



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

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

Chair: Cllr S. Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr. T. Watton

Also Present: Cllr. B Ezzard (Dorset Council)

APOLOGIES: Cllrs T Brodie James and A Patrick,

Also Present: 2 Members of the public.

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

1.PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mr Morgan, Chairman of Stoborough Village Hall management team, commented on the village green. He began by thanking Cllr Brodie-James for the Christmas tree which had been placed there in December. He went on to remark that the fence around the Village Green is in some need of repair. A section had given way during the carols in December. In response the Council Chair asked if any of the Village Hall Trustees might know who owns the Village Green. Cllr Bessant believes that part of it is owned by Dorset Council – the boundary of which section is marked by the concrete posts on each of the longer sides. Consequently, the Council Chair asked Dorset Cllr Ezzard if she would make enquiries at DC to clarify this point. It is important to confirm ownership before the Parish Council makes any commitment to spend public money to assist with the cost of repairs. Mr Morgan also drew attention to the path in front of the house named Budley, on the short side of the green, which has become very slippery. It was uncertain whether this is a public right of way. Dorset Cllr Ezzard offered to examine the fence in daylight, find out whether the path is a formal right of way, and check on the matter of ownership of the Village Green. In the meantime, the Council noted the problems reported.

Mr Morgan also expressed concern about local responses to flooding. He remarked that on the 5th January he noted that the causeway was flooded so residents had put out the flood barrier across the road. On his journey home he had been caused delay and inconvenience due to vehicles having to turn around because no “road closed” signs had been put out by DC Highways to warn motorists of the closure. He wondered if it might be possible for the Parish Council to obtain appropriate road signs which may be deployed locally in such circumstances. He would be happy to have these stored in the VH car park. In response the Council Chair explained that the Parish Council shares Mr Morgan's anxiety over this matter. However, the authority to close roads rests with DC Highways and the police only and so DC Highways are not prepared to provide such signs to local councils for their use. It was also explained that the procedure for road closures due to flooding will be covered as a dedicated agenda item later in this meeting (see minute 23.215)

2. Declaration of Interests

.198 None were made.

3. To receive apologies for absence

23.199 Cllrs T Brodie James and A Patrick

4. confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 30th November 2023

23.200 A copy of the minutes had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It was proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 30th November 2023 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

23.201 **D-Day anniversary 6th June 2024.** It was noted that Wareham Town Council are expected to discuss this matter at their meeting during week commencing 22nd January. It is understood that Wareham TC will join in the national initiative to ring the church bells at 6:30pm on 6th June. APC is hoping to link up with any plans they have to mark this significant national anniversary, and to that end the Parish Clerk will keep in contact with the Wareham Town Clerk on the matter.

ACTION: THE CLERK

6. 23.202 Dorset Councillor’s Report. Cllr. Ezzard reported on issues relating to Dorset Council. A copy of the written report prepared by Cllr Holloway had been circulated to council members prior to the meeting and is associated at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

7. 23.203 To confirm the payment of accounts:

The following payments were presented for approval:

ARNE PARISH COUNCIL PAYMENTS – DEC 2023 / JAN 2024

Payments already made

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Pay Ref	Amount
11/12/2023	Landford Trees Ltd	Supply & delivery of 2 trees, plus stakes	BACS42	£ 129.04
07/12/2023	Smart Garden Services	Maintenance Contract	BACS43	£ 615.83
20/12/2023	T Watton	Reimbursement for purchase of laptop made on Council's behalf	BACS44	£ 435.52

Payments due

30/11/2023	Purbeck Youth & Community Foundation	Grant 2023	BACS45 £ 600.00
		Maintenance Contract	BACS46 £ 590.83
09/01/2024	Smart Garden Services	Salary Dec 2023 (Period 9)	BACS47 £ 540.00
	T Watton		
16/01/2024	T Watton	Salary Jan 2024 (period 10)	BACS48 £ 540.00
		PAYE & Employer's NI - T Watton - December (period 9)	BACS49 £ 135.00
16/01/2024	HMRC		
		Nat salary increase back pay from 1st Apr-Oct 2023 (7 months)	BACS50 £ 280.00
16/01/2024	E Macknamara		BACS51 £ 205.00
	HMRC	PAYE & Employer's NI T Watton & E Macknamara - January (period 10)	BACS52 £ 180.00
	Jurassic Computers		
16/01/2024		Set up + data transfer for new laptop	<u>TOTAL £4251.22</u>
15/12/2023			

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.

RESOLVED: That the financial report for the period ending 31st December 2023 be received.

8. 23.204 To receive and consider the council tax base; and the proposed budget and precept for 2024/25.

Parish Clerk referred to the budget and precept proposal report which had been made available to council members ahead of the meeting. The proposed budget and precept for 2024/25 were both unanimously approved as set out in this report. This provided for no change to the precept which had been set for 2023/24; i.e. a total of **£39,540.20**

ACTION: THE CLERK

9. 23.205 To consider alternative solutions to the storage of the flood barrier and related equipment.

Cllr Ives reported that it had been hoped to relocate the existing container which holds the flood barrier and related equipment in the field adjacent to No 2 Corfe Rd cottages so that it is just inside the gate and therefore much closer to the road, so that the time and effort involved in deploying and putting the barrier away would be reduced. However, the landowners felt that they were unable to agree to this. Consequently, Cllrs Ives and Sims had suggested the acquisition of a trolley as a means of transporting the barrier components.

10. 23.206 To consider any suitable locations for installation of electric vehicle charging points under the Dorset Council “Charging Ahead” scheme.

After some discussion the following locations were suggested by council members to pass on to the Dorset Council project manager for this initiative to further investigate:

- Car Park, Stoborough Village Hall.
- Car park adjacent to The Kings Arms PH, Stoborough
- Bog Lane, Stoborough
- Car park at Sunnyside, Ridge.

The Parish Clerk indicated that he would endeavour to speak to the relevant premises / landowners in the first instance to find out whether they are interested, and if so he will pass the details to the Dorset Council project manager for the “Charging Ahead” scheme.

ACTION: THE CLERK

11. 23.207 Governance Review: Standing Orders and Financial Regulations; The Asset Register, and Risk Assessment.

The Parish Clerk had reviewed the above listed documents. He reported as follows:

(i) Risk assessment – An annotated copy of the Council’s Risk Assessment document, last reviewed in Jan 2023, was circulated to all members ahead of this meeting. The Clerk considered it to be very comprehensive and had no suggestions for additions to it. He had however added a few notes indicating minor points for clarification; all of which were considered and accepted.

(ii) Review of Standing Orders and Financial Regs. It was noted that both of these documents were substantially reviewed by the council last year, and the Clerk was aware that NALC had not issued any adjustments to the model versions in the last 12 months. He had read both local versions and had no recommendations for changes. He did however remind members that NALC began a technical review of the Model Financial Regulations in autumn 2023, so it is possible there will be some outputs from that exercise which the council may wish to consider incorporating when they publish them later in 2024.

(iii) Asset Register – The Parish Clerk noted that the valuation figures in the council’s current version of the Asset Register agrees with the figure entered in box 9 of the AGAR for the year ending 31 March 2023. He explained that he had also checked the total valuations for the various groups of assets against the figures on the council’s latest Insurance Schedule. From this is was able to confirm that there is adequate cover, whilst also no over-insurance. The Clerk also noted by examining the council’s financial records YTD that the only asset acquisition so far in 2023/24 has been the replacement of the office laptop. He will make the necessary adjustment to the Asset Register for that in time for the year end, and will continue to keep the Asset Register under review.

ACTION: THE CLERK

12. 23.208 Consideration of Grant application made on behalf of Purbeck and East Dorset Citizens Advice Bureau

The application had been circulated to all members ahead of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £200.

ACTION: THE CLERK

13. Parish Reports

23.209 Councillors’ Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Bessant remarked on his attendance at the following meetings: Wareham Burial Board, 7th Dec 2023, Wytch Farm Well Sites Local Liaison Group Meeting, 9th Jan 2024, RSPB / BBC Winterwatch public meeting, 15th Jan 2024.

Cllr Duckworth commented on a presentation by Dr Pamela Buchan, founder of the Ocean Conservation Trust, at the January meeting of the CEE Support Group at which members were encouraged to support a “motion for the ocean”. This seeks to draw some additional public attention to the importance of marine environmental concerns. He indicated that he would circulate further details to members.

Cllr Church reported on his attendance, via Zoom, at the meeting of the Purbeck Transport Action Group on 9th Jan 2024. He commented that the DC “Charging Ahead” EV charging point scheme (see minute 23.206 above) was covered at that meeting.

Cllr Cranshaw commented on the meeting she, Cllr Sims and Cllr Ives had attended on 5th Jan 2024 at Wareham Town Hall with representatives of Wareham TC, DC Highways and the DC Flood team. The focus of the meeting was on the process for closing and re-opening the causeway, Corfe Rd. It resulted in some valuable progress and understanding between the represented parties. Cllr Cranshaw also remarked on her attendance, with Cllr Bessant, at the Wytch Farm Well Sites Local Liaison Group Meeting on 9th Jan 2024 – where it was announced that the Perenco oil operation is expected to be wound down within a decade, and that the site may be used for future underground carbon capture / storage. Cllr Cranshaw and Cllr Ives met with a local resident regarding concerns about capacity of the Arne Moors site to cope with anticipated future flooding events. These concerns have been passed on to the Environment Agency.

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

The Chairman of the Stoborough Village Hall reported that the hall continues to be well used throughout the daytimes. He reminded everyone present that the pantomime will take place between 6th - 10th of February 2024.

The Furzebrook Village hall car park had remained free of flooding.

Ridge Residents Association AGM is scheduled to take place in early February.

Stoborough Primary School The school has asked to be kept informed of flooding incidents.

23.211 Hayricks: Cllr Sims reported that a gate to the children’s play area which had not been closing properly has now been fixed. The newly planted trees are doing well.

23.212 Allotments: Cllr Duckworth reported that matter of the hedge laying by a local person is still being pursued.

ACTION: CLLR DUCKWORTH

23.213 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: Cllr Duckworth indicated that he would provide a report to the next meeting.

ACTION: CLLR DUCKWORTH

14. 23.214 To consider Planning Applications received

P/HOU/2023/07092 Long Barrow Barnhill Road Ridge BH20 5BG. Single storey extension.

NO OBJECTION

P/FUL/2023/04863 and P/LBC/2023/04692 The Bakehouse Norden Roundabout To Arne Road Corfe Castle BH20 5BJ. Install an external fire escape staircase to the gable wall for emergency

evacuation. Replace existing asbestos fibre sheets on old stye with cement fibre sheets. Remove hard cement render on gable wall with lime render or no render dependent on wall condition.

NO OBJECTION

P/FUL/2023/06444 Arne Farm Arne Wareham BH20 5BJ. Install 2 temporary portacabins on farmland.

NO OBJECTION

P/HOU/2023/07344 83 Corfe Road Stoborough BH20 5AY. Demolition of existing Garage with proposed new Garage.

NO OBJECTION

All applications and results from past applications can be viewed on www.dorsetforyou.com
Plans received after the date of this Agenda will be considered at the next meeting.

ACTION: THE CLERK

15 Correspondence and items for action and resolution

23.215 Updated Flood Plan

The Council Chair explained that a meeting had taken place on the 5th January 2024 involving representatives of Arne Parish Council, Wareham Town Council, DC Highways, and the DC Flood Risk Management team. The meeting had been prompted by Arne Parish Council. This largely arose from concerns about the practicalities of the road closure process, particularly in situations where the DC Highways Duty Engineer who normally authorises such closures cannot be contacted. It was pointed out during 5th Jan meeting that a previous agreement with DC Highways had meant that in such situations the Parish Council and / or the local Flood Wardens could take an emergency decision to close the road. However, it was clarified that the authority to close the road and legal powers to do so lie exclusively with highways authorities and the police. Consequently, the Parish Council were advised that if the DC Highways Duty Engineer is not available a 999 call should be made to ask the police to close the road.

Once the road is closed the flood barrier can be deployed. However, as Cllr Ives explained at the meeting on 5th Jan, the flood barriers are difficult for the Corfe Road residents to move into position, and assistance is needed. At that meeting Wareham Town Council offered to provide practical help in putting out the barrier, as they have a van and a work force of 2. However, they would need to be alerted in advance of this possible eventuality, so their staff could be put on “standby”. Consequently, it was recognised that there is a need for an effective early warning system. Currently this relies largely on observation by local residents, although the EA at East Stoke has a flood warning gage. Other options are being investigated – such as a pole marker for when the water is rising at the Stoborough end of the causeway. This would help us to know at what level we should contact Highways. The EA will be asked if such an indicator could be provided. This would then help to incorporate the likely effects not just of heavy rain but also the fluvial and tidal factors which contribute to such emergencies.

It had been hoped to move the container in which the flood barrier is stored to a point nearer Corfe Road, but permission of the landowners could not be obtained. The possibility of a wheeled container for the barrier is therefore being considered.

A revised local flood plan, to incorporate the above points, is being prepared by Cllr Ives.

ACTIONS: CLLR IVES, CLLR CRANSHAW, THE CLERK,

23.216 Publication of “Planning for Climate Change” advisory documents. Noted.

23.217 Elections Toolkit: ideas for the promotion of council membership amongst the community.

The Parish Clerk drew attention to the availability of the “Elections Toolkit”, which provides details of the significant dates and required actions in the run-up to the local council elections on 2nd May 2024 - when the current term of office for all local councillors ends. The Clerk explained that all Cllrs intending to continue their service on Arne Parish Council beyond 2nd May will need to complete a Nomination Form and submit it to the Dorset Council Elections Team before the deadline of 4pm on 5th April 2024. Related to this, it may be necessary for local councils to consider the need to promote council membership to the public, particularly in situations where any existing council members are not intending to re-stand. This is both for the health of local democracy and so that that the council begins the new year with full membership. The Clerk indicated that he would forward nomination packs to all members for their attention; and would include an agenda item on this topic at the February meeting.

ACTION: THE CLERK

16. 23.218 Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

Cllr Bessant commented on a complaint he had made direct to Dorset Council Highways about water flowing from a drain and down Furzebrook Rd towards the roundabout. He was concerned about the possibility of ice and had pointed out to Highways staff the regular use of that road by heavy lorries. Although DC Highways responded by placing an “Ice” warning sign at that point, it remained unclear whether anything had been done to deal with the overflowing drain which seems to be the source of the problem. Consequently, Cllr Bessant contacted the Parish Clerk who also then spoke to DC Highways to highlight the underlying problem with the drain.

17. 23.219 Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only:

No items were raised.

18. 23.220 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 8:55pm

Date of next meetings:

Thursday, 15th February, 2024 at 7.15pm Stoborough Village Hall

Thursday, 15th March, 2024 at 7.15pm Stoborough Village Hall

APPENDIX 1

DORSET COUNCIL WARD MEMBERS' REPORT

Cllr Ryan Holloway DC Report-Arne Parish Council

First of all I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to working with you in 2024

Dorset Council (DC)

The next DC meeting will take place on Tuesday 13th February, DC Councillors had their 3rd Budget café last week and the result of the Government settlement, It has been proposed that the council will increase for 2024/2025 to 4.99% Council tax 2.99% and Adult Social care precept to 2%,The reason why the maximum amount is being proposed is that the government settlement will increase it to 6.5% uplift for Dorset Council, however It is also being proposed that we offset our reserves of £12m to cover the overspend, while proposals are being discussed and developed over the course of the new financial year to find more savings. Beryl and I have repeated calls to DC about lobbying central government more for better funding for Dorset as we receive little to no funding from Government. The one piece of good news is that no service cuts are being made but certainly looking at ways to bring in new efficiencies.

Govt Leveling up Fund awarded DC £6 million of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the Rural Prosperity Fund – Round 1 is now open to 31 January 2024 for Grants from £1k to £15k .

The Household Support Fund and DC Community Fund are also available from the 3rd of January look at the DC Website for further information. Update: A further round of support funds are being made available from the 6th of February.

DC Road Works & local flooding

Resurfacing works are still being carried on Bere Road (C7) from Westminster Road to Hyde (by Snood Bridge) 4 kilometres; the road will be closed during the daytime hours 9am to 4pm (controlled by traffic lights) and will reopen to traffic in the evenings and weekends while the work is being carried out.

A road closure will come into effect on 22nd January to 9th February from the entrance of the Silent Woman pub to the entrance of the Forest Lodge approximately 90 metres to both sides of traffic and the closure will be 24 hours effective this is to carry out Culvert repairs along this stretch of road, there will be diversion signs to warn motorists and I thank residents' patience who live on Bere Road.

Because of unprecedented amounts of rain recently, there is flooding and standing water on all roads; do take care when needing to drive, slow down, keep your distance and put your dipped headlights on for better visibility. Also because of drop in temperatures too there is a risk of any cracks or potholes in the road surfaces, anyone who finds any defects or pot holes you can report it on the DC website.

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.

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Signed:

Wareham Area Community Speed watch Team

Now we have the minimum of 6 in the Team, we will be moving to the next stage of training with the Police. Any roads that the PC wish to put forward will be considered. More Team members would be welcome; contact Beryl 550138.

Cordite Way – Footpath 30 – Work Party clearance.

Clearance of the path is continuing at pace, with the main route roughly clear to the Viewpoint by Holton Lee. Signage is being prepared and Flora & fauna data being gathered in.

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.