



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 17th OCTOBER 2024
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

Present: Cllrs: I Church, I Duckworth, J Ives A Patrick and M Sims

Chair: Cllr A Patrick

Clerk: Mr T Watton

Also Present: three members of the public.

1. To receive apologies for absence

24.140 Cllrs S Cranshaw and T Brodie-James Dorset Cllrs B Ezzard and R Holloway also sent their apologies.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

24.141 A resident of Worgret referred to multiple reports he had made on the DC Highways online reporting system concerning a noisily loose manhole cover on Puddletown Rd which had resulted in Highways staff visits but which have failed to resolve the problem. Concerns were expressed about the amount of lorry traffic going over this manhole and the noise resulting from this. The Clerk indicated that he would follow this up with DC highways, and bring it to the attention of Dorset Cllr Ezzard.

ACTION: THE CLERK

24.142 Prof Robert Kenward made the following statement:

“I am delighted to have been able to cooperate with APC for projects and communications during more than two decades. At the APC meeting on 21 September 2023, I explained about a new project, Pro-Coast, and then wrote on 7 October 2-023 to Chair (copies to Beryl Ezzard and Tim Watton) to request APC endorsement to approach Arne Parish citizens to help with Pro-Coast projects. In the following APC meeting, on 19 October 2023, the minutes record:

10.23.160 Pro-Coast programme – parish survey. It was proposed and seconded that Arne Parish Council endorses this initiative.’

On 1 October 2024, I received an e-mail from your Chair, stating as follows:

Dear Robert

As you requested, the latest draft of the proposed survey and your explanatory letter have been circulated to the Arne Parish Councillors. It is their view that they do not offer their support to the survey. Best wishes, Shelley

I respect and accept this decision regarding the survey aspect of Pro-Coast, though with regret.

Bridget and I, as volunteers, will be able to continue the survey without the explicit endorsement from the Parish Council. When the survey is completed, we will be happy to share the results with the Council, as previously, to use as might be wished to aid future planning for Arne. We will approach APC about other (non-survey) aspects of the Pro-Coast project in due course.”

In response, Cllr Patrick thanked Prof Kenward for his statement. She expressed appreciation for the valuable support provided to the Council by Robert and Bridget on past initiatives and she hoped that the Council would be able to work together with them on other initiative in the future.

24.143 A resident commented that the recent hedge trimming along the causeway had allowed the arisings to collect in the adjacent drains, gullies and ditches. He wondered who had been responsible for the hedge trimming work. This matter will be taken up with Dorset Council.

ACTION: THE CLERK

3. Declaration of Interests

24.144 There were none.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September 2024

24.145 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 19th September 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate representation of the meeting.

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

24.146 Cllr Sims remarked on the point made by a resident at the September meeting concerning the state of the footpath on Corfe Road between the bus stop and Lookout which is a poor condition and is unsafe for the number of people using it. He wondered if the Dorset Council Ward members were able to follow-up on this by taking the matter up with Highways to see if they can do anything about it. It was agreed the Clerk would pursue this with Cllr Ezzard.

ACTION: THE CLERK

6. Dorset Councillor’s Report.

24.147 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 October 2024 and consider the banks reconciliation and position against budget for the year to date:

7(a) 24.148 The following payments were presented for approval:

INVOICE DATE	BACS number	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Payments already made				
Payments due				
17/10/2024	42/24	T Watton	Salary, Oct	£540.00
17/10/2024	43/24	HMRC	PAYE, Oct	£135.00
17/10/2024	44/24	Smart Garden Services	Monthly grounds works (stoborough meadow & open spaces). Staking & Wrapping two trees.	£640.83
17/10/2024	45/24	Tradewind Graphics Ltd	Production of signage	£567.00
17/10/2024	46/24	Wareham Area Men's Shed	Remove, repair, rebuild / replace noticeboard on Barnhill Rd, Ric	£250.00
17/10/2024	47/24	Scott Estate Management	Allotment field rental	£72.00
17/10/2024	48/24	Alison Clothier	Clerk's leave cover September	£106.95
17/10/2024	49/24	DAPTC	One third share of fee for Clerk's conference	£19.00
17/10/2024	50/24	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Storage of generators / with battery smart charger Aug 24	£36.00
17/10/2024	51/24	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Storage of generators / with battery smart charger Sept 24	£36.00
17/10/2024	52/24	Wareham Area Men's Shed	Remove flood barrier foam seals and replace with new ones	£200.00
TOTAL				£2,602.78

It was proposed by Cllr Church and seconded by Cllr Duckworth and **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 note the first steps taken towards preparation of the proposed budget for 2025/26.

24.149 A copy of the initial document / template was circulated to all members ahead of the meeting, and a copy is associated at **Appendix 3** to these minutes. The Parish Clerk explained that he had populated it with the full set of budget subhead lines specific to Arne Parish Council, the agreed budget figures for each line for the coming current year, and year to date actuals aggregated to October 2024. Forecasts per month for each of the lines had then been added based on a combination of specific knowledge of payments which will fall due, current running rates, spending patterns from previous years, and common-sense estimates. In the next two months actual expenditure figures per line for November and December will be added and the full year forecasts updated as necessary. He explained that it is intended that he will later propose budget figures per subhead line for 2025-26 for Council consideration. In the meantime Council members were encouraged to consider what initiatives they might like to include for 2025/26. This was duly **NOTED** by the Council.

ACTION: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

7(c) To consider a proposal to purchase the Scribe “Allotments Management System”, which integrates directly with the Scribe Accounts package – for invoicing, records keeping, inspections, tenant management, mapping of plots, etc – in place of the fragmented paper-based and electronic files.

24.150 The product details and a proposal quote for this package at £18 per month plus a one off set-up fee of £151.00 had been circulated to all members ahead of this meeting. After some consideration the Council unanimously **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** this proposal.

ACTION: THE CLERK

8. Governance matters

24.151

(a) To review the Council’s current Allotments policy.

(b) To review the Council’s current Allotments tenancy agreement.

It was **RESOLVED** to set up a Council Working Group to examine both documents and consider the necessary adjustments and updates.

ACTION: THE CLERK

9. Parish Reports

24.152 Councillors’ Reports on meetings attended:

- Cllr Ives reported that on 20th September he and Cllr Cranshaw, together with Catherine Ferrugia of the Environment Agency, visited 3 sites adjacent to the Moors project. They were following the course of a ditch as the debris in it has caused concern. There are various owners along its length and last winter Ridge residents living near the ditch had drained water accumulating behind their properties as they feared the ditch was too blocked to cope with the flow. At the next site, it was noted that the EA plan to divert the ditch for a short stretch to join up with an existing channel. The final section is on RSPB land near the former Ridge Wharf path and they felt it was now being managed better than previously was the case. At the end there is an outfall feature with a flap-valve. They asked if in future this could be monitored in addition to the new flap valves which are to be inserted on the Furze stream as part of the Moors project. This is being considered.

- Cllr Duckworth reported on his attendance at the meeting of the Dorset Local Nature Recovery Strategy. He had circulated an e-link to presentations/webinars given within this for members' information. It was noted that his proposal for APC membership is considered under minute 24.160 below.
- Cllr Patrick had attended a meeting of the Wareham Sick Relief Fund.
- Cllr Cranshaw (reported in her absence by the Parish Clerk) had on 11th October attended a meeting of the Action for Health and Aare in Purbeck group. The MP for S Dorset, Lloyd Hatton, had given his support for the restoration of services our community hospitals. The Group will continue to press for the return to Wareham hospital of cancer treatments as patients now have to travel considerable distances for their care. The group also noted that a new chemist had opened in Wareham and the list of its services is available at the pharmacy.
- Cllr Brodie-James (reported in his absence by the Parish Clerk) had met with Mrs Walker concerning various matters regarding flood defence response and how it could be mitigated to some extent. Mrs Walker had provided a hand drawn map of a ditch to the West of the Causeway which impinges upon it and which she suggests should be maintained by the landowner/ occupier. Two action points which have raised from the meeting were to find out weather Wareham Town Council may be able to store road closure signs at their end of the Causeway; and also for APC to write to the landowner / occupier regarding maintenance of the ditches. It was noted that the latter point is considered under 24.161 below.

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

Stoborough Village Hall – A report was received stating that bookings remain healthy.

Furzebrook Village Hall – Nothing to report.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association Nothing to report.

Ridge Residents Association – Nothing to report.

Stoborough Primary school – Nothing to report.

24.154 Hayricks:

Three quotes have now been obtained for replacement of the two back-to-back benches. The quote from Warham Men's Shed at a budget of £1500 is significantly below those obtained from the other suppliers / installers who have quoted. It was proposed by Cllr Sims and seconded by Cllr Patrick to go ahead with the offer from Wareham Men's Shed. Unanimously **RESOLVED**.

Similarly, quotes have been requested for dealing with the area of broken concrete. Two quotes have been obtained so far and a further one is expected.

The Council noted that Adam Smart has staked the remaining trees; and the successful bidding contractor for the tree work adjacent to Footpath 11 has been contacted and a date for commencement of the work is awaited from him.

ACTIONS: CLLR SIMS

24.155 SANG:

Nothing to report

24.156 Allotments:

It was noted that there are at least four vacant plots and no one on the waiting list. Suggestions were made for ways to increase awareness amongst residents of the opportunity to join the waiting list and rent a plot for next season. Suggestions included publicising in the Wareham Directory and on social media as well as the Council's website and noticeboards. It was agreed that this advertising should be left until the remedial work on the four plots is complete.

24.157 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: It seems that no meetings have taken place in recent months. Cllr Duckworth indicated that he would query this with the organisers.

ACTION: CLLR DUCKWORTH

10. To consider Planning Applications received

24.158 Delegated –

- **P/TRT/2024/05496 Shepherds Croft Barnhill Road Ridge BH20 5BD. T1 Birch - Fell, T2 Birch - Fell, T3 Oak - Reduce limbs that grow towards the property and driveway, that have splits in them, by up to 3 metres to a suitable growth point, T4 Ash - Fell. Replant with native species.**

NO OBJECTION

- **P/HOU/2024/05640 Kelmacott Puddletown Road Wareham BH20 6AE. Erect detached garage with office in roof space.**

NO OBJECTION

ACTION: THE CLERK

11 – 14 Other matters.

24.159 To consider the Parish Council’s views on the following motion (in italics) which has been put forward for the DAPTC AGM on 23rd November 2024; and also the three further dependent motions as set out in a paper prepared by DAPTC and circulated to Parish Council members on Monday 23rd September 2024.

“To consider and if thought appropriate, approve DAPTC transitioning to a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) and authorising the Executive Committee to register such CLG before April 2025, with a view to the assets and operations of DAPTC being transferred to the CLG with effect from 1 April 2025 or such later date as the Executive Committee may determine.”

RESOLVED to APPROVE

ACTION: THE CLERK

24.160 To consider a proposal that Arne Parish Council becomes a member of DC’s ‘Dorset Nature Recovery’ movement, with Cllr Duckworth as the Council’s representative / point of liaison. RESOLVED to APPROVE.

ACTION: CLLR DUCKWORTH

24.161 To consider a proposal to write to the owner / occupier / tenant of land to the west of the causeway concerning maintenance of ditches which impinge on it.

RESOLVED to APPROVE

ACTION: CLLR CRANSHAW

24.162 Consideration of the issues raised in the draft letter prepared by Church Knowle Parish Council to be sent to Wessex Water concerning water quality in the Corfe river.

RESOLVED to add Arne Parish Council’s support and a signature on behalf of APC to this letter.

ACTION: THE CLERK

15. Correspondence and items for action and resolution

24.163 None.

16. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

24.164 It was reported that the following quotations for urgent works had just been received:

(a) Felling of the Willow on the Corfe Rd boundary of the allotments and removal of the arisings £390.

(b) clearance and covering with a weed suppressant material of the four vacant allotments £580.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept both above quotations and to ask for the work to be undertaken as soon as possible.

ACTION: THE CLERK

24.165 The Clerk had been alerted by the DC Road Safety team that the screen to the Speed Indicator Device on Corfe Rd had been damaged – apparently by a ball bearing. The DC Road Safety team – who are responsible for the SIDs indicated that they could replace the screen and provide a protective cover for it for a total cost of £310 plus VAT. It was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** this.

ACTION: THE CLERK

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

24.166 There were none.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20.13

Date of next meetings:

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 21st November 2024, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

Appendix 1

Report from Dorset Council Ward Member Beryl Ezzard

Dorset Council (DC)

The Full Council Meeting was on Thursday 10 October 6. 30pm. The Council voted to support two motions, the first being the Winter Fuel Payment calling on the government to rethink on how it supports pensioners with the payments as millions will lose out this winter, The second one was to ban “Pets as Prizes” on Dorset Council Land, the next Full DC Meeting will be on Thursday 5 December at 6.30pm at County Hall.

DC-Cabinet Cost of Living Support for families on Income Support /Pension Credit.

This will be available through the partnership with Citizens Advice, who have a local office in Mill Street Wareham. There are a few Funding opportunities from Dorset Council; see website. We still have sufficient funds available on this scheme.

Wareham Area Community Speedwatch Team

To date three 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 now our Team Leader – a facebook page has been set up for volunteers to join the Team.

PYCF - Wareham Youth Centre now a Family Hub

The Family Hub at the Youth Centre is now fully underway. Funding from DC is initially for two years so ongoing support from Wareham Town, Arne & Wareham St Martin Parish Councils’ is crucial for its continuation as a Youth Centre, for Young People to be with their friends and feel safe. The PYCF is now in its ninth year as a Charity. New Volunteers are always welcome, contact Joyce 552934.

Lidl Planning Application decision date delayed again - (6 November meeting?)

This Planning Application has been DELAYED again, I’m expecting this now to be on the agenda for November, but I can’t confirm until the Chairman has, We are expecting that there will be public attending this and Both Beryl & I will do plan to be in person for this one.

Wareham Level Crossing

Nothing new from last month regarding this, the level crossing is going to be put on the Cabinet forward plan at DC and will be a future cabinet meeting -hopefully in November.

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

Initial work on budget for 2025-26

See associated .pdf file