

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 11th November, 2019** at **Arreton Community Hall at 7.00pm**.

Present: Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Cooper, Dodson, Healy, Orchard, Roberts and Verey.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell, Sheila Caws (Clerk) and five members of the public.

190/19 Apologies for Absence

None

191/19 Questions from the public

None

7.03pm Cllr Verey arrived

192/19 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (14th October)

The minutes of the meeting held on October 14th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Dodson, seconded Cllr Healy

193/19 To receive regular reports

- (a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell explained that there would be no newsletter for a while as the IW Council was in purdah until after the general election in December. Island Roads have billed the company that runs the anaerobic digester for cleaning the mud off the road at Arreton Cross after the road had to be closed. The main subject under discussion at County Hall at the moment is the budget and how much town and parish councils can contribute. The IW Council recognises that there is a big difference in capacity between the larger councils such as Newport and the smaller ones like Arreton.
- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard – Cllr Kimber said that there had been comments at Sunday's Remembrance Service about the state of the condition of the path to the Church door. The Clerk said that path was not the responsibility of the Parish Council and she had already suggested that the Parochial Church Council get in touch with the Island Roads' Community Fund. This was not something that the Parish Council could do on their behalf. Cllr Cooper said that Brighstone Landscaping were doing a good job with the grass in the Cemetery.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Orchard reported that the road sign in Blackwater at the Sandy Lane junction had finally been repaired. It was noted that there are overgrown trees at the Stickworth Hall end of the Blackwater to Horryngford cycletrack and some of the fencing was also in a state of disrepair. Cllr Kimber will report the issues to Rights of Way. The repairs to the bridge on the Horryngford side of the track are apparently on schedule.
- (d) Meetings – Cllr Verey and Cllr Kimber attended a meeting in Rookley organised by the Police for councils in the area. The attendees were asked to identify areas of concern in their parishes. The main issue was speeding but this is not a high level of concern with the Police as there have been no bad accidents. Police numbers on the Island are the lowest ever and resources have to be prioritised. The original Speedwatch campaign is no longer active but it may be possible to resurrect it in some form or other. Crime in general is low and down by 13% on last year. It was emphasised that it is essential to report even low-level crime so that the Police know what is going on. Reports can be made online or on the 101 phone number. IWC Cllr Mosdell said that a meeting would be arranged between the IW Council and the Police as speed limits do need to be

enforced. There may also be a meeting between all the parishes affected by traffic going to the anaerobic digester and PCSO Keefe.

Cllr Verey raised the question of potential protests against the proposed oil drilling and the Police asked to be kept informed. There was much discussion but no notable outputs from the meeting.

- (e) IWALC – Cllr Calloway attended the IWALC meeting which was mainly taken up with a presentation by the IW Council and a representative from the consultants on the Parking Survey that was commissioned by the IWC some while back.

IWALC will be looking to appoint a new Administration Officer as the current postholder has obtained a new appointment.

Chairman's report – The Chairman and Cllr Verey attended a meeting with Hampshire Police, as reported on above.

The Chairman laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council at the Remembrance Day service at St Georges yesterday.

The Chairman prepared and circulated his ideas on a publicity policy after the last meeting – to be discussed later – and he has now prepared some suggested text for inclusion in our Councillors next newsletter.

- (f) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has contacted Portsmouth Diocese regarding the possible closure of St George's Church but has not as yet received a reply.

Other matters: planning permission has been granted for the chimney at Quaintways, Blackwater and also for the extension at Tientu, Merstone.

The Clerk is aware of a problem with the website in that the details of the next meeting i.e. tonight's, did not load. The website company were contacted but have not responded as yet. Other items added at the same time loaded successfully. An e-mail regarding the new website accessibility regulations was replied to and the Clerk will set up a meeting to see what is involved and the likely costs.

The Clerk has received a copy of *Scramble 1940*, the official newsletter of the Battle of Britain Historical Society. It contains a report on the unveiling of Sgt Pilot Haire's stone in Arreton in September. There was also a message of thanks from John Pulfer.

The Clerk has received an interim report from Natural Enterprise on the recent work at Merstone Station.

The Clerk has received a letter from the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival requesting a possible donation. This will be an agenda item for the next meeting. A letter has also been received from St John Ambulance, asking if we would like to offer the community a free training course from them.

Cllr Kimber and Cllr Verey attended a meeting in Rookley organised by Hampshire Police.

Training: Cllr Dodson and Cllr Roberts attended the councillor training organised by IWALC.

194/19 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 207/19 - Cllr Calloway requested an item on the village shop-

195/19 Finance

The finance report for October was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £10,212.02 at the end of October. The following payments were agreed:-

1297	S Caws (salary)	£357.24
1298	S Caws (expenses)	£25.33
1299	Newsquest Media Group (advert)	£120.96
1300	SLCC (publication)	£52.30

It was noted that the Clerk's salary included two hours of agreed overtime.

196/19 Planning and Appeals

To consider any applications recently received:-

Reference	19/01227/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-08191097
Application Received	Mon 14 Oct 2019
Address	Land South of Newclose Cricket Grounds Blackwater Road Newport Isle of Wight
Proposal	Proposed glamping pods, reception & ablution block, amenity ponds & associated parking (revised scheme)

Several members of the public attended to speak about this application. It was agreed that although some of the Parish Council's previous objections had been met, the majority had not and so it was agreed that an amended list of objections, including some from the residents present, would be submitted and that the members of the Parish Council agreed to recommend refusal of this application owing to the lack of detail on the proposals.

i) There is no mention of infrastructure, especially lighting. Even at night there would have to be low-level safety lighting which could compromise the area's dark skies.

ii) There are concerns about security with an open access site and no mention of CCTV or 24-hour staffing. Nearby residents are concerned that there would now be access to the rear of their properties by the proposed bridge over the river.

iii) Bus stops have been proposed but attempting to cross from the far side of the road would be extremely dangerous without a dedicated crossing.

iv) The parking would still seem to be inadequate. Although Island Roads recommend 28 spaces (i.e. one space per yurt), this does not allow for staff parking.

v) The toilet and shower facilities are also inadequate for the potential number of visitors.

vi) There is also little detail on the arrangements for waste disposal, sewage discharge and surface water run-off. Is the site sufficiently permeable to allow the latter to soak in naturally, especially as there is an almost permanent stream of water running across the road from the far side towards the site?

vii) There are concerns about the smoke from the wood-burning stoves as this could be discharged at quite a low level unless the yurts are fitted with extra-tall flues. Given the proximity to the river, cold damp air could cause the smoke to linger longer than in other areas.

viii) There do not appear to be any cooking or washing-up facilities and barbeques should not be encouraged, given the flammable nature of the tree cover.

ix) The members of the Parish Council would like to see a fire risk assessment of the site.

x) There is a time limit on the nearby cricket club of 11pm, which could be more difficult to enforce on a site such as this proposal requests. The siting of a marquee at the cricket club is already causing a noise nuisance to nearby residents. This proposal could add to the problem, especially as the lack of cooking facilities would encourage most visitors to go off-site in the evenings, with inevitable noise on their return.

xi) A preliminary ecological report has been produced but there is no mention of red

squirrels. The members of the Parish Council would also like to see a full bat survey of the site undertaken.

xii) There is no indication as to whether the site will be seasonal or year-round other than a reference to extending the holiday season (Design, Access and Planning Statement - p9).

xiii) The site may have been used in the past for the sale of Christmas trees but certainly not in recent years, when the site has been used purely for growing the trees. Local memory is that trees grown on this site were sent to the retail operation at Shide to be sold there.

There would therefore have been little traffic in and out of the site, even around Christmas.

xiv) There is also insufficient detail on the ponds. How deep would they be, what construction would be used, what safety precautions would be taken, how would the spoil be treated?

197/19 Financial Regulations

The draft Financial Regulations were agreed and the final wording will be circulated for a final reading if necessary.

198/19 Press Policy

The Chairman produced a draft document which was agreed with amendments. The Clerk will re-draft sections of it for the next meeting.

199/19 Cemetery fence

Only one tender was received from a pest control company and in view of the amounts involved, the Clerk will contact fencing companies and ask for quotes

200/19 Landowner agreement

This was deferred until a quote has been accepted.

201/19 Budget

The first draft of the 2020/21 budget was presented and will be given further consideration at the next meeting.

202/19 Bank mandate

It was agreed to add Cllrs Calloway, Dodson and Roberts to the bank mandate and to remove any previous signatories who are no longer members of the Parish Council.

203/19 Dog bin

It was agreed to purchase a replacement bin for the site at Park Cottages at a cost of approximately £100. The bin will be delivered to Island Roads, who will replace it and dispose of the old one.

9.02pm Cllr Orchard left the meeting

204/19 Cemetery bench

This item was deferred to the next meeting

205/19 Highway closure

It was noted that the anaerobic digester company will pay for the cleaning of the roads at Arreton Cross that was necessary after the amount of mud caused them to be closed on safety grounds.

The Clerk will arrange a visit to the anaerobic digestion plant for those councillors who have not been and will also invite a representative from the Police. Councillors at Rookley and Chillerton would also be interested but the Clerk will leave it to the staff at the plant to organise a separate visit.

206/19 To note the date of the next meeting, 9th December 2019

207/19 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

At the last meeting it was noted that the village shop is open for four days a week. This is incorrect and the shop is open for five days and closed on Sunday and Wednesday and Saturday afternoons.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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12th November 2019

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Chairman

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Date