



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY 21<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2024**  
**AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: T Brodie-James, I Church, I Duckworth, A Patrick and M Sims

**Chair:** Cllr R Cranshaw

**Clerk:** Mr T Watton

**Also Present:** six members of the public.

**1. To receive apologies for absence**

24.167 Cllr J Ives. Dorset Cllrs B Ezzard and R Holloway also sent their apologies.

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

24.168 Three residents of Ridge spoke of their concerns about the proposed development Ref number P/FUL/2024/05245 Floradine, Arne Road, Ridge. Their expressed concerns included that they believed the proposal to be too substantial for the site (overdevelopment) and therefore not in keeping with the surrounding properties and street scene, inadequate parking provision and poor access on a narrow road, and poor drainage on the site which may then result in an adverse impact on the existing drainage system serving the current neighbouring properties.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**3. Declaration of Interests**

24.169 Cllr Patrick declared a personal (but non-pecuniary) interest in planning application P/FUL/2024/05245 and subsequently took no part in discussing this.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

24.170 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 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting. The Council Chair expressed her thanks to Cllr Patrick for chairing the October meeting.

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

24.171 Cllr Cranshaw commented on enquiries about ownership of the land to the west of the causeway. She reported that the Environment Agency are looking into this for their own purposes (for landowner permission for monitoring of water levels) and had identified that the land in question is currently unregistered with the Land Registry. However, it is understood that registration is in progress and the EA will therefore inform the Council when they know. Cllr Brodie-James will also feed this information back to Mrs Walker.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**6. Dorset Councillor's Report.**

24.172 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.

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

7(a) 24.173 The following payments were presented for approval:

INVOICE DATE	BACS number	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
<b>Payments already made</b>				
01/11/2024	DD	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Allotments monthly subscription (INV-7382)	£21.60
<b>Payments due</b>				
21/11/2024	53/24	T Watton	Salary, Nov	£741.60
21/11/2024	55/24	HMRC	PAYE, Nov	£208.72
21/11/2024	56/24	Smart Garden Services	Monthly grounds works (stoborough meadow & open spaces). Pruning tree opposite 27 Stoborough Meadow. Spraying	£725.83
21/11/2024	57/24	Dorset Council	Repair to SID screen and fitting polycarb protector	£372.00
21/11/2024	58/24	Stoborough Village Hall	Hire of hall for meetings, Aug 2023 - Sept 2024	£260.00
21/11/2024	59/24	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Allotments set-up fee (INV-7381)	£151.20
21/11/2024	60/24	SLCC	One third share of Clerk's annual SLCC membership subscription	£78.54
21/11/2024	61/24	Shelley Cranshaw	Reimbursement for hire of skip to dispose of old flood barrier parts	£147.00
21/11/2024	62/24	Jurassic Computers	Laptop service / support	£40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>£2,746.49</b>

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved and paid.

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.

**7(b) To note the steps taken towards preparation of the proposed budget for 2025/26.**

24.174 A copy of the updated document / template was circulated to all members ahead of the meeting, and a copy is associated at **Appendix 3** to these minutes. The Parish Clerk explained that he had updated this with October actual expenditures per cost code, November actual income (i.e. allotment rental fees received to date) and November proposed expenditures per cost code. He had also reviewed and updated the forecast rest-of-year and year-end totals per cost code and had added explanatory notes (where required) behind some of the numbers entered. Finally, he explained that he had entered a ‘first cut’ set of suggested numbers per cost code in the column highlighted in yellow. These suggested numbers are supported in some cases by explanatory comments in the final (right hand) column. They are intended as a starting point for Council members’ consideration and debate at the January Council meeting when the budget and precept need to be finalised.

This was duly **NOTED** by the Council.

ACTION: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

**8. Governance matters**

**24.175**

**(a) To note progress towards the review the Council’s current Allotments policy and tenancy agreement.**

The Clerk explained that an informal meeting between Cllrs Cranshaw and Duckworth and the Parish Clerk took place on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November. A number of process matters were discussed including the number of vacant plots, general condition of plots, the upkeep of the ‘shared areas’, the level of rental payments, and the rental year start & end dates. A proposal will be put forward separately for a change to the rental year start & end dates and plot rental charges for 2026. Due to the level of detail involved, it was agreed that a further meeting will need to be held to review the Allotments Policy and Rental Agreement before a proposal for any changes to these can be put forward for Council consideration at its January meeting.

ACTION: THE CLERK &  
CLLR DUCKWORTH

## **9. Parish Reports**

### **24.176 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:**

- Cllr Brodie-James reported on a meeting held with Mrs Walker (Assistant Flood Warden) regarding condition of the drainage channels on the land adjacent to the causeway. He is liaising with Catherine Farrugia (Catchment Engineer, Environment Agency) on these matters. He also reported on trips made to the DC sandbag store to establish a local supply for public use within the parish.
- Cllr Duckworth reported on his attendance at the recent Dorset COP event held at Bournemouth University. He also reported on attendance at a Dorset National Landscape (formerly AONB) meeting in October and the Wareham ARC meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> November.
- Cllr Sims commented on the AGM of the Stoborough Meadows Residents Association. Some points were raised at that meeting related to the Hayricks. These are referred to in minute **24.178** below. However, a point was raised about road safety - concerning poor visibility at the junction of Corfe Rd and New Road, Stoborough. This is caused by large vehicles regularly being parked in the lay-by on Corfe Rd immediately alongside this junction. Members wondered if this matter could be taken up with DC Highways and / or Road Safety Team. The Clerk agreed to write to Dorset Council accordingly.

ACTION: THE CLERK

- Cllr Cranshaw attended an online seminar arranged by DAPTC dealing with the changes to, the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) proposed by the Government. She had made some notes of this meeting available to members in an email. On 21<sup>st</sup> November she also attended a meeting at which an NHS Senior Medical Officer provided an update on the initiative to transfer Accident & Emergency facilities from Poole Hospital to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. It is understood that this change will take effect from Spring 2025.

### **24.177 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 AGM was held during week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> November. The lighting system in the main hall is currently being upgraded; and there are plans for the upgrading the exterior lighting. The Christmas tree will be put up week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks were offered to Cllr Brodie James for providing the tree.

Furzebrook Village Hall – it was noted that the hall fire extinguishers have just been inspected.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association - Nothing further to report.

Ridge Residents Association - Nothing to report.

Stoborough Primary school – Nothing to report.

### **24.178 Hayricks:**

Cllr Sims reported on the three quotes received for the repair to the damaged concrete path. Having considered these he proposed that the Council should accept the quote of £600 from Riley Groundworks. Proposed: Cllr Church, seconded: Cllr Duckworth. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve this.

Cllr Sims reported that the Wareham Men's Shed have the work on the two replacement back-to-back benches in hand, within an agreed budget of £1500.

Cllr Sims reported on a concern raised by a resident whose pet dog may have been affected by weed spraying at the Hayricks. It was suggested that Smart Garden Services be asked to put suitably worded warning signs on display whilst spraying is going ahead and for a short period afterwards. It was proposed by Cllr Patrick and seconded by Cllr Duckworth to approve expenditure of £100 on such signs. Unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve.

A member of public drew attention to low branches on a Chestnut tree on a roadside corner in Stoborough Meadow which is obscuring visibility. It was **RESOLVED** to ask Mr Smart to deal with this.

ACTIONS: CLLR SIMS

**24.179 SANG:**

The Parish Clerk agreed to chase up the Scott Estate Office regarding the matter of the waterlogged / muddy path at the SANG which was first reported to them some months ago.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**24.180 Allotments:**

The Scribe Allotments system has now been fully set up, a proper waiting list has been established and residents on the list have been contacted to confirm that are still interested. Invoices for the 2024-25 rental year have been issued. Eleven tenants have already paid. Reminders will be sent as necessary. One existing tenant has been in touch to give his plot up and this has already been offered to the person at the top of the waiting list.

It was noted that the vacant plots notified to Adam Smart for attention have now been cleared and covered. It was noted that this includes a line of three half plots together.

Cllr Duckworth reported that an idea to create a shared area somewhere at the north-western end (i.e. far end) of the line of three vacant half plots to deliver and store manure for tenants' use has proved to be impractical due to the seasonally very soft / wet ground conditions in this area. An alternative idea to create a shared area at the south-eastern end (i.e. nearest Corfe Rd) for this purpose is now being considered.

**24.181 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group:** Cllr Duckworth reported that he had made enquiries and has found out that this group intends to re-start its meetings in the new year.

**10. To consider Planning Applications received**

**24.182 Delegated –**

- **P/TRC/2024/06397 West Way West Lane Stoborough Wareham BH20 5DA. T1 Holly - Fell. T2 Cypress - Fell. Replant with smaller tree species. NO OBJECTION**
  
- **P/FUL/2024/05245 Floradene Arne Road Ridge BH20 5BH. Erection of 2 detached dwellings with associated access and parking.** The Parish Council noted that this latest proposal is very similar to a previous one, P/FUL/2022/04771, which was objected to by the Parish Council and subsequently refused by the Local planning Authority. This latest proposal does not address the concerns and grounds for objection put forward by the Parish Council on that previous occasion; namely
  - (a) that the density of the proposed development of this site will adversely affect the surrounding properties and the character of the area.
  - (b) The parking arrangements are inadequate and will lead to additional on road parking.
  - (c) Drainage from the site may also be affected by further development.

These points all remain applicable to this latest proposal and so consequently the Parish Council wishes to register an **OBJECTION** to it.

- **P/HOU/2024/06789 Purbeck View Barnhill Road Ridge Wareham BH20 5BG. Erect a two-storey side extension and a single storey rear extension with internal alterations. NO OBJECTION.**
- **P/HOU/2024/06722 3 Old Furzebrook Road Wareham BH20 5DD. Erect single storey side extension to replace conservatory and 4 dormers to roof at first floor level. NO OBJECTION.**

ACTION: THE CLERK

**11 – 13 Other matters.**

**11. To consider the national consultation on the proposal for remote / hybrid meetings and proxy voting.**

**24.183** It was the Council’s view that, in the interests of democracy, all of the members of a Council should always meet face-to-face. This is due to concerns that the quality of members’ interaction and discussion, and of Council decision-making, would suffer in situations where members’ attendance is a mixture of online and in-person attendance. The Council did not therefore support a move to permit hybrid meetings. Regarding proxy voting, the Council’s collective view was that voting by proxy should only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, and in those cases the process must require that all proxy votes are made via the Parish Clerk only. The Clerk is to submit these views via the consultation process on behalf of Arne Parish Council.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**12. To receive and consider any update on the resilience hub initiative.**

**24.184** It was noted that Cllr Ives has specialist engineering knowledge on this and so this matter will be considered after his return from holiday.

**13. To receive and consider a progress update on the review of allotment policy matters.**

**24.185** A meeting between Cllrs Cranshaw and Duckworth with the Parish Clerk took place on 15<sup>th</sup> November. At that meeting a suggestion was explored to change the tenancy year to 1<sup>st</sup> Jan-31 Dec, with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> Jan 2026. It was also suggested to increase the rental charges for plots to £15 per half plot and £25 per full plot with effect from the 2026 rental year.

Cllr Duckworth also reported on a suggestion being considered to introduce a system of deposits for new tenants. These will be returned if plots are handed back in good condition at the end of each tenancy.

Some discussion took place regarding means of promoting allotment gardening to take up the currently vacant plots and to boost the waiting list. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk would draft an advertisement to forward to Cllr Partrick to post on the Wareham & District Facebook site. It was noted that this initial meeting did not consider the detail within the Allotments Policy, Tenancy Agreement and Bonfire Regulations, and therefore it was decided that a further meeting will be arranged to take place before the next Parish Council meeting (in January 2025) to take this further and report back to the Full Council with recommendations.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**14. Correspondence and items for action and resolution**

**24.186** None.

**15. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:**

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

24.188

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20:30

**Date of next meetings:**

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2024, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

**Appendix 1**

**Report from Dorset Council Ward Member Ryan Holloway**

**Dorset Council (DC)**

The next full Council Meeting will be on Thursday 5 December at 6.30pm. DC Cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> November in that meeting the agenda item regarding the level crossing was withdrawn, Beryl & I were pleased to see this withdrawn as were deeply concerned about the lack of consultation with local T & PC and the steering group, Vikki Slade MP has now reported to us that she is seeking a meeting with Office road & Rail (ORR) we are working with her and with Town Trust and Town Council to find a way forward.

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

This is available through the partnership with Citizens Advice, and Age Concern. There are Funding opportunities from Dorset Council; see website. There are still funds available.

**Wareham Area Community Speedwatch Team**

Regular Sessions monitoring the speed of traffic in the Sandford & Wareham areas have taken place. We hope to have fortnightly sessions, across the Wareham Ward area. Cllr Matt Richter is our Team Leader – a Facebook page has been set up for volunteers to join the Team.

**Lidl Planning Application decision OVERTURNED by Planning Comte on 6 November'**

This Planning Application has been GRANTED subject to the Govt's Secretary of State, Angela Rayner's consideration as it will be more than 1,000m<sup>2</sup> of retail on a green belt site. Possibly with the NPPF being modified by the new Govt. in January, to be a "grey belt "site, it will be rubberstamped!  
We were all shocked and very disappointed to say the least, as the decision was 50 – 50 with the Planning Chair having the casting vote - giving support to Grant.... overturning the Planning Officer's recommendation to REFUSE it! There was no condition put, as we had requested, for a Controlled Pedestrian/cycle crossing that would make walking and cycling safer and more appealing for local folk from Northport, Northmoor & Carey. There was great concern shown, even by those wanting it as to road safety. As there is no pavement one side towards Wareham for one kilometre and the only controlled crossing the other way is also one kilometre by Sandford Garage!?! This will have serious consequences: fear of crossing the road, so increase car use, more congestion and frustration.

**DC Road Works**

There is proposed Road closure on Puddletown Road on the 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2025 for one day, where Openreach will be carrying out works to install new fibre lines. This should be completed on the same day.

**Dorset Cllrs Monthly Advice Surgeries: These are on-going in the library New Surgery Times** Ryan on fourth Saturday every month; 10-12 noon. Beryl on second Friday every month 10.00-12 noon. Anyone is welcome to come along and see us, no appointment necessary.

**Appendix 2**

**Bank reconciliation and accounts update.**

See associated .pdf file

**Appendix 3**

**Work on budget for 2025-26**

**See associated .pdf file**