



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH
COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 30th NOVEMBER 2023
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM**

Present: Cllrs: T Bodie James, I Church, I. Duckworth, J Ives, M Sims, and A Patrick

Chair: Cllr S. Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr. T. Watton

Also Present: Cllr. B Ezzard (Dorset Council)

APOLOGIES: Cllr R Bessant

Also Present: 5 Members of the public, and Mr I Alexander, Natural England Senior Advisor, Wessex.

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

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

A resident of Ridge raised concerns regarding the adequacy of the modelling and design work for the Arne Moors Project, which he felt may put the lower end of Ridge at risk through flooding. He commented that at the last Environment Agency open day, in response to a question about where surface water would go in event of storms, one of the project managers had advised that the Furzebrook would contain it. However, he had noted that during the recent storm Ciaran approx. 550 hectares of the land adjacent to the causeway had flooded. He felt this called into question the capacity of Furzebrook to contain such a volume of water. Consequently, he arranged to call in to the Arne Moors Visitor Centre where he spoke to an engineer to ask if it was possible to examine the relevant drawings. He reported that he was advised that some drawings had not yet been prepared. As a result he was left with some doubts about the extent of the modelling and planning and whether the overall design was sufficient to cope with prolonged wet weather coupled with storm surges.

A resident of Corfe Rd, Stoborough reported on action she had taken following an informal meeting with council members after recent causeway flooding. She had contacted the local farmer who farms land adjacent to the causeway about the possibility of relocating two containers just inside his gate, which would then provide easier access to the flood barrier equipment. He had responded to say he would need to speak to the other stakeholders in the business for their permission. So far no response had been received. In addition, the resident had noticed that the ditch running parallel to the cycleway is very overgrown, and completely blocked in places. She assumed that it should connect with the Environment Agency tidal flap on the west side of South Bridge in Wareham, so she asked the farmer if he could confirm whether the Environment Agency are responsible for maintaining this ditch. Again, there had not yet been a response on this point. The resident also reported that she and her husband had tidied the container after putting all the flood barrier equipment away. They had also disposed of all of the broken sandbags. Finally, she

reported that she had spoken with her neighbours to compile a contact list for those properties usually affected by causeway flooding.

2. Declaration of Interests

174. None were made.

3. To receive apologies for absence

23.175 Cllr R Bessant

4. confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th October 2023

23.176 A copy of the minutes had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting. It was then proposed and seconded that the minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on the 19th October 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

23.177 Presentation on changes to legislation related to pop-up camp sites from Mr Ian Alexander, Wessex Senior Advisor for Natural England:

Mr Alexander began by explaining that for many decades the permitted development rights pertaining to pop-up camp sites allowed them to operate, with tents only, for a maximum of 28 days. The Government have recently brought in new legislation which allows for pop-up sites to operate for 60 days; and to include tents, caravans and motorhomes. However, the new 60-day rights require explicit permission from the Local Authority. Dorset Council have said that they will not grant permission where a proposed campsite has potential to damage wildlife sites.

With regard to what happens during the 2024 season, Mr Alexander suggested that the Parish Council keeps evidence of when a campsite is operating, so that it can be clearly demonstrated when a site operator has exceeded the margins of what is permitted without formal permission from the Local Authority – i.e. beyond 28 days, has accommodated caravans and / or motor homes and / or has erected temporary buildings. In circumstances where a pop-up campsite acts in contravention of this, or advertises more than 28 days and / or availability of accommodation for caravans and / or motor homes etc, without having gained the necessary formal permission, Parish Council members are urged to contact Mr Alexander with the evidence so that Natural England can challenge it. He emphasised the importance of keeping thorough journal evidence – i.e. dated notes supported with photographs.

The Council Chair remarked that she understood Natural England is able to grant exemptions to the above process. She wondered if Mr Alexander knew of any such exemptions which may have taken place. She was able to quote an example of a site on Nutcrack Lane at the beginning of summer 2023 claiming such an exemption. In response Mr Alexander said that he was not aware of any granted exemptions. However, this is because exemptions are dealt with centrally by Natural England rather than on a local basis. He asked to be sent the details of the Nutcrack Lane campsite example.

Regarding the pop-up campsite at Knoll Farm, Soldiers Road, Wareham, Cllr Duckworth pointed out that even now its website is still live and referring to camping facilities.

Dorset Cllr Ezzard remarked that the Dorset Council Enforcement Officer had followed up on every time a pop-up campsite was formally reported to the Enforcement Team with concerns about breaches of the rules.

23.178 D- Day anniversary 6th June 2024. It was agreed to ask Wareham Town Council what they have in mind. Dorset Cllr Ezzard observed that the matter may come up at the Wareham Town Council meeting on 19th December.

ACTION: THE CLERK

6. 23.179 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. Cllr Ezzard provided the following further points:

- The sad news that Dorset Cllr Tony Ferrari had passed away suddenly.
- Temporary road closures for road works in Holme Lane; and a closure in Wareham Town centre on Saturday 9th December for the Christmas Street Market.
- Consideration of the Lidl planning application is not yet scheduled for a Planning Committee meeting. Cllr Ezzard referred to several material reasons for its refusal.
- Cllr Ezzard also reported that Cllr Suttle had met with managers at Wareham & Swanage hospitals and it was confirmed that they are looking to reinstate the Chemotherapy unit at Wareham and the Rheumatology Unit at Swanage.

7. 23.180 To confirm the payment of accounts:

The following payments were presented for approval:

**ARNE PARISH
COUNCIL
PAYMENTS –
NOVEMBER 2023**

Invoice Date	Payee	Description	Pay Ref	Amount
24/10/2023	Viking Office UK Ltd	Stationery	BACS 38	£45.44

02/11/20 23	Smart Garden Services	Maintenance Contract Oct 23	BACS 39	£615.8 3
28/11/20 23	T Watton	Salary: Oct & Nov 2023	BACS 40	£1080. 00
28/11/20 23	HMRC	PAYE and Employer's NI	BACS 41	£351.7 0
			TOTA L	£2092. 97

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 October 2023 be received.

8. 23.181 To receive and consider a report and proposal for the refurbishment of the causeway flood barrier

Councillor Ives reported that he had made inquiries regarding a repair kit for the existing flood barrier. – i.e. 25 connectors to replace the existing ones which are worn and damaged. The total quoted cost is £1375 excluding VAT.

9. 23.182 To further consider the budget for 2024/25

The Clerk referred to the 2024/25 budget preparation paper that he had circulated to all members before the meeting. He explained that he had updated current year actual expenditures and rest of year forecasts and had used these to update his suggestions for 2024/25 budget figures. It was agreed that Cllrs Cranshaw and Partrick would meet with the Parish Clerk in December to examine the detail line by line in order to put forward a recommended budget and precept to the January Full Council meeting.

ACTIONS: CLLRS CRANSHAW & PATRICK AND THE CLERK

10. 23.183 To consider a proposal from DAPTC to consult its membership on DAPTC becoming a company limited by guarantee.

It was **RESOLVED** to support this proposal.

ACTION: THE CLERK

11. 23.184 To consider a grant request made on behalf of Wareham Youth Centre

It was **RESOLVED** to award £600 for this purpose.

ACTION: THE CLERK

12. Parish Reports

23.185 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Duckworth attended the well supported Dorset AONB Annual Forum meeting at Furzebrook on Wednesday 8th November. Pop-up camp sites was amongst the topics discussed. Those present were also informed of the Dorset Community Tree Project, which offers an opportunity to apply for grant funding for local tree planting projects on land with public access and landowner permission.

Cllr Patrick had attended a meeting of the Wareham Relief in Need and Sickness Charity.

The Council chair remarked on the informative Arne Moors site meeting attended by several council members on 7th November.

23.186 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 bookings are good, the LED lights have been fitted, and the Christmas tree lighting is scheduled to take place on The Green on Sunday 3rd December, with thanks to Cllr Brodie James.

Cllr Ives reported on behalf of Stoborough Meadow Residents Association that the planning application for The Villa had been withdrawn. It is understood that when the development was first approved the Permitted Development Rights were removed.

Cllr Cranshaw reported that the initiative with the Stoborough Primary School to plant snowdrops was completed successfully – with thanks to Cllrs Duckworth and Sims and Mr Adam Smart for their help.

23.187 Hayricks: Cllr Sims reported that a Corkscrew Willow and another tree were due to be planted week commencing 4th December. An individual was caught removing multiple dog poo bags from the dispenser with the intention of taking them away. Thanks to Mr Smart for challenging the person concerned. Cllr Sims also remarked that the approx 4 squ metres of path which had been re-paved after it was identified as a trip hazard now appears to be worse than before.

23.188 Allotments: It was noted that the ditch may need to be cleared. Cllrs Cranshaw and Duckworth agreed to visit to check the ditch, and also to discuss the possible hedge laying.

ACTION: CLLRS CRANSHAW AND DUCKWORTH

23.189 SANG: It was noted that the recent work at the SANG had been undertaken by Mr Will Bond.

23.190 Climate & Ecological Support Group: It was noted that an event had taken place in Dorchester focussing on the oil industry. It was agreed that Cllr Cranshaw would write to Perenco to express the Council's encouragement should they choose to plan to have a wind turbine on their site to meet some or all of their substantial electricity needs.

ACTION: CLLR CRANSHAW

13. 23.191 To consider Planning Applications received

P/HOU/2023/06021 Chantilly New Road Stoborough Dorset BH20 5BB. Single storey rear extension with internal alterations, demolish existing detached garage and erect replacement garage/workshop
NO OBJECTION.

P/HOU/2023/06192 Langton Wallis New Line Norden BH20 5DX. Single storey extensions to rear of dwelling.
NO OBJECTION

P/HOU/2023/06097 8 Oaktree Close Stoborough Dorset BH20 5BP. Rear and side extension including internal alterations.

The Council wished to register an OBJECTION to this proposal on the grounds that they considered it to be overly large, out of character with the surrounding area, and its design and positioning is overbearing on the neighbouring property.

P/HOU/2023/06343 Maranoa Slepe Farm Arne Wareham BH20 5BJ. Erect garage and car port.
NO OBJECTION

P/HOU/2023/06577 8 Gover Close Ridge Wareham BH20 5BU. Proposed first floor extension over existing garage. Proposed single storey rear extension. Internal alterations.
NO OBJECTION

ACTION: THE CLERK

Notification of appeal hearing - Planning Application WP/20/00692/DCC re Portland Port, Castletown, Portland, Dorset DT5 1PP. Inquiry commencement date 05 December 2023 at 10am. To be held at Osprey Quay School site, Lerret Road, Portland DT5 1FN.
Noted.

14 Correspondence and items for action and resolution

23.192 Arne Shuttle bus (i) winter service (ii) request for a meeting to discuss funding options.

The council noted that Rachel Martin, RSPB’s Hyde’s Heath Project Officer, had written to advise that they had gained funding for a winter shuttle bus service – which will commencing on 18th December and cover the school holidays, the first Wednesday / Thursday of each month and the Easter holidays.

The council also noted that the Clerk had made an initial response asking Ms Martin with a request that she contacts him to provide more information about how they think Arne Parish Council might be involved in helping to support any continuation of this service.

ACTION: THE CLERK

23.193 Change to storage arrangements for flood road closure signs / response plan in event of a flood

The Clerk reported that he had contacted Stephen Mepham of Dorset Highways to advise him that it was not possible to continue with the current storage arrangements on a former Council member’s private premises for the road closure signs used whenever the Wareham – Stoborough causeway is closed due to flooding. Mr Mepham was able to arrange with Wareham Town Council for the signs to be stored on their premises. The signs have since been collected and relocated accordingly.

The Clerk also reported that the above change of storage arrangements prompted Mr Mepham to review Dorset Council’s plan for monitoring flooding in the area around the causeway and the deployment of the signs and the flood barrier. He had forwarded a single page “flood plan” to the Parish Council and to Wareham Town Council for comment.

ACTION: THE CLERK

23.194 Request from a Ridge resident for consideration of a children’s play area

A resident of Ridge had written to the council requesting that an area of open space / grass she had identified be used to locate a children’s play area. However, members commented that this area is used regularly for other local community purposes and there is no other feasible site for a play area in Ridge. Given the above, and that the Hayricks play area is within a relatively short and convenient distance, and is well equipped and maintained, the council did not support this request

ACTION: THE CLERK

23.195 Dog related Public Spaces Protection Order 2024

Members noted that the current Dog Related Public Spaces Protection Order expires on 31 December 2023. The new Order runs from 1 January 2024. It was agreed at Dorset Council cabinet on 7 November 2023 and aspects of it extend to all public open spaces throughout the County.

15. 23.196 Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

There was none.

16. 23.197 Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only:

No items were raised.

17. 23.198 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 8:51pm

Date of next meetings:

Thursday, 18th January, 2024 at 7.15pm Stoborough Village Hall

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

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