



Parish of Arne

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18th December 2014 AT THE STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL, WEST LANE, STOBOROUGH COMMENCING 7.00pm

Present: Cllrs A Pellegrini, A Wakefield-Sutton, D Hunter, R Scragg, R Bessant

Chair: Cllr C Macleod

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also Present: 8 members of the public, County Cllr M Lovell

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited our guest speaker, Dante Munns, Dorset & Wilshire Area Manager for the RSPB to speak. He spoke regarding the 1500 hectares of heathland, salt marsh and woodland in and around Arne and the work RSPB have been doing in conjunction with Imerys creating a saline lagoon. Saline lagoons are one of the rarest habitats in the country. The site of the ancient woodland that had been destroyed by the mining activity will be returned to heathland and the existing ancient woodland will be preserved. The exchange on the lagoon area land is due to take place on the 22nd December. Cllr Macleod asked about public access to the saline lagoon but the RSPB are still considering how this might be possible. The RSPB are looking at how they could create a circular route around the area without impacting adversely on the wildlife and habitats. The RSPB now also own what was the Toy Museum and this is going to be turned into the new visitor centre, shop and café. The gardens are going to be re-landscaped to be more wildlife friendly and activities can be held there. They anticipate around 80,000 visitors in 2014-15. This may increase with the new acquisitions and a mitigation strategy is being looked at. A programme of deer management has been undertaken over the last 10 years and numbers are now just below 200. This means the reed beds are able to recover and enables the introduction of cattle and pony grazing. This grazing scheme will link up with that of Hartland in the future.

Dante went on to discuss the work they are doing with the Environment Agency (EA), sea walls and around Turners Close sluice. They have been looking at how they can prevent spending the large amounts of money to maintain the sea wall, whilst still protecting the habitats that sit towards the back of the site. Mangalitzza pigs are being used on the heathland restoration land at Grange.

Q & A:

How do you plan to keep the road from getting regularly flooded? From the sea level rise point of view, if the sea wall is brought further back it will prevent flooding from that direction. With reference to the rainfall flooding, the RSPB are speaking to landowners regarding blocked ditches.

What consultation will take place to ensure that any future work will not have a detrimental effect on the residential properties nearby? The EA have said that the tide banks referred to do not protect any properties. Retreating the banks back will help prevent flooding along the Arne Road.

Perhaps the local artists would be able to hold workshops on the site, working with the RSPB and it may be possible to incorporate the Church. A woodland sculpture trail could be a possibility for the future.

What are the RSPB proposing to do, i.e. engaging the community and using their local knowledge? For example; the heathland at Stoborough had Dartford Warblers but the gorse was removed and the Warblers left. Are the local people going to be involved in the various projects? Gorse runs in a 15 year cycle and there is only a limited period during that time which is appropriate for the Warbler. The gorse management was done in order to break up the age structure so there will always be a mosaic effect. The RSPB does need to engage people more to explain what they are doing and why.

Work on the visitor centre should start this coming summer with a view to it being opened towards the end of next year.

If the tides do rise by any significant amount, there is a risk of the flooding going out on to the Arne Road and into the upper end of Ridge. More consultation should take place. We need a joined up approach between the RSPB and the EA. The Ridge residents would like to see the bund going right up to the Arne Road. During the recent "draw a pine" session, the road was dangerous due to the increased number of vehicles and, should visitor numbers increase, this will become a greater problem. The RSPB has negotiated with the EA and this has led to the publication of the coastal erosion document. It is unsustainable to maintain the sea wall in its current location and the report clearly states that it does not protect houses, whilst moving the sea wall back, it will. The existing wall will be maintained until the new wall is in place behind it. It was agreed that a visitor centre would be developed without requiring a need to increase visitor numbers. Arne is already one of the most popular visitor sites. The passing places on the road are very clear but the road has crept wider and wider and it is now possible for 2 cars to pass.

Will the EA take the lead on the flood plans or will it be a combination of the EA and the RSPB? It will be a partnership. The EA provide the expertise and money but the RSPB need to okay the work.

1. Declaration of Interests

15/129 The Chairman asked councillors for any Declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary Interest on items contained in the agenda applicable to themselves or spouse/partner. There were none declared.

Members of the public were asked if anyone had any intention of filming or recording the meeting. There were no intentions given.

2. To receive apologies for absence

15/130 Apologies had been received from Cllr V Ward and from District Cllr B Kenward.

3. To confirm the minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 20th November 2014

15/131 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all councillors prior to the start of the meeting.

Cllr Bessant proposed them to be a true and accurate record of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Wakefield-Sutton and agreed unanimously. The minutes were signed by the Chairman in the presence of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising – for report only

15/132 The trees on the bypass and roundabout have now been cut back.

Cllr Pellegrini contacted the Scott Estate by letter regarding the hedges along Sunnyside but has not received any response. A resident of Gover Close went and cut the hedge back and our thanks are extended to him.

The flooding at Nutcrack Lane has now been sorted.

Natural England had said they would check on who owns the ditch along Arne Road. The Clerk will follow this up.

ACTION: CLERK

Hayricks path – there is no redress to the builder. Cllr Wakefield-Sutton reported that the minor degrading of the concrete path had been brought up at a Resident’s meeting and it was felt that nothing was being done about it. This is not the case. It is currently being monitored on a weekly basis. The Clerk will speak to Steve Syrett and see if he is able to carry out repairs.

ACTION: CLERK

Councillors attended the site of the tree works along Arne Road, together with Bob Ashington from Natural England. It was a very interesting visit and the work has yet to start. A thank you has been sent to Bob for giving up his time.

5. Public Participation Period

15/133 Mrs Hourigan – resident of 49 Stoborough Meadow, reported a problem regarding flooding of the footpath behind the properties (FP11). Members were issued with some notes relevant to the problem. The flooding affects 6 properties. The runoff rain water from the garages causes the whole of this section to flood. Arne Parish Council own the land and there is no drainage in this area. There is now also subsidence along the path. Cllr Hunter and the Clerk will liaise and try to find out what is happening with regard to the soakaways, etc.

ACTION: CLLRS HUNTER, MACLEOD/CLERK

6. County Councillor’s Report

15/134 Cllr Lovell – not very much to report apart from DCC trying to sort the budget out.

7. District Councillor’s Report

15/135 Cllr Kenward was unable to attend the meeting.

8. To Consider Items for Discussion/Report

15/136 Results of planning applications submitted to County / District Council. These can now be found on the monthly spreadsheet.

15/137 Representatives' Reports on meetings attended since the last meeting

Stoborough Village Hall – another meeting has been held and an application is in for work to be carried out on the car park. It is anticipated that it will take some time to go through the planning process due to the drainage issues. The earliest it could be done is August but may not even be this year. Mrs Scragg asked what is happening about the sand bags by the side of the hall and by the front gate. Many are splitting and all need to be moved and stored elsewhere. Cllr Ward will be notified. Mrs Scragg will remain the Parish Council's representative to the Village Hall Committee. *Post meeting note: Cllr Wakefield-Sutton has since offered to act as the Parish Council's representative as Mrs Scragg represents the WI and each organisation using the Village Hall is entitled to one representative.*

Furzebrook Village Hall – nothing to report

Stoborough Meadow – no-one present.

Ridge Residents – nothing to report other than the carol singing, which was attended by about 40 people.

Cllr Pellegrini – PDC training on “How the system works.”

Cllr Scragg – PDC training session on Renewable Energy. Arne Road walk

Cllrs Wakefield-Sutton – PDC training session on “How the system works” – very interesting. Arne Road walk.

Cllr Bessant – Burial board on an informal basis as Nigel Barnes has had to step down as the Parish Council's representative. Cllr Hunter proposed that Cllr Bessant become our official representative on the board. This was seconded by Cllr Wakefield-Sutton and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will write to the Burial Board formalising this. PDC training session on “How the system works”. Arne Road walk.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Hunter – PDC training on “How the system works”. Walk along Arne Rod

Cllr Macleod – PDC training on Renewable Energy and “How the system works. DAPTC Executive AGM. Now have a new chairman – Cllr Haydon-White from Blandford. Arne Road walk.

15/138 To consider if actions are required

Letter to the Burial Board.

15/139 Web site update

The survey draft report has been put.

15/140 Training in December/January

PDC – Tuesday 20th January – Dealing with Planning Constraints – with the exception of Cllr Macleod, all councillors will be booked in.

ACTION: CLERK

The next DAPTC training session has yet to be decided but will be titled "So you want to be a Councillor". It will take place in January/February and will be open to the public. They will also be running a course entitled "Preparing for a General Election". Again, the date has yet to be arranged.

9. To consider any PLANNING APPLICATIONS received

15/141 Non- Delegated - none

Delegated:

- 6/2014/0602 29 Corfe Road, Stoborough

Extend drop kerb & create new vehicular access

The Planning Working Group had no objections to this application

- 6/2014/0597 Kelmacott, Puddletown Road

Demolish existing garage & erect new garage in front

Although the proposal would more than double the size of the property, it was felt that there was sufficient space on the site for it not to appear overcrowded and the neighbours would not be overlooked. In addition, other properties along this stretch had carried out similar large alterations. No objections were made.

- 6/2014/0654 Stoborough Village Hall

Car park improvements & surface water drainage

Welcome the work. No objection.

TWA/2014/0219 2 The Meerings, Ridge

Work to oaks and Scots pine

The working group recommended no objections.

10. Correspondence/items for action and resolution

15/142 Clerk's Report

A copy had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. There were no additional comments to be made. Councillors and members of the public were encouraged to complete the Dorset Waste Partnership consultation on the Household Recycling Centres. It was suggested that a representation to DWP is made on behalf of the Parish Council. Members felt that closing for 2 days would be the best option and the risk of fly-tipping should the centres be closed or charges put on them should be stressed. Hugh Ricks reported that, in Bristol, they closed the site for a couple of days and the public piled the rubbish outside the gate.

ACTION: CLERK

15/143 Dispensations

No requests had been received.

15/144 To consider the Stoborough Meadows Maintenance Plan for 2015

A copy had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Although a quotation had still not been received from Anvil, it is anticipated that it will be in the region of £4,000 and this will be taken from the S106 monies for this year.

15/145 To confirm the Precept Proposal for 2015/16

The Finance Working Party, consisting of all members of the Council had discussed this at a meeting held on the 4th December. The proposal is to set the Precept at £28,700, an increase of 9.34%. This equates to £3.49 being added to the Council tax for a band D property. No further comments were made.

It was proposed by Cllr Hunter, seconded by Cllr Bessant and agreed unanimously that the Precept is set at £28,700. The Clerk will submit this to PDC.

ACTION: CLERK

15/146 Neighbourhood Plan update

The Steering Group has now received the draft of Newsletter 6. The findings of the survey are now available on the web site. Should anyone have any queries, they will be directed to the Clerk who will then refer back to the Steering Group. We are now looking at the format of the Plan and the policies to be drawn out of the information gathered. The bulk of the information will be on housing but we need to look more into the flooding issues and need more volunteers to join the Flood Mitigation Group. Some raffle prizes have still not been claimed. This included the first prize of £20. If this is not claimed by the 31st January, it will be put back into the Neighbourhood Plan funds. Any of the perishable prizes not claimed by 31st January will be donated to the Wareham Food Bank.

15/147 To consider reinstating a quarterly newsletter and putting information in the Purbeck Gazette

This was discussed at the last Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting and it was felt that this would be very useful tool to keep residents informed of the work of the Parish Council. All members are in agreement that this should be reinstated. Cllr Hunter suggested each councillor take it in turns to gather the information and edit it. Cllr Scragg is happy to help with copy. We will begin with one quarterly, the first one being in March 2015. All contributions should be with Cllr Scragg by the beginning of March. Cllr Wakefield-Sutton asked if there could be a small section to include items of interest happening around the parish.

ACTION: ALL COUNCILLORS/CLERK

15/148 To consider correspondence received since the Agenda was set for discussion and possibly placing on the agenda for the next meeting

Nothing to add.

15/149 To consider items raised by the public during the Participation Period for discussion and placing on the next agenda

Cllrs Macleod and Hunter, together with the Clerk, will arrange a date to meet and discuss the flooding at Stoborough Meadow.

ACTION: CLLR HUNTER/CLERK

11. To consider payments of accounts

15/150 The following payments had been requested:

S Syrett	Ridge fingerpost repairs	200477	320.00
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Signed:

R Scragg	Materials re cycle signs	200478	47.37
Anvil	Stoborough Meadow – November	200479	411.90
DAPTC	Councillor training	200480	80.00
A Pellegrini	Replacement cheque	200481	13.00
Mrs A Crocker	December wages & expenses	200482	533.08
HMRC	December PAYE	200483	103.00

The total requested is £1,508.35

Cllr Scragg proposed the payments are made and this was seconded by Cllr Wakefield-Sutton and agreed unanimously. The cheques were signed in the presence of the meeting.

12. Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only

There were no additional items.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 20.50pm

Planning Committee meeting date to be agreed if there are any plans to discuss

The next meeting will be on the 15th January 2015 at 7.00pm, Stoborough Village Hall