



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON**  
**THURSDAY 16<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2025**  
**AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM**

**Present:** Cllrs: M Sims, I Duckworth,

**Chair:** Cllr R Cranshaw

**Clerk:** Mrs A Clothier (Locum Clerk)

**Also Present:** There were three members of the public present.

The Council Chair opened the meeting, welcoming those present.

**1. Apologies for absence**

**25.142** Apologies were received from Cllrs J Ives, T Broadie James, A Patrick, I Church and Dorset Cllr Ezzard

**2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

**25.143** A member of the public enquired whether the Parish Council had received any information from Dorset Council regarding the recent traffic survey conducted on Furzebrook Road. The Parish Council confirmed that they had received an analysis of the data, which is to be placed on the agenda for the November meeting for further discussion.

It was commented that Church Knowle Parish Council had discussed this and the data showed that the average speed recorded was 40mph, and as a result, Dorset Council is not currently prepared to take any action.

It was noted that 20 out of 21 residents of Furzebrook Road have submitted a petition requesting the implementation of a 30mph speed limit. The petition has received support from Dorset Councillor Ezzard, although clarification was needed on this support.

The Council discussed that Highways must follow specific criteria before bringing forward any proposal to reduce speed limits. A question was raised as to whether Furzebrook qualifies as a village, which could strengthen the case for lowering the speed limit.

This matter will be formally discussed at the November meeting.

**3. Declaration of Interests**

**25.144** There were none.

**4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

**25.145** A copy of the draft minutes had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting.

The minutes of the meeting of the Parish Council held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

**25.146** There were none.

## **6. Dorset Councillor's Report.**

**25.147** Cllr. Ezzard had provided a written report for this meeting which was circulated to all members in advance. A copy is associated at **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

It was noted that the Wareham Tip was closed for two days. There were no questions or comments on the report.

## **7(a) To confirm the payment of accounts for September 2025**

The following payments were presented for approval:

<b>I n v o i c e date</b>	<b>B A C S number</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Payments due</b>				
16/10/25	49/25	T Watton	Salary Oct 2025	£437.40
16/10/25	50/25	HMRC	PAYE & Employers NI, Oct 2025	£338.40
06/10/25	51/25	S m a r t G a r d e n Services	Regular grounds maintenance	£590.83
03/10/25	52/25	Dorset Council	Speed surveys	£657.00
23/09/25	53/25	OHE Horticultural Ltd	Generator test at Stoborough Village hall	£120.00
19/09/25	54/25	BDO LLP	External Audit YE 31 Mar 2025	£252.00
22/09/25	55/25	Society of Local Council Clerks	One third share of annual SLCC membership fee for Parish Clerk	£79.20
18/09/25	56/25	M Sims	Reimbursement of expenditure on behalf of Council – key for new noticeboard	£8.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>£2482.83</b>

**25.148(a)** It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved and paid. **Proposed:**  
Cllr Duckworth **Seconded:** Cllr Cranshaw

ACTION: THE CLERK

## **7(b)To consider the bank reconciliation and position against budget for the full year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025 :**

**25.148(b)** It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the bank reconciliation and position against the budget for the year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2025. A copy of these documents is associated at **Appendix 2** to these minutes. There were no questions.

**25.148(c) To note the work undertaken so far in preparing the budget and precept request for 2026-27.** The Parish Clerk had provided a report explaining that using the same excel budget planning form as last year, as recommended and supplied by Scribe accounts, he had begun to compile the monthly expenditure data for the 2025-26 year to date for all budget sub heads. He will continue to do this for the October and November expenditure and will then prepare a rest-of-year

forecast for each sub head as the basis for discussion in December (at small committee level) about budget allocations for each sub head for 2026-27. This will then provide a basis for a recommendation for consideration of the precept requirement for 2026-27 at January's Council meeting. This process will need to also include an explicit review of the earmarked reserves and demonstrate how the Council will reduce the level of its general reserves over the medium term. In the meantime, please will all Council members consider any projects you would like to pursue in 2026-27 which would need to be funded. These will also need to be taken into account when the budget is being set.

ACTION: THE CLERK
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## **8. Governance Matters**

### **To note the conclusion of the external audit by BDO LLP and any matters for action.**

**25.149** The Parish Clerk had circulated a copy of the signed AGAR to all Council members as soon as it was received from the External Auditors, BDO LLP.

However, they had remarked on the following matters which did not affect their audit opinion:

*"1. The smaller authority's reserves appear excessive as, after accounting for the earmarked reserves, general reserves are greater than annual expenditure. A smaller authority has no specific right to accumulate funds via the precept. The smaller authority should ensure that it has regard to the level of reserves held when considering future precept requests and as part of their annual budgeting process. Any earmarked reserves should also be considered and formally approved by the smaller authority.*

*2. The internal auditor has highlighted a number of recommendations in their supplementary report to the smaller authority. The smaller authority must ensure that action is taken to address these areas of weakness in a timely manner.*

*3. To be in line with best practise we recommend that when minuting the appointment of the internal auditor, the Council record that they have considered the independence of the appointed auditor on an annual basis."*

The Parish Clerk had commented that item 1 would be dealt with as part of the budget setting and precept process for 2026-27, as noted in the comments on agenda item 7(c) above. Item 2 is something which the Clerk has in hand - by working systematically through the Internal Auditor's report. There may be points requiring discussion and decision by Council members, but if so the Clerk will bring these forward in due course. Item 3 is very straightforward (as she is a professionally qualified auditor serving many Parish & Town Councils across the county). It can be discharged as a brief dedicated item on the Council meeting agenda in February or March 2026.

## **9. Parish Reports**

### **25.150 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:**

It was reported that Wareham Town Council has decided to dissolve the existing Burial Committee arrangement, following a recommendation from their auditor. Subsequently, Wareham Town Council invited the other two Parishes involved to a meeting to discuss the matter further. Arne Parish Council raised questions on the legality of dissolving this long-standing committee.

The issue has now been adjourned, as Wareham Town Council is seeking legal advice on the next steps. It was understood that Wareham had initially assumed they would take over the responsibilities of the Burial Committee directly.

Concern was raised over the potential complexity and duration of the process, with reference made to a similar case in Wimborne, which reportedly took two years to resolve.

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

Stoborough Village Hall – nothing to report

Furzebrook Village Hall – nothing to report

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association – The Dorset Local Plan information is being shared and people are being encouraged to respond.

Ridge Residents Association – nothing to report

Stoborough Primary school – nothing to report

**25.152 Hayricks:**

It was reported that Southern Playground Services have commenced the remedial works, and the quality of the work completed so far is good. Some repainting of the outdoor gym equipment has also been carried out.

A matter was raised regarding complaints received about plastic flowers being placed around the memorial trees. This is acknowledged as a sensitive and delicate issue, as the items have been left in memory of loved ones. It was noted that the Parish Council currently has no formal policy in place regarding memorial decorations.

**25.153 SANG:**

Nothing further to report at this stage. As reported at last month's meeting any improvements in the footpaths / boardwalks must now await further funding arising from future developments, unless the Council wishes to consider self-funding them.

**25.154 Allotments:**

It was reported that there have been no changes to the waiting list or to the tenancy list in the past month.

An update was provided on the ongoing discussions regarding the installation of a water supply to the allotments. A quote has been received from Wessex Water, with the estimated cost coming in at under £1,500.

The Parish Council will be responsible for sourcing the water trough and the necessary pipework to connect to the mains supply. It was noted that Wessex Water will need to inspect the proposed installation before granting final approval.

Informal feedback from allotment holders indicates that four are in favour of the proposal and five are against. The main concern raised by those opposed is the potential for water wastage. A concern as this will continue to be a contentious project.

**25.155 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group:** No report.

**10. To consider Planning Applications received**

**25.156 Delegated –**

**P/HOU/2025/05571 100 Furzebrook Road Stoborough BH20 5AU Erect veranda.**

**NO OBJECTION**

**11. To receive an update on the initiative to investigate the costs and practicalities of providing a water supply to the Allotments.**

**25.157** The Parish Clerk had circulated to all members in advance of the meeting a paper providing an update on this matter. A copy is associated at **Appendix 3** to these minutes. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to continue with further fact-finding, including obtaining quotes from contractors for supplying and installing the trough and associated fittings.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**12. To receive an update on the project to replace the Council's current website with a bespoke website which meets the public sector website accessibility standards (WCAG2.2 AA) and has a .gov.uk domain.**

**25.158** The Parish Clerk had circulated to all members in advance of the meeting a paper providing an update on this matter. A copy is associated at **Appendix 4** to these minutes. After discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to accept Aubergine's quote of £150 + VAT to create and populate the 'additional content' pages.

Councillors also suggested that the News section of the website should be relocated to the left-hand side of the homepage, so that it becomes one of the first items visible to visitors.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**13. To consider a proposal to apply to Dorset Council for a permanent 20mph speed limit on New Road, Nutcrack Lane and Arne Road**

**25.159** It was explained that this idea had arisen during a conversation the Parish Clerk had held with a member of the DC Road safety Officers at Dorset Council. It specifically relates to the parts of these roads currently covered by the temporary 20mph limit – plus any residential roads off of them. The DC Officer had suggested that it would be much easier to retain and permanently establish 20mph limits on these roads prior to the temporary limit coming to an end. There will be some work to do to formalise such an application, but the Road Safety team are willing to support that. They had also suggested that the case might also be strengthened by the inclusion of a further SID as "technical" support to the scheme. The members of the Parish Council were asked to consider whether you would wish the Clerk to explore this idea further with the DC Road Safety team.

After discussion it was **RESOLVED** to explore the idea further with the DC Road Safety team.

It was also noted that Highways had identified that the 30mph signs on the A351 approaching Corfe Castle have lost their yellow reflective edging, which has worn away over time. The Parish Council will need to submit a request for these to be replaced.

ACTION: THE CLERK

**14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:**

**25.160** None

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

**25.161** The Chair raised the question of what kind of housing development would be suitable in the Parish if development were to take place. During discussion, it was suggested that a development of up to 30 eco-village style homes could be appropriate.

It was noted that if the Parish wishes the Neighbourhood Plan to carry weight in future planning decisions, it would need to be reviewed and updated to include some level of site allocation. Consideration must be given as to whether such development should be located within the Parish, and if so, where.

Members expressed the view that large-scale housing developments on the currently suggested sites would be inappropriate for the character and scale of the area.

**25.162 Date of next meeting:**

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> November 2025, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 19:56

**Appendix 1**

**Cllr Ryan Holloway / Cllr Beryl Ezzard DC Report for Arne Parish Council October 2025 Dorset Council (DC) & Cabinet**

The next Full DC meeting will be on 23 October. The draft DC Local Plan & Local Transport Plan closed on 13 October. Apologies for those who failed to log on – as the website crashed apparently. An extension of a couple of days is allowed for the Local Plan only; not the LTP4. There has been a great response; at our Pop-up Event on the Quay had 70 folk stop and chat to us regarding the Dorset Plan and local Transport Plan

The DC Cabinet met on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> October at 6.30pm.

**DC Roadworks - Sandford A351**

Be aware that disruption will occur by the Lidl's development/ Pottery Roundabout from 22 October to 7 December (7 weeks) whilst various changes to the road utilities & layout with a new vehicular access into Lidl's site.

The A35 closure from Morden Park Corner to Bloxworth has now been completed.

The Old Furzebrook Road will be closed for surface maintenance 8 October to 13 October.

**Cost of Living Support for families on Income Support /Pension Credit.**

The DC has put aside £500k extra available each year to support those in need. Contact the Citizens Advice or visit the DC Website for information.

**Purbeck200 Shuttle Bus**

We have yet to analyse the final passenger numbers and visits; however, the Purbeck Community Rail Partnership (PCRP) who lead on this project is proactive in looking for funding to increase the days and interesting places to visit for next year.

**Trigon Landfill Site on Bere Road**

The Trigon Landfill Liaison Panel Meeting, with Cllr Ryan Holloway as designated DC Member will take place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October in Wareham Town Hall at 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

**Planning Enforcement & DC Road Works**

If any Councillor suspects a breach of planning act 1990, please go to DC website and report your concerns there or contact your local DC Cllrs. Local roadwork information is notified to T&PC Clerk.

**Wareham Household Recycling Centre temporary closure**

The Wareham HRC will be closed on Tuesday 14 and Wednesday 15 October for a deep clean, I understand.

**Dorset Cllrs Monthly Advice Surgeries in Wareham Library.**

Ryan on fourth Saturday every month; 10-12 noon: contact Mob: 07783362330

Beryl on second Friday every month 10.00-12 noon. Contact No. 01929 550138

All welcome to come along and see us, no appointment needed

**Appendix 2**

**Bank Reconciliation and accounts update**

Please see separate .pdf file.

**Appendix 3**

**Paper – Update on initiative to provide a water supply for the allotments**

**Appendix 4**

**Paper – Update on work towards new website**