An impact assessment therefore has to be submitted to cover these issues.

A resident of Worgret wished to express concern about lorry movements along Puddletown Road. He explained that it had recently come to his attention that Imrys intend to expand their operations

locally which may give rise to a further 16 to 33 lorry movements per day carrying clay and sand past the residential properties there. He wondered whether, when licence applications for such changes are considered by Dorset Council, the base number of existing lorry movements is taken into account. He also expressed concerns about access for those lorries turning onto the A352. More generally regarding the junction between Puddletown Road and the A352 he expressed concerns about the dangers due to poor visibility arising from overgrown grass verges. He wondered if there was anything the Parish Council could do to influence Dorset Council highways on both of these matters.

Ms Samantha Dallimore, RSPB Community Engagement Officer gave a brief explanation of the Wareham Arc Landscape Recovery project. She explained that it is a collaborative nature recovery project bringing together over 25 land owners and managers with the aim of restoring a diverse range of priority habitats which it is hoped will benefit local farms and businesses whilst also improving opportunities for local people, to more easily connect with nature / the natural environment. She explained that the project is currently in its development phase whereby information is being gathered in preparation for a bid for funding to DEFRA towards the end of the year. The project covers an area of approximately 4000 hectares and is a new scheme which DEFRA are trialling. Ms Dallimore referred to a survey which took place recently about the social objectives and which was intended to establish a baseline indication of the level and types of use of green spaces, and to begin the process of exploring what could be done to improve use access. Over 200 people took part in the initial survey on Wareham Quay; and a similar public survey is now available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WArcv2>
The Project website can be found at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/8688c3f7354c4f9c944d6f5d2d3f8697>

Cllr Brodie-James wished to raise a matter on behalf of a resident who was unable to attend the meeting. He explained that concern had been expressed to him about the increase in road traffic and vehicle speeds - often involving delivery and courier vehicles, domestic oil deliveries, etc - especially along New Road. This had given rise to near misses affecting cyclists and other road users. It was agreed that this matter should be brought to the attention of the Dorset Council Road Safety team.

ACTION: THE CLERK

3. Declaration of Interests

24.79 There were none.

4. confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th June 2024

24.80 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 20th June 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

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

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

24.81 Cllrs Cranshaw and Patrick and Mr T Watton (Clerk) stated that they would attend this meeting. Having reviewed Mr Kenward’s available dates it was agreed to meet him on Thursday 1st August. Cllr Cranshaw indicated that she would contact Mr Kenward accordingly.

ACTION: CLLR CRANSHAW

6. Dorset Councillor’s Report.

24.82 Cllr. Holloway 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 Patrick remarked on the comments in Cllr Holloway’s report regarding the verge cutting along Nutcrack Lane which had been left very “messy”. She observed that it was also dangerous in that it has not been cut sufficiently to allow pedestrians to use it to get out of the way of passing vehicles. She wondered if Cllr Ezzard or Cllr Holloway might be able to take this matter up with Highways again to influence them to come back and carry out a more appropriate cut.

ACTION: THE CLERK

7. To confirm the payment of accounts for July 2024:

24.83 The following payments were presented for approval:

ARNE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS – July 2024				
Payments due	Payee	Purpose	Reference	£
18/07/2024	T Watton	Salary July 2024 (period 4)	BACS 30/25	£540.00
18/07/2024	Smart Garden Services	Monthly Grounds maintenance - Inv 674 dated 05/07/2024	BACS 28/25	£590.83
18/07/2024	Mr Alan Morgan	Expenditure for Land registry searches #1978-4389 and #1048-0613 (£17.49 + £12.95)	BACS 29/25	£30.89
Total				£1161.72

It was proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Church and **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved and paid.

ACTION:THE CLERK

8. Governance matters

24.84 To note and consider a report covering proposed management responses to the six recommendations raised by the Internal Auditor during the audit for YE 31 Mar 2024.

The Clerk had prepared a report giving updates on actions to date in response to all six recommendations, with suggested actions and timetables to fully address each of them. A copy of this report is associated at **appendix 2** to these minutes. It was resolved to receive and note the report, and to approve the suggested further actions.

ACTION:THE CLERK

9. Parish Reports

24.85 Councillors’ Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Church reported that he had attended the Purbeck Transport Action Group meeting which took place over Zoom. He reported that a significant item on the agenda of that meeting had been the “Future Studland” plan being developed by the National Trust.

24.86 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 hall usage remains very good. A notable event in the past month was the use of the hall as the local polling station for the general election.

Furzebrook Village hall – Cllr Cranshaw remarked on the planned demonstration by Extinction Rebellion outside the hall premises. However, the inclement weather meant that the event saw minimal attendance.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association No report.

Ridge Residents Association – nothing to report.

Stoborough Primary school – Members noted that school parents and staff have been working on a petition which seeks a reduction in the speed limit along Corfe Rd, and also the introduction of a zebra crossing. The Clerk spoke to a resident involved with the petition and advised that it should be submitted to Dorset Council in the first instance.

24.87 Hayricks: In Cllr Sims’ absence, Cllr Duckworth commented that the wildflower areas are doing particularly well, with a good mix of varieties which are attracting butterflies and other wildlife. The two hedges are also doing well - helped by the attention from Smart Garden Services. He noted that the eastern side hedge is doing rather better than the western side. He noted that one tree which survived during last year has now succumbed. He suggested the Council might need to consider replanting with something else in the autumn.

24.88 SANG: Cllr Duckworth observed at the north-eastern corner, reported on last month, remains very boggy. The Clerk was asked to chase Savils (the Agents representing the Scott Estate) regarding the request to see what can be done to improve it.

ACTION: THE CLERK

24.89 Allotments: Cllr Duckworth reported that some allotment holders have expressed concerns about the plots which are being neglected by tenants or are unoccupied. He has asked current active plot holders what they think should happen with such plots. He had also prepared a plan of the allotments showing those which are currently overgrown and inactive, and those which are in danger of becoming so. It was agreed that as a first step letters should be written to the holders of all inactive allotments to ask them what their intentions are for the upkeep of their plots.

ACTION: THE CLERK

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

11. To consider Planning Applications received

24.91 P/PAAF/2024/03670 Knoll Farm Soldiers Road Norden. The change of use of two agricultural buildings to a use comprising outdoor sport or recreation (Class F.2c) under Schedule 2, Part 3 of The Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 otherwise known as Class R permitted development rights.

Also noting the views of local residents, the Parish Council concluded that it wished to **OBJECT** to the application on the grounds of the likelihood that this proposed change of use would result in adverse effects both on the sensitive and protected surrounding natural environment and on the residents of nearby communities. More specifically, these concerns are as follows:

- The site is surrounded on three sides by the only Super National Nature Reserve in the country, and is adjacent to an SSSI. It is within the Dorset National Landscape (formerly AONB). As a result, the Parish Council believes that this should be a place of tranquillity to protect these valuable natural environments. The Council is concerned that this proposal would lead to increased recreational pressure on the adjoining protected sites and as a result cause increasing harm. The Council notes that Dorset Council has declared a nature emergency and has recognised the need to take urgent remedial action to restore nature. The Council members therefore believed that granting permission for this proposal adjacent to such sensitive sites would be contrary to that declaration.
- The Council understood that the subject buildings stand either side of the courtyard, with a screen of mature trees along the southern side, whilst it is open on the three other sides, including that which faces across heath land the community of Ridge. This exposes the local community to noise and disturbance. The Council is aware that there have been objections and complaints by local residents to past events with loud music.
- Given the sensitivity of the adjoining heathland, coupled with hotter and drier summers and the seriousness of recent heath fires in Purbeck and elsewhere, the Council was concerned about the potential heightened risk to the surrounding environment by the leisure activity including barbeques and fire pits on this site.

In addition, concerns were expressed about access and egress to this site, which the Council members felt were inadequate to support expanded leisure use implicit in this current proposal. It was noted that the site is accessed from a single-track road with passing places. The Council acknowledged however that this is a matter for DC Highways to consider.

Finally, the Council noted an apparent inconsistency between this application and P/CLE/2022/03948. In the earlier application it was stated that the land had been used for camping, festivals and events for over 10 years prior to April 2022. However, this latest application includes a statement that the land was solely used for agricultural use on or before 3rd July 2012.

24.92 Tree works: P/TRT/2024/03767 Finches New Road Stoborough BH20 5BB. T1 Scots Pine: Fell. The Parish Council members observed that the reasons for felling this tree do not appear to have been made clear in the submitted papers. Similarly, there appears to be no mention of any intention to replace the tree with a newly planted one.

11. To review the Council’s position regarding the siting of the generators, and decision to be taken. **24.93** Council members had reflected at length on the offer made by Mr Morgan on behalf of the VH Trustees at the Council meeting in June to store the generators at the Village Hall and to allow the hall to be used as the resilience hub in the event of emergency situations affecting the local community. Considering the remarks made by members during the intervening period, Cllr Cranshaw commented that at the June meeting it was made absolutely clear to the Council members present how strong were the reservations retained by the Village Hall committee - to the extent that enquiries had been put in hand regarding the Hall's insurance and the nature of the container that would be acceptable to the Committee to store the generators. Members were reminded that it is their village hall and it is entirely right they do all they can to protect it. Cllr Cranshaw hoped they may therefore be relieved to know that now that having considered the matter

with great care the Parish Council acknowledge it would not be appropriate to accept the offer. Acting as storage for generators is not the purpose of this village hall and the Council now fully understand and accept the severe misgivings they have always expressed. Setting up a resilience hub will require both short and long term detailed planning. On the present understanding, the Parish Council will look elsewhere to find a working relationship where interests are more in tune.

12. To consider a proposal for “take your litter home” sign or signs for display in Stoborough.

24.94 Cllr Brodie-James explained that he had been approached by a resident of Stoborough Meadow who had pointed out the littering problem along Corfe Rd – particularly between the school and The Lookout - which is evidently mostly takeaway food wrappers / containers from passing vehicles. The resident wondered if a sign similar to that on the bypass urging people to “take your litter home” might be appropriate. It was agreed that the Clerk will approach DC Highways with this request.

ACTION: THE CLERK

13. Correspondence and items for action and resolution

24.95 There were none.

14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

24.96 The Clerk referred to an email received from Cllr Beryl Ezzard, in her role as vice Chair of the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (PCRP). A copy of the email had been circulated to all members on 17th July. The email invites Parish & Town Councils throughout the Purbeck area to send a representative to a meeting at Wareham Town Hall at 11 am on Monday 29th July to discuss the utilisation of the shuttle bus in the Purbeck area. Cllr Ives had emailed to suggest that he would be willing to attend if no other Council member was able to do so.

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

24.97 There were none.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20:26

Date of next meetings:

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

Appendix 1

Cllr Ryan Holloway DC Report – Arne Parish Council July 2024

Dorset Council (DC)

The next meeting of the Full Council will take place on Thursday 18 July at 6.30pm. Following the recent General Election last Thursday 4 July, we have a new local MP for Mid Dorset North Poole seat changed to Vikki Slade, of the Liberal Democrat Party. The Government also changed hands to the Labour Party now in government with Kier Starmer as Prime Minister.

DC-Cabinet-Cost of Living Support

The new administration has at the June’s Cabinet Meeting supported the recommendation for an additional cost of living support, this will be a one-off £2m coming out of DC reserves: this will be

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

DC Road Works

There will be road closure on Friday 19th July on Barnhill Road at Ridge due to Openreach Engineers carry out works, the disruption should be to a minimum as they expect to complete the works on the same day at 5.30pm, closure will begin at 9am that day.

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. Watch out for us, however, more team members 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. New Volunteers are always welcome, please contact Joyce: 552934

Lidl Planning Application

The Planning Officer has informed me that the Application may be ready for the Eastern Area Planning Committee to consider on 14th August 10 am at the Allendale Centre, Wimborne. As Beryl is on the DC Eastern Area Planning Committee, and having stated her Objection to the Application, she will be exempt from taking part in the debate, however as Beryl and I are the Local DC Members we will be Speaking to put forward our Objections on this planning application.

2RN Arne Shuttle Bus

This service is continuing now until the end of August, every Wednesday and Sunday from Wareham Railway Station. The Purbeck Community Rail Partnership will be taking this forward (as funding and running by RSBP, has considerably reduced), with the support hopefully, of the local Purbeck Town and Parish Councils & voluntary groups, with the view of using the Minibus, supplied by Dorset Community Transport, to connect rural areas to the regular No 40 More Bus, and visit other places of interest in Purbeck.

There will be a meeting in the Wareham Town Hall on Monday 29th July at 11am. I hope a representative from Arne PC is invited to attend.

Verge Cutting

The verges on Nutcrack lane have now been done as this parish and residents were putting requests to us, Beryl has commented that it was left quite untidy and it looked a messy job.

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

Report – Management responses to the six recommendations from the Internal Audit Report for YE 31 Mar 2024.

Recommendation	Reasoning	Suggested response / action(s) to take or already taken	Lead by, and date
Rec 1 That an investment strategy is considered to ensure that best value is being obtained from the extensive reserves.	It is important that the funds held are managed correctly and the opportunity to grow these through interest payments maximised.	Included as part of a wider review of cash holdings and Earmarked Reserves	Clerk. Dec 2024
Rec 2 That the up-to-date versions of the Standing Orders & Financial Regs documents, with the latest review dates, are published on the website.	It is important that the governance documents that the council are working to are available to the public. Currently the out-dated versions are showing of the Financial Regulations and the Standing Orders and this may lead to inaccuracies and confusion regarding Parish Council spending and decision making.	Copies of the Jan 2024 reviewed versions have been forwarded to Malcom Sims to replace the OOD copies on the website.	Clerk, Cllr Sims. July 2024
Rec 3 That the VAT types on transactions are carefully considered and corrected for future transactions.	There are a number of transactions, which although the monetary value of the VAT is £0.00, are categorised incorrectly. With a number showing as Exempt when actually they are No VAT. The internal auditor is happy to work with the Clerk to guide them to the correct VAT treatment on scribe. This makes no overall difference to the accounts but should be corrected for the HMRC submission.	This is a historical (i.e. previous years) problem only. being actioned. The current Clerk is aware of the correct VAT categorisations for the various Council transactions and is consistently applying them.	Clerk. RESOLVED

<p>Rec 4 That all internal and external audits are reported and minuted by the council. This should include presentation on the website of the outcomes.</p>	<p>It is important that the public and councillors are aware of both the internal and external audit process and that they can see that any recommendations made are taken seriously and resolved where appropriate.</p>	<p>The Internal Audit report and recommendations for YE 31 Mar 2024 has already been circulated to members, and a copy sent to Malcolm Sims with a request to add it to the Finance Page on the website. A separate entry has also been requested to accommodate the External Audit report when it is received from BDO LLP in Sept 2024.</p>	<p>Clerk & Cllr Sims. July 2024</p>
<p>Rec 5 That the actually hourly rate of £13.50 is removed from the clerk’s contract as this is specific to 2023-24. It is better to leave just the Pay scale of SCP 11 otherwise the contract will need to be amended every year rather than just reviewed.</p>	<p>This recommendation is purely advisory to try and save the Council and Clerk time each year in rewriting and resigning the contract. If the pay rate is listed as SCP 11 then as the pay scales are reviewed the Clerks pay can be amended without changing the contract text.</p>	<p>Noted for discussion between the Council Chair and Clerk</p>	<p>Clerk & Cllr Cranshaw. Aug 2024.</p>

<p>Rec 6 That the following information is published on the website as soon as possible in compliance with the requirements of the relevant Transparency Code (ref JPAG “Practitioners Guide” 2024):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>A list of all expenditure over £500</i> • <i>Details Internal Audit report</i> • <i>External audit report and certificate</i> • <i>List of Councillor responsibilities</i> • <i>Details of goods/ services open to tender and quotes (this should include any which have since expired to show the process was followed)</i> <p>Also that the ‘stored documents’ section of the website is reviewed as it is difficult to quickly find what you need for relating to each year.</p>	<p>This is to support transparency with regard to the working documents and processes of the Council.</p>	<p>Noted for discussion between the Clerk and Cllr Sims</p>	<p>Clerk & Cllr Sims. Oct 2024.</p>
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Appendix 3

Bank reconciliation and accounts update.

See associated .pdf file