



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ARNE PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON
THURSDAY 19th JUNE 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: Dorset Cllr Beryl Ezzard and sixteen members of the public

The Council Chair opened the meeting, welcoming those present.

1. Apologies for absence

25.53 Apologies were received from Cllr Brodie-James.

2. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

25.54 A resident commented on her concerns about planning application P/FUL/2025/03027 Floradene Arne Road Ridge BH20 5BH. She expressed particular concerns about the practicalities of the proposed arrangements for disposal of surface water drainage which involve collection on site and then pumping into an existing ditch on the opposite side of Arne Rd. Her concerns included the ongoing maintenance of the ditch and the shared responsibility for the pump. The Council Chair thanked the resident for her comments, which would be taken into account later in the meeting when the Council considers the application.

Referring to the serious RTA which involved the overturning of a heavily laden articulated contractor's lorry on a sharp bend on Furzebrook Rd adjacent to number 48 just after midnight on 13th June, the residents of that dwelling called for action by DC Highways to reduce the speed limit, and to introduce other road safety measures. They described the incident on 13th June and their swift response to call the emergency services and assist the injured driver - who was considered to be lucky to have missed several large trees and survived the incident.

Their call for the reduction to a 30mph limit on this road - which is currently national speed limit - was reinforced by the comments of several other residents, who recalled other traffic incidents at or near the same location on Furzebrook Rd over many years.

Dorset Councillor Beryl Ezzard also commented on this matter and the long record of safety concerns about this road. She explained that she had visited the site and spoken to the neighbouring residents and had been shocked by what she had seen. She explained that the container from the lorry, still loaded with dry clay from Imerys quarry, was still laying on its side on the verge amidst damaged trees and debris from the lorry.

It was noted that whilst the lorry itself had been removed from the crash site, an attempt to move the container had resulted in damage to the recovery equipment. Cllr Ezzard also explained that the matter was the subject of an ongoing investigation by the police; and there was close liaison with DC Highways and the DC Road Safety Officer, Tony Burden.

Cllr Ezzard indicated that she would support the call for a speed limit reduction on this road. In response, the Arne Parish Council Chair stated that Arne Parish Council would also strongly support such a request for a reduction in speed limit. She also remarked that dealing with such a request would be the responsibility of DC Highways and involved their application of a number of qualifying criteria.

Two representatives of Church Knowle Parish Council made statements related to this matter, indicating their shared concerns for the safety of Furzebrook roads, and expressing their support and willingness to work with DC Highways and Arne Parish Council to call for the speed limit reduction referred to above. Cllr Cranshw responded to this point by assuring the Church Knowle PC representatives that Arne Parish Council would keep them informed about what is happening in this parish on this matter.

Finally, Dorset Cllr Ezzard assured everyone present that she would work with both Parish Councils to push this matter with DC Highways, and to ensure that all parties were kept informed.

3. Declaration of Interests

25.55 Cllr Patrick declared an interest in agenda item 10 – consideration of planning application P/FUL/2025/03027 Floradene, Arne Rd Ridge. She took no part in discussing this item.

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15th May 2025

25.56 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 15th May 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

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

25.57 There were none.

6. Dorset Councillor's Report.

25.58 Cllr. Ezzard had provided a written report for this meeting which was circulated to all members in advance. A copy is associated at **Appendix 1** to these minutes.

In response to a question, Dorset Cllr Ezzard commented on the reasoning behind the proposal from Dorset Council to introduce a booking system for residents' use of the Household Recycling Centres across the county. She pointed to problems in some locations where commercial waste is deposited as if it were domestic, and where non-Dorset residents / council taxpayers access Dorset HRCs. She also referred to related opportunities to adjust staffing levels and operating times to better match demand. In response, members expressed concerns that an unintended consequence of this proposed change is likely to be an increase in fly tipping.

7. To confirm the payment of accounts for May 2025 and consider the bank reconciliation and position against budget for the full year ending 31st May 2025 :

25.59 The following payments were presented for approval:

INVOICE DATE	BACS number	PAYEE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
Payments already made				
01/06/2025	17/25	Starboard Systems Ltd	Scribe Allotments monthly subscription (INV-10734)	£21.60
Payments due				
19/06/2025	18/25	T Watton	Salary, June 25	£565.30
19/06/2025	19/25	HMRC	PAYE, June 25	£184.62
10/06/2025	20/25	Smart Garden Services	Regular grounds maintenance (Inv 977)	£590.83
21/05/2025	21/25	Barker-Fox Associates	Internal Audit 2025	£150.00
27/05/2025	22/25	Starboard systems Ltd	Software fees: Scribe Accounts package 1 Aug 25-31 Jul 26 (£345.60). Scribe Allotments renewal 1 Aug 25 - 31 Jul 26 (£216.00). VAT @20% (£112.32)	£673.92
19/06/2025	24/25	T Watton	Reimbursement for expenditure on behalf of Council: annual licence fee for Microsoft 365 (£84.99), postage & stationery costs (26.35), and milage costs for Internal Audit (£25.20)	£136.54
TOTAL				£2,322.81

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

ACTION: THE CLERK

It was also **RESOLVED** to receive and note the bank reconciliation and position against the budget for the year ending 31st May 2025. A copy of these documents is associated at **Appendix 2** to these minutes.

ACTION: THE CLERK

8. Governance Matters

- (a) **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.**

25.60 The Parish Clerk had distributed a copy of the Internal Audit Report and recommendations to all members ahead of this meeting. The Internal Audit report and IA report page of the AGAR were noted and accepted by the Council.

ACTION: THE CLERK

- (b) **To consider management responses to the recommendations in the Internal Auditor's report for the year ended 31 Mar 2025.**

25.61 The Parish Clerk had prepared a paper considering each of the recommendations in turn and suggesting management responses to them. This paper had been distributed to all members ahead of this meeting. Regarding recommendation 9, concerning VAT as recorded on the Scribe Accounts system, Cllr Patrick explained that the advice given was incorrect regarding zero ratings and that "Zero" (code Z) is used to categorise VAT on any invoices from suppliers who currently do not charge VAT due to lack of turnover, whilst "Outside Scope" (code X) is limited to HMRC, Salaries and Bank Charges. Noting this advice for use by the Clerk, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the suggested management responses to all other recommendations.

ACTION: THE CLERK

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

25.62 The Parish Clerk had prepared a paper considering the evidence in support of each of the Governance Statements in turn. This had been distributed to all Council members ahead of the meeting for each member to give them detailed consideration in advance of the meeting. This paper and the statements were then considered in turn. It was **RESOLVED** to respond with a "yes" to statements 1-8 inclusive. Statement 9 concerning Trust Funds is not applicable. The Chair and the Clerk signed the AGAR form accordingly. A copy is associated at **Appendix 3** to these minutes

ACTION: THE CLERK

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

25.63 The Parish Clerk had distributed the completed statements to all Council members ahead of the meeting. It was **RESOLVED** to approve these. The form was duly signed by the Council Chair. A copy is associated at **Appendix 4** to these minutes

ACTION: THE CLERK

- (f) **To agree the dates for the ‘Exercise of Public Rights’ to inspect the Council’s unaudited accounts for the year ended 31 March 2025. Proposal: Tuesday 1st July 2025 – Monday 11th August 2025.**

25.64 It was **RESOLVED** to approve Tuesday 1st July 2025 – Monday 11th August 2025 as the agreed dates for the exercise of public rights for the unaudited accounts for year ended 31 March 2025.

ACTION: THE CLERK

9. Parish Reports

25.65 Councillors’ Reports on meetings attended:

Cllr Patrick and Cllr Church reported on their attendance at the Wareham Burial Joint Committee meeting held on 18th June 2025. It was confirmed that the Arne Parish Council contribution towards the funding would be £2220.10 for the first half of 2025-26.

Cllr Patrick had also attended the Trustees meeting of the Wareham Relief In Need And Sickness charity. She emphasised that this charity has substantial funds to support those residents of Wareham, Wareham St Martin and Arne parishes with financial support needs. Such residents were encouraged to make requests to the charity.

Cllr Patrick reported that she and Cllr Cranshaw had also attended the most recent meeting of the Stoborough Village Hall committee.

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

Stoborough Village Hall – It was reported that new electrical sockets etc had been installed at a cost of £3700. The Village Hall had been advised on the new defibrillator installation by the Swanage Community Defibrillator Partnership. This has now been installed. Mr Morgan remarked that enquiries had been received for two further regular bookings for the hall. He also provided details of a proposed new lockable noticeboard with aluminium frame, of a similar size to the existing very dilapidated one, but to be mounted in portrait orientation. The total cost is £295 including VAT and it was suggested that it would be for shared use with the Parish Council. The Village Hall would arrange purchase and installation and then submit a grant request to the Council to contribute towards it. This was **AGREED**. Mr Morgan then went on to speak about the newly installed defibrillator, for which a grant application has been submitted to the Council for consideration at the July meeting. He suggested that a ‘Trauma Kit’ might be purchased and added to the cabinet. The Parish Council members supported this suggestion.

Furzebrook Village Hall – Nothing further to report.

Stoborough Meadow Residents Association – Nothing to report.

Ridge Residents Association – Cllr Church reported that they have a new Chair and Secretary. He also reported that he had replied to correspondence from them to say that the Parish Council would welcome anything they wish to raise with the Council.

Stoborough Primary school – Nothing to report.

25.67 Hayricks:

Cllr Sims provided an update on the quotes he is seeking to obtain for the remedial work as identified on the 2025 RoSPA inspection report. A quote is awaited from Infinity Playgrounds. Sutcliffe Play (South West) have responded to decline the opportunity to quote for the work. The folk from the Wareham Men's Shed have dismantled one of the benches in preparation for refurbishing it.

It had come to Cllr Sims' attention that Mr Smart had been instructed by some residents of Oval Gardens not to cut the grass. During discussion with other Council members it became apparent that this may not be the wish of the majority of residents of Oval Gardens. This matter will be explored further.

Cllr Sims has also reported to Dorset Council the need for attention to the footpath fingerpost in New Road.

25.68 SANG:

It was reported that the Scott Estate have not yet responded to the further approach with the request to take some action to provide some means of traversing the boggy part of the proscribed circuit walk. The Parish Clerk will chase this up with them again.

ACTION: THE CLERK

25.69 Allotments:

The Clerk reported that he has written to the tenants of the two plots which have been substantially neglected for the whole of the calendar year so far, and which are now seriously overgrown and causing nuisance to other plot holders. The letters give a deadline of 11th July to rectify the matter by removing all the weeds and bringing the plots back into cultivation in line with condition 5 of the tenancy agreements, after which the Council may consider terminating the tenancies. In addition, as agreed at the May meeting, he has written to the adjacent Parish Councils (Corfe Castle and Church Knowle, as well as Wareham Town Council) to enquire whether they have prospective tenants on waiting lists who may like an allotment in Arne Parish.

In addition, Cllr Duckworth suggested the Council consider the matter of providing a water supply to the allotments. It was agreed to add initial consideration of this to the agenda of the next meeting.

ACTIONS: THE CLERK

25.70 Councillors Climate & Ecological Support Group: No report.

10. To consider Planning Applications received

25.71 Delegated –

**P/ADV/2025/02741 Arne Work Centre Arne Road Ridge BH20 5BH. Arrival signage x 3; Information Signage x 1; Vehicle Signage x 1; Orientation Signage x 1
NO OBJECTION**

P/FUL/2025/03027 Floradene Arne Road Ridge BH20 5BH. Erection of 2 detached dwellings with associated access, parking and drainage works.

The Parish Council has examined this proposal and notes that it remains very similar to previous ones (P/FUL/2022/04771 and P/FUL/2024/05245) both of which were refused by the Local Planning Authority. This latest proposal does not address the concerns and grounds for objection submitted by the Parish Council on the previous occasions; namely

- (a) Overdevelopment of the site. The density of the proposed development of this site will adversely affect the surrounding properties and be detrimental to the character of the area.

(b) The parking arrangements remain inadequate and are likely to lead to additional on-road parking.

(c) Drainage from the site may also be affected by further development.

In addition, the Parish Council notes with concern about the practicality of the proposed surface water runoff drainage arrangements set out in the Surface Water Drainage Report dated 16th April 2025 – particularly in that it involves an ongoing maintenance schedule – which would under the responsibility of the owners of the proposed properties. It also involves the and disposal of the pumped water into an existing ditch adjacent to the opposite side of Arne Rd.

Consequently, the Parish Council wishes to register its **OBJECTION to this proposal.**

11. Correspondence received since the agenda was set:

25.72 The Clerk reported on the grant application received from the Stoborough Village Hall for a contribution towards to the cost of purchase and installation of the Defibrillator at the Village Hall. This will be considered at the July meeting of the Council.

ACTION: THE CLERK

25.73 Cllr Duckworth drew attention to the Dorset Council Nature Recovery Strategy which is currently out to consultation. All members, as well as residents, were encouraged to respond to this consultation as individuals. Please use the following link to the DC webpage to gain access to the consultation <https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/dorset-s-local-nature-recovery-strategy>

ACTION: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

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

25.74 There were none.

25.75 Date of next meeting:

Parish Council meeting Thursday, 17th July 2025, At 7:15pm Stoborough Village Hall.

There being no other business, the meeting was closed at 20:45

Appendix 1

Cllr Beryl Ezzard DC Report for Arne Parish Council June 2025

Dorset Council (DC) & Cabinet

The Annual Meeting of DC was held on 15 May with no changes to the Leadership or the Cabinet Members. All the Comte Chairs are still in post too. The really significant success announced was the OUTSANDING Osted Report for Children's Services. Very well done to the DC Officers. The next Full DC Council Mtg will be on Thursday 10 July at 6.30pm. There will be Consultation on the DC's Local Plan coming for all to take part in, in the Summer.

Wareham Level Crossing

There has been a proposed reduction, by one hour, per day, of the Level Crossing Contract. So, closing the gates at midnight instead of 1 am and opening at 6 am. This will still cover all the trains timetabled for passengers to cross if necessary. This will come into effect on 1 September, if approved by Full DC Council in July. This will make a saving of £13,000 of the Contract's five years tenure. DC and NR have now set up a Lease arrangement for the Level Cross Agreement to go forward showing a significant commitment to approving of the level crossing for many years to come.

Wareham Area Community Speedwatch Team

Regular Sessions monitoring the speed of traffic in the Sandford, Wareham and Arne have taken place. We have sessions in June are being arranged. More volunteers are needed to support this project to gather evidence for reducing speed limits by monitoring driver behaviour and speeding.

I was invited and accepted to visit Stoborough Primary School recently, as the staff and pupils wanted to know about Speedwatch and the possibility of reducing speed limits and traffic calming. Evidence of our Speedwatch Volunteer Team. have to evidence to support reducing speed limits.

Furzebrook Road – Serious Accident

There was a serious road accident involving a HGV just after midnight, early on Friday 13 June, when the HGV with a container on the trailer, left the road on the bend with its load, a huge heavy container, which fell off to the right, near to a house. No other vehicles were involved, and the driver was lucky to survive. This has really shocked and focused the residents of the nearby house, to campaign for 40 mph, reducing the speed limit on Furzebrook Road; currently at 60mph; with most of residents who live on this road... This has been a cause for concern for a number of years with no action being taken. Church Knowle PC has recently contacted DC with the request to reduce the speed limit over the Railway Line towards the Blue Pool, in the adjoining Parish. I have contacted DC and asked various searching questions following this accident. Liaison with the Police who are investigation, is ongoing. I have copied the Clerk in the emails and will keep him updated.

Purbeck Shuttle 200 (formerly 2RN Bus) update

The Service200 is now running from Wareham Station on a Wednesday and from Norden – Purbeck Park on a Saturday for 14 weeks until the end of August. PCRPs are leading this new project to provide outlying areas to visit – The Blue Pool and RSPB Arne for tourist and locals too. The timetable is found in all the bus Stops enroute, and one can flag it down for a request stop. Bus Passes are accepted, otherwise the fare is £2.00 Go and enjoy a trip to Purbeck's unique countryside without the worry of driving yourself.

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.

RAILWAY200 Celebration at Wareham Station

On Saturday 14 June; 2 to 5pm the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Keith Critchley, Opened the Event, in very windy conditions for a Programme of celebration; talks, singing, displays, especially the replica of Stephenson's Rocket made by the Wareham's Men Shed.

Our MP Vikki Slade cut the Celebration Cake at the Station marking 178 years of the Wareham connection from 1847. Thank you to all who helped and supported the Event, in Victorian dress. All had an enjoyable afternoon.

;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 2

Bank Reconciliation and accounts update

Please see separate .pdf file.

Appendix 3

Annual Governance Statements for AGAR YE 31 Mar 2025

Please see separate .pdf file.

Appendix 4

Finance Statement for AGAR YE 31 Mar 2025

Please see separate .pdf file.