

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 8th April 2019 at 7 pm at Arreton Methodist Hall

Present: Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Cooper, Healy, Orchard and Verey

In attendance: five residents and the Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from IWC Cllr Mosdell

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 09/04/2108

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE BUSINESS OF ARRETON PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2018/2019.

The Chairman presented his annual report, which is appended to these minutes (Appendix I)

4. REPORT FROM IW COUNCILLOR CLARE MOSDELL

IWC Cllr Mosdell sent her report which is appended to these minutes (Appendix II)

5. POLICE REPORT

There was no report from the Police

6. REPORT FROM ARRETON TRUST

This is a small independent Trust looking after bequests made to the Ancient Parish of Arreton from the 17th century. All the amounts are now invested with the Charity Commission and bring in a very small sum of money annually which is distributed. Formerly this was for poor people in the parish, now it is donated to organisations which have helped or will in future be able to help people in the Parish. The Parish Council has two representative trustees on this Trust. No meetings were held last year and the Trust is looking to close if a suitable method can be found. There is now so little money in the Trust that the amount of income received does not make it viable.

7. OPEN FORUM

A resident raised the question of a change in the law regarding cesspits and particularly the emptying of them, which is due to come into force in January 2020. The resident was concerned that there has not been enough publicity about the changes. The Parish Council was requested to pursue the matter with both local and national agencies

The meeting closed at 19.30

Chairman

Date

Appendix I: Report of the Chairman of Arreton Parish Council

The Parish Council has experienced both ups and downs this year, with the highlight being the World War I centenary Remembrance events in November. These saw a very pleasing level of co-operation between the Parish Council, St George's Church, the Methodist Church, the Community Centre, the School and the schoolchildren. The children's annual Remembrance Service culminated this year with selected children each planting a poppy cross near the War Memorial in remembrance of a person named thereon. The poppy crosses were purchased by the Council. On Remembrance Sunday itself, the Council organised a ploughman's lunch at the Community Centre, ably assisted by members of the organisations noted above. This was followed by a traditional sing-song round the piano. The event was well-attended and the Parish Council would like to thank all those who took part in both events.

Another highlight was being given the opportunity to support Natural Enterprise with their plans to refurbish Merstone Station. We agreed to make a one-off payment towards the work and another sum to be paid annually for maintenance. The Council was also able to be pro-active in some of the 22 planning applications that were considered in 2018. An application for nine houses and a small office block on land opposite the Methodist Chapel was approved and we were instrumental in getting the route of a footpath round the site altered to a better location. Unfortunately, despite our best endeavours, we were unable to influence the siting of a grain store in the Macketts Lane area.

The Council met 13 times in 2018, some of the meetings being held to consider planning applications that were due for comment before the regular monthly meeting. Unfortunately, both Lin Watterson and David Dovey resigned from the Council for reasons of health and time. Whilst we were sorry to see them go and thank them for their contributions to the working of the Council, we are pleased to welcome David Dovey and Venetia Verey, who both bring a wealth of experience with them. Although not in 2018, our Chairman, Mick Thirkettle, was forced to resign suddenly from the Council in January this year (2029) due to serious ill-health. I have taken over as Chairman and would like to thank Mick for the tremendous amount of work he put in, both within the Council and in representing our interests with other organisations. In January we also lost Ali Hayden, who resigned after trying to juggle the competing demands of work, the Council and having a private life. Ali will also be missed and we wish her well in her new married life. A by-election will be held in May to elect new councillors.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow councillors for their time and effort and also the Clerk, Sheila Caws, and Pat Phillips, our indefatigable Burial Registrar. We now look forward to 2019 and wonder what it will bring. One definite is the prospect of oil-exploration but whether this turns out to be a high or a low remains to be seen.

Martin Kimber

Chairman – Arreton Parish Council

Appendix II: Report of IWC Cllr Clare Mosdell

It has been a busy year and we had various successes such as the withdrawal of the planning application for a glamping site near Newclose Cricket Club after listening to the objections of the residents and voicing those to the developer.

We are actively listening to residents and voicing those feelings at County Hall. Speed limits are one of those subjects with many residents in Arreton feeling that the 30mph is an acceptable speed limit but would like more done for this to be enforced. Merstone and Blackwater residents would like the speed limit reduced, as these are both areas where drivers use the roads with no respect to the residents that reside there and we will continue to lobby the police to have some form of enforcement introduced. The property 'Downend Cottage' on Long Lane still has issues with two accidents this year with cars crashing into their garde but Island Roads still say that this is not due to speeding cars and we will continue to try to resolve this for the residents that reside there.

The traffic lights at Downend continue to be an issue with Island Roads insisting that the sequencing has been changed but the Parish Council and myself still feel this has not been done correctly; the oncoming increase in traffic caused by the summer season will prove if this has been carried out but the one way system at Staplers does currently cause a temporary imbalance in the volume of traffic at this junction.

One of the issues that need to be worked on with the Parish Council are the two festivals that will be happening on the first weekend in August, one being in Newchurch and the other at Duxmore and the road traffic plans for these need to be viewed and discussed to ensure that Arreton does not have a large increase in traffic without it being properly managed.

The problem with the School and Nursery parking is high on the agenda and a meeting was held with all respective parties and this is being looked at to how to resolve with short- and long-term solutions and those for the future safety of all involved.

The proposed drilling for Oil by UKOG is being carefully followed by myself as Ward Councillor and a meeting is being organised between the Parish Council and UKOG. As Ward Councillor I have ensured that the proposed drilling is now on the Risk Register for the Isle of Wight Council due to the amount of interest that this could bring from many protest groups. It is important that all Councillors are as informed as possible of the actual facts behind this application and make sure we are aware the different types of drilling from traditional to fracking and what will be possibly be applied to happen within the Ward. The members of Frack Free Isle of Wight have approached me with regards to a large banner by the 'Hare' but I have made it clear that I would be opposed to this, as I would any large banner by any group being placed on the roadside, as my personal opinion is that drivers should concentrate on driving and not be distracted.

As Ward Councillor my comments on the Draft Island Plan were that the housing numbers proposed by Government were too high for the Island. However we did need the right type of housing for our Island residents and we should continue to work to ensure that the correct balance is achieved.

I look forward to working next year with the Parish Council on any issues that affect the residents of Arreton Parish.

Clare Mosdell
IWC Ward Councillor – Arreton and Newchurch