



**Minutes of the Arne Annual Parish Meeting held at the
Stoborough Village Hall, West Lane, Stoborough, Wareham on
Thursday 17th May 2018, 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: 12 members of the public, together with County Cllr Beryl Ezzard, Catherine Farrugia (Environment Agency), Dante Munns (RSPB) and Ian Alexander (Natural England), Mark Norris SSE.

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 2017/18. 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 – was unable to attend and had submitted his apologies.

Nick Cake – Furzebrook Village Hall – reported that the new sewage system is now in and working well.

Ridge Residents' Association – nothing to report.

3. Open Forum

Ian Jenkins – pot holes in the road, especially on West Lane and Corfe Road. The Chair reminded residents that the more people who log pot holes on the Dorset for You web site, the quicker it is likely to be repaired. Mr Jenkins also raised the issue of the flooding on the same corner. Cllr Ward said that she had requested the annual gully clearing but will log it again.

ACTION: CLLR WARD

Peter Sibthorp – raised the issue of silting of the river Frome. Last Friday week a pleasure boat ran aground near Redcliffe. RMAG has examined documentation designed to justify the Arne Moors Project and has found that failure of the Arne Moors embankment will lead to flooding and the navigation of the Frome is likely to be affected leading to a wider, shallower river. How can the Project Team consider going ahead when their own documentation tells them that problems will occur? Catherine Farrugia responded saying that, for a thorough and more detailed response to the question, it should be submitted via the web site. The strategy quoted is talking about the river, which is not an embankment they are thinking of breaching. The ones to be breached would not have an effect on the river. Peter – the area is adjacent to the Wareham channel which is known to be shallow and Poole Harbour commissioners are carrying out their own investigations.

Gill Sibthorp – what are the ‘imperative reasons’ for overriding public interest which have led to the Moors being flooded? Ian Alexander responded saying a decision was taken by the Secretary of State whereby projects are bought forward to compensate for works that are likely to have an impact on the EU designated sites. A decision was made to raise the flood defences protecting areas of Poole. This meant compensation was automatically required. Flooding the Moors will not protect houses in Poole from being flooded, but it will replace those salt marshes and mud flats that will be lost by the work.

44 hectares of intertidal habit are needed to replace those that may be lost, so why is the project talking about 150 hectares. Ian Alexander – the Shore Line Management documents state that the 44 hectares are necessary to compensate for the first epoch. In 30 years’ time, additional compensation will be required for the next epoch which runs until 2110. To carry out the work in one go is cost effective. The need for the salt flats was covered in a previous Parish Council meeting.

Hugh Ricks – who has made the decision that Ridge will not flood when, this winter, there has been a high snow melt, tidal flaps being left open and his garden has suffered a higher water level than he has ever seen during his time living in Ridge. Ian Alexander – we will not proceed with the project if it is likely to make the situation worse for the properties. They are not yet in a position to demonstrate this, as they have not finished the preparatory work.

It would seem that the proposed new sea wall is no higher than the present sea wall. How are they to manage when sea levels rise. Catherine – the height of the wall has not been determined. The next stage will be a public exhibition in the Autumn at which time information will be fixed. The Workshop 2 document is part of an iterative design process.

Mark Norris from SSE was invited to address the meeting. Scottish and Southern own the electricity network but do not own any of the meters or charge for the electricity. They are responsible for keeping the lights on. Mark gave a brief explanation of the work of SSE and the work they do with vulnerable members of society during power cuts. They are currently working with Aster to install light bulbs that will work in a power cut. He also explained the Community Resilience Grant. Arne Parish Council has already received a grant of over £5,000 from this fund to provide a generator and radios for use in the event of a major power cut. Forms were made available for completion by those vulnerable members of the community who wish to register. Additional forms are available from the Clerk.

The grant is also available for providing defibrillators.

How does this overlap with the service provider who would have a legal obligation to the customer? It is the job of SSE to ensure electricity reaches the fuses. The number to call if you get a power cut is 105. This will put you through to the distribution centre responsible for your area.

There being no further business the Parish meeting close at 19.50pm.