

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council on **Monday 9th March, 2015** at **Arreton Community Hall** at **7.30pm**.

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

In attendance: Sheila Caws (Clerk) and two members of the public

033/15 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Orchard (illness) and Cllr R Oulton (illness) and IWC Cllr Richards

034/15 Questions from the public

A question was asked about the cutting of the hedge next to the Primary School and the problem of balls going in to the road from the field. This is not the responsibility of the Parish Council and so the school should contact Island Roads and ask them not to cut it so low in future.

A question was asked about litter in the car park at Arreton Cross. A bin may be required.

035/15 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting (9th February)

The minutes of the meeting on 9th February were confirmed and signed after one minor change. Proposed Cllr Hayden, seconded Cllr Grisman.

036/15 To receive regular reports

- a) In the absence of IWC Cllr Richards there was no report.
- b) The report from PCSO Keefe was distributed. There were three incidents in February – two road traffic incidents and incident of criminal damage on a bus. No further details were given. Cllr Thirkettle reported on the latest Speedwatch session in Arreton, when eight speeding vehicles were noted, including a bus.
- c) Cemetery and churchyard matters
Work on cleaning the war memorial has started but has been temporarily halted owing to a broken pump.
- d) Highways and footpaths
Many of the white lines have been repainted and some quartering done.
- e) IWALC report
Apologies were given for postponing the new councillor training but a new format is being considered as many found it difficult to commit to four consecutive weeks. Modular sessions are a possibility that the County Training Partnership will consider.
The meeting for prospective Parliamentary candidates has been cancelled as only three were available.
- f) Clerk's report
Agenda and Minutes Record - The Clerk has contacted all the local organisations regarding the proposed VJ-Day event and responses so far have been favourable.
The Clerk has written to Island Roads regarding the problems in Merstone Lane but no response as yet. The Clerk has also contacted Andrew Taylor at Perreton for permission to continue with the pest control agreement on his land adjacent to Gore Cemetery but has received no response as yet. The Clerk has also sent off the form to the Sustainability Forum with our suggestions for sustainable transport options.
The Clerk has received a detailed e-mail from Wight Energy regarding the work that has been carried out on the bund opposite Gore Cemetery and proposed future works.
The Clerk contacted Gareth Hughes and he is happy to audit the accounts again this year.
Training - Cllr Hayden and the Clerk attended planning training sessions. Unfortunately there was not enough interest to hold training sessions for new councillors which were to have been organised for March. It is hoped to organise a one-off introductory session instead.

Other matters - GJ Banks have been in touch regarding the cleaning of the war memorial, which should be carried out soon.

The Clerk has received a letter and survey from the IW Council regarding possible changes to parts of the Adult Social Care service – responses are required by the end of April.

The Clerk has received an e-mail regarding a Draft Landscape Character Assessment which will form part of the East Wight Landscape Partnership's bid for Stage 2 of their HLF bid.

Comments are required by the end of March, which the Clerk is happy to supply in consultation with anyone who may be interested.

037/15 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 046/15

Cllr Thirkettle raised items on the Annual Parish Meeting and the burial precept.

038/15 Finance

The finance report for February was agreed. The balance of the current account was £8,590.01 with one cheque outstanding.

The following payments were agreed.

1003	IWALC (subscription)	£169.18
1004	S Caws (salary)	£233.40
1005	S Caws (expenses)	£25.17

039/15 Planning and Appeals

There were no planning applications this month.

040/15 Parish Plan

No further progress has been made with the Parish Plan. Cllr Thirkettle will write an article for the next newsletter.

041/15 Electronic agendas

It is now permitted to send agendas electronically. Cllrs Thirkettle and Roome signed up.

042/15 Community events

Most of the local groups contacted expressed an interest in participating in an event to commemorate VJ-Day. It was agreed to hold a meeting at the end of March and Cllr E Oulton agreed to investigate the availability of the Coach House.

043/15 Merstone Notice Board

It was agreed to order a metal 6xA4 notice board for Merstone plus a key safe to go on the back of the board.

044/15 Newsletter

Cllr Grisman expressed an interest in taking over the newsletter and changing it from quarterly to bi-monthly, dependent upon sufficient income from advertising. There was discussion about advertising, as income had dwindled, printing and the possibility of an electronic version.

Cllr Hayden left the meeting at 9pm

045/15 To note the date of the next meeting, 13th April, 2015

046/15 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

The Clerk raised the subject of the Annual Parish Meeting. Vectis Astronomical Association have been invited to talk about their Dark Skies project and the Clerk proposed contacting the AONB office to see if anyone was available to talk about their work.

The Chairman said that he had approached HALC for advice on the question of the burial precept and a preliminary response has been received.

The meeting concluded at 9.23pm

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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16th March 2015

..... Chairman

..... Date