



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 15th JANUARY 2026
AT STOBOROUGH VILLAGE HALL COMMENCING AT 7.15PM

Present: Cllrs: T Brodie-James, I Church, I Duckworth, J Ives, A Patrick

Chair: Cllr R Cranshaw

Clerk: Mr T Watton

Also Present: There were two members of the public present at the start of the meeting as well as Vikki Slade MP.

The Council Chair opened the meeting, welcoming those present.

1. Apologies for absence

25.187 There were none.

2. To consider any applications for the current casual vacancy on the Council

25.188 It was noted that there were two applicants for the two casual vacancies on the Council; Angela Bolton and Karen Chapman.

Each candidate had made a written submission in advance of the meeting commenting on their reasons for wishing to join the Parish Council. These submissions had been circulated to all members for information in advance of the meeting.

Both applicants then made statements at this point in the meeting commenting on their relevant background and experience. The Council members then unanimously **ACCEPTED** Angela Bolton and Karen Chapman as newly co-opted members of Arne Parish Council.

The Clerk provided both new members with an “acceptance of office” form for completion during this meeting, and both new members joined the Council for the remainder of the meeting.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

25.189 Vikki Slade MP explained that that her visit was part of a wider round of visits to Parish & Town Councils within her constituency to establish and reinforce contact and good working relationships with each. She did not have any particular issues to discuss, but emphasised that she was happy to take away any matters which the Parish Council felt she may be able to help with.

4. Declaration of Interests

25.190 There were none.

5. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2025

25.191 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 20th November 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting, and then signed by the Council Chair.

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

25.192 There were none.

7. Dorset Councillor’s Report.

25.193 No report.

8. Finance Matters

8(a) To confirm the payment of accounts for December 2025 and January 2026

The following payments were presented for approval:

December 2025 payments – already made

Invoice date	BACS no	Payee & description	Amount
24 Nov 25	64/25	JBF Welding & Fabrication Ltd (50% advance payment for design & fabrication of steel security container for generators and installation)	£2370.00
19 Dec 25	65/25	T Watton (Salary Dec 25)	£437.40
19 Dec 25	66/25	HMRC (PAYE & ENI Dec 25)	£338.40
05 Dec 25	67/25	Smart Gdn Svces (Grounds maintenance)	£590.83
01 Dec 25	68/25	Wareham Men's Shed (build and install Replacement noticeboard at Corfe Rd (adjacent to school)	£219.00
11 Dec 25	69/25	Dorset Council (Supply and fit 2 new 30mph signs on village gateway signs).	£344.00

January 2026 payments – due

Invoice date	BACS no	Payee & description	Amount
19 Jan 26	70/25	T Watton (Salary Jan 26)	£437.40
19 Jan 26	71/25	HMRC (PAYE & ENI Jan 26)	£338.40
05 Dec 25	72/25	Smart Gdn Svces (Grounds maintenance)	£590.83
09/02/26	73/25 (DD)	Data Protection Registration fee 2026-27 absence)	£47.00

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

ACTION: THE CLERK

8(b) To consider the bank reconciliation and position against budget for the full year ending 31st December 2025 :

25.194(b) It was **RESOLVED** to receive and note the bank reconciliation and position against the budget for the year ending 31st December 2025. A copy of these documents is associated at **Appendix 1** to these minutes. There were no questions. **Proposed:** I Church, **Seconded:** J Ives.

8(c) To finalise the preparation of the budget and precept for 2026-27 and approve the precept request for submission to Dorset Council.

25.194(c) The Parish Clerk referred to the budget and precept proposal report which had been made available to council members ahead of the meeting. The proposed budget and precept for 2026/27 were both **APPROVED** as set out in this report. A copy of the agreed budget allocations is associated at **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

It was **RESOLVED** to retain the 2025-26 level of precept per property for 2026-27 – i.e. charge per D band property = £59.76. It was noted that due to a very small increase in the council tax base of 0.32% there is a year-on-year total increase in precept of £131.46, making the total precept request for 2026-27 to be submitted to Dorset Council **£41757.13**. **Proposed:** I Church, **Seconded:** J Ives.

ACTION: THE CLERK

8(d) To note and approve the proposed adjustments to the Council's Earmarked Reserves.

25.194(d) The following proposed adjustments to the Council's Earmarked Reserves were **AGREED**:

- £1000 budgeted to cost code 26 'signs / rights of way repair and maintenance to be transferred into the 'Rights of Way' earmarked reserve.
- £250 budgeted to cost code 30 'fingerpost repair / maintenance to be transferred into the 'Fingerposts' earmarked reserve.
- £250 budgeted to cost code 49 to be transferred into a new earmarked reserve 'SID replacement / repairs'.
- Transfer a further £10,000 from the general fund to the 'Stoborough Meadows Maintenance' earmarked reserve to restore it to the level of its 2025-26 opening balance
- Transfer £500 from the general fund to the 'Bench repairs' earmarked reserve to replace the money drawn from it in 2025-26.
- Transfer £6000 from the general fund to the 'Play equipment maintenance' earmarked reserve to replace the money drawn from it in 2025-26.
- Delete the 'Newsletter' earmarked reserve and transfer the £500 held in it back to the general fund.
- Delete the 'Arne Moors Project' earmarked reserve and transfer the £3000 held in it back to the general fund.
- Add a new 'Allotment maintenance' earmarked reserve and transfer £1000 to it from the general fund.
- Add a new 'Road safety initiative' earmarked reserve and transfer £500 to it from the general fund.

Proposed: A Patrick, **Seconded:** J Ives.

ACTION: THE CLERK

8(e) To consider grant application for £250 submitted by Citizens Advice in East Dorset & Purbeck.

25.194(e) After brief discussion this was **APPROVED**. **Proposed:** A Patrick, **Seconded:** I Duckworth.

ACTION: THE CLERK

9. Governance Matters

9(a) To consider the recommended appointment of Ms Paula Harding as the Council's Internal Auditor for year ending 31 Mar 2026.

25.195(a) The members noted that Paula Harding, of Barker Fox Associates, has extensive experience of all relevant aspects of the Parish and Town Council sector, has a number of P&TC Internal Audit clients across Dorset, and is entirely independent of Arne Parish Council and its members. In the light of this the Council **APPROVED** the Clerk to approach Ms Harding with a request to undertake the Internal Audit of Arne Parish Council for year ended 31 March 2026.

ACTION: THE CLERK

9(b) To review the Council's Risk Register.

25.195(b) The Parish Clerk had provided an updated draft copy of the Council's Risk Register and Control Plan in advance of the meeting for the consideration of the members. The proposed adjustments were noted in the context of the entire Register & Plan and it was **RESOLVED to APPROVE** and accept it for the coming year. A copy is associated at **Appendix 3** to these minutes.

9(c) To confirm the timetable of Council meetings for 2026.

25.195(c) The Parish Clerk had prepared and circulated to members a draft timetable of Council meetings for 2026. Subject to one minor correction, it was **RESOLVED** to **APPROVE** the draft timetable of meetings. A copy of the approved timetable is associated at **Appendix 4** to these minutes.

9(d) To consider requesting the Council's new website supplier to also provide dedicated .gov.uk domain email addresses for the Clerk and all Council members for all Council business – in compliance with the new "Assertion 10" as part of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return (AGAR).

25.195(d) The Parish Clerk reported that Aubergine 262, the suppliers of the new website have quoted £60.00 per year to provide and host a set of dedicated .gov.uk email addresses for all Parish Council members and the Clerk. This step will complete the required compliance with all aspects of the new "Assertion 10". The new email addresses can be set up very quickly – i.e. well before the financial year end. The Clerk therefore recommend that the Council took up this offer. After brief discussion it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should contact Aubergine 626 with a request to provide .gov.uk email addresses for the members and the Clerk as recommended above.

10. Parish Reports

25.196 Councillors' Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Ives reported on meetings he had attended to support the progress of completion and installation of the security container for the generators as part of the Resilience Hub. He also provided a brief summary of the aims and the main events as part of this initiative for the new Council members. Cllr Ives explained that the container manufacturer / supplier had hoped to install it at the Village Hall on Friday 16th January, however this left too little time to liaise with the Hall Trustees, as well as potentially causing disruption to other hall users due to the likely noise involved. It was agreed that Cllr Ives would liaise with the supplier and the Hall Trustees regarding suitable timing for the installation to take place whilst Cllr Cranshaw would approach the Hall Trustees about signing the agreement.

ACTIONS: CLLR IVES and CLLR CRANSHAW

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

Stoborough Village Hall – nothing to report

Furzebrook Village Hall – nothing to report.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association – Nothing to report.

Ridge Residents Association – nothing to report

Stoborough Primary school – nothing to report

25.198 Hayricks:

It was noted that due to the season and the inclement weather little is happening and so there was nothing to report.

25.199 SANG:

Nothing further to report.

25.200 Allotments:

Cllr Duckworth reminded everyone present that a further approach needs to be made to Adam Smart to arrange for the remaining two vacant plots to be covered.

25.201 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: It was noted that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on Monday 19th January. Cllr Duckworth indicated his intention to attend.

11. To consider Planning Applications received

25.202 (i) Delegated –

There were none.

(ii) To note the following Planning application responses submitted in December 2025.

- P/HOU/2025/07045 18 Old Furzebrook Rd. No formal objection, but commented that APC members wondered whether occupiers of neighbouring properties might consider a potential risk of loss of privacy through overlooking. In addition the Clerk had commented on behalf of one Council member that the reasoning given in the application “to provide more headroom” was unhelpful given the ambiguity and lack of context to this statement.
- P/HOU/2025/07162, 2 Puddletown Rd. No objection.
- P/HOU/2025/07154, 38 Stoborough Meadow. No objection.
- P/TRT/2025/069320, 16B Barndale Rd – removal of tree. No objection, although the suggestion was made that it would be best to replace the tree with a native species.

12. To note any update following the Speed surveys carried out on Furzebrook and Grange roads.

25.203 The Parish Clerk reminded those present that he had written to Mr Joe Allen of the Dorset Council Road Safety team. In an email reply on 5th November Mr Allen had agreed to re-examine the possibility of a speed limit reduction on the residential part of Furzebrook Rd which is within the Arne Parish – after the DT Road Safety team had originally rejected the request for such a reduction. There has not yet been any update from Mr Allen regarding this possible re-consideration.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

13. To receive a further update on the initiative to provide a water supply to the Allotments.

25.204 The Parish Clerk reported that there has been no progress made on this since the last meeting - due to other priorities. However, recent contact had been made with Wessex Water and arrangements made for a second visit by their Inspector for a site meeting with the Clerk as soon as possible to verify the exact point of entry of the supply onto the allotment site. This is necessary to ensure exact details are given to prospective contractors who will quote for the trench and pipework on the allotment site itself.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

14. To receive a further update on the project to replace the Council’s current website.

25.205 The Parish Clerk reported that the work on the development of the new website is almost complete, and it will be ready to go live in early February. Members were provided with a link so that they could view the new website. They were encouraged to provide feedback on it.

The Clerk explained that there are still a few optional extras to add either before the site goes live, or subsequently. These included matters such as drone video footage (which is probably better

taken during the spring or summer to show the Parish at its best), a list of local walks, a list of community clubs and societies, and a photo of each Council member.

ACTION: COUNCIL MEMBERS AND PARISH CLERK

15. To consider the initial steps in undertaking a review of the Arne Neighbourhood Plan

25.206 It was suggested that the Parish Clerk should approach Mr David Evans, a former Town Planner, for some advice about what might be involved in making adjustments to the Arne Neighbourhood Plan. It was noted that Mr Evans had previously been very helpful in providing some very valuable insights and guidance during the Dorset Local plan Options consultation in 2025.

The Parish Clerk was also asked to seek available dates from all members for an informal meeting to discuss this matter further.

ACTION: PARISH CLERK

16. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

25.207 None

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

25.208 None.

Date of next meeting:

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 19th February 2026, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20:38

Appendix 1

Bank Reconciliation and accounts update

Please see separate .pdf file.

Appendix 2

Agreed budget for 2026-27

Please see associated excel file.

Appendix 3

Agreed Risk Register and Control Plan Jan 2026

Please see associated MS Word document

Appendix 4

Timetable of Council meetings for 2026.

Arne Parish Council

TIMETABLE OF PARISH COUNCIL MEETINGS 2026/27

Venue – Stoborough Village Hall, unless marked *

	FULL COUNCIL (normally 3rd Thursday in month)
January 2026	Thursday 15th
February 2026	Thursday 19th
March 2026	Thursday 19th
April 2026	Thursday 16th
May 2026	Thursday 21st (Annual Parish Council meeting)
June 2026	Thursday 18th
July 2026	Thursday 16th
August 2026	Thursday 20th
September 2026	Thursday 17th
October 2026	Thursday 15th
November 2026	Thursday 19th
December 2026	No meeting
January 2027	Thursday 21st

Members of the public and the press are welcome at the above meetings.

Venues may occasionally be subject to change. Please see the relevant agenda published on the Parish Council website and the noticeboards

All meetings start at 7.15pm unless otherwise stated.

