

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council on **Monday 13th April, 2015 at Arreton Community Hall at 7.30pm.**

Present: Cllrs Thirkettle, Cooper, Hayden, Orchard, E Oulton, R Oulton and Roome.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Richards and Sheila Caws (Clerk). There were no members of the public present.

047/15 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Grisman (hospital appointment)

048/15 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

049/15 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (9th March)

The minutes of the meeting on 9th March were confirmed and signed after Cllr R Oulton queried the cost of producing a newsletter without advertising. The minutes were amended to make it clear that sufficient advertising was an essential part of producing the newsletter.

Proposed Cllr Roome, seconded Cllr E Oulton.

050/15 To receive regular reports

- a) IWC Cllr Richards reported that he had attended a very hectic licensing meeting and had also visited Newchurch School.
The notice boards for the roadworks were *in situ* and Island Roads would be holding a meeting for residents on Thursday 16th before the works started on Monday 20th.
The question of new traffic lights at Blackwater had been raised by a resident and IWC Cllr Richards said that the money for the project had been identified but not released by IWC. The resident in question had been invited to the meeting but had not appeared. Cllr R Oulton pointed out that if the money was released IW Council would go ahead regardless of public opinion. IWC would have to find the appellants costs for the appeal against the decision on the planning application at Haseley. The figure could be as high as £38,000 but negotiations are ongoing.
Plans are underway to make Newchurch a 'no cold-calling' area if there is sufficient agreement.
- b) Police report - the report from PCSO Keefe was distributed. There was only one incident in April when a case of verbal abuse was reported in Merstone. PCSO Keefe also produced the annual statistics for the year, which indicated that crime figures are decreasing.
- c) Cemetery and churchyard matters
Brighstone Landscaping have been chased regarding work on the churchyard wall which was requested back in January. Cllr Roome and the Clerk looked at the trees resting on the wall between the churchyard and the Vicarage. The Clerk will contact the householder to ask if they wish to remove the branches.
The Chairman had contacted HALC for legal advice on the question of the precept. HALC referred the matter to NALC - see Clerk's report.
- d) Highways and footpaths
Island Roads have replaced the poles for the village sign but the sign itself has now disappeared. Island Roads say that it is up to the Council to pay for a new sign but the Clerk will investigate if this is the case.
Cllr Orchard commented that there was no sign as yet of the traffic survey promised by Island Roads on the road between Blackwater and Rookley.
The question was raised as to whether Island Roads would install a lane for a righthand turn to the new housing site whilst rebuilding the road. It would be for the developer to request such a turning and not for Island Roads to initiate. There are no plans for Southern Water to replace the water main or for Hazely Combe to be included in the resurfacing works.
- e) IWALC report
Gill Kennett, the Chairman of IWALC, sent a letter to all the clerks outlining the services available from them. This includes training, legal services from HALC and membership of the national body, NALC. She also outlined the priorities for 2015/16, which include gaining Assisted Area Status for the

whole Island, improved communication with the IW Council and to review alternatives to the new Local Awards Scheme.

There is concern that those town and parish councils considering taking on services from the IW Council are getting different versions from officers and councillors. Gill Kennett made the point to the Scrutiny Committee that everyone should be giving out the same information.

IWALC is in regular communication with the IW Council but the question of communication with non member councils was raised. Cllr R Oulton made the point that IWALC is a lobbying group and not an intermediate step in the communication process. It was up to the IW Council to make sure that they have spoken to all councils and they are looking at resurrecting the parish liaison team.

The Chairman is now a member of the County Training Partnership. They are considering the introduction of modular training sessions for new councillors.

f) Clerk's report

Agenda and Minutes Record - the Clerk contacted all the local organisations regarding the proposed VJ-Day event and a meeting was arranged for March 30th and another for April 9th – see separate agenda item.

The notice board for Merstone has arrived and the Clerk is arranging its installation.

Training - the Clerk attended a CiLCA training session organised by the County Training Partnership. It is hoped to hold these monthly.

Other matters - the War Memorial has now been cleaned.

Cllrs Thirkettle, Hayden and the Clerk attended the Spring Forum organised jointly by IWALC and the IW branch of the SLCC at the Riverside Centre on March 16th. It was an excellent day with many interesting presentations on the theme of 'Taking the Isle of Wight forward'.

Cllr Thirkettle and IWC Cllr Richards attended a meeting with Island Roads regarding the proposed closure of the main road through Arreton for major roadworks in the immediate future. A subsequent meeting was held by Island Roads for local businesses at the *Dairyman's Daughter* on April 1st and was attended by Cllrs Thirkettle, Grisman, Hayden, Orchard, Roome, IWC Cllr Richards and the Clerk.

As the Parish Council had given a donation to the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival, an invitation was sent for their gala evening on March 22nd. Cllr Thirkettle attended with his wife and reported that it was an excellent evening. The participants included not only adults and children but also groups for the disabled and it was good that people with such a wide range of abilities were given the opportunity to perform.

Following an initial enquiry, the Parish Council has been invited to tour the site of the anaerobic digester and a mutually convenient date is being arranged.

A response has been received from a solicitor at NALC regarding the question of the precept payable by the IW Council on their share of the churchyard expenses. Their advice is that the IWC is the successor authority and cannot refuse to pay the precept. Our next step should be to contact or meet the IWC, asking them to clarify the grounds on which they are relying to not make the payment.

The Clerk has received an e-mail from the IWC's Rural Broadband Project Manager to say that the new broadband cabinet at Chapel Lane, Merstone has now come online.

It was also noted that the WWII names on the war memorial have not come out as well as the older ones but they may improve as steam cleaning kills the mould but it takes time to disappear.

Dates have been suggested for the visit to the anaerobic digester and it was agreed that April 30th was the most convenient.

051/15 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011. To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 060/15

No items were raised.

052/15 Finance

The finance report for March was agreed. The balance of the current account was £9,027.97

The following payments were agreed.

1006	Vista Display (Kendal) Ltd	Notice Board	£510.41
1007	S Caws	Expenses	£18.62
1008	Post Office Ltd	HMRC - PAYE	£131.40
1009	G J Banks (IW) Ltd	War memorial	£904.80
1010	P Phillips	Salary and expenses	£40.26
1011	Brighstone Landscaping	Grounds maintenance	£408.00
1012	S Caws	Salary	£240.25

053/15 Planning and Appeals

There were no planning applications this month.

The Chairman reported that at the IWALC Forum it was mooted that town and parish councils might take on the responsibility of approving simple applications such as conservatories and porches. There would need to be strict parameters e.g. permitted development only and someone at Planning would need to be designated to liaise, give advice etc. It was also suggested that town and parish councils might take on the responsibility for enforcing the regulations on old applications.

054/15 Community events

Planning is now under way for an event over the weekend of August 22nd / 23rd.

055/15 War memorial

Having cleaned the memorial, it was agreed to ask G J Banks to investigate the cracks at cost of approximately £75. Proposed Cllr R Oulton, seconded Cllr Hayden.

056/15 Island Plan Draft Housing Review Consultation

Cllr R Oulton objected to the statement that “localism and neighbourhood planning has enabled communities to have a greater say in their area.” He believes this to be untrue as such plans can be overridden, as happened in Bembridge, and have no relevance if an application goes to appeal. He wishes to make an official objection and will liaise with the Clerk.

057/15 Pest control

The Clerk has received an e-mail from Andrew Taylor at Perreton Farm to say that he has the situation under control from the farm. It was agreed to monitor the situation.

058/15 Annual Parish Meeting

Owing to the impending roadworks, it was agreed to move the next Parish Council meeting and the Annual Parish Meeting to the Methodist Hall. It was also agreed to have a very basic meeting and to postpone the speakers to next year.

059/15 To note the date of the next meeting, 11th May, 2015

060/15 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

The meeting concluded at 9.05pm

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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23rd April 2015

..... Chairman

..... Date