

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL ARNE PARISH MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16TH MAY, 2013 AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL, COMMENCING 6.30PM

Present: Cllrs R Scragg, N Barnes, T Heritage, M Frenchman

Chair: Cllr B Kenward

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also present: Jim Cribb, Countryside Ranger, National Trust; District Cllr N Cake, County Cllr M Lovell.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Annual Parish Meeting.

2013/1 Chairman's Annual Report on Parish Matters

The Chairman, not being available, Cllr Kenward took the Chair and read the Annual Report. Copies are available upon request and on the web site.

2013/2 Presentation from Jim Cribb, Countryside Ranger responsible for Hartland Moor and Middlebere Heath

Jim Cribb gave a presentation regarding proposed felling of trees at Tim's Tump and Sika Copse. The work at Tim's Tump involves felling up to 90% of the Scot's Pine trees on the site, approximately 300 trees. This is being done as Natural England wants the area to be cleared in order to regenerate the historic heathland that originally occupied the site. The scots pine will be removed at ground level with some of the timber being left as habitats. It is hoped that, with some of the trees cleared, the heathland vegetation will reinstate, various species of bird will re-inhabit the area and there will be new views over Poole harbour created. It is hoped that the timber will be sold for the purposes of bio-mass. Any contractor will have impressed upon them the importance of the site and how fragile it is – so felling would have to be done with the minimum of disturbance to the site and the wildlife present. Maps of the site are available showing the tress that will be cleared and those that will be left.

Sika copse is predominantly oak and is overstocked. This coming winter it will be thinned by 50%, allowing the remaining trees to grow on and become stronger. Over the next 7 years' the copse will be thinned to 85% with 280 trees having been removed. This will enable ground growth to reinstate which will, in turn, attract a variety of birds and wildlife. The work will be carried out by National Trust staff and volunteers with the timber being recycled on the estate and used as fencing supplies, gate posts and for other building projects.

The area is currently open to the public but they will be excluded from the felling area when the work is being undertaken.

Cllr Kenward asked about traffic to the site as there have already been concerns expressed regarding the lorries using Arne Road. It is hoped that the contractor accessing the site will do so via Corfe and will ideally chip the timber on site and take it away as bio-mass. If anyone knows of anyone who would like to take the work on, please contact Jim.

Ashley Pellegrini asked if it was necessary to remove the trees as there seems to be an awful lot of trees being removed across the area, leaving scars on the landscape. Why can the area not just be managed rather than thinned out this drastically. Jim – it is being done in order to restore the natural heathland which is a fragile environment, whilst the scots pines do not allow ground bio-diversity.

Cllr Kenward – suggested that this is approached in a slightly different way. Why do we not ask for more desirable trees to be planted in another part of the estate by way of offset; perhaps some oak or other native trees.

Jim – whilst Middlebere Heath is managed to an agreed plan, there are other parts of the estate that are not. It may well be possible to plant trees in these areas. Unfortunately, like everything else it comes down to time and money – there are three rangers who manage 3000 acres.

Ashley Pellegrini asked if the work could be done without burn off as Ridge does suffer from the smoke drift. Jim – hopefully, if the crop can be taken as bio-mass, then everything can be chipped but this cannot be guaranteed. It may be possible to control the amount of debris put on the fires so they are burnt out by the end of the day.

As there were no further questions, Cllr Kenward extended our thanks to Jim and his colleague for taking the time to come and address the meeting.

2013/3 Reports from other bodies active in the Parish

Apologies have been received from Ridge Residents Association.

Stoborough Green - Phil Love spoke on behalf of Stoborough Green. There are 42 properties and 8 bungalows, 26 of the houses and 1 bungalow is owned privately, the remaining 15 properties are owned by Synergy. Synergy owns all the land and conduct regular walkabouts that pick up various issues. Up until recently, the area was zone 6 of the Synergy Housing Group, with 1200 properties in this particular zone and 1 Synergy officer to oversee it. The Residents Group meets once a month and if the parish council would like a representative to come and sit in on the meetings, they would be very welcome. Now that Aster Properties have taken over Synergy, there will be 28 zones. The budget for this area is £16,000 pa which is put into the community for the good of the community. The AGM takes place in July at which time a new committee will be formed.

Stoborough Meadow – John Carvell – the Chairman of the SM Residents. Most of the business the Residents Association got involved in was in the early days of the development, such as keeping an eye on the Hayricks until the Parish Council took over. It is now a watching brief. Socially last year they had a Jubilee Celebration with a picnic which was very well attended and they have now been asked to hold another this year.

Stoborough Village Hall – Stephen Widmar – one of the trustees for the hall. The last year has been one of big changes, mainly the structure of the committee. Each user group now has a representative on the committee as a trustee and has a say in how the hall is run. Quarterly meetings are held. At the moment the exterior is being attended to. The cleaners are now doing a very good job and have been authorised to buy some equipment to tend to the floor. Lynn Burgess takes the bookings. Cllr Kenward asked if the village hall calendar of events could be put on the Parish Council web site and Cllr Scragg will look into this. The next meeting is in a month's time and one of the items will be that each trustee comes up with a wish list of what they would like to see done with the hall. Subject to money constraints, it may be that something can be done with the interior. The right things are happening slowly and it is well supported.

Furzebrook Village Hall – Nick Cake – still going along very well. The polish used on the floor is very easy to apply and is non-stick and he will liaise with Stephen Widmar as it may be useful for the Stoborough Village Hall floor.

2013/4 Open forum

The Chairman opened the floor to anyone who had any queries of questions they would like to raise about parish matters but there were no comments.

There being no further business, the Annual Parish Meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed:.....

Dated:.....