

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

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

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

228/20 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Orchard (unwell)

229/20 Questions from the public

There were no questions other than for items on the agenda. It was agreed to deal with those under the appropriate item.

230/20 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (9th November 2020)

The finishing time was amended as it was incorrect. The minutes of November 9th were then confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Dodson.

231/20 To receive regular reports

- (a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell reported that the planning application for affordable housing and on the site of Branstone Farm had been approved by the Planning Committee. Although not in the Parish it is in the Ward. £15,000 has been granted to Rights of Way to temporarily re-route public footpaths in the immediate area.

UKOG have submitted further documentation regarding the application for an exploratory oil-well. This will be advertised for public consultation in the new year.

It appears that the IW is on course to remain in Tier 1 for Covid 19 restrictions for the time being.

- (b) Cemetery and churchyard matters – the Chairman has cleared the hole for the gate fastening at Gore Cemetery, as it was full of mud.

Wight Stonemasonry have repaired the two headstones at Gore but have not yet sent in an invoice.

The Diocese of Portsmouth have granted the Faculty for the repair of the three table-top tombs in the Churchyard. GJ Banks have revised their quote as it was almost two years old and it was agreed to accept their quote for option A on the Cromwell tomb. The total cost for all three tombs will be in the region of £2,500 but £2,000 of this is already in the budget, having been ring-fenced when the quote was originally accepted in 2019. As the work will not take place until the spring, the extra cost will be included in the next budget.

- (c) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Dodson saw a surveyor marking potholes on the cycletrack. They should be repaired within 28 days. A meeting has been arranged with Island Roads in January to discuss the report that was sent to them regarding the condition of the Newport-Sandown cycletrack in the Parish.

- (d) Chairman's report – the Chairman was contacted by one Jeremy Archer, who had been asked to track down any Burma Star members on the Island (possibly to give them a Christmas hamper). It was suggested he spoke to the Vicar and he managed to track down Harry Aitken, apparently the one surviving Burma Star soldier: Harry turned 99 a couple of days back.

The Chairman contacted CPRE to see if there was an existing or proposed code of practice for hedge flailing. There is not and the CPRE have other concerns which they consider more important. It was implied that woody growth should be removed with a chainsaw. They felt new growth would quickly hide any damage and suggested we write to the Council to suggest cutting every two years rather than annually – hardly helpful as it is doubtful that they cut annually. This issue was also raised at IWALC and the Chairman thinks it more appropriate that they follow up with the IWC but perhaps the Parish Council should write expressing our concerns.

Tree planting - the Chairman thought that the PC should focus their thoughts on tree/hedge planting and has therefore put down his thoughts in a document to be discussed under the Agenda Item.

Cycle Track – Island Roads have responded to our report as follows:

Concerning the hole in the cycleway between Yar River bend to East Lane that had barriers around it. This hole was caused by a badger sett beneath the cycleway. In order to undertake a repair we had to commission a licensed badger consultant who had to apply for a licence from Natural England before any works were able to take place to interfere with the badger sett. Although the hole appeared in the spring, the licence only allows work to be undertaken between July and November. The works have subsequently been completed and the barriers removed.

The ponding water near Blackwater Hollow, a solution could be a drainage grip dug to channel the water into the river or a change to the shape of the surface to direct the water to the watercourse.

The scour erosion of the bank near Horryngford, Island Roads have spoken to the Environment Agency, who are aware of this site and are in the process of tendering for repairs to the bank that are due to be undertaken in the middle of 2021. Island Roads will continue to monitor this site.

In the meantime the Asset Manager and the Senior District Steward are happy to meet with an Arreton Parish Council representative, along with a representative from the Environment Agency to discuss the report and confirm the exact locations shown in the photographs.”

At present the Clerk and the Chairman are down to attend the meeting on January 12th if anyone else is interested. Last week Councillor Dodson came across an Island Roads surveyor on the track marking potholes and was told they would be repaired within 28 days.

Newsletter - an agenda item. Councillor Verey has offered some text and photos from Solent Bird Aware – to be discussed later in the agenda item on the Newsletter.

Other bits and pieces received - seemingly of little relevance to Arreton PC.

SLCC's presentation on the Government Planning White Paper

County APPG report on halting the decline of rural bus services

The representative of a company called VLH emailed to see if we were interested in purchasing green electricity.

The Council has arranged two virtual briefings on the 2021 Census, one earlier today and one on Wednesday. The Chairman hopes to participate in Wednesday's.

IWALC – a Zoom meeting was held on 26 November. There were some items of note, in order of interest:

Hedge cutting - IWALC are to write to Island Roads regarding the hedge cutting. Cllr Lyons, as LAF representative, is to write to LAF Chair. Cllr Graney, as AONB representative, to contact the AONB. An item will be added to the discussion with IWC on 17th December.

Training - Chair and County Officer to progress visioning/strategic planning workshop.

Communications – IWALC will continue with the Bulletin and consider radio slots.

Diamond Races – Cllr Steve Hastings gave a status report and affected parish councils gave their views. It was felt inappropriate for IWALC to take a position but IWALC will feed back comments to the Council.

Councillors were reminded of the IWALC/IWC meeting on 17th December and Members were invited to submit questions.

- (e) Meeting reports – Cllr Roberts reported on a meeting with the Southern Parishes Health Group. Island residents are to be encouraged to download the NHS app (not to be confused with the Covid 19 app), which will give access to one's personal record.
- (f) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: laptop computers are in short supply at present but the Clerk is monitoring the situation. The software has been purchased.

Other matters: the planning applications for the roof lights at Little Budbridge and the shooting butts at the Downend chalk pit plus the outline application for houses at Merstone Valley Nursery have all been approved. The housing application has been waiting a long time for a decision.

The contractor who deals with pest control measures recently visited Gore Cemetery and dealt with five rabbits. He will now visit quarterly to monitor any activity, with the next visit due late February/early March next year.

The Parish Council was offered a small sum of money from Community Action Isle of Wight (CAIW), which was part of a grant of £40,000 from the Isle of Wight Council to be administered through the Community Resilience project. The grant was to cover reasonable administrative costs to operate community services delivering basic support to the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) incurred over the 28-day period of the new national restrictions (from 5 November 2020 to 2 December 2020). In consultation with Cllr Dodson, it was agreed that no costs had been incurred during that period and so our share (£270.00) was re-allocated to Age UK funding.

An interim report on the Merstone Station site has been provided by Gift to Nature, as the Parish Council provides financial support for the maintenance of the site. Once the initial lockdown period was over, visits were made every month for mowing, strimming and litter collection with maintenance jobs undertaken as and when required. The report went on to say that

“the site has been very well used over the period by cyclists, walkers and horse riders. Our walks and cycles leaflet has been popular and is requiring replacement in the dispenser regularly. There have been reports of the occasional campervan staying overnight but when we have been on-site they have not been present so possibly leaving early in the morning. Feedback from the general public on-site has been very positive with many people praising and thanking us for our work. Anecdotally it seems people value the wildflowers, the accessibility, the benches, the information signage and the fruit trees. The site is a useful access point for people wanting a short visit or for access to the wider countryside and rights of way network. Island Bikeworks reported that during their bike maintenance day there was a constant queue of bikers seeking assistance.”

Training: the Clerk has booked a place on the SLCC's Practitioners' Conference, which will take place virtually in February next year.

232/20 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 241/20 – Cllrs Cooper and Dodson declared non-pecuniary interests in item 234/20 (planning permissions).

233/20 Finance

The finance report for November was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £9,609.56 at the end of November. The following payments were agreed and would be made by BACs apart from a cheque to the Information Commissioner:

Staff costs	£444.03
Citizens Advice IW (donation)	£50.00
IW Fest. of Music, Dance and Drama (donation)	£50.00
Victim Support (donation)	£50.00
Information Commissioner (data protection)	£40.00
Tactical Wight (pest control)	£74.00
S Caws (computer software)	£277.97
Foundation Multimedia (website)	£150.00

234/20 Planning and appeals

Reference	20/01927/OUT
Alternative Reference	PP-09068819
Application Received	Mon 09 Nov 2020
Address	Land adjacent to Rose Barn Chapel Lane Merstone Arreton Isle of Wight
Proposal	Outline application for three residential units with associated access (revised scheme)

Following a discussion including the members of the public who were in attendance, it was agreed to object to this application. The objections to the original application still stand, although it was noted that an ecological survey has now been completed and details of foul drainage were now available. It has been suggested that the new dwellings will be bungalows but, as this is an outline application, that is not definite and so the objection to potential size and scale still stands. It was also noted that in the PAS statement, the consultant took the comment about the use of the lane by walkers, cyclists and horse-riders to be evidence that the lane is quiet. It should be said that this usage is despite the traffic and not due to a lack of it. The Chairman will write a short piece on nitrate neutrality and the disposal of sewage to be added to the objection.

235/20 Budget

The extra cost of the repairs to the table-top tombs has been added to the draft budget. Suggestions were made for sums of money to be included for the tree project (including new cherry trees on the burial grounds) and also for a thorough infill of holes etc. in Gore Cemetery.

236/20 Newsletter

Cllr Dodson suggested that a list of tradespeople recommended by local residents be included. It was agreed that, should this happen, then it must be made clear that the Parish Council is not endorsing them. It was then suggested that perhaps a publication should be produced once or twice a year with such information in it and delivered to every household. If once a year, then perhaps it could be linked to the annual report. A sum for this should also be added to the budget.

237/20 Resilience planning

The desirability of a resilience/emergency plan was discussed. Cllr Healy agreed to draw up a draft, based on the CAIW's template. He will also contact the IWC's Emergency Planning Officer to see what is expected of town and parish councils in an emergency situation.

238/20 Trees

Cllr Calloway met Mr Betteredge to survey the existing trees in the Churchyard and Gore Cemetery and recommendations were suggested. Cllr Calloway will ask Mr Betteredge to draw up proposals for both sites and she will draft a specification.

The more general planting of trees around the Parish was discussed, based on a document drawn up by the Chairman to focus attention on specific areas in the Parish. It was agreed that one problem in any such project was maintenance, especially watering in the early days. It was suggested that landowners be approached as to their willingness to participate, although it may be prudent to wait until the new Environmental Land Management (ELM) scheme (which will replace the CAP) is in place as it may include encouragement to plant trees. Gift for Nature or the Green Gym could be involved in maintenance. A letter to all residents encouraging their participation, with information on access to free trees, was suggested.

239/20 Broadfields Farm

It was noted that noise levels at the farm have increased significantly in the last six months due to the combination of a shift in the area of operations and the removal of trees and shrubs that had formed a sound barrier. Cllr Kimber will liaise with a local resident regarding a time-line of planning applications on the site. At present, no further work on infilling the reservoirs is being undertaken as an enforcement notice has been issued pending an investigation.

240/20 To note the date of the next meeting, 9th January 2021

The meeting will be held in Haseley Manor Barn and on-line, Covid 19 regulations permitting.

241/20 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

- i) Cllr Verey raised the point that a five-car collision had recently occurred on the main road at the junction with Merstone Lane and East Lane and the road was closed for some hours.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.58pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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16th December 2020