



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2025
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

Present: Cllrs: T Brodie James, I Church, I Duckworth, A Patrick and M Sims

Chair: Cllr R Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr T Watton

Also Present: There were five members of the public present.

The Council Chair opened the meeting, welcoming those present.

1. Apologies for absence

25.121 Apologies were received from Cllr J Ives and Dorset Cllr Ezzard.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

25.122 A resident of Worgret expressed further concerns about the traffic speeds and driver behaviour of heavy lorries turning in to Puddletown Rd from the A352. He stressed that there are many instances of lorry drivers not following the correct procedure of going down to the roundabout when travelling east along the A352. He mentioned the frequency of 'near misses' caused by such drivers. In response, the Parish Clerk reiterated previous advice about the importance of reporting all near misses to Dorset Council Highways using their online page at <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/news/tell-us-about-small-collisions-or-near-misses-to-help-us-target-road-improvements>

The Clerk also indicated that he would again draw this poor driver behaviour to the attention of the Dorset Highways team.

ACTION: THE CLERK

Mr Richard Brown, representing Dorset CPRE, gave a presentation on the current draft Dorset Local Plan Options consultation and the significance of the identified development sites / target volume of housing within Arne Parish. He made the following key points:

- The Local Plan is important because it shapes the county's future for almost the next 20 years.
- Dorset needs some development to enable communities and the economy to thrive and grow, but the plan needs to be realistic and deliverable and to address the real needs of our communities and economy – with the right numbers of houses in the right places and with the appropriate levels of supporting infrastructure.
- Dorset's rate of new housing delivery has for many years averaged around 1,300 houses pa – reflecting what developers think they can build and sell. The government's target figure for Dorset is 3,246 houses pa – or 55,000 during the Local Plan period. Dorset Council have themselves said that this government target is unrealistic and undeliverable.
- Dorset's real housing need is considered to be around 25k - 30k during the Local Plan period; i.e. around half the government's target figure for Dorset. Despite this, the sites put forward by Dorset Council in this consultation represent a total of around 70k houses. Consequently it is important that local communities engage with Dorset Council to help reduce these numbers by responding to this consultation and pointing out the unsustainability and unsuitability of sites, where that is the case.
- This is true of the Arne parish sites at Worgret.

- Unsustainability in this context concerns matters such as infrastructure and the environment – e.g. local roads, schools, surgeries, water and sewerage. These are all inadequate and could not cope with such a level of development. It also concerns the unacceptable impact on the environment, including the heathland, the designated National Landscape (formerly referred to as the AONB), and the Green Belt.
- A Local Plan based on unachievable housing numbers will not be delivered because developers only build what they can profitably sell. So an unrealistic plan will quickly fail the government’s Housing Delivery Test, and lead to a developer-led free-for-all and consequent loss of control over local planning. It also undermines community efforts spent developing and agreeing Neighbourhood Plans.
- The government’s own planning framework allows a local authority to make the case for lower numbers, based for example on environmental quality and constraints - which are very clear in Dorset. Dorset Council should also point out that the county’s housing need, for all types of housing, is only around half the government’s target number. Planning for any more is fruitless because they won’t get built.
- Finally, to promote development, Dorset Council proposes removing settlement boundaries – referred to as their “flexible settlement policy”. This means removing the boundaries which have helped to define separate communities and prevent development in the countryside. Dorset Council says they only envisage allowing developments of 30 houses outside boundaries. However once boundaries are removed they cannot be put back – and developers will see this as an opportunity.

Following this, Mr Brown urged the Parish Council to:

- (a) encourage Dorset Council to press ahead with their exercise to assess the real housing needs for Dorset for the plan period – and to share the results with the public.
- (b) Each Parish to carry out its own local consideration and identification of local sites for achievable and sustainable housing development which meets the genuine local needs of its community in the long term; and where they are able to, include them in a review of their Neighbourhood Plans.

Mr David Evans, a retired Town Planner representing Wareham Neighbourhood Planning Group, then gave a Powerpoint presentation on the DLP Options consultation - a copy of which is associated at **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

In response to comments and questions, Mr Evans stressed the importance of reviewing the Arne Neighbourhood Plan to include some housing development allocations.

It was observed that the Dorset National Landscape people have a significant amount of influence and the government is required to further the purposes of designated areas of “National Landscape”. Consequently it is important to encourage them to use their influence to counter these unacceptable levels of development in and adjacent to the DNL.

On the total number of houses which is more appropriate for Dorset it was noted that it is understood that MP Vikki Slade’s view is that this should be around 30k within the plan period – a figure very close to the latest estimates of actual housing need for the county.

3. Declaration of Interests

25.123 There were none.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 21st August 2025

25.124 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 21st August 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

25.125 There were none.

6. Dorset Councillor's Report.

25.126 Cllr. Holloway had provided a written report for this meeting which was circulated to all members in advance. A copy is associated at **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

There were no questions on his report.

7(a) To confirm the payment of accounts for August 2025

The following payments were presented for approval:

I n v o i c e date	B A C S number	Payee	Description	Amount
Payments already made				
29/08/2025	42/25	Southern Playground Services Ltd	50% initial payment for playground equipment repairs / upgrade	£5607.00
Payments due				
18/09/2025	43/25	T Watton	Salary Sept 2025	£506.40
18/09/2025	44/25	HMRC	PAYE & Employers NI, Sept 2025	401.65
05/09/2025	45/25	S m a r t G a r d e n Services		
24/08/2025	46/25	Aubergine262 Ltd	WCAG website set-up including transfer of essential content and year one subscription, annual management fee, new .gov.uk domain registration	£634.80
18/06/2025	47/25	Wareham Burial Joint Committee	2025/26 first half year subscription	£2220.10
17/09/2025	48/25	Wareham Area Men's Shed	Materials and labour to refurbish 2 benches in Hayricks recreation area	£430.00
Total				£10,630.78

25.127(a) It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved and paid. **Proposed:**

Cllr Patrick **Seconded:** Cllr Duckworth

ACTION: THE CLERK

7(b)To consider the bank reconciliation and position against budget for the full year ending 31st August 2025 :

25.127(b) It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the bank reconciliation and position against the budget for the year ending 31st August 2025. A copy of these documents is associated at **Appendix 2** to these minutes. There were no questions.

ACTION: THE CLERK

8. Governance Matters

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

25.128 The Parish Clerk reported that the External Auditors, BDO LLP, had not yet responded with their report. Having spoken to staff at BDO LLP the Clerk is aware that the audit itself has been completed, but that it is awaiting signoff by a senior partner at the company. It was noted that the deadline for Councils to receive the formal report and notice of conclusion of external audit for 2024/25 is 30th September 2025.

9. Parish Reports

25.129 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Duckworth reported that he and Cllr Patrick had attended a meeting of the Wareham Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group meeting. They noted from this a strong steer that it would be advisable for the Parish Council to review its Neighbourhood Plan to ensure it clarifies settlement boundaries and consider including nominated specific sites for development. These aspects provide some safeguards which may be drawn on to help counter development target allocation for the settlements in the parish which may be included in the final version of the Dorset Local Plan. It was suggested that a separate community meeting is arranged to review the Arne Neighbourhood Plan. Cllr Duckworth reported on his attendance at Dorset Council Climate Workshop. This had included information about scope for members of the local community to take advantage of reduced rates for solar panels, a call for "Climate Ambassadors" who would go into local schools, and a call for "Town and Parish Sustainability Ambassadors".

Cllr Duckworth also reported on a site meeting with an engineer from Wessex Water who had been booked to carry out an assessment at the allotments to provide a quote for a mains connected water supply. The engineer had also provided information on the actions the Parish Council would be required to arrange to provide a supply, and also the conditions to be met for it to be taken forward. Cllr Church reported that he and Cllr Patrick had attended the regular meeting of the Wareham Burial Joint Committee on Wednesday 17th September.

Cllr Sims reported on the online meeting he and the Parish Clerk had attended with a website designer from Aubergine.

Cllr Cranshaw reported on a meeting with Vicky Slade MP. She had also attended AGM of the Friends of Wareham Hospital. She noted that FoWH remained committed to retaining cancer treatment at Wareham hospital. Purbeck leads Dorset in late diagnosis of prostate cancer.

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

Stoborough Village Hall – It was noted that the next meeting (the AGM) is scheduled for Monday 22nd September 2025.

Furzebrook Village Hall – Nothing to report.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association – It was reported that the Residents Association are currently making representations to Dorset Council Highways department about the level of growth along the roadside.

Ridge Residents Association – Nothing to report.

Stoborough Primary school – Nothing to report.

25.131 Hayricks:

Cllr Sims reported that during the sustained hot and dry summer period Adam Smart had arranged for two bowsers (2000 litres each) of water to be delivered and he had watered at The Hayricks. The remedial work to the play equipment in response to the RoSPA inspection, which had been arranged with by Southern Playground Services Ltd, is well under way. The zip wire will be attended to during week commencing 22nd Sept. The Wareham Men's shed team are working on the refurbishment of the back-to-back seats. Cllr Sims also suggested that three more trees were required to replace those which had died. It will be necessary to choose the species for these replacements.

Finally, it was noted that although Adam Smart had started the cut-and-collect work, this had not been completed before the inclement weather over the past 4 weeks or so.

ACTION: CLLR SIMS

25.132 SANG:

Nothing further to report.

25.133 Allotments:

The Clerk reported that the site visit by a Wessex Water inspector was carried out on Thursday 18th September to assess the feasibility and cost of a water supply connection to a trough on the allotment site. We expect to receive the report and quote before the next Parish Council meeting. Two of the vacant plots have been let in the past month. Adam Smart has been contacted to request that he arranges for the additional vacant plots to be covered with weed suppressant sheeting. He has not yet responded to this matter, so the Clerk will contact him again.

The text of a letter to all allotment holders has been agreed. The letter explains the extension of the tenancy period to 31st December and the revised tenancy dates thereafter. The letter notifies tenants of the small increase in tenancy annual charge as agreed at the last Council budget setting session. It also advises them of the initial fact-finding work on the proposal to provide a water supply, assures them that this will not affect the annual rental fee, and it seeks their opinions on the initiative.

ACTION: THE CLERK

25.134 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: No report.

10. To consider Planning Applications received

25.135 Delegated –

P/LBC/2025/05023 63 Corfe Road Stoborough BH20 5AE. Erect single storey rear extension, internal alterations & increase height of chimney to allow for a log burning fire to be installed.

NO OBJECTION

11. To further consider the DAPTC survey of small parish councils on the Fresh Start initiative - planning for the future of local government in Dorset and consider whether to compile and submit a corporate response in addition to personal responses by members and the Clerk.

25.136 The Council Chair observed that Arne Parish Council looks at co-operation with neighbouring parishes on a case-by-case basis and therefore does not need an external structure to facilitate consultation and co-operation with them. It was noted that due to its size and proximity, Wareham Town Council is a natural partner.

12. To consider the Dorset Local Plan options document and Local Transport Plan. To consider any corporate response the Council may wish to make, and the process to compile that collective response from the views of the Council members.

25.137 Drawing on the insights provided by a reading of the DLP Options supporting papers, and the presentations by Richard Brown (representing Dorset CPRE) and David Evans, former Town Planner and vice-chair of the Wareham Neighbourhood Planning Group, it was agreed that the Council was deeply concerned about the scale of the possible housing development on the two sites adjacent to Worgret. Members unanimously felt that the level of development / volume of dwellings suggested was unsustainable. Due to the elevated positioning and topography of the sites it would be very obtrusive and cause significant damage to the views to and from the designated / protected Dorset National Landscape area. It is also remote from any services & facilities which might otherwise be provided by the town of Wareham. It would engulf and obliterate the identity of the community of Worgret. In summary, the identified sites are entirely inappropriate for large scale developments of any kind. It was **AGREED** that in addition to forwarding a DLP Options consultation response direct to Dorset Council, the Parish Council should also write to Dorset National Landscape to highlight that we expect them themselves to push back in the strongest terms to Dorset Council regarding this suggested very large increase in housing for the Parish which is identified in the DLP Options consultation. The Parish Council rightly expects the DNL organisation to defend the very sensitive Dorset National Landscape area from the damage such a scale of development would cause to the local natural environment and its flora & fauna, the amenity and views to and from the DNL itself, and the character of the existing local settlements.

ACTION: THE CLERK

13. To provide 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.

25.138 The Parish Clerk reported that he and Cllr Sims had attended a very productive meeting with an appointed website designer from Aubergine to discuss the features to be included in the new Parish Council website. The Parish Clerk indicated that he would forward to all members a paper which will include the proposed pages / structure of the website and the optional pages / material recommended to be included in it in addition to the pages / documents which the Council is legally mandated to publish. The paper will indicate a list of "useful links" to enable members of the public to easily access pages on the Dorset Council website to report common problems such as highways faults, problems with rights of way, instances of noise nuisance, minor traffic collisions and near misses, etc; as well as providing quick access to the Dorset Council Planning Portal, etc. It is also proposed that the website will be monitored by Google Analytics so that the volume and frequency of public access to the site can be regularly tracked – enabling the targeting of improvement actions.

ACTION: THE CLERK

14. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

25.139 Cllr Sims reported that he had received confirmation from the DC Rights of Way team that the dilapidated fingerpost on New Rd Stoborough which he had reported to them has been scheduled for remedial work or replacement.

The poor condition of a bench at Priory Meadows was noted. This matter will be reported to the Wareham & District Development Trust who maintain that area.

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

25.140 There were none.

25.141 Date of next meeting:

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 16th October 2025, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall. Cllr

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 21: 07

Appendix 1

Draft Dorset Local Plan Options consultation – powerpoint presentation given by Mr David Evans.

See associated .pdf file

Appendix 2

Cllr Ryan Holloway DC Report for Arne Parish Council September 2025

Dorset Council (DC) & Cabinet

The next Full DC meeting will be on 23 October. The draft DC Local Plan & Local Transport Plan has been issued and open for everyone to respond to the Consultation from 18 August to 13th October. All are urged to take part online or on paper, copies are available in Libraries and Schools.

We are setting up a Popup Session at the Saturday Market on the Quay in September Saturday 27th from 10am The Cabinet met on Tuesday 9th September at 6.30pm.

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

This is proving popular with the tourists and local folk. The shuttle service runs until the last Wednesday and Saturday in August. We are still awaiting the passenger numbers so should be able to update you in October.

Trigon Landfill Site on Bere Road

There have been local complaints of extra activity at this landfill site, which was lately only being monitored, and not used for dumping waste. In conjunction with the Wareham St Martin PC enquiries were made of DC Minerals & Waste Officers who admitted that extra activity had not been relayed to the local DC Members & Parish. There had been a recent visit by DC resulting in no evidence of any breach of conditions, and it was inert waste from Household Recycling Centres that was being transferred to Trigon. However, as the Trigon Liaison Panel had not been active for the past five years, we have requested that the Operators, now changed from Viridor, be asked to set up with DC, a Panel as soon as possible to update us on the situation, and satisfy the local concern, on activity there. I'm the designated member from DC. This meeting is being scheduled for Wednesday 22nd October in Wareham Town Hall at 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

DC Local Plan Consultation

As I mentioned above, please do ensure that you respond the public consultation by the 13th October, Beryl & I are planning a pop session with Cabinet member for Planning Cllr Shane Bartlett on Saturday 27th September in Wareham Quay from 10am.

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

The proposed booking system to visit the HRC's in DC area has been re-considered; only four recycling centres in Dorset will be going ahead with a booking system, those located near our DC boundaries or have long queues. Currently the Westminster Road Household Recycling Centre will continue without change.

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 3

Bank Reconciliation and accounts update

Please see separate .pdf file.