

Arne Parish Council Chair's Report for the Annual Parish Meeting Wednesday May 5th 2021

We trust we are now emerging from this uniquely difficult time. Much has been endured and we know we are not yet out of the woods. In the last year Arne Parish Council continued to meet on Zoom and I think we can claim much has been achieved.

There have been some changes on the Council. We have welcomed back Richard Bessant and welcomed in Ian Duckworth, Ian Church, Ali Patrick and Malcolm Sims. Vivienne Ward is taking what we hope will be a temporary break as her contribution as Flood Warden is invaluable. Phil Love my predecessor in the Chair has recently retired and we will greatly miss his great local knowledge, kindness, courtesy and good humour.

Firstly, and arguably the most important step taken this year, is the publishing of the Neighbourhood Plan which will be going to Referendum on the 6th May. The Plan is the work of a previous set of Councillors together with volunteers from the parish and represents their prodigious efforts in bringing it to its final stage. We express our heartfelt thanks for the hundreds of hours that went into its preparation. I should name Ashley Pellegrini, Don Hunter, Ray Scragg, Avris Wakefield-Sutton, in particular for their time and effect in bringing it to its conclusion.

Many discussions took place this year to form a response to the Dorset Council Local Plan. It was a lengthy and complex document and we can only hope that the second iteration of the Plan will be more straightforward and accessible. We wait to see what weight will be given to our comments regarding the daunting amount of housing being wished on the county. Councillors Duckworth and Sims worked patiently and diligently to make our response complete and cogent. All of this was accomplished with, at the forefront of our minds, Dorset Council's declarations of Emergencies with regard to Climate Change and the Environment.

We have dealt with many Planning Applications, including some for "infilling" dwellings to which the parish is suited. We have also grappled with more extensive proposals for housing developments on the North and South sides of West Lane where there remain many ongoing issues. We are a statutory consultee for all trees in the parish with TPOs as well as those in conservation areas. Trees will become an increasing focus in view of the declared crises and we will follow the lead of Dorset Council in all restorative initiatives.

On behalf of the Parish Council, Cllr Ward provided for the Purbeck Transport Plan a list of our continuing concerns including parking near the school, speeding and traffic congestion.

We have kept in touch with Stoborough School who continue navigating a difficult year through the lockdowns. We wish them so well.

In a survey of cultural activities in Purbeck prepared for the Draft Dorset Cultural Strategy, we have been represented by a highly qualified parishioner, Richard Brown. His Purbeck Arts Week concerts are the jewel in our cultural crown. We hope to attract increased investment from Arts Council England and the Dorset Arts Development Company.

We continue our partnership with WDDT who support us on issues arising on our side of the riverbank.

The Hayricks is regularly inspected. We currently have as work in progress a repair and restore programme for damage to the ground as well as an up dating of the play equipment. Our priority is to provide a safe and pleasant place for children to play and for all of us who want to exercise outdoors. There have been open air business meetings ably organised by Cllr Sims to obtain quotes from contractors for this ongoing project.

We receive reports from our allotments and from the SANG on Bog Lane- areas of productivity and recreation for the parish. We had regular updates from the Residents Associations of Stoborough Meadows and Ridge. Without live meetings, we have had fewer parishioners come to us with their concerns and we look forward to our being able to get together in a return to a more normal world.

Our website is about to be updated and we thank Robert Kenward for offering to remodel it.

May I thank all our Councillors past and present for their work in keeping matters ticking over during lockdown, including attending Zoom meetings of the many Dorset projects addressing climate and environmental issues.

My final thank you is to our valiant clerk Amanda who has guided me through my first year as chair and who has kept the council on the proper path with patience, firmness and good humour.

May I wish all Councillors and parishioners good health and a swift return to the many pleasures of our lovely parish.

Shelley Cranshaw

Chair