



MINUTES OF THE ARNE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18th MARCH 2021
This meeting was carried out by video conferencing

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

Chair: Cllr S Cranshaw

Clerk: Mrs A Crocker

Also Present: 7 members of the public, Dorset Cllrs Beryl Ezzard & Ryan Holloway

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chairman reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded for the purposes of the minutes. Once the minutes are agreed, the recording will be destroyed.

1. Public Participation

Concern was expressed about the large increase in Council Tax imposed by Wareham Town Council during the current climate. The increase was above the rate of inflation and higher than several larger councils. Mr Ashley Pellegrini informed the meeting that he had written to Mr Drax MP who has not replied at this point. Cllr Holloway responded saying it has been a difficult year to budget. Dorset Council gets very little support from Central Government and this is a constant cause of complaint. 4.9% of the increase has been due to the Adult and Social Care element of the precept.

Mr John Ives, Chairman of the Stoborough Residents' Association, responded to the proposed improvements to the Hayricks. The Stoborough Residents' Association were consulted and have responded well. He reported that most residents were very positive about the proposals but were concerned that, should the play equipment be improved, it is likely to be better used. This would potentially make parking problems in Stoborough more problematic. Residents also commented that additional equipment and planting would increase the cost of maintenance. This would mean that the money currently held for maintenance of the site would diminish much quicker.

Mr Stephen Widmer of the Stoborough Resident's Association addressed the meeting in connection with the proposed upgrade of the Hayricks. He confirmed that the main area of concern was the potential for the increase in traffic and parking on Stoborough Meadow from visitors using the Hayricks. Notwithstanding their concerns, residents confirmed their support to agree for £7,000 of the maintenance fund to be used for the repair elements of the proposal – the bike ramps and the grass under the zip wire and basket swing.

Mr Richard Brown congratulated the Parish Council on its response to the Dorset Council draft Local Plan.

2. Declarations of Interest

21.179 No interests were declared at this stage and no requests for dispensations had been received.

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3. Apologies for absence

21.180 No apologies have been received. It was noted that Cllr Ward has offered her resignation for personal reasons.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on the 18th February 2021

21.181 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 Patrick and agreed unanimously. The Chair will sign the minutes in due course.

5. Matters arising – for report only

21.182 West Lane junction – The Traffic Regulation Order has been requested.

All other items are covered by the agenda.

6. Dorset Councillor's Report

21.183 A copy of Cllr Holloway's report had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. He added that Dorset Council has been awarded £19million from Central Government to help it achieve its zero carbon goals. Dorset Council is now looking for potential future sites for tree planting. As from the 1st April, the new charges will apply to car parks owned by Dorset Council – charging will commence from 8am.

Cllr Ezzard added that the Climate Emergency will be presented to the Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 25th March. Dorset Council now have an officer that is dedicated to help parish and town councils and schools to advise on tree planting – when to plant and where. They are unable to provide any trees but can offer best advice.

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

21.184 To confirm the Payment of Accounts

The following payments had been requested:

DC Pension Fund	March 2021 contribution	BACS059	155.41
Cheap Printing	Neighbourhood Plan brochures	BACS060	780.00
HMRC	PAYE & NIC March	BACS061	106.80
A Crocker	March wages + expenses	BACS062	463.35
Anvil	Jan-March landscaping	BACS063	1,861.31
Cheap Printing	Covering letter for NP	BACS064	23.40
Post Office	Stamps for NP postage	BACS065	994.50

The total amount requested from the Precept is £4,384.77

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

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

Copies of the reports had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. No comments were made, and no queries raised.

8. Parish Reports

21.186 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended

Cllr Duckworth – Planet Purbeck, Dorset CAN, Arne Moors Stakeholders meeting, Wareham Town Council Climate Emergency Group. The latter requested the Parish Council respond to the following:

- Can we identify the areas of green space the Parish Council own or is responsible for maintaining
- The tow path – it had previously been discussed that new signs would be erected at each end of the path to discourage cycling. Wareham do not welcome people cycling on the path and it was suggested that polite notices are put up requesting that people do not cycle on the path. The existing signs are too small and possibly in the wrong place.
- Priory Meadows – managed by WDDT and owned by the Priory.
- The Causeway; in order to promote cycling and walking it would be necessary to provide cycleways on both side of the road. This would not be possible without widening the road. However, this would not be feasible due to the drop in the land either side. Cllr Ezzard was asked to speak to Highways to see if this was feasible. She reported that she had been in touch with Highways regarding this but there would have to be a great of support from all parties in order to have some radicle changes undertake to make the pinch point at the Stoborough end one way. This would involve major works.

Cllr Cranshaw – Arne Moors Stakeholders meeting.

21.187 Reports from outside bodies

Stoborough Primary School – Cllr Cranshaw has been back in touch with the school and they have had there first day without any screens.

21.188 Reports relating to the Hayricks, Allotments and SANG

Hayricks – Nothing additional to report.

Allotments – An allotment holder had reported that some asbestos boarding had been put on his allotment. He has asked the Parish Council to remove it. Cllrs Sims and Duckworth will arrange the removal of this. Cllr Duckworth reported that there is concern expressed from some allotment holders that a neighbouring property had planted a quantity of bamboo along his boundary. This is starting to spread onto the allotments. The Lengthsman will be asked to keep the bamboo in check as it encroaches on the allotments.

SANG – Nothing to report.

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21.189 To receive an update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan

The Clerk reported that the brochures and covering letter are now all printed and the Plans will be going in the post in the next few days.

21.190 To receive an update on the Parish Council website

Three possible types of website layout had been issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting.

Cllr Patrick suggested that, as Robert Kenward had been hosting the site for 12 years without payment, he be permitted to upgrade the site as shown in his mockup. We continue with this for a year to see how everything progresses and then review the situation if necessary. This was seconded by Cllr Love.

In favour of continuing with Mr Kenward for a year	6
Against	1

We will continue with Mr Kenward's upgraded site for a year and then review.

9. To consider Planning Applications received

21.191 Planning Applications

6/2020/0627 Halfway Farm, Corfe Road
Change of use of agricultural barn to firewood processing unit

Support - Members had no comments to make regarding the proposal and no objections were raised.

21.192 Tree work Applications

TPO/2021/021 Long Barrow, Barnhill Road, Ridge
T1 Ash; remove 2 branches overhanging: T2 Oak; remove 4 overhanging branches

Support - Members had no comments to make and would be guided by the Tree Officer

10. Correspondence and items for action and resolution

21.193 To appoint a new representative to the Wareham Burial Joint Committee

As Cllr Ward has now resigned, a new representative is required to sit on the Committee. Cllr Bessant kindly offered to take on this role. All members were in favour.

21.194 To appoint an Internal Audit

Following the recent move of the Clerk, it was felt that a more local auditor would be appropriate. The Clerk suggested the appointment of Paula Harding who has worked on a number of councils, including Dorset and has acted as locum for Town Councils in the past. She has an extensive knowledge of local government issues and undertakes the audit for a number of parish council across the county.

Cllr Patrick proposed Paula Harding is appointed as the internal auditor. This was seconded by Cllr Bessant and agreed unanimously.

21.195 To consider the purchase of a bin for Sunnyside/Arne Road

The Clerk had been in touch with Natural England who were happy for the bin to be located in the proposed position. They highlighted the need to ensure that the standard requirement of a 1 metre visibility strip adjacent to roads is observed.

Natural England also reported that they have been in contact with Su Powner of Dorset Dogs regarding a 'pit stop' to go in this area to engage with dog walkers positively and encourage responsible dog ownership.

Cllr Duckworth proposed the bin is purchased and relocated. This was seconded by Cllr Love and agreed unanimously. The bin will be purchased, and installation arranged in due course.

ACTION: CLERK

21.196 To consider whether or not to undertake a Community Governance Review (CGR)

A full report of what this involves was issued to all members prior to the start of the meeting. Cllr Cranshaw explained the requirements of a review and noted that, at the last elections, 20 Dorset Parish Councils were lost as they did not have sufficient people wishing to stand. She suggested that a CGR would not be necessary for Arne. Cllr Patrick proposed that we do not undertake a CGR. This was seconded by Cllr Love and agreed unanimously.

21.197 To agree the next phase of works in respect of the Hayricks upgrade

This had been discussed under the Public Participation period. It was noted that the Stoborough Residents' Association are a beneficiary of the maintenance fund, but they are not a signatory to the expenditure of it. The Parish Council pay for the maintenance of the equipment already and the maintenance fund is only used to cover the cost of the grass cutting.

Residents' concerns regarding parking were noted but there is little that can be done about this and it is likely that, when we come out of the lockdown situation, the numbers visiting the site may well reduce.

Cllr Sims has met with the ecologist for Southern Play Equipment and will be meeting with Anvil to review the suggestions. It will be some years before any significant maintenance will be required to any trees that may be planted.

The important aspect is to improve the ground around the bike tracks and under the zip wire and basket swing. It is also intended to introduce a disabled swing.

Cllr Ezzard suggested contacting Giles Nicholson from Dorset Council to advise on what types of wildflower planting could be undertaken around the edges of the Hayricks.

It was suggested that the whole issue of introducing wildflower verges around the parish could be taken as a new project. This will be brought back to the April agenda in line with 'No Mow May.' Cllr Duckworth will draw up a verge plan showing potential locations for such planting.

ACTION: CLLR DUCKWORTH

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Cllr Duckworth proposed that the quotes in respect of the Hayricks maintenance works of £6,987.00 + VAT and equipment supply and fit of £23,848.00 + VAT are progressed. This was seconded by Cllr Patrick and agreed unanimously.

ACTION: CLLR SIMS

21.198 To consider any defects for passing to the Lengthsman

- Hayricks fencing
- finger post at Tuckers Mill
- the fencing along the Tow path opposite the Priory is in need of repair
- the Tow Path surface is wearing out. This comes under the remit of Dorset Rights of Way
- installation of bin at Hayricks

11. Correspondence received since the Agenda was set

21.199 Nothing further to add.

12. Additional items considered urgent by the Chairman – for discussion only

21.200 No additional items.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20:58hrs.