



**Minutes of the Arne Annual Parish Meeting held at the
Stoborough Village Hall, West Lane, Stoborough, Wareham on
Thursday 18th May 2017, commencing 6.30pm**

Present: Cllrs A Pellegrini, R Bessant, V Ward, A Wakefield- Sutton, P Love

Chair: Cllr D Hunter

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Present: 24 members of the public, together with County Cllr Beryl Ezzard, District Cllr Malcolm Barnes, and Sam Crede (Environment Agency), Dante Munns (RSPB) and Ian Alexander (Natural England)

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the members of the Parish Council and our guest speakers.

1. Chairman's Annual Report on Parish Matters

The Chairman gave his report on the year's events for 2016/17. A full copy is available on the Parish Council's web site.

2. Reports from other bodies active in the Parish

Steve Widmer – Stoborough Meadow Resident's Association – gave the following report:

'The SMRA would like to thank the Parish Council for continuing to appoint Anvil Ground Maintenance to manage the Hayricks and common areas of the Parish. Anvil's employees are extremely conscientious and take a pride in their work. A Tea Party at Stoborough Meadow took place last June to celebrate the Queen's Birthday and was a complete success. All who attended said how much they enjoyed it. Planting of some additional buddleias at the Hayricks was completed by the Association with the Council's approval in order to provide additional butterfly havens. Also, under the leadership of the late Ron Plowman, six sacks of daffodil bulbs were planted on the estate. These produced a wonderful show this Spring and will be Ron's legacy. Our Chairman, John Ives, gladly accepted an invitation to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group.'

Debbie Corbin - Head Teacher Stoborough Primary School - reported that the school has had a busy year.

- Ofsted visited in January.
- The school has received their equality mark and achieved Silver; they will be going for Gold before the end of the Summer.
- They are currently due their SIAMS inspection – this takes place every 5 years by the diocese.
- Community events – trying to encourage the local community and parents to participate in school activities – the grand-parents lunch is proving to be very popular and they are now going to hold tea on the lawn. Friday lunch is also proving successful, inviting older members of the community to sit with the children.
- RE open afternoon on the 18th May – very successful with the children show casing all things RE.

- On the 19th May the Art Day is being held from 9.00am to 10.00am and then 3.30pm to 4.30pm.
- Competitive sports day will be held on 23rd June, followed by a ploughman's lunch, 1st July is the summer fete and the juniors are going to stage a pantomime – Pirates of the Curry Bean.
- The school has raised money for Wareham in Need, amongst other charities. This year they have extended the school day and this has worked very well.
- Sports are going very well and the school is in line to win the football championship, if it wins its next two matches. Maths – the school has adopted the Shanghai method of teaching and this is proving very successful.
- The PTA recently met and agreed to a change of title to the PTFA - with their next meeting on the 25th May 2017 at 3.15pm.
- Improvements continue to be made to the premises and they now have a bike shelter, funded by the parents, and have just finished resurfacing the junior learning area.
- Strong links continue with the Parish Council and thanks are extended for all the support they receive, especially regarding the traffic issues. Special thanks were extended to Cllr Pellegrini and the Clerk.

The school offers a warm welcome to the Parish Council to use the premises whenever they wish. The school is very proud of all the children and staff and is happy to serve the community in whatever ways they can.

Nick Cake – Furzebrook Village Hall – the AGM was held at the end of April and all officers were re-elected. The Trust Agreement for FVH covers the residents of Stoborough, Arne and Church Knoll. After many years, they are going to put in a separate drainage system which will be able to cope with the larger events. It is estimated that this will cost in the region of £10,000 and it is the main project for the coming year.

3. Presentation from the Environment Agency – ‘The Arne Moors ‘

Presentation led by Sam Crede of the Environment Agency. Sam gave a presentation based on the strategy driven by the report drawn up from the 2012 review. This project is not large in terms of scale but will change the moors as they currently stand, in that water will be allowed into certain areas of the site. Any work undertaken will not increase flood risk to anyone in Ridge. They do not yet know how the flora and fauna will change as a result of the work, but they know what they would like to achieve and are looking at how to create the desired change. Timescale – this is the very beginning of the project – currently in a two-year appraisal period, working in conjunction with RSPB and Natural England, together with in-house consultants. This process should finish in 2019. After this, if an idea emerges that ticks all the relevant boxes and justifies the expense, there will follow a two-year design period. During this time detailed surveys would be carried out and at the end of these two years, they may be in a position to start work. This will be in about five years' time.

Questions and Answers

Arne Moors – what area is under consideration? At the moment, all the work will be carried out within the RSPB land boundary.

How will this affect Ridge Farm? The EA have been in discussion with the owner about what may or may not happen, however, there should be minimal or no negative impact. There are concerns around flooding and drainage but in a wider picture, any effects are not known – other than it will not increase flood risk in the area.

The initial consultation had various options, the current proposal is considerably larger – why is the area to the east of Ridge farm now the favourable option? This is only an idea at the moment which

will create the least amount of flood risk. They now have additional funding which will enable them to naturally progress from the original smaller scheme to the enlarged area which will be required 30 years into the future.

Dante Munns, RSPB – the whole area is important from a wildlife perspective. With sea levels set to rise the habitat around Poole Harbour is being squeezed and the EA have a legal requirement to provide replacement habitat and consequently need to set back the seawall to create an additional 44 hectares. This is an opportunity to create something that allows for a more natural regime without artificial sea walls.

Current plan – the runoff from the hills to the south of the site currently runs over the moors and out through the tidal belt. If the barrier is moved further south, the water will not be able to escape. The final plan will not allow this to happen. The current water flow across the site must be maintained.

Have any other areas around Poole Harbour been considered? Yes - looked extensively along the Frome and Piddle, to the north of Lychett but the pre-appraisal proved that this site was the only viable one due to cost and the capability to deliver the required type of habitat. This site, out of a list of about 80, was the only one.

Is it the case that the land on the other side of the river was ruled out as the legal obligation to maintain it could not be waived? The land in question has to be maintained.

What method is going to be used to flood or not flood? This is not known at this stage. It is hoped it will be something passive that does not involve maintenance and looks natural.

About 3 years ago a presentation was given and one option was for a wall across the moors to stop the flooding of the lower part of Ridge. There is some question about the stance of the RSPB with the lack of consultation on the various projects, including the new café. Dante Munns – the sea wall does form part of this proposal but this has not been finalised or agreed.

If nothing is done, the tidal banks on the south side of the Frome are very difficult to maintain and a major tidal surge would over-top the banks and flood the site. Should this happen more frequently, as is anticipated, the banks would quickly wear down. The scheme enables the EA to be pro-active. The banks remain weak and this is a good opportunity to bring the banks back to a location where they can be maintained more easily. The legal driving force is creating habitat as opposed to protecting property but the project will not be allowed to increase local flood risk.

The sea bed is rising in the harbour – should it not be dredged as part of this project? This is not part of the EA's responsibility. Maintaining navigation is the responsibility of Poole Harbour Commission. The silt that forms the bed of Poole Harbour is relatively mobile: as it is dredged it falls into the dredged channel which will gradually expose the salt marsh which provides the protection for the land behind. Increased dredging will increase the loss of the salt marsh habitat.

Cllr Ezzard – what depth of water would flood the moors? It is anticipated that people will be able to use it more easily than they currently can. The depth will vary, but they are not looking to bring water permanently to the back of the site and it will not become an extension of the harbour. If the vision proves to be an engineering possibility, there will not be more access to the seaward side of the bank but it is the RSPB's intention to improve pedestrian access to the point of the bank.

It was stressed that the project is still in the very initial stages and there are many things that could make it not happen. This is the very beginning of the process and there will be many more public discussions.

The Chairman thanked the guest speakers and invited the Police Officers in attendance to address the meeting.

PCSO Tom Llewelyn informed the meeting that he was part of the local Neighbourhood Police Team and spoke about Neighbourhood Watch as the Police are trying to encourage a resurgence of the scheme in local areas. The initiative is now more directed towards identifying the more vulnerable members of the community and looking after your neighbours. If residents would like to join, they can do so via the Dorset Police web site. There has also been an increase in theft from vehicles in the area. Residents are asked to make sure they do not leave any valuables in their cars. If anyone sees anything suspicious, please inform the Police via 101. Cllr Wakefield-Sutton asked how many Neighbourhood Watch areas are there in Arne – 3 or 4 only. It was noted that the Ridge Residents Association have a scheme. Cllr Love asked what the legal requirement for parking a vehicle on the side of the road is. If it is a public road it needs tax, insurance and MOT. If it a private road, it may not need all three.

4. Open Forum

North Farm, Soldiers Road hosts occasional music festivals which are becoming quite intrusive. The licence to conduct the event is issued by PDC and there are stipulations that need to be met. If there are any concerns regarding an event, there is a dedicated telephone line that can be used to speak to the Licensing Authority at PDC.

There being no further business the Parish meeting close at 19:43pm