



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 16th JANUARY 2025
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

Present: Cllrs: T Brodie-James, I Church, I Duckworth, and J Ives

Chair: Cllr R Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr T Watton

Also Present: five members of the public and Dorset Cllr Beryl Ezzard

1. To receive apologies for absence

24.189 Cllr A Patrick and M Sims.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

24.190 A resident of Corfe Rd asked what response had been received from DC Highways regarding the risk presented to pedestrians and road users from large vehicles blocking visibility at the junction with New Rd by parking in the layby adjacent to the junction. The Parish Clerk reported that the matter had been raised with the DC Highways managers and their Road Safety Team. Site visits were undertaken by DC Officers and the data on collisions and near misses reported to DC Highways was scrutinised. DC Highways concluded from this that they unable to take any action to modify the layby itself or to prevent large vehicles parking in it. From their scrutiny of collision and near miss data they had noted that this junction recorded a ‘serious’ injury collision in October 2019 (the cause of which was not due to obscured visibility) but nothing since. Therefore they were unable to justify any works at this location. They did however comment that the “give way” sign at the junction had been daubed with some paint, and also that one of the advanced warning signs required a cut back of nearby hedge. They had raised those minor matters with the Community Highways Team for attention.

A resident of Puddletown Rd, Worgret, reported that the loose manhole cover which he had reported to DC Highways several times has at last been rectified. He also commented on some difficulty he is having with the police in obtaining details for an insurance claim for damage caused to his boundary fence. The damage was caused by a vehicle impact. It was suggested by Dorset Cllr Ezzard that he approached DC Highways – and if necessary that he also raises the matter with the Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset.

ACTION: THE CLERK

3. Declaration of Interests

24.191 There were none.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st November 2024

24.192 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 21st November 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

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

24.193 There were none.

6. Dorset Councillor’s Report.

24.194 Cllr. Ezzard 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 November and December 2024 and consider the banks reconciliation and position against budget for the year to date:

7(a) 24.195 The following payments were presented for approval:

INVOICEDATE	BACSnumber	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Payments already made				
01/12/2024	DD	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Allotments monthly subscription (INV-7849)	£21.60
01/01/2025	DD	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Allotments monthly subscription (INV-8036)	£21.60
Payments due				
16/01/2025	63/24	TWatton	Salary, Dec 24 and Jan 25	£1,130.40
16/01/2025	64/24	HMRC	PAYE, Dec 24 and Jan 25	£372.99
12/12/2024	65/25	Dorset Council	Election recharge	£50.00
04/12/2024	66/24	Smart Garden Services	(i) Strim & cover 4 allotments. (ii) Regular grounds maintenance	£1,170.83
02/12/2024	67/24	DAPTC	NPPF online seminar: Shelley Cranshaw	£30.00
09/01/2025	68/24	Smart Garden Services	(i) Fell willow / remove arisings. (ii) Regular Grounds Maintenance	£980.83
01/12/2024	69/24	Wareham Burial Joint Committee	Contribution to cemeteries running costs - half year ending 31/03	£2,220.10
29/12/2024	DD	Information Commissioner (ICO)	Annual data protection administrative fee	£35.00
TOTAL				£6,033.35

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 finalise the preparation of the budget and precept for 2025-26 and approve the precept request for submission to Dorset Council.

24.196 The 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 2025/26 as set out in this report were both unanimously approved. A copy of the agreed budget allocations is associated at **Appendix 3** to these minutes. The precept request has been set at **£41,625.67**. As a result of the increase in the Council Tax Base derived from the introduction of a 200% premium payable on second homes in the parish this results in no increase in the amount payable by individual householders in the parish: i.e. the annual charge per D Band property remains at £59.76 for the year - exactly the same as in 2024/25.

ACTION: THE CLERK

(c) Consideration of a grant request from Purbeck Citizens Advice Bureau for a £200 contribution towards the cost of providing CAB services to the residents of Arne parish

24.197 It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** this grant request.

ACTION: THE CLERK

8. Governance matters

24.198 (a) Review of Standing Orders, The Asset Register, and Risk Assessment.

The clerk reported the following:

- **Review of Standing Orders.** The NALC website shows that the most recent version of the model Standing Orders was issued in April 2022. APC adopted that version, as reviewed in Jan 2024. Consequently, the standing orders are considered to be up to date. It was **AGREED** to set a further review date was for Jan 2026.
- **Review of Risk Assessment / risk Register.** The Clerk had circulated a copy of the Council’s Risk Register, which he had reviewed in full and added updated comments. It was **AGREED** to adopt this reviewed version.
- **Review of Asset Register.** The Clerk had circulated a copy of the proposed updated Asset Register to all Council members. He explained that the Asset Register was last reviewed and updated in April 2024 as part of the preparation for the internal and external audits for the year ending 2023/24. Since then, the Council’s accounts show that one asset (the flood barrier) had been

replaced and the old one scrapped. No other new assets have been acquired and / or old ones disposed of. Consequently, it was **AGREED** to accept the updated Asset Register as accurate. In addition, members noted that one further asset, the back-to-back bench at Hayricks, is due to be replaced in the next few months. Members also noted that substantial repairs have been made to one noticeboard, and a second one is due to be repaired shortly.

ACTION: THE CLERK

9. Parish Reports

24.199 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:

- Cllr Church reported on his attendance at the meeting of the Wareham Burial Joint Committee.
- Cllr Duckworth commented on his successful attendance on a certificated Carbon Literacy Training course. He explained that arising from this he will, at a future meeting, be bringing forward some proposals for the Council's consideration.

24.200 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 hall bookings remain very healthy. Some upgrading work in the hall is still under way. He expressed thanks to Cllr Brodie James for the supply of the Christmas tree.

Mr Morgan also referred to the notice board on the village hall premises which was damaged during storm Bert. Cllr Church responded to this latter point by confirming that the noticeboard is a Council asset and Wareham Men's Shed have been approached about its repair. If this is not possible – either due to limitations on their capacity, or due to the extent of the damage - then the Council will arrange to replace the noticeboard with a new one.

ACTION: CLLR CHURCH

Furzebrook Village Hall – it was noted that the hall floor was damaged during its hire for a recent sporting event. The organisers of the event have agreed to meet the cost of its repair.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association – The Association's AGM took place in November 2024. It was noted that Alison Painter has taken over from Steve Widmer as the secretary of the Stoborough Meadow Residents Association.

Ridge Residents Association - Nothing to report.

Stoborough Primary school – Nothing to report.

24.201 Hayricks:

Although unable to be present, Cllr Sims had provided a written report covering the following:

- He had approached Tree Surgeon Ian Michie regarding attention required to a low branches of a Chestnut Tree on a roadside corner in Stoborough Meadow, a Maple Adjacent to number 43, and a couple of other trees without TPOs along the footpath (FP11). Cllr Sims anticipates that Mr Michie will contact him to view the work in question to include or add an extra to the main work for which his quote had already been approved by the Council.
- Cllr Sims had also raised with Smart Garden Services some work required to a shrub which has been blown over and needs firming in and a stake, and the grass which is encroaching significantly on the concrete path and needs taking back.

ACTIONS: CLLR SIMS

24.202 SANG:

Nothing to report.

24.203 Allotments:

Cllr Duckworth reported that Mr C Johnson has been busy clearing and burning the debris where the multi-stemmed willow tree was taken down. It was noted that at that point the remains of the hedge needs to be reviewed and a decision taken on suitable action to reinstate it.

The Parish Clerk reported that three tenants had still not paid their rental fee for 2024/25 and are being chased for this. He also reported that an existing tenant has requested Council approval to swap plots over the coming season and to rent both for the remainder of this rental year. This had been approved and the rental payment received. Members also noted that Cllrs Cranshaw and Duckworth and the Parish Clerk will be meeting shortly to review the Council's allotments Policy and the Tenancy Agreement.

ACTION: CLLR CRANSHAW,
DUCKWORTH and the PARISH CLERK

24.204 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: Cllr Duckworth commented that he will be reviewing the recording of the most recent meeting.

10. To consider Planning Applications received

24.205 Delegated –

- **P/HOU/2024/07212 89 Corfe Road Stoborough BH20 5AY. Replace existing porch with single storey lean-to extension. NO OBJECTION**
- **P/CLE/2024/07586 Campsite Hartland Stud Soldiers Road Norden. Use of land outlined in red on submitted site plan as pop-up campsite. The use has taken place in Camping Area 1 and 2 since the summer of 2011 and in Camping Area 3 since the summer of 2014.**

The Council had **NO COMMENT** to make on this Certificate of Lawfulness application. However the Council noted the concerns expressed by a Council member regarding the availability of evidence to prove 10 years use of Area 3 for the stated purpose.

ACTION: THE CLERK

24.206 Other planning matters:

Cllr Ives raised a query about the property named Chantilly in New Rd which is currently covered in scaffolding and plastic sheeting. He wondered what work was taking place and whether a planning application was necessary and had been submitted to the LPA and referred to the Parish Council for comment. Members were unsure what work is taking place, but the Clerk was able to confirm that no planning application had yet reached the Parish Council covering this. He indicated that he would query the matter with Dorset Council planning team.

ACTION: THE CLERK

Cllr Duckworth drew members' attention to two matters:

- (i) An apparent increase in the number of pitches at The Lookout. Members noted that they are not permitted to convert these into permanent residential accommodation.
- (ii) The continued activity at Sunnyside, Ridge - which has already been brought to the attention of the DC Planning team.

11 – 13 Other matters.

11. To consider the issues related to the Tollbar Stream resulting from the proposed extension to Dorey's pit, as raised at the event held by Imerys at the Springfield Hotel on 25th November 2024.

24.207 It was noted that this concerns a proposed further extension plan for ball clay extraction until 2028. The applicants have indicated a promise of biodiversity net gain if it goes ahead. No Council member was available to attend the meeting on 25th November 2024.

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

24.208 In consideration that this is a project of significant size and importance and that two members of the Council were absent it was **RESOLVED to DEFER** this matter until the February meeting.

13. To consider whether the Council wishes to submit a corporate response to the national consultation set up by the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government on Standards and Conduct.

After some discussion it was **RESOLVED** not to submit a corporate response to this consultation.

14. To consider approaches to a possible corporate response to the Town and Parish Council – Climate and Nature Survey issued by Dorset Council.

24.209 Cllr Duckworth commented that he had looked at this and had now obtained a more user-friendly version of the consultation document which can be printed out and worked on “offline”. He agreed to work through it and then circulate a suggested response version for members to consider / comment on. Members noted that the response needs to be submitted by the end of February. Cllr Duckworth also volunteered to be the Council’s “Ambassador” for this.

ACTION: CLLR DUCKWORTH

15. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

24.210 None.

ACTION: THE CLERK

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

24.211 Cllr Cranshaw reminded Council members that Poole Hospital is closing its Maternity and major trauma A&E department in March 2025 and the responsibility for these will be transferred to the Royal Bournemouth Hospital. She encouraged Council members to consider the impact of this on the local community – particularly around the increased cost of transport to and from hospital, and the extent to which the Council can be sensitive to difficulties which may arise for local residents.

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

Date of next meetings:

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 20th February 2025, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

Appendix 1

Report from Dorset Council Ward Member Beryl Ezzard

Dorset Council (DC) & DC Cabinet

The next full Council Meeting will be on Tuesday 11th February at 6.30pm County Hall, DC Cabinet meeting will be on Tuesday 28th January. The draft budget for 2025/26 has now been revealed which is set to increase council tax to 2.99% and social care precept to 2% which will be a 4.99% increase, This is unwelcome news for many residents but unfortunately, we have little choice with the Government settlement for 2025/6 only increasing by £3 million. We have also an ever-increasing adult social care commitment in Dorset.

Wareham Level Crossing updates

Last week our MP Vikki Slade raised a question, in the House of Commons with regard to lack of decisions on the issue with keeping the Level Crossing, A meeting with the minister for Raid, has now be set up for later.

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. If you know anyone who thinks there entitled to pension credit, please contact DC.

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 -Secretary of State.

We received a letter from the Secretary of State's office regarding this application which was referred to her because of size of the development and on green belt land. However, the letter states that she will not intervene on this application and is happy with the decision made by the planning committee. The Granted application will now begin to take shape.

Purbeck Shuttle 200 (formerly 2RN Bus) Meeting 27 January.

The PCRPs are leading this new project to continue a Shuttle bus, from Wareham Station to visit the Blue Pool, Norden Farm and Purbeck Park as well as Arne RSPB. We are holding a Meeting for all concerned on Friday 27 Jan at 11 am at the Corn Exchange, Wareham Town Hall. Representatives of T&PCs in Purbeck are invited. We have bid for funding to cover the majority of the cost for this proposed 4 days a week from May to Sept. We have received some local funding from WTC, and donations from individuals, and promise of support from RSPB & Blue Pool.. .

Devolution to the Southwest

The leader of DC Cllr Nick Ireland has been in close contact with central government and the leaders of Wiltshire and Somerset Councils. And the three councils have agreed to work together in the government Devolution programme. This would bring an elected mayor for "Wessex" which would sit above the councils and MPs, although the councils agree that we are not comfortable with this, it could help bring new investment to the region and help with transport links and new infrastructure. The government is planning to hold Mayoral Elections in 2026. : BCP Council have decided at their Extraordinary Meeting last evening (Weds) to opt to come into our "Wessex" Combined Authority.

Planning Enforcement

If any Parish Councillor suspects a breach of planning act 1990, please go to DC website and you can report your concerns there, or contact Beryl or myself, I have monthly meetings with Planning enforcement and over the last couple of months there has been an increase of issues..

DC Road Works

There are some holdups due to Digi Network cables on the Sandford Road, but hopefully this will be resolved soon. Other roadwork info is passed to T&PC Clerks, for distribution. Any highway issues i.e. Potholes you can report them on the DC website.

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.

Dorset Council (DC)

The next full Council Meeting will be on Thursday 5 December at 6.30pm. DC Cabinet meeting was held on Tuesday 19th 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.

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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 1,000m² 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 13th 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

Agreed budget for 2025-26

See associated .pdf file