



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 21st MARCH 2024
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

Present: Cllrs: I Church, I. Duckworth, J Ives, and M Sims

Chair: Cllr S. Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr. T. Watton

Also Present: eleven members of the public

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

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident of Ridge raised some concerns about drainage affecting his and adjacent land. He referred to a ditch which has recently been dug from the pond at Sunnyside to the east ditch bordering the Engine Shed site in Ridge. This ditch is intended to prevent the flooding of three properties (Winnards Perch, Holly Bank and Longbarrow).

It was noted that the Environment Agency has confirmed that they will maintain the connecting east ditch and the sluice to the river Frome. However the resident expressed concerns that if, as intended, a bund is built to keep the water in the southern and partly the northern lagoons, it would seem that there will be difficulty to accessing the ditch to keep it clear. The resident therefore asked whether the EA could be approached to clarify the following points:

- That access to the ditch for cleaning is being planned for and that the bund will be built in such a way that equipment (diggers) can reach into the ditch to maintain it.
- If not, that an alternative plan is communicated how exactly the ditch will be cleaned (assuming the lagoons are full of water)
- That there are no restrictions set by the RSPB as to when cleaning can take place. i.e. that alleviating flood risks will take precedence over bird migration, for instance.
- That the Kier project team (Contractors) will be instructed to ensure that the ditch will remain accessible for cleaning.
- How the Parish Council will be notified that the ditch has been cleaned / inspected and that the sluice is maintained and in working order.

The Council Chair asked the resident to write to confirm his concerns – which would then be passed on to a representative of the Environment Agency to respond to.

A resident spoke in support of planning application P/FUL/2024/01098 for the conversion of the Former Engine Shed, Barnhill Road Wareham BH20 5BG into 2no bedroom dwelling with a single storey side extension, internal alterations, plus the erection of a new outbuilding.

A resident wished to thank the Parish Council that for the third year in succession it had reduced its proportion of the Council Tax payable by APC residents. He did however express some concern whether the Parish Council has raised a sufficient precept to enable it to continue to meet its commitments to its residents. In response, the Council Chair that the Council continues to be prudent in its spending and activities.

A resident of Stoborough Meadow spoke in support of a revised planning application which he has very recently submitted to Dorset Council. He explained that he had made some changes to the original proposal, in response to pre-application advice obtained from DC Planning as well as previous local objections which had been expressed. It is anticipated that this application will be received in time for consideration by APC at its April meeting.

2. Declaration of Interests

23.241 None were made.

3. To receive apologies for absence

23.242 Cllrs R Bessant, T Brodie-James, A Patrick and Dorset Cllr R Holloway.

4. confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th February 2024

23.243 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 15th February 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

23.244 D-Day anniversary 6th June 2024. The Clerk reported on the outcomes of his meeting 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 reported that the national level plan for communities to mark the D-Day anniversary on Thursday 6th June is essentially two things, both of which Wareham TC are planning to do :

- (i) Ringing of the church bells - The bells of Lady St Mary’s, Wareham will be rung at 6:15pm on that evening, followed later that evening by...
- (ii) Lighting of a beacon - the location of the beacon is still to be finalised. The current options under consideration are on the land opposite the quay, or to apply to DC Highways for a closure of the causeway for the evening (from 6pm) and siting the beacon there.

Wareham TC will also organise their Town Crier to be in attendance to make an appropriate proclamation.

It is intended to encourage residents from both communities to bring a picnic supper. It is also intended to publicise the evening through leaflets and posters - at a shared cost between WTC and APC.

23.245 Clarification of the ownership of Stoborough Village Green. Mr Morgan reported that he had checked this with the Land Registry and had confirmed that the Village Green had been transferred to the Arne Parish Council by DCC in 1991. Consequently, it was acknowledged by the Council that they now had responsibility for its maintenance, and the upkeep of the fence surrounding it. The matter of the disintegrating section of the fence will now be discussed by the council.

ACTION: THE CLERK

6. 23.245 Dorset Councillor’s Report. 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. There were no questions or comments.

7. 23.246 To confirm the payment of accounts:

The following payments were presented for approval:

ARNE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS – March 2024

Payments due

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Pay Ref	Amount
21/03/2024	T Watton	Salary Mar 2024 (period 12)	BACS 58	£ 540.00
21/03/2024	HMRC	PAYE & employer's NI Mar (period 12)	BACS 59	£ 135.00
21/03/2024	T Watton	Reimbursement of expenditure on behalf of Council	BACS 60	£ 58.13
02/02/2024	DAPTC	Reimbursement for purchase of a hand trolley for moving flood barrier	BACS 61	£ 149.99
11/03/2024		Fee for attendance at Networking event (Cllr Duckworth)	BACS 62	£ 79.00
23/02/2024	The Play Inspection Company Ltd	Fee for annual play area inspection	BACS 63	£ 99.00
04/03/2024	Smart Garden Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance invoice 561	BACS 64	£ 590.83
04/03/2024	Smart Grden Services Ltd	Grounds Maintenance invoice 562	BACS 65	£ 590.83
13/01/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Check & adjust generator 1, fuel & bleed, oil, battery run & test outputs. Elect test cert. (Inv 212247)	BACS 66	£ 356.39
13/01/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Check & adjust generator 2, fuel & bleed, oil, battery run & test outputs. Elect test cert. (Inv 212248)	BACS 67	£ 356.39

13/01/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Check & adjust generator 2, fuel & bleed, oil, battery run & test outputs. Elect test cert. (Inv 212249)	BACS 68	£ 356.39
13/01/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Replace faulty batteries on all 3 generators (Inv 212250)	BACS 69	£ 227.52
13/01/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Secure storage for generators with battery smart charger, Jan 24 (Inv 212251)	BACS 70	£ 36.00
13/02/2024	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Secure storage for generators with battery smart charger, Feb 24 (Inv 212931)	BACS 71	£ 36.00

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 Church and seconded by Cllr Sims that the financial report for the period ending 29th February 2024 be received. **RESOLVED**

8. 23.247 To receive and note an update on the local Council Elections to take place on 2nd May 2024

The Clerk had encouraged APC members to bring along their Nomination forms to the meeting. All forms were checked for completeness, electoral register numbers of proposers and seconders were added and the Clerk took the forms away with the intention of handing them to the Elections Team during an appointment booked for that purpose at County Hall at 09:30 on Friday 22nd March. It was noted that one form will need to be re-done and submitted later – before the deadline of 5th April. It was also noted that one existing member of the Council has decided not to re-stand, so members of the public were encouraged to consider putting themselves forward as a candidate - to ensure all of the Council seats are filled.

ACTION:THE CLERK

9. 23.248 To further consider the council’s current banking arrangements, and possible alternatives.

The Clerk reminded members that on 2nd March he had circulated some further information about Unity Trust Bank, including a critical review by a member of the Scribe Accounts team of the bank accounts available which meet the specific requirements of Parish & Town Councils. In the meantime, thanks to the efforts of Cllr Patrick there has been some progress in getting administrative access for the Clerk to the Council’s accounts with Barclays. It is therefore hoped that this matter will be fully resolved soon. In the meantime, the Clerk encouraged members to review the information he has circulated about the Unity Trust Bank.

ACTION: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

10. 23.249 To consider a proposal to purchase the following spares to enable the Wareham Mens' Shed to refurbish the Flood Barrier:

20 x Floodstop Units – 1 x foam base only: £30 Ex Works, Ex VAT = £600.00

6 x Multi-hubs – 1 x foam base only: £30 Ex Works, Ex VAT = £180.00

25 x Connectors – 1 x complete connection key: £55 Ex Works, Ex VAT = £1,375.00

Total Ex VAT Ex Works = £2,155. Delivery Approx £95 Ex VAT.

Cllr Sims explained that due to the elapsed time since the above prices were obtained these should now be considered to be estimates only, and that he would ask the suppliers for an updated quotation. In the meantime the Council indicated its **APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE** for the expenditure on this crucial equipment.

ACTION: CLLR SIMS

11. 23.250 To review and approve the Flood Plan circulated be email to members on 02/03/24 (circulated to APC members as an appendix to the agenda)

Councillor Ives introduced this item by explaining that The Flood Plan document had been modified to include reference to a local monitoring procedure which gives some early warning that a flood may occur. The Council Chair thanked and congratulated Cllr Ives for his hard work and determination in producing the plan. Copies of the plan will now be sent to Wareham Town Council, Dorset Council Highways and the Police.

ACTION: THE CLERK to forward copies to Wareham TC, DC Highways and the Police.

12. Parish Reports

23.251 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:

Cllrs Ives and Church attended Purbeck Community Rail Project - 2RN (Arne) Mini Bus Project Meeting on 21 March. It was noted that a further request for a funding contribution towards the running cost of the bus for 2024 (only) will be included on the agenda of the April APC meeting.

Cllr Ives had also attended a site meeting with a Ridge resident concerned about potential flooding and the need to clarify with the Environment Agency about their comment to maintain a drainage ditch.

Cllr Duckworth reported on the DAPTC Councillors' Networking meeting held at Kingston Maurward college earlier in the month.

Cllr Cranshaw reported on her attendance at the latest Stakeholders meeting for the Arne Moors project.

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

Stoborough Village Hall – Mr Morgan reported that bookings have increased. He also remarked that they will be upgrading the lights in the main hall.

Furzebrook Village hall – nothing to report.

Ridge Residents Association – Cllr Church reported that the Residents Association had sought comment from residents about the use made of the 2RN bus, and whether they would support a proposal to help fund its running costs. Very few responses reported using the bus, and a substantial majority were not in favour of APC contributing funding to its running costs.

Stoborough Village School – Cllr Cranshaw reported that the school is hoping to acquire its own minibus

23.253 Hayricks: Cllr Sims reported that the supplier has promised a quote for supply and fitting of the replacement signs on Monday 25th March. In response to the Annual RoSPA safety inspection, Cllr Sims has obtained a quote from Southern Playground Services for the necessary remedial actions. He indicated that he would forward copies to Cllr Cranshaw and the Clerk for information.

Cllr Sims also reported that he had met a decorator on site and is now awaiting a quote for painting the benches. He also commented on a tree which had fallen onto public footpath 11, which Adam Smart (Smart Garden Services) had arranged to clear up. Regarding the maintenance of the trees alongside FP11, Cllr Sims reported that following his site meeting with the DC Tree Officer, he had labelled the trees included in the report and forwarded that information to the Tree Officer. He is awaiting copies of the relevant TPOs. He noted that the next step is to complete the necessary application form(s).

ACTION: CLLR SIMS

23.254 Allotments: It was noted that there is one vacant plot. Cllr Duckworth reported that he has been publicising the availability of this plot amongst existing Allotment holders. An advertisement is also to be added to the website.

ACTION: THE CLERK & CLLR SIMS

23.255 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: nothing to report.

13. 23.256 To consider Planning Applications received

P/HOU/2024/01079 32 Barnhill Road Ridge BH20 5BG. Demolish sun room and erect single storey rear extension and extend garage at rear. The Parish Council had **NO OBJECTION**.

P/FUL/2024/01098 Former Engine Shed Barnhill Road Wareham BH20 5BG. Convert existing building into 2no bedroom dwelling with a single storey side extension, internal alterations and erect new outbuilding.

P/LBC/2024/01099 Former Engine Shed Barnhill Road Ridge. Convert existing building into 2no bedroom dwelling with a single storey side extension, internal alterations and erect new outbuilding.

The Parish Council noted that this application raised some complex and sensitive issues. Without some significant work this historically significant building, located on an important and sensitive site, is in danger of collapsing. As part of the Council's consideration of this application opinion had been obtained from local experts - Ben Buxton, a former inspector of Ancient Monuments, and Graham Feldwick Archaeological History Editor of the Narrow Guage Railway Society. Mr Buxton had indicated that he did not object to the proposal provided the appearance of the former engine shed was retained. Mr Feldwick expressed similar views. He stressed the importance of the building and the site, and with this in mind he suggested a number of conditions, consistent with Mr Buxton's views, to request the Local Planning Authority to apply to any granted permission – namely:

- Ensuring the Engine Shed retains its overall appearance, and in particular that the sliding doors at the front are completely and accurately reproduced, with runners and trackway, and affixed to the proposed north wall.
- That as much of the hood affixed internally to the roof is retained as possible. Also, that the chimney in the roof is either kept or replicated.

- That any reinstatement of 'railway track' should be on the actual course of the railway, and should be of 2ft 8in gauge. If rails are used they should be of the correct weight. It would be good to show some track on stone blocks, to record the long history of the railway.
- That due consideration should be given to the historic features on the entire site, and in particular the pans which are still present, and also the various building bases.

In recognition of the above points the Parish Council expressed its **SUPPORT** for this proposal and will request to the Local Planning Authority to consider the suggested conditions, if approval is granted.

14 23.257 Correspondence and items for action and resolution

(a) To note the correspondence from a resident of Ridge regarding the noticeboard, and actions in hand. Cllr Church reported that representatives from Wareham Mens' shed will examine the noticeboard before the end of the week. He also indicated that he would ask them to now also examine the noticeboard adjacent to Stoborough Primary School.

ACTION: CLLR
CHURCH

15. 23.258 Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

It was reported that some correspondence from a resident of Arne, seeking advice on a possible planning application on behalf of her father, had been satisfactorily dealt with by the Clerk. He had spoken to the resident at length and had referred her to DC Planning Dept for professional pre-application advice.

16. 23.259 Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only:

There was none.

17. 23.260 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 8:45pm

Date of next meetings:

Thursday, 18th April, 2024. At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall

Annual Parish Council meeting Thursday, 16th May 2024, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall

APPENDIX 1

DORSET COUNCIL WARD MEMBERS' REPORT

Cllr Ryan Holloway DC Report - Arne PC March 2024

Dorset Council (DC)

The Full DC meeting was on Tuesday 13th February 6.30pm when the Council approved 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. The government minister: Levelling up, announced more funds for Local Councils; DC will receive £3.9 million. This will help offset the overspend reducing it to £8m.

There is a scheduled Full council meeting at DC before the election on the 11th of April but it's unlikely that the meeting will go ahead. The Cabinet meeting scheduled for April 16th has now been cancelled due to insufficient business.

Local Elections will be on May 2nd. Please remember you will need valid ID to vote, you can go the DC website to check what counts as valid ID.

The DC Household Support Fund's has now been extended.

The household Support fund has now been extended by the chancellor for another 6 months this is welcoming news. 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

At currently there is no planned works I see for across the ward and the parish.

Former Middle School Site & Playing Fields

The DC are making slow progress in the development of this site for supported housing. Proposing to put together several sites to make it more viable to Developers. The Town Council's Application to DC for the Asset Transfer of the Playing Fields is welcomed.

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.

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.

DC has awarded the Wareham Youth Centre as one of its 8 Family Hubs in Dorset; for the Wareham area, to support families from birth thro' life making local services available there – eg: the Job Centre based in Poole, to visit on a weekly basis.

Dorset Community Tree fund

A new grant is now available to apply for, managed by Dorset National Landscapes (was AONB), the scheme is open to Town & Parish Council and community organisations, in the Dorset area; 25% match funding/volunteers time is required to be successful on receiving a grant. Apply on the DNL website. Advice to determine which trees are suitable will be given, and support after planting.

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.