

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 9th December, 2019** at **Arreton Community Hall at 7.00pm**.

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

In attendance: Sheila Caws (Clerk)

208/19 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Roberts (away) and IWC Cllr Mosdell (unwell)

209/19 Questions from the public

None

210/19 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (11th November)

The minutes of the meeting held on November 11th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Verey, seconded Cllr Dodson

211/19 To receive regular reports

- (a) IWC Councillor – in the absence of IWC Cllr Mosdell there was no report.
- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard – Cllr Orchard commented that both the Churchyard and Cemetery looked smart.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – overgrown trees on the cycletrack at Merstone were cleared immediately when they were reported to Island Roads. However, other overgrown trees near Stickworth Hall were not touched and so presumably must belong to the Hall. The Chairman will contact Rights of Way again to confirm this.
Horringford Bridge has been rebuilt and that part of the cycletrack is now open but the Newchurch to Sandown section has been shut.
- (d) IWALC – The Chairman attended and reported that the meeting was attended by Stuart Bailey, the man from Southern Water responsible for the Company's efforts to assist those having difficulties paying their water bills. He began the meeting with a 20-minute presentation on the four formal schemes the Company has introduced. The driver from the Company's viewpoint is that Ofwat require companies to have reduced tariffs and help for those having difficulty paying their bills. Ofwat apparently expect around 7% of Southern's customers to be on such schemes. The Chairman has details but the four schemes are in outline:

- Discounts of up to 90% for households with an annual income below £16k
- A ceiling of £438/year for families on benefits and with high water needs
- A scheme to write off two thirds of debt subject to conditions; and
- A scheme where part of state benefits are paid directly to Southern Water

This sounded like a very relevant scheme for poorer areas. The Chairman asked what proportion of IW households are behind on water bills: Mr Bailey did not have the numbers with him. If Parish Councillors know of people to whom this scheme may be relevant then attention should be drawn to it.

The meeting confirmed the appointment of Jill Webster as County Officer to replace Maxine Warr.

A meeting is proposed Friday 23 Jan to consider a meeting with the IW Council to discuss infrastructure proposals to be included in the revised Island Plan.

The meeting voted on a proposal to express support and endorse the Glover report and its proposals for AONBs nationally, which will have relevance to the Isle of Wight AONB. The Chairman thought that this was rather an empty gesture as he suspected that most present had not read the 180-page report.

It was agreed after discussion to support Northwood Parish Council in making representations to the IW Council to produce a draft housing needs survey template, as promised during meetings with NPC and at the housing workshop. The key point seemed to be that the Council kept promising to provide a template but had not done so. There was scepticism expressed as to how much notice was taken of Housing Needs Surveys.

The West Wight School Consultation was discussed but agreed to be a local issue. In conclusion, the Southern Water presentation was interesting and important as was the appointment of the new County Officer but little else was of much import.

- (e) Meeting reports – the Community Centre meeting scheduled for November 26th was not held.
- (f) Clerk’s report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has now received a reply from the Diocese of Portsmouth regarding the possibility of the closure of St George’s Church. The Head of Mission and Resources and Deputy Diocesan Secretary said that “no decisions have yet been formally made as to the future of St George’s, Arreton. However, Owe are working with the vicar, PCC and congregation to find the way forward for a sustainable future for the building, even if though it is unlikely that it will include regular public worship.” At some point it is likely that there will be “a statutorily required consultation process undertaken and we will be happy to include the parish council in this.” The Clerk was thanked for the historical information that had been given.

The Clerk contacted Neville Peachey at the anaerobic digester site and asked for a visit. It was agreed that it would be better to wait until the spring, when conditions underfoot may have improved and so an unspecified date after Easter was agreed. The Clerk has not as yet asked Mr Peachey to come and speak to the Parish Council as, with a visit pending, she would like some guidance as to what the members wish to hear from him that would not necessarily be covered in a visit.

Other matters: a security patch has now been applied to the website that will remove the ‘not secure’ message that previously appeared in front of the URL. The Clerk and Mr Webb of Foundation Multimedia will begin work on the changes necessary to bring the website up to date on the disability regulations. The problem with the ‘Next meeting’ page has been resolved.

A replacement dog waste bin has been ordered from Glasdons UK Limited and is currently with Island Roads awaiting fitting. This should be done by the end of the month.

UKOG have arranged a drop-in meeting at the Newclose Cricket Ground for Monday 16th December from 1-8pm. The members of the Parish Council have been invited to attend before the session opens to the public. As requested, the Clerk has informed Sgt Justin Pringle of Hampshire Police.

212/19 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 224/19 – the Clerk asked for a matter to be raised.

213/19 Finance

The finance report for November was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £10,113.12 at the end of November. The following payments were agreed:-

Staff costs	£371.36
D Rossi (wreath)	£50.00
Glasdon UK Ltd (dog bin)	£137.98
Foundation Multimedia (website)	£190.00

Information Commissioner (data protection)	£40.00
Arreton Community Hall Fund	£212.50

214/19 Planning and Appeals

To consider any applications recently received:-

Reference	19/01368/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-08192706
Application Received	Tue 05 Nov 2019
Address	Leigh House Main Road Rookley Ventnor Isle of Wight PO38 3NL
Proposal	Proposed extension to storage/assembly building and retention of office building
Reference	19/01340/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-08251290
Application Received	Thu 31 Oct 2019
Address	Arreton St Georges Church of England Primary School Arreton Street Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AD
Proposal	Demolition of porch; proposed replacement porch

There was support for the application to replace the porch at Arreton Primary School.

With regard to Leigh House, it was noted that the building cannot be seen from the road and that whilst it is currently empty, it was previously used for light industry. It was agreed that whilst there was no objection to this application there was a lack of detail in the drawings, including no note of the dimensions of the buildings or any information on services, especially to the office. Concerns were also raised regarding lighting and especially the Dark Skies policy. It was agreed to request a condition to restrict the use of lighting outside of working hours.

215/19 Cemetery bench

It was agreed to explore the possibility of a bench made of recycled plastic and also to enlarge the concrete base to take a bigger bench. The Clerk will investigate.

216/19 Press Policy

The title of Communications and Media Policy was agreed and the document was approved – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Verey.

217/19 Cemetery fence

No further quotes have as yet been received.

218/19 Landowner agreement

This was deferred until a quote has been accepted.

219/19 Budget

It was agreed to budget for the cost of a new computer and necessary software. There was a possibility that £3,000 might need to be found for a housing needs survey but it was agreed to use contingency funds should the need arise.

220/19 Ward Councillor’s newsletter

It was agreed to produce a flyer regarding communications with the residents rather than use the Ward Councillor’s newsletter. The Chairman will produce a draft.

221/19 Donations

There was request from St John Ambulance to provide a venue for first aid training. It was agreed to reply to say that the Parish Council would be interested in the future but not at present.

It was agreed to donate £50 to the Royal British Legion for Armed Forces Day 2020 – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Verey.

It was agreed to donate £50 to the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival – proposed Cllr Kimber, seconded Cllr Dodson.

222/19 Website accessibility

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of the new regulations.

223/19 To note the date of the next meeting, 13th January 2020

224/19 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

The Clerk raised the matter of the lighting in the glasshouses in the parish, the glow from which was currently very noticeable. The Clerk will contact the company to see if there is any explanation.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.55pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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12th December 2019

..... Chairman

..... Date