

Minutes of an on-line meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 13th July 2020** at **7.00pm**.

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

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell and Sheila Caws (Clerk)

146/20 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Cooper, Cllr Orchard (both unable to attend online at present).

147/20 Questions from the public

None

148/20 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meetings (8th June and 6th July 2020)

The minutes of 8th June were confirmed as correct – proposed Cllr Verey, seconded Cllr Roberts and will be signed at a later date. The minutes of July 6th were held over as the councillors had not received them.

149/20 To receive regular reports

(a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell reported that most of the recent work has been on budgets. By deferring some items and juggling reserves, the IW Council is in a better position than was originally thought after all the financial demands of the Covid 19 situation.

After complaints about jet skis, the marker buoys have been replaced in Sandown Bay. A question was asked about the Covid 19 situation and care homes. There have been no new cases in homes since the end of May. There are some concerns about safeguarding when outside visitors, such as social workers and inspection teams return in September. There have been two new cases on the Island but both are in quarantine. The homeless have now left the hotel in which they were housed at the beginning of the outbreak and have been accommodated elsewhere. There is also family accommodation for all those with children.

The next challenge is to get the Fast Cat back in service.

(b) Cemetery and churchyard matters – see item 154/20

(c) Highways and footpaths – see the Chairman's report.

(d) IWLC / Chairman's report - lockdown has continued to mean that IWALC are not meeting. IWALC are sending out a fair number of e-mails but these are of little or no relevance to Arreton Parish.

The Clerk's report covers the issue of rubbish dumped in the White Lion/School car park.

The Chairman met with the Clerk and the pest control contractor at Gore Cemetery. After his first visit, some the holes in the hedges will need filling. Volunteers for a small working party will be welcome.

Whilst at Gore for the annual inspection, the Chairman and Cllr Dodson and I walked the outside of the fence and it appeared to be rabbit proof, with some attempts at tunnelling under. A batten needs to be fixed to the pedestrian gate to prevent rabbits being able to enter between the gate and its post. The Chairman has offered to do this. A batten could also be fixed under one of the vehicle gates to stop their squeezing under it but the opening is small and only a baby rabbit would manage it and it is suggested that this be left for the time being.

The Chairman attended a cycling award ceremony held at Merstone Station to celebrate the 50,000th km ridden for PedalAid. There was a gathering of around 20. The Chairman attended as the event was in the Parish – it did not really relate to us. The Chairman has spent some time reviewing UKOG documents relating to the planning application – some comments went in the PC's response, and some went to Cllr Verey subsequent to our meeting.

The Chairman still has to visit Southern Water to see who to contact about a potential water fountain – this has not been done partly for personal reasons but will be done in next few weeks.

On footpaths, repairs and clearance of the path (not the cycleway) from East Lane to Merstone Lane have been done in response to a defect report but there has been a failure of unrepaired steps at East Lane, which will be reported. The Chairman walked the paths out towards Rookley and was pleased/surprised to find paths cut through crops in all instances – a first. The cycleway in the area of Stickworth has a lot of low branches – no impact on walkers, a small impact on cyclists but presumably annoying to horse riders, which will also be reported. A suggestion will also be made for some 'Take Care' signs be erected on the bends in an attempt to reduce the risk of cyclists colliding with others.

- (e) Meeting reports – Cllrs Roberts and Verey attended an on-line Q&A meeting with Bob Seely MP on 8th July 2020. Various subjects were covered including Wightlink ferries, the latest measures announced by the Chancellor, motocross, speeding on the Military Road, the lifting of some planning restrictions and the re-opening of beauty salons, swimming pools etc. Subjects of more immediate interest in the Arreton area included the prospect of a campaign to gain National Park status for the Island or Island Park status, beginning in October. Also raised was the fact that all the proposals raised by the IW Council for improvements to cycle tracks etc. were for existing routes with no plans for expansion.

Cllr Roberts raised the question of the UKOG application. Mr Seely replied that he would oppose the application on the grounds of an unstable landscape, the question as to whether the production of more oil was sensible and the Island's biosphere status, although there is no immediate risk of losing this status. There is the potential of a loss of revenue to the IW Council of up to £1,000,000 and around six jobs. The biggest danger is that UKOG may sell out to a larger company.

- (f) Clerk's report - Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk investigated the proposed site for a new dog bin on Shepherds Lane and discovered that the signpost pole had fallen over. This was reported to Rights of Way but, until it is repaired, there is no point in proceeding any further with the purchase of a bin. All other actions will be reported under the appropriate agenda item.

Other matters: the planning application for the land next to Rose Barn, Chapel Lane has been refused. The application for the demolition of an old barn and stables and a replacement building at Little Budbridge has been approved.

The bank mandate has finally been completed but the Clerk will take the precaution of checking with Lloyds Bank to ensure that it is correct.

The extra meeting to discuss the UKOG planning application, which was held on-line, went well. The Clerk has received e-mails from some of the members of the public

who attended to thank the Parish Council for organising it and enabling them to participate.

The Clerk contacted the Churchwarden regarding the faculty for the tomb repairs. The Diocesan Advisory Committee have signed off the application and the next stage is to make the formal faculty application, which has not yet been done. Formal notices need to be placed at the church and, with all churches being closed, access has not been possible. It also requires a resolution of the PCC which is difficult at the moment.

The Chairman was contacted by the School regarding rubbish in the car park, as they were under the impression that it is our responsibility. The Clerk investigated and it would appear that the car park is the joint responsibility of the School and the pub. The IW Council purchased the land from the Diocese and applied for the necessary planning permission in 2006. Although the Parish Council was approached for a financial contribution, none was ever made. A subsequent document from 2007 mentions a management plan to be implemented jointly by the School and the pub. There is no record of a transfer to the Parish Council and it not referred to in the PFI documents.

150/20 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 163/20 – nothing was raised.

151/20 Finance

The finance report for June was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £14,099.57 at the end of June. The following payments were agreed and would be made by BACs:

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| Staff costs (including two months' salary) | £923.36 |
| Ringway Island Roads (dog bins) | £403.92 |
| Brightstone Landscaping Ltd (grounds maint.) | £834.90 |
| Wight Tactical (pest control) | £60.00 |

152/20 Planning and appeals

None to date

153/20 Meeting dispensation

Cllr Cooper and Cllr Orchard are unable to participate in on-line meetings due to technical difficulties. A dispensation for them to be absent until meetings in person are restored was granted unanimously.

154/20 Annual inspection of the burial grounds

The annual inspection of the burial grounds took place on July 2nd. Two headstones were laid flat at Gore Cemetery as they were unsafe and the Clerk will contact Wight Stonemasonry for a quote for their repair. A working party will be organised to fill in the rabbit holes.

With regard to the Churchyard, several headstones were noted as unsafe and the Clerk will also ask for a quote to repair these. The question of asking the families to contribute was raised but it was felt that the tombs were mostly over 100 years old and the cost of trying to trace any descendants would outweigh any financial gain that might be made. Thanks were given to Cllr Dodson, who offered to tidy up the area around the Burma Star gravestones,

which he has now done. The Clerk will contact Brighstone Landscaping regarding ivy growth generally, tidying of the north-west corner and pruning of the Millennium Yew plus repositioning the plaque so that it can be seen. Arreton Barns will be contacted regarding an overgrown tree. The Clerk will also contact the Burial Registrar for advice on where to position possible replacement cherry trees.

The proposal to obtain a new bench for the Cemetery was raised. The Parish Council has been advised that seating made out of artificial wood products tends to become brittle if exposed to sunlight. A good quality wooden one can be obtained for around £450.00. The Clerk will measure the space available.

155/20 Covid-19

The only new development that directly affects the Parish is that it is now possible for community centres to open. However, the Community Centre Trust have decided that they will not open the premises until September at the earliest.

156/20 Pest Control

Measures have been undertaken in the Cemetery and holes now need filling in. The Chairman, Cllr Dodson and Cllr Calloway volunteered and the Chairman will also ask Cllr Cooper as the Clerk spoke to him during the inspection of the burial grounds.

157/20 Lorry parking

Lorries have now stopped parking in the Cemetery lay-by. The Chairman will write to the company in question to thank them for their prompt response once they had been approached about it.

158/20 VJ Day anniversary

It was agreed not to provide a permanent memorial on this occasion. The Clerk will contact the Church to see if any form of service is going to be held, as it is usually an annual event. It was agreed to purchase a wreath to be laid. Mrs Thirkettle will be approached to see if she would be prepared to make one and if not, the Clerk will purchase one from a florist at a cost of between £50 and £100. It was noted that Japanese flowers are not permitted in the wreath and so advice will be sought as to what to avoid.

159/20 Community drinking water tap

The Chairman has not had a response to his approach to Southern Water and so will try again.

160/20 Hedge cutting

This does not appear to be such an issue as it was. However, there are a few inconvenient brambles and so the Clerk will include a polite reminder in the next newsletter to ask residents to keep an eye on their hedges.

161/20 Sustainable travel

Cllr Verey raised the subject of sustainable travel. The IW Council has put in considerable effort since 2012 to promote walking and cycling on the Island but new routes now needed to be encouraged. Green Lanes were mentioned but it was agreed that unfortunately Chapel Lane would not be suitable as it is already used by too much heavy traffic owing to the farms and businesses at the far end of it. However, anyone interested in putting forward any suggestions for new routes should contact the IW Council. It was suggested that the section of the cycle track between Newport and Sandown that is in Arreton Parish be resurfaced in order to maintain what already exists. It was agreed that members take photographs of the worst sections and a dossier would be compiled in September.

162/20 To note the date of the next meeting, 14th September 2020

It is hoped that this meeting may be able to be held in person. Cllr Roberts offered the use of Haseley Manor Barn.

163/20 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Nothing was raised.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9pm

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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15th July 2020

..... Chairman

..... Date