

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020** at **7.00pm** at **Haseley Manor Barn and on-line**.

**Present:** Cllrs Cooper, Dodson, Kimber, Calloway, Healy, Orchard and Roberts in person.  
Cllrs Calloway, Healy and Verey on-line.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell (on-line), Sheila Caws (Clerk) in person and one member of the public (on-line).

**164/20 Apologies for Absence**

None.

**165/20 Questions from the public**

None.

**166/20 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meetings (6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020)**

The minutes of 6<sup>th</sup> July were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Verey. The minutes of July 13<sup>th</sup> were also confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Dodson.

**167/20 To receive regular reports**

(a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell reported that most of the recent work has been on Covid 19 testing. There is a problem with a lack of laboratory capacity for processing the results and so the availability of appointments has been reduced. All the principle authorities in the south-east have informed the Government that the situation is appalling. The number of cases on the Island remains low. A question was raised as to the situation in care homes and IWC Cllr Mosdell replied that there are two long-term cases that are being managed, one resident is awaiting a test, one member of staff is awaiting a result and another care-home resident was tested but this proved to be a false positive.

IWC Cllr Mosdell has asked the Leader of the IW Council if he will support a motion regarding the enforcement of speeding, weight and width restrictions. These would have to be managed locally and not by the Police.

(b) Cemetery and churchyard matters – Cllr Orchard remarked that the grass had been cut recently in the Cemetery and the contractors had made a nice job of it. He also said that he saw evidence of rabbit activity but no rabbits.

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

(d) Chairman's report - Gore Cemetery – Cllr Dodson, Cllr Calloway and the Chairman spent a couple of sessions cutting back the hedge along the main road to permit access to the rabbit holes under the hedge. Cllr Dodson and the Clerk subsequently arranged for Andrew Taylor of Perreton Farm to chip and spread the cuttings, of which there were a significant quantity. There could usefully be some further heavy trimming to reduce the depth of the hedges in some locations. Cllr Dodson and the Chairman and the Chairman did some work on rabbit proofing the gates but as it is not uncommon for the pedestrian gate to be left open, a 'Please Shut the Gate' sign should be considered. An inspection early this morning did not reveal any rabbits but clear evidence of rabbit activity and the grass had been recently cut.

Community Centre – several parish councillors are also on the Community Centre committee, which met a two weeks ago. The Centre is staying closed until the end of the year. In practice this has little impact on the Parish as most of the lettings relate to Island organisations rather than Parish lettings. It is likely that in the future lettings will be by session, rather than by time – i.e. morning, afternoon, or evening lets. The Social Club may start opening in the near future. It is not in the best financial health

and the Chairman told Richard Page that he would suggest to the Parish Council that a piece be included in our next newsletter, seeking new members.

VJ Day – a wreath was laid on behalf of the Parish. Thanks to Cllr Roberts for allowing use of the Hasely Barn for teas afterwards, a last-minute change due to weather conditions. The service was well attended including several councillors and the Clerk. School parking – the Chairman was unavailable for the virtual meeting: Cllr Calloway attended and has reported - this is an agenda item.

IWALC – there are no meetings to report on. IWALC continue to send out regular e-mails but generally these are of little or no relevance to Arreton, relating to larger councils with larger staffs and more assets. IWALC’s annual meeting is on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September as a mixed virtual/actual meeting at Riverside. The Chairman is planning to attend subject to family constraints and asked if anyone else was interested?

- (e) Meeting reports – nothing to report
- (f) Clerk’s report - Agenda and Minutes Record: there are no actions arising from the minutes that are not covered by agenda items.

Other matters: the VJ Day 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event in St George’s Church, organised by the IW Burma Star Association was well-attended. The Chairman laid a wreath, which was made by Mrs Rosemary Thirkettle, a local resident. Our thanks to Mrs Thirkettle for her time and work.

The Annual Conference of the Society of Local Council Clerks will be held on-line in October this year. The Clerk has taken the opportunity to attend as the fee is about a tenth of the normal cost.

A pay rise of 2.75% has been agreed at national level with NALC and the SLCC. The package also includes an extra day’s leave, all backdated to April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

**Training:** Cllr Dodson and Cllr Roberts will be attending an on-line planning training session this Wednesday, organised by IWALC.

**168/20 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 184/20** – Cllr Dodson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for Perreton, as did Cllr Orchard for the applications for Little Budbridge.

**169/20 Finance**

The finance report for July/August was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £12,775.39 at the end of August. The following payments were agreed and would be made by BACs:

Staff costs	£444.21
SLCC (Conference)	£30.00
Blade and Spade (grounds maint.)	£150.00

**170/20 Planning and appeals**

Reference	20/01101/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-08880149
Application Received	Tue 14 Jul 2020
Address	Perreton Farm East Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DL
Proposal	Proposed agricultural irrigation reservoir

Reference	20/01247/RVC
Alternative Reference	PP-08951789
Application Received	Wed 05 Aug 2020
Address	Little Budbridge Farm Budbridge Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DH
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 on 19/01039/FUL to include 2 conservation roof lights

Reference	20/01357/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-08993261
Application Received	Wed 19 Aug 2020
Address	Little Budbridge Farm Budbridge Lane Arreton Newport Isle Of Wight PO30 3DH
Proposal	Demolition of existing farm buildings; proposed replacement oak frame outbuildings

After some discussion, it was agreed that, whilst not averse to the construction of a reservoir in principle, the application was unacceptable in its present form due to lack of detail. The members would re-consider their decision should an application with more detail be submitted. It was agreed to object on the following grounds:-

- i) Photographs of the site would have helped, especially an aerial view.
- ii) The site is close to several public rights of way, which are not shown.
- iii) The site is in the edge of two SINC sites (C250A – Perreton Down and C250B – Perreton Marsh), which do not appear to have been taken into consideration. There is potential for damage during the construction works and also from water extraction.
- iv) There is no mention of the reservoir lining but the ground is well-drained and would therefore presumably require some form of barrier.
- v) Where will the soil removed during the construction of the proposed reservoir be disposed of?
- vi) The present application shows that any overflow would be returned to a different catchment area from that from which it will be extracted. Surely it should be returned to the area from whence it came?
- vii) Flooding is not considered to be an issue but the site is close to a water course, which could be contaminated during construction.
- viii) Should this application be approved, the members would like to see a condition attached that allows for the extraction of water for agricultural purposes only.
- ix) Birds will inevitably be attracted to water and so, should the application be approved, the members of the Parish Council would like to suggest the creation of one or more islands to allow birds to nest. These could be floating platforms so as not to affect the capacity of the reservoir.

With regard to the two applications for Little Budbridge Farm, the members had no objection to either.

#### **171/20 Risk Assessment**

An amendment was made to the section on BACs payments but further work is required on virtual meetings. This will be considered at the next meeting.

#### **172/20 Headstones**

Following a second quote from Wight Stonemasonry Ltd., it was agreed that the two damaged crosses in the Churchyard should be laid down but the leaning headstones would

be restored to an upright position. The Clerk will contact Wight Stonemasonry regarding the decision.

**173/20 Bus stop planter**

It was agreed to remove the planter from outside Sweets Rew to replace the damaged one at Arreton Barns bus stop. The Clerk will contact Island Roads in order to enquire as to progress with the replacement bus shelter and to ask if Island Roads are able to assist with moving the planter in to position and removing the damaged one. A decision will be made at a future date as to whether to replace the planter that is being moved.

**174/20 Website**

The website has not yet been made compliant with the new accessibility regulations. It was agreed to ask Wight Computers Ltd to undertake an assessment of the existing site at a cost of £300.00 and the Clerk was authorised to accept a quote of up to £400.00 for remedial work – proposed Cllr Dodson / seconded Cllr Orchard.

**175/20 Pest Control**

There appears to be evidence of the presence of rabbits in the Cemetery and so further pest control measures will be necessary. The Clerk will contact the current contractor on the best way to proceed and a further two visits were authorised – proposed Cllr Healy / seconded Cllr Kimber. Other methods could also be considered.

**176/20 School buses**

The Clerk was contacted by a resident who was concerned at the lack of school buses this year for children from the village who attend Medina High School. The meeting was assured by IWC Cllr Mosdell that IWC Cllr Brading (the Education portfolio holder) was aware of the situation and was addressing it.

**177/20 Parking at Arreton Primary School**

A report has finally been produced on the parking situation at Arreton Primary School at drop-off and pick-up times. Cllr Calloway attended a meeting and produced a report, a copy of which is attached to these minutes. Cllr Calloway will meet with IWC Cllr Mosdell and a member of staff from County Hall to see if any further spaces can be created in the area. The Clerk was requested to write to the IW Council to see if parking could be included in the proposed improvement works on Down End Road.

**178/20 Planning – housing numbers**

The Government paper *Changes to the current planning system* outlines several changes to the present system, including a big increase in the proposed number of houses that would need to be built on the Island every year. The figure would double the current requirement and triple the number actually being built. IWC Cllr Mosdell reported that the Leader of the IW Council, IWC Cllr Stewart, was contesting the figure. It was agreed that the proposed figure was unrealistic on several counts, including the availability of suitable sites and the current state of the Island infrastructure. Other proposed changes are also detrimental to the supply of affordable houses in rural areas. The Clerk will send a response to IWALC to be forward to NALC as soon as possible.

**179/20 Planning – changes to regulations**

The Government have also produced a White Paper – *Planning for the future* – which outlines proposals to introduce large-scale changes to the current system. The Chairman will draft a response and circulate it for comments.

**180/20 Community drinking water tap**

The Chairman has still not had a response to his approach to Southern Water and so will try to visit their office.

**181/20 Hedge cutting**

There was a discussion about one particular hedge that is a problem but it does not encroach on the main road. The Clerk will contact Island Roads to see if they can assist.

**162/20 Newport-Sandown cycle route**

The Chairman has walked the eastern end of the route from Herringford and noted any problems. He will also walk the western side before the next meeting and a report will be prepared for Rights of Way. Cllr Verey requested that the 'Widen my path' scheme be an item on the next agenda.

**183/20 To note the date of the next meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The meeting will be held in Haseley Manor Barn again, Covid 19 regulations permitting.

**184/20 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**

Nothing was raised.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.02pm

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

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14<sup>th</sup> September 2020