



MINUTES OF THE ARNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18th JUNE 2020
This meeting was carried out by video conferencing

Present: Cllrs I Church, I Duckworth, R Bessant, A Patrick, P Love, M Sims, P Love

Chair: Cllr S Cranshaw

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also Present: Dorset Cllr B Ezzard & Mr Richard Brown

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of the minutes.

1. Public Participation

Richard Brown was invited to address the meeting. Prior to the meeting, all members had received copies of emails sent from Mr Brown to Ian Alexander of Natural England (NE), Giles Nicholson of Dorset Council and Councillor Beryl Ezzard. The correspondence centred around the failure of Dorset Council to consult and reach an agreement with NE to work within the National Nature Reserve as, it is understood, they are legally obliged to do under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. As a result, a verge of orchids under Slepe Heath Farm was unfortunately destroyed by contractors acting on the instructions of Dorset Council. Further verge cutting would have seen other verge orchids destroyed along the Arne Road towards the Arne Road/Corfe triangle had the contractor not been persuaded to stop. Dorset Council have now stated that no further work will be undertaken until later this year and we are very grateful for that. Cllr Ezzard kindly offered to contact Cllr Ray Brian of Dorset Council, portfolio holder for Highways, Travel and Environment, and Mr Brown asked if the Parish Council would support her letter by requesting an assurance that Dorset Council would consult and reach agreement with NE on any future activity and that they consider creating a register of sites where orchids and other rare and protected species exist. He noted that there is an agenda item for a 'No Mow May' initiative and requested that this is extended into June in order to protect the orchids into the future.

Mr Brown then asked Cllr Duckworth how he sees the work on the Climate Change & Environmental Emergency initiative being progressed in the future. Other parishes have held virtual meetings and will, no doubt, be pleased to share their results to better inform the work of Arne Parish Council. The Chair responded saying that, under the present circumstances, it was felt that we would not be able to hold the meetings that we feel would be helpful to make this project worthwhile. Cllr Duckworth had suggested that we cooperate with Wareham Town Council, so we have a larger body of people and agencies involved with this.

Cllr Duckworth asked if Arne Parish Council was going to write in support of Cllr Ezzard's complaint regarding the destruction of the orchids. The Clerk pointed out that no resolutions could be made within the public participation section and this could be discussed as part of a item 10(e).

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2. Declarations of Interest

21.001 No interests were declared at this stage and no requests for dispensation had been received.

3. Apologies for absence

21.002 Apologies had been received from Cllr Vivienne Ward, and Dorset Cllr Ryan Holloway.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th February 2020

21.003 A copy of the minutes had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Love proposed them to be a true and accurate representation of the meeting. This was seconded by Cllr Bessant and agreed unanimously. The Chair will sign the minutes in due course.

5. Matters arising – for report only

21.004 Climate Change & Environmental Emergency – Cllr Duckworth reported that he had contacted the Wareham Town Clerk who had responded saying it would be considered at the next full meeting of the Council. Cllr Ezzard pointed out that the full Council had not met since March and the next full meeting was due to take place on the 30th June. Cllr Duckworth had also forwarded a link to a webinar with Frome Town Council which was full of ideas relating to Climate Change, etc and he was considering sending the link to the Wareham Town Council (WTC) so they could have some ideas to bring to the table for discussion at a public meeting. Cllr Ezzard informed the meeting that WTC did form a subcommittee to take the Climate Change Emergency discussions forward and she had met with some local businesses but Covid19 had curtailed this for the time being. Cllr Duckworth will send the link to the webinar to Cllr Ezzard. This item will be included in the July agenda and members are asked to review the Frome webinar in the meantime.

ACTION: CLLR DUCKWORTH

Men’s Shed Group – The quote for the work to the play park had been received and was agreed at the February meeting. As soon as everyone is able to return to work properly, the repairs will be undertaken. This will be included in the July agenda.

6. Dorset Councillor’s Report

21.005 Cllr Ezzard reported that no report is available as frequent emails have been issued by weekly updates from Dorset Council and passed on to members on a regular basis. The next meeting of the full Dorset Council will be held on the 16th July and the Eastern Planning meeting will be on the 1st July. No agendas have been issued for either at this time.

The roadworks for West Lane will be starting on the week commencing 22nd June. This will be the first phase and is very welcome.

Cllr Ezzard highlighted the proposals being put in place to help local businesses to abide by the 2m distancing guidelines. This involves, in effect, widening the pavements in South Street from the Cross to Trinity Lane and St John’s. This will involve the closure of one of the carriageways and the road being made one way. This will enable the businesses to put tables and chairs out on the pavements and allow sufficient room for pedestrians to get past.

However, this is unlikely to happen until the end of July. In the meantime, a note setting out the regulations governing the use of A boards will be given to all businesses along South Street. A copy of this notice will be forwarded to the Clerk for sending to all members for information.

Cllr Love asked about the parking restrictions on West Lane. Cllr Ezzard informed members that this would be looked at during phase 2 of the works and will be consulted on at the time. At that point, the Parish Council will have a chance to put their views forward.

7. To confirm the payment of accounts and consider the bank reconciliation & position against budget

21.006 To confirm the Payment of Accounts

The following payments had been requested:

V Ward	Fliers re Covid19 information	BACS012	144.00
DAPTC	Annual Subscription	BACS013	479.73
DC Pension Fund	June contribution	BACS014	151.25
A Crocker	June wages	BACS015	452.52
HMRC	PAYE & NIC June	BACS016	104.00

The total amount requested from the Precept is £1,331.50

Cllr Patrick proposed the payments are made. This was seconded by Cllr Church and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLERK

To confirm the bank reconciliation and position against budget for the year to date

A copy of both reports had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made, or queries raised.

8. Parish Reports

21.007 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended

Cllr Duckworth – 2 Zoom meetings with of the Purbeck Energy Group – an offshoot of Sustainable Swanage. They have been looking at setting up a local energy club. This is linked to the local energy bill currently going through Parliament. If successful, this would allow companies to set up, sell and generate electricity without the membership arrangements that apply to energy companies. There is one energy company, Octopus, that are entertaining arrangements with a number of Energy Local Groups e.g. Bridport and could set up a similar proposal for Swanage Energy Local Group. The ‘Local Energy Bill’, if it were to become law, would enable ‘anyone’ to set up as an energy provider and thus they would not need Octopus Energy. Dorset Community Energy Group have offered to help Sustainable Swanage to raise £10k to set up the energy club and they are currently working on this. Once set up it can role out from Swanage to other parts of Purbeck.

No other meetings had been attended.

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21.008 Reports from outside bodies

Stoborough Primary School – It was noted that the Head Mistress, Mrs Deborah Heritage will be leaving the school at the end of the summer term.

21.009 Reports relating to the Hayricks, Allotments and SANG

Hayricks - The Clerk had been in touch with the Lengthsman and asked him to contact Cllr Bessant to put him in touch with Imerys with regard to the quantity of clay required for the bike jumps. Cllr Bessant had subsequently passed on Stuart Knott's telephone number. It had previously been suggested that the Lengthsman meet with Mr Knott on site to consider whether it was more reasonable to look at replacing the whole structure or repairing the existing one. Imerys has kindly offered to supply the clay free of charge. The Clerk will arrange a site meeting with Imerys and the Lengthsman in order to move this forward.

ACTION: CLERK

The Clerk reported that a request had been submitted for DWP to recommence emptying the bins. Cllr Sims offered to remove the remaining covers. A resident has also requested that one of the dog waste bins is removed and replaced with a larger bin that would take litter as well as dog waste. The Clerk will follow this up and get some quotes for the July meeting.

ACTION: CLERK

Cllr Ezzard reported that there have been some issues with domestic bin collections during the lockdown period but, usually, if the bin is left out, it is collected later in the week.

Allotments – Cllr Duckworth reported that, for the most part, the allotments have been receiving a lot of attention with the exception of one which had also been of concern last year. One allotment holder had asked if it was possible for the Parish Council to deal with an allotment that is not being attended to, in order for it to be more manageable when a new person takes over. There is a clause in the Allotment Tenancy Agreement allowing the Parish Council to take back an allotment that is not being looked after. This is something that can be looked at when the renewals come up in September.

SANG – A resident had reported an issue regarding overnight camping at Bog Lane. Two vehicles were parked on the site overnight and had put tents up inside Bartletts Firs with old camping furniture and litter nearby, some of which they deposited in the SANG. They were reported to the Police. However, the SANG is now a regular camping site and there is a fly tipping and sanitation problem. Cllr Ward has contacted Edward Petitt-Mills with a view to asking him to put up 'No Camping' signs. Cllr Cranshaw reported that the damaged bridge has now been repaired.

20.010 Neighbourhood Plan Update

The Plan is currently with Steve Boyt following the finalisation of the Examiner's review. The next full meeting of Dorset Council is coming up in July so the Clerk will chase to find out what is happening.

ACTION: CLERK

20.011 Newsletter Update

Nothing to add at this time although any contributions to the letter would be welcome.

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9. To consider Planning Applications received

20.012 Planning Applications

6/2020/0214 Stoborough Primary School, Corfe Road
Install replacement white powder coated aluminium double-glazed windows and doors

This application had been discussed by email and no objections had been raised.

6/2020/0219 Ashley Cottage, Arne Road
Erect first floor extensions to enlarge existing first floor bedroom accommodation & a single storey rear garden room extension

This application had been discussed by email. It was felt that the proposal would be a tight fit. However, the application is largely built within the existing footprint and the site, although narrow, is long so should easily be able to accommodate the extensions. No objections were raised.

6/2020/0225 Lookout Holiday Park
Variation of condition 6 to remove restriction limiting the occupation to touring caravans and tents

6/2020/0221 Certificate of Lawfulness – use of land for the siting of twin lodges

Members felt that the two applications should be considered at the same time as this site is extremely complex with many different planning applications and variations added over the years. There have been a lot of objections received from residents regarding the planning application. It is so imprecise and there is no indication of the developer's intentions. Members felt that the lack of detail made commenting quite difficult. The Clerk outlined the concerns raised in residents' correspondence. Following some discussion, Cllr Patrick proposed that an objection is submitted. This was seconded by Cllr Love and agreed unanimously.

6/2020/0251 Dairy Cottage, Melancholy Lane
Certificate of Lawfulness (proposed) to erect extension to existing garage

This is not a planning application but a request for a legal determination of the (Dorset) Council as to whether or not planning permission is required to erect extensions to the existing garage.

6/2020/0256 Hartland Stud, Soldiers Road
Change of use from animal crematorium to fitness & recreation room

Members felt that the documentation accompanying this application are woefully inadequate. It is many years since the building has been an animal crematorium. In the past, approval has been granted for offices for an insurance business and for a music practice room. There is no indication as to whether the proposed fitness and recreation room will be open to the public or will be for private use only. If the former, what sort of level of use is foreseen. This could put pressure on the very narrow access track. Without more information, members felt that an objection must be submitted for this application.

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21.012.1 Tree work Applications

TPO/2020/049 Kendal, Barnhill Road
G2 group of oaks – cut back overhanging branches to give 3m clearance

Members had no objection to this work being undertaken but will be guided by the Tree Officer.

10. Correspondence and items for action and resolution

21.013 To agree the Annual Governance Statement for the year ended 31st March 2020

A copy of the Statement had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Each statement was reviewed and individually acknowledged. Cllr Patrick proposed that the Annual Governance Statement is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Sims and agreed unanimously. The Chair will sign the Statement as soon as possible.

21.014 To agree the Accounting Statement for the year ended 31st March 2020

A copy of the full set of accounts had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting, together with the Annual Accounting Statement. Cllr Sims proposed the accounts are accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bessant and agreed unanimously. The Chair will sign the Accounting Statement as soon as possible.

21.015 To consider the Internal Auditor's report

A copy of the report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. 4 points had been raised:

1. The auditor was happy that the Council's financial and internal controls were effective.
2. The fact that the accounts are maintained on a spreadsheet
3. The size of the reserves currently held
4. A mis-numbering of the minutes in February.

The Clerk reported that members were able to reallocate the reserves and this will be an agenda item for the July meeting.

With regard to point 2 – the Clerk suggested members might like to consider a dedicated accounts package for parish councils. This will also be included as an item for the July meeting.

8.25pm Cllr Ezzard left the meeting.

There being no other comments, Cllr Bessant proposed the Internal Audit is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Patrick and agreed unanimously.

21.015 To consider submitting a letter of support to Richard Drax MP in respect of the Electricity Bill

Cllr Cranshaw informed members that this Bill has been brought before Parliament as a Ten-minute Rule Bill and had its first reading during the week commencing the 8th June. It is understood that the Bill may take up to 4 years to go through. Members felt a letter of

support should still be sent to Richard Drax MP saying Arne Parish Council supports the principle.

ACTION: CLERK

21.016 To consider a ‘No Mow May’ initiative for the years ahead

This had come about as a result of a request from a resident asking if the wild flowers could be left on the village green until the end of May as they had been so pleasant during the recent lockdown period. Members were all in support of the ideas of not mowing the village green during May. It was noted that Anvil are responsible for cutting the area. With regards to the roadside verges – they are the responsibility of Dorset County Highways and they will have to liaise with NE as to when cutting is undertaken. Other than the village green, the Parish Council is only responsible for the Hayricks, Stoborough Meadow and the tow path. We cannot allow the tow path to become overgrown at any point.

Cllr Cranshaw proposed that we ask Nigel Webb, ex Chair of Dorset Wildlife Trust and an expert on the wild plants of Dorset, what dates he would suggest for leaving mowing aside. Cllr Bessant requested that the ‘No Mow’ is not extended to Furzebrook Road as there is no pavement and there is already an issue with the verges and the edges of the road are broken away in many places.

The Clerk will contact Anvil regarding withholding mowing of the Village Green. This item will be brought back to the July meeting.

21.017 To agree the repairs to the basket swing at the Hayricks

Cllr Ward had removed the swing following the failure of one of the clips that held it in place. It was found that the clasps had rusted through and all four of the clips needed replacing. This is not something any individual councillor should be responsible for doing. The Clerk had received a quote from Caloo for £878 plus VAT to supply the hanger and four links, and to install and check the equipment. This would also supply the Parish Council with the due diligence needed regarding the safety of the equipment.

Cllr Cranshaw proposed the quote is accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Love and agreed unanimously. The Clerk will complete and return the necessary documentation.

ACTION: CLERK

21.018 To discuss the opening of the play park

Under the Covid19 regulations, play parks are permitted to re-open from the 4th July following a suitable risk assessment and the installation of appropriate preventative measures. At the moment, it is not known what this actually means. The Clerk will continue to look into the requirements and will forward information to members as it arises.

ACTION: CLERK

11. Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman for discussion only

21.019 Cllr Duckworth noted that the incinerator on Puddletown Road has been agreed, despite his letter to the Council, to which no response was received.

Dwelling on Arne Road – the Planning Officer had attended the site and was happy with the current situation. A planning application is awaited.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:49hrs.