



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON THURSDAY 15th MAY 2025
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM**

Present: Cllrs: I Church, I Duckworth, J Ives, A Patrick and M Sims

Chair: Cllr R Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr T Watton

Also Present: six members of the public

The Council Chair opened the meeting, welcoming those present.

1. Election of Council Chair and receipt of “Acceptance of Office of Council Chair”

25.25 Cllr Cranshaw was nominated as Council Chair. There being no other nominations, Cllr Cranshaw was duly elected.

2. Apologies for absence

25.26 Apologies were received from Cllr Brodie-James. Dorset Cllrs Beryl Ezzard and Ryan Holloway also conveyed their apologies.

3. Election of Council Vice-Chair and receipt of “Acceptance of Office of Council Chair”

25.27 Cllr Partick was nominated as Council Vice Chair. There being no other nominations, Cllr Patrick was duly elected.

4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

25.28 Mr Kenward gave an update report on the Pro-Coast project he has been involved with for a number of years. A copy his report is associated at Appendix 1 to these minutes.

In response, Cllr Duckworth asked whether the mechanism for logging sitings of squirrels, hedgehogs and certain birds would mesh with the “living records” system already operating within the county. Mr Kenwood stated that he hoped that this would be the case.

Cllr Partick reported to all present on the sad news that former Purbeck District Councillor Bill Trite had passed away suddenly during week commencing 5th May.

5. Declaration of Interests

25.29 There were none.

6. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 17th April 2025

25.30 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 17th April 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

7. Resolution: To adopt the General Power of Competence.

25.31 The Council notes that it meets the eligibility criteria to adopt the General Power of Competence in that:

- At least two thirds of the Council have been declared “elected” to the Council (rather than being “co-opted”),
- The Clerk to the Council holds an appropriate qualification (CILCA).

- The Clerk to the Council has received the appropriate training.

Proposed: Cllr Patrick, **Seconded:** Cllr Cranshaw. It was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve the above and to adopt the General Power of Competence

8. Appointment to representative roles on various bodies

25.32 The list of representative roles was reviewed and appointments agreed for 2025-26. These are listed at **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

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

25.33 There were none.

10. Dorset Councillor's Report.

25.34 In his absence Cllr. Holloway had provided a written report for this meeting. A copy is associated at **Appendix 3** to these minutes. There were no questions or comments.

11. To confirm the payment of accounts for April 2025 and consider the bank reconciliation and position against budget for the full year ending 30th April 2025 :

25.35 The following payments were presented for approval:

INVOICE DATE	BACS number	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Payments already made				
01/05/2025	10/25	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Allotments monthly subscription (INV-10304)	£21.60
Payments due				
15/05/2025	11/25	T Watton	Salary, May 25	£565.10
15/05/2025	12/25	HMRC	PAYE, May 25	£184.82
15/05/2025	13/25	Smart Garden Services	Regular grounds maintenance (£590.83) plus top dressing & seed by trampoline (£55.00). (Inv 935)	£645.83
30/04/2025	14/25	Tradewind Graphics Ltd	2 x signs	£116.40
14/04/2025	15/25	Viking Office UK Ltd	Printer toner cartridge, printer paper, staples	£123.47
13/05/2025	16/25	DAPTC Ltd	DAPTC + NALC subscription	£728.08
			TOTAL	£2,385.30

It was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the payments be approved and paid. **Proposed:** Cllr Patrick
Seconded: Cllr Cranshaw

ACTION: THE CLERK

It was also **RESOLVED** to receive and note the bank reconciliation and position against the budget for the year ending 30th April 2025. A copy of these documents is associated at **Appendix 4** to these minutes.

ACTION: THE CLERK

12. Governance Matters

- (a) **25.36 To confirm there are no conflicts of interest between members of Arne Parish Council and BDO LLP (appointed external Auditors).**

It was **CONFIRMED** there are no conflicts of interest with BDO LLP.

ACTION: THE CLERK

- (b) **25.37 To note the timetable for sending the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR) to the External Auditors.**

Members noted that the AGAR and all relevant supporting papers are required to be with BDO LLP (the appointed external auditors) by 30th June at the latest. It is anticipated that if the Internal Audit Report, Governance Statements and Financial Statement for YE 31/03/25 are considered and accepted at the June Council meeting this will be achieved.

- (c) **To receive and note the completion of the Internal Audit for the year ending 31st March 2025, and the completion of the Internal Audit Report (page 3) of the AGAR.**

25.38 The Parish Clerk reported that the Internal Auditor had advised that the Internal Audit had not yet been completed. **DEFERRED** until June Council meeting.

ACTION: THE CLERK

- (d) **To consider, respond to and approve the Governance Statements in Section 1 (page 4) of the AGAR for the year ended 31 Mar 2025.**

25.39 The Parish Clerk commented that as the Internal Audit report had not yet been received it is too soon to consider the Governance Statements. **DEFERRED** until June Council meeting.

ACTION: THE CLERK

- (e) **To receive, note and approve the Financial Statements in section 2 (page 5) of the AGAR for the year ended 31 Mar 2025.**

25.40 The Parish Clerk commented that as the Internal Audit report had not yet been received it is too soon to consider the Financial Statement. **DEFERRED** until June Council meeting.

ACTION: THE CLERK

- (f) **To note and approve the setting of Monday 9th June 2025 until Friday 18th July 2025 as the dates for the exercise of Public Rights to inspect the Council's unaudited accounts for the year ended 31st Mar 2025.**

25.41 The Parish Clerk commented that as the Internal Audit report had not yet been received it is too soon to consider the dates for the exercise of Public Rights. **DEFERRED** until June Council meeting.

ACTION: THE CLERK

13. Parish Reports

25.42 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Ives reported on his attendance (as well as Cllrs Cranshaw, Church and Duckworth and the parish Clerk), with some of the Village Hall Trustees, at a successful site meeting at Stoborough Village Hall on 13th May to test one of the Council's generators connected to the Village Hall electricity system. This provided a lot of useful information as well as confirming a suitable location for a storage cage for the generators and for their connection to the system. It was agreed between both parties that a further informal meeting will now be set up to consider how to move this initiative, and the resilience hub, forward.

On the subject of the test, Mr Widmer, a VH Trustee, added that they noted that their electrician present at the test had stated that the generators will need to be earthed outside the building.

Cllr Cranshaw confirmed her attendance at the above meeting. She also reported on her attendance at the AGM of Furzebrook Village Hall, and a Stakeholders meeting for the Arne Moors Project. Referring to information from the latter meeting, she remarked on an application submitted to DC Planning by the Environment Agency for variation to a number of Planning Conditions associated with the original Planning Permission – these cover both minor and material amendments. The EA hope for a response from DC by 10th July. It is hoped that Arne Parish Council will be included in the consultation process. Cllr Cranshaw stressed the importance to Arne Parish Council of its continued resolve to ensure the community of Ridge is fully protected from any adverse effects of this project. She specifically referred to the EA proposal to alter the specification for the construction of the embankments which are intended as a failsafe barrier in the event of any serious rising water. The embankments are designed to cope with extreme conditions and should protect neighbouring infrastructures as well as wildlife on the Moors. The suggestion that the Environment Agency might omit using a concrete core in the embankments arose because work on the Moors has revealed variations in the nature of the ground such that there is hard material from borrow pits that could serve as a substitute for the concrete. There is therefore in the Environment Agency planning application a request for an additional borrow pit to acquire and use this material as the core - as it looks more impermeable. This design change will be continuously reviewed; and would represent a cost saving. The Furze Brook is in its final channel and will not be moved further. To complete the project the planned breach of the sea walls will be in autumn 2026 - thereafter the Environment Agency will clean up as they leave. The budget for the project is now £40m as against the £30m predicted at the outset. Although the lagoons were originally planned for wading birds, Mr Ian Alexander of Natural England has advised that they will be sloped down to a depth of 0.5 metres to accommodate over-wintering water fowl. Upon completion, monitoring will be for a minimum of 10 years by the EA. Beyond that the RSPB will be responsible for the ongoing monitoring of the integrity of the site – including the sea defences.

Cllr Cranshaw also referred to comments by Perenco regarding the Wytch Farm oilfield site. They have a small site immediately to the east of Arne Moors on which is a decommissioned oil well which had stopped producing a few years ago. Perenco now have to restore the site to its original state which will take two years. There will be an aftercare interval of 10 years with ongoing monitoring. The pipelines in the ground will be filled and capped to prevent any passage of water. All concrete on the site is to be removed. At present the site is fenced to keep the pigs out. As there are sand lizards on the site they will be relocated outside the fence. Starting this year, there will be a traffic management scheme on Arne Road and New Road. Perenco will be coordinating with the Arne Moors project, to deal with the heavy traffic. Unfortunately, the drilling to remove Perenco's concrete will add to the current level of noise suffered by the good folk of Ridge. This stage is expected to last for some three to four months. The goal is to create heathland regeneration on the site by September 2027. Ultimately Perenco will sell the land. Noise levels will be monitored and additional screening will be provided to mitigate it.

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

Stoborough Village Hall – On behalf of Mr Morgan, Mr Widmer reported that bookings for the hall remain healthy. The complimentary cream tea for the VE Day anniversary was supported by over 200 attendees. It is hoped to have an AED installed on the Village Hall site for public use.

Furzebrook Village Hall – Cllr Cranshaw reported that after several years of successful operation Furzebrook Village Hall is now experiencing some financial stress. The hall is 30 years old and has developed a number of maintenance issues.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association – Nothing to report.

Ridge Residents Association - Nothing to report.
Stoborough Primary school – Nothing to report.

25.44 Hayricks:

Cllr Sims remarked on the following:

- An approach was made to Southern Playground Servies who have subsequently provided a quote for attention to the remedial work as identified on the 2025 RoSPA inspection report:
i.e.
 - Painting the play area equipment and the basketball frame (graffiti).
 - Double Rower needs repainting in parts.
 - The Gate into the fenced area - now closing too quickly.
 - Cradle swing - replace the 'Inclusive' cradle, which is looking rather worn.
 - Zip Wire seat - replace and check/adjust height.
 - Mats under the swings/zip wire – possible replacement of ties linking the sections of matting.

Sutcliffe Play (South-West) were also approached to see if they would be prepared to quote for the work, but unfortunately they declined to quote for work to any equipment they have not installed. The Parish Clerk suggested that an approach is made to Poole Business Services (an in-house play equipment maintenance concern within BCP Council) who do often undertake other “external” contracts.

**ACTION: THE CLERK TO MAKE
AN INITIAL APPROCH TO PBS**

Cllr Sims also reported that Wareham Men’s Shed are making good progress on the benches.

Cllr Duckworth commented that the hedge planted in 2021 is doing very well although two of the remaining trees planted at the north end at that time have died. Improvements to the wildflower areas are doing well.

25.45 SANG:

Cllr Duckworth reported that despite the sustained very dry weather, the boggy part of the circuit remains boggy even now. This forms part of the proscribed circuit. He noted that there is a way of circumventing this area but this involves leaving the SANG and rejoining the circuit route elsewhere. The Parish Clerk was asked to raise this matter again with the Scott Estate to see if they can be persuaded to take some action.

ACTION: THE CLERK

25.46 Allotments:

It was noted that Cllrs Cranshaw and Duckworth, with the Parish Clerk, undertook a site visit on 13th May. The poor condition of two allotments was noted and it was agreed that the Parish Clerk should write to the two allotment holders concerned pointing out the shortcomings and seeking a statement of their intentions.

ACTION: THE CLERK

It was also noted that there are now potentially five vacant plots; with no one on the waiting list. It was agreed that the Parish Clerk should approach neighbouring parishes to see whether they have people on their waiting lists who might be interested in taking a plot in Stoborough.

25.47 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: No report.

14. To consider Planning Applications received

25.48 Delegated –

P/FUL/2025/01956 Lenctenbury Farm Soldiers Road Norden BH20 5DU. Change of use of part of the building at Lenctenbury Farm from Agricultural Use to support the 'Wareham Area Men's Shed'. The remainder of the building will still be used to support the pick-your-own blueberry farm. NO OBJECTION

P/HOU/2025/01932 Ridgeway New Road Stoborough BH20 5BB. Extending an existing bungalow to the North East and to the first floor in order to add three additional bed rooms. Associated landscaping to improve access from the property to the highway. NO OBJECTION

15. To consider correspondence from resident of Ridge regarding a parking problem adjacent to his property (email to members 9th May 2025)

25.49 Cllr Church reported on his visit to view the site and speak to the resident. He described the location – at the end of a cul-de-sac where a group of properties with driveways accessing from both sides and the end of the road are served by a continuous dropped kerb. It was noted that this matter primarily concerns a problem the resident anticipates he may have in the future once the neighbouring property is sold. It was concluded that this is primarily a personal matter between two neighbours and that at this time there is no action which it would be appropriate to request DC Highways to take.

16. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

25.50 There was none.

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

25.51 There were none.

25.52 Date of next meeting:

Annual Parish Council meeting Thursday, 19th June 2025, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20:13

Appendix 1

Report from Mr Kenward on the ProCoast Project.

Following cooperation with Arne Parish Council since 2008, the new Pro-Coast project (www.pro-coast.eu) has made progress with all parts of its work in the Parish.

We thank the 86 people who provided information for our survey. This was close to a third of the response expected if our survey had been run for Arne Parish Council (which ours was not) and has been enough for our social scientist partners. Encouraged by an even higher support for the possibility of mainland red squirrels than in previous surveys, we have started research on the local squirrel populations. We have had very productive discussions on this with

representatives of Natural England, National Trust and Dorset County Council, together with landowning and wildlife management organisations.

During the summer, the project will be launching a web-site on the project, for which a link on the Parish Council site would be very much appreciated. The site will be part of a Pro-Coast Community Sustainability Platform, across and beyond Europe, which will provide a one-stop shop for the best tools available worldwide to help local communities with sustainability and governance issues. One of the tools will be a world-leading UK product, which makes it fun to map species and habitats in gardens and predict conservation improvements. This tool will help encourage reporting of sightings of squirrels, hedgehogs and certain birds.

We are grateful for the support of Arne Parish Council and Innovate UK, the UK's funding body for Research and Innovation.

Robert Kenward (reke@ceh.ac.uk) 15 June 2025

Appendix 2

ARNE PARISH COUNCIL

Representatives on various bodies for 2025/26

Chair of Arne Parish Council	S. Cranshaw
Vice Chair of Arne Parish Council	A. Patrick
Allotments	I. Duckworth
Arne Moor Project Including Drainage	I. Duckworth J. Ives
DAPTC	S. Cranshaw M. Sims
Emergency Resilience Group	I. Duckworth J. Ives T Brodie James
Flood Wardens	T Brodie James J Ives
Finance Group	Full Council
Furzebrook Village Hall	A. Patrick
Imerys Liaison Group	T Brodie James
Parish Website	I. Duckworth, M. Sims, A Patrick
Planning Working Party	S. Cranshaw M. Sims J Ives T Brodie James
Purbeck Transport Action Group	I. Church
Ridge Residents Association	I. Church
Rights of Way Liaison Officer	I. Church
RSPB/NE Liaison	S. Cranshaw I Duckworth T Brodie James
SANG	I Duckworth T Brodie James
SID Coordinator	S. Cranshaw

Stoborough Primary School Liaison	S. Cranshaw
Stoborough Residents Association	J. Ives
Stoborough Village Hall	S Cranshaw T Brodie James J Ives
Swanage Rail Transport Liaison	I. Church
The Hayricks Committee	I. Duckworth M. Sims
Tree Wardens	S. Cranshaw A. Patrick M. Sims
Wareham and District Development Trust	S. Cranshaw
Wareham Joint Burial Committee	I. Church A Patrick
Wareham Relief in Need and Sickness Charity	A. Patrick
Wytch Farm Oil Field Liaison Committee (includes Perenco)	S. Cranshaw T Brodie James I Church

Appendix 3

Cllr Ryan Holloway DC Report for Arne Parish Council May 2025

Dorset Council (DC) & DC Cabinet

The next meeting of Full Council will take place on Thursday 15th May at 6.30pm, this will be the annual meeting as we now head into our second year, I believe there will be some minor changes to councillors changing Committee's. We will report back to you next month. DC cabinet will have it's meeting on Tuesday 20th May at 6.30pm.

Wareham area Defibrillators update

After our encouragement to support the Wareham Defib Group, the Town Council has agreed to support the Group going forward...

Wareham Level Crossing

There will be an item regarding the crossing on DC cabinet on 20th May, It's mainly to re-enforce DC commitment to funding the crossing and proposed revised hours which will reduce 1 hour in the evening from 1am to Midnight as stats showed it's only 1-2 people using the crossing at that time. The crossing will still open 7 days a week from 6am.

DC-Cabinet 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.

Wareham Area Community Speedwatch Team

Regular Sessions monitoring the speed of traffic in the Sandford, Wareham and Arne have taken place. We had sessions in April in Sandford and Worgret Road. More volunteers needed please.

Purbeck Shuttle200 update.

This Service has now been registered to operate by Dorset Community Transport (DCT) on Wednesdays from 28 May commencing at Wareham Station, and Saturdays from Norden; Purbeck Park to connect with the No.40 More Bus/SWR Wareham Station and Swanage Railway timetables. The PS200 will visit the Blue Pool and RSPB Arne as timetabled on the Bus Stops and on the DCT Website and other media platforms. The service will run for 14 weeks to 30 August. Please pass on the information of the Service. Bus Passes will be accepted. Fare of £3.00 & children under 5 free.

Wareham Station Celebrates Railway200 – 14 June 2-4 pm

Come and celebrate Railway200 of the 200th Anniversary of the first passenger Railway Service in 1825 at Darlington. There will be talks and walkabouts remembering when Wareham Station first opened in 1848 when the Waterloo to Weymouth line opened, 178 years ago.

Planning Enforcement & DC Road Works

If any Councillor suspects a breach of planning act 1990, please go to DC website and you can report your concerns there or contact your local DC Cllrs. Local roadwork information is notified to PC Clerk.

Dorset Cllrs Monthly Advice Surgeries in Wareham Library. Ryan on fourth Saturday every month; 10-12 noon. Beryl on second Friday every month 10.00-12 noon. All welcome to come along and see us, no appointment needed.

Appendix 4

Bank Reconciliation and accounts update

Please see separate .pdf file.