

**MINUTES OF THE ARNE PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2016 AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 6.30PM**

**Present:** Cllrs V Ward, R Bessant, R Scragg, A Pellegrini, A Wakefield-Sutton

**Chair:** Cllr D Hunter

**Clerk:** Mrs A Crocker

**Also present:** 40 members of the public

Cllr Hunter opened the evening by welcoming everyone to the meeting and informing all present of the recent death of Cllr Caroline Macleod. He read a brief tribute, composed by close friends and colleagues, Bridget Kenward and Debbie Weller. A brief pause was observed followed by a toast to Caroline.

**2016/1 A National Park for Dorset & East Devon**

Mr Richard Brown was then invited to give a presentation on 'A National Park for Dorset & East Devon'. In 1945, the Dower Report recommended the need for National Parks in Devon and Dorset and referred to one site called Dorset East. All the other parks – Dartmoor, Bodmin, etc. have come into being but Dorset East remains unfounded. This is predominantly the Jurassic Coast and, in 1945, included Egdon Heath. The initial assessment made by Natural England confirms the area has passed initial tests. The area is under threat from development and the Local Plan is proposing to provide an additional 3,000 homes on the site. Dorset AONB is not a statutory authority and is not consulted on planning applications.

The National Park would become the planning authority, should a Park be established. They Park authorities are not against development, they work in partnership to ensure the quality and relevance of each planning application is of a high standard. They are not involved with the general housing requirement so would not be bound by the requirements of the Local Plan. They bring funding from Central Government. The estimate made, using the South Downs as a comparison, is that they might expect about £10million per annum for a National Park from Central Government when local county funding is in doubt.

When Purbeck District Council disappears, who is going to defend Purbeck? The National Park should be seriously considered as part of the devolution debate. They would like the Parish Council to pass a resolution to ask PDC to seriously evaluate the establishment of a National Park as part of the consultation on local government devolution debate and for this to be taken to Dorset County Council. This is not asking the parish council to approve the establishment of a NP. It is asking that this opportunity be seriously examined as part of the devolution debate.

Cllr Lovell – it is understood that it will take at least five years for a National Park to be established, once agreed. Richard acknowledged that this was quite possibly the case. However, we need to make a distinction between a National Park and the Local Plan which goes to 2023. Even if it does take five years, the National Park could be in place by 2021.

Q: What would be the makeup of the National Parks Authority?

The NPA is made up of 75% elected councillors, of which, one third come from parish and town councils. The remaining 25% are appointed by the Secretary of State to reflect local interest e.g. farming, tourism, etc.

Q: How will the authority be funded in addition to the £10million from Central Government?

This varies from Park to Park. The Park would make funding applications to various funding bodies. The Government is withdrawing the rate support grant from all local authorities by 2020.

Q: Does applying for a National Park put a hold on the planning that Central Government is imposing on us?

They are operating on different time scales. There will be nothing immediately.

Q: Is there a set time table for the introduction of the new unitary authority?

DCC must put its proposals to Central Government in early 2017. The new authority will then be established by 2019.

## **2016/2 Chairman's Annual Report**

Cllr Hunter read his report covering the major events over the last year. A full copy is available on the web site.

## **2016/3 Reports from other bodies active in the Parish**

Stoborough Meadow Residents' Association – John Ives introduced himself as Chairman of the group. The group feels that their main purpose is to keep a watchful eye on issues that affect the estate and to promote social events when they can. The year has been fairly quiet and the only issue they are watching at the moment is the parking situation on the estate. This has been temporarily eased by more thoughtful parking. They are pleased to report that Anvil Ground Maintenance are doing a wonderful job in keeping the grounds in and around Stoborough Meadow neat and tidy.

Stoborough WI – Mrs Rispin spoke on behalf of the group. The group consists of 62 members and a committee of 10. They meet twice a month at the Village Hall and they have many active groups such as a book group, walking group and skittles team. They hold open meetings for family and friends and Professor Bruce Newsome will be giving a talk on the 7<sup>th</sup> July covering how to avoid computer fraud. They assist in the community by taking care of the flower baskets in Wareham and providing transport, baking cakes and raising money for worthy causes throughout the village.

Mrs Jill Scragg spoke on behalf of the Stoborough Village Hall – 10 trustees drawn from local residents and user groups. Since last year, they have received a grant from Viridor Credits and have already been able to improve the car park and will go on to carry out works to the interior of the building. If anyone wishes to become a Hall Trustee, please contact Jill direct.

Cllr Scragg addressed the meeting on behalf of the Ridge Residents Association. The Association is very well supported by the residents. The charity supper in February raised nearly £600 for the Air Ambulance. The AGM was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> March at Redcliffe Yacht Club at which it was agreed to reduce the annual subscription from £2 to nothing.

## **2016/4 Open Forum**

Residents raised concerns about the increased volume of traffic in Arne Road and the speed vehicles are travelling. Cllr Hunter commented that this is an issue that has been raised previously. We are aware that the new visitor centre does attract an increased amount of traffic and many of the visitors are unaware of the speed restriction in place. We are planning to have a consultation with the various bodies who own land along that stretch of road – the RSPB, NE, NT – to discuss the various issues that occur in the area.

As an addendum to this, a resident commented that much of the speeding traffic is local residents. Cyclists also pose a problem, riding two or three abreast and they seemingly take no notice of other road users. We have consulted with Dorset Police and there seems little that they are willing or able to do.

Q: Would it be possible to have a sign on the Ridge Crossroads, pointing the way to the RSPB centre?

It has already been proposed that a sign will be put up to this effect.

Dog fouling on heathland – owners are not clearing up after their dogs. We have ensured that there are additional bins but it is down to the dog owners to do the right thing.

Q: Would it be possible to have a bin at the crossroads?

The Parish Council will consider this.

There being no further business, the Parish Meeting closed at 7:30pm.