



MINUTES OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF
ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 28th
SEPTEMBER 2022
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.00PM

Present: Cllrs: I. Church; I. Duckworth; J. Ives; M. Simms and V. Ward

Chair: Cllr S. Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr. E. Macknamara

Also Present: 11 Members of the Public, and 4 Representatives of the Applicant.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence had been received by the Clerk from Cllr. A. Patrick and Cllr. R. Bessant.

Prior to the Meeting commencing those present stood for a Minutes Silence for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Cllr. Shelley Cranshaw then read The Proclamation of King Charles III

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

P/FUL/2022/05149 The creation of intertidal habitat and restricted tidal exchange shallow water lagoons, through managed realignment involving selective breaching of existing tidal embankments. The provision of new set-back earth embankments, including the provision of flapped surface water outfalls, tidal exchange culverts and an improved channel and outfall for the Furzebrook Stream. The formation of permissive footpaths and screens for public to view birds from, maintenance access tracks and provision of associated gates, fences and boundary treatment works.

The Moors at Arne East of the Community of Ridge and North of Arne Road.

The Chairman invited those members of the public present to speak prior to the application being considered by the Parish Council.

Residents put forward their views on this planning applications as follows:

- The current sluices are inadequate and not fit for purpose. Doing nothing was not an option and the proposed replacements were welcomed. However the period of monitoring should be extended for a longer period than the proposed 3 years and assurances should be obtained to ensure adequate monitoring was undertaken.

The Disruption and traffic movements would be outweighed by the benefits of the scheme.

- A resident of Brookside explained that the area was low lying and was also concerned that the banks and sluices were fit for purpose. The monitoring period should be extended beyond the proposed 3 years.
- A resident referred to comments already made to Dorset Council including one from a member of the Parish Council.
His view was that the data provided with the application was not fit for purpose. The boreholes in Ridge were not valid and he had also spoken with a geologist which had given him reason to question the validity of the surface water model and that the road flooding in Ridge had not been accounted for in the details available.
He agreed that this proposal could be a worthwhile project but the data available with the application did not currently support the project and again questioned the modelling used in the application. He asked that the Parish Council recommend refusal of the current application.
- The final Resident also felt that the Parish Council should ask for a list of contacts who could deal with any issues arising from this Project during construction and when completed.

The Chair then invited Members of the Parish Council to speak. The views put forward are summarised as follows:

- The Planning Application is complex and contained detailed technical information. The Environment Agency had provided assurances that flooding and silting would not be made worse and he supported the view that the Parish Council should make sure that the safeguards are in place and monitored. Any problems should be properly dealt with during construction and upon completion with details of the chain of command available to residents and the Parish Council.
- The information provided no details on the affect of the scheme on the area to the west of Ridge. How would this Project affect development for which planning permission had already been given? Modelling upstream has not been provided. Concern had also been raised about the affect on properties which already flood.
- Supported the view that water channels and ditches should be kept clear at least annually. He referred to implications on farmland and the relocation of the current bunds to prevent flooding. The Environment Agency should be asked to give assurances about drainage through farmland. Ridge Wharf Yacht Centre had also raised concerns and had objected to the current application. The Parish Council should request that conditions be attached to any consent to ensure ditches are kept clear and that water runs away safely.

- A number of residents had referred to the weakness of the modelling details available with the current application which gave rise to concern about adequate control of water run off.

Only 4 boreholes had been investigated and none outside the area of the site. This gave continued concern about ongoing flooding risks to the low lying areas of Ridge. A need for clear responsibility for the project and ongoing monitoring with details of how any issues would be dealt with provided was supported.

The flap valves should be monitored and continually checked by telemetry if necessary. Whilst it was felt that the application should be approved it was essential that conditions should be attached to the approval to provide adequate protection including embankments and buffer areas for water run off. Continued monitoring and additional boreholes should be required with ongoing feedback about who will deal with emergencies should they arise.

- The planning application was very technical, and the views expressed previously were supported as no evidence of a reduction to flood risk to the area had been provided.

The project gave priority to the loss of inter tidal habitats, but other habitats would also be lost and reference was made to the residual effects of the proposal.

Alternative sites had been considered but not pursued and no reasons had been given.

A resident of Arne Road was then given an opportunity to respond, and he outlined his objections to the application. He pointed out that several homes had flooded because the existing ditches hadn't been properly maintained. He also felt that the cost of the scheme could be better spent elsewhere to improve people's lives.

He questioned the traffic flow surveys and the number of properties which would be affected by construction traffic. The survey had not demonstrated benefits for the residents of Ridge and Stoborough and for cyclists, horseriders and walkers. He suggested that barges and boats should be used to deliver material or by using the abandoned tramway.

Representatives of the applicant were then given an opportunity to respond and outlined their reasoning for submitting the application. They had held a number of pre planning discussions with Dorset Council which had included ongoing discussion as the Council processed the application.

At this point the Chair thanked everyone for their inputs from Residents and Councillors. She particularly highlighted the work of the late Peter Sibthorpe who had put a lot of effort and time into this application on behalf of the Community. She summarised the main points which the local planning authority (Dorset Council) should consider and be included in the Parish

Council's response. She noted the need for ongoing monitoring which should include areas outside of the application site which had been affected by historic industrial activity and where water run off had not been sufficiently considered.

Ongoing monitoring should be agreed, and budget consideration resisted in the interest of ensuring the scheme was properly supervised. She also pointed out the difficulties which had arisen at Medmerry (West Sussex) where a similar scheme failed leading to significant flooding.

The following proposal was put forward as the substantive motion:

Should Dorset Council be minded to grant permission to this proposal the following conditions should be included to address the concerns raised by the residents:

1. An Emergency Plan is provided in the event that a serious flooding incident should threaten the area and that appropriate training has been given for its implementation.
2. Contact details should be provided listing the contact details of the person(s) in charge at the site during the construction stage and following the completion of the works when the scheme is in operation.
3. The plan for the maintenance of the site and the flood warning service they will operate should be provided prior to the completion of the scheme and provided to the local planning authority and Arne Parish Council.
4. The Furzebrook flap valves should be monitored by telemetry.
5. That in the event that the Furzebrook valves fail machinery is available to access and clear the site.
6. That during the construction stage there is a record of communication between the contractors and the Environmental Agency showing clear acknowledgement of where responsibility lies.
7. That during the construction and upon completion of the scheme details of the Managers of the site are provided so that residents and the Parish Council have contact details to report any matters of urgency that may arise.
8. That the Environmental Agency be required to monitor the area beyond Arne Moor in the interests of public interest and safety until 2030.

That in view of the problems faced by residents, when a similar Project at Medmerry (West Sussex) failed, the Parish Council and residents would ask that conditions are in place to avoid such a failure to occur at Arne.

There being no other motions put forward a vote as taken:

4 votes in favour with none against and two abstentions and it was, therefore, **RESOLVED**: That the motion be carried and that Dorset Council be informed accordingly.

Mr. Alexander suggested that he meet with the Parish Council to discuss ongoing responsibility for the site once the planning application had been determined.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:37pm

Date of next meeting: Thursday, 20th October, 2022 commencing at 7pm
Stoborough Village Hall.