

Arreton Parish Council Newsletter

November 2020

I thought it best to issue two editions this time – this one with the Parish Council news and one with all the Covid 19 and IW Council news. Sadly, this one will probably be considerably shorter than its counterpart, as due, to Covid restrictions, we have not been as active as we would have liked to have been. However, we have managed some Covid secure activities.

Remembrance Day

Although churches and public buildings remained closed, gatherings at war memorials were permitted, provided suitable social distancing was observed. As the Parish Council had purchased a wreath, it was decided to lay it on Remembrance Day and not on Remembrance Sunday, as is usual. Our Vice-Chairman, Cllr Heather Calloway, agreed to do the honours in the absence of our Chairman with a knee injury. Nothing was officially organised but members of the Parish Council were joined by other residents at 11am and a short service was held and several wreaths were laid.



Council Meetings

During lockdown, the Parish Council had to meet virtually by Zoom, which was not ideal but needs must. However, once lockdown was lifted and after the August break, it was decided to hold hybrid meetings, with some present in person and others attending by Zoom. One of the reasons behind the decision was to allow those parish councillors with less-than-perfect internet connections to participate. We managed two meetings before lockdown struck again.



*Is it an X-box controller?
Is it a drone?
No, it's a Zoom-friendly
speakerphone!*

As both the Community Hall and the Methodist Hall remained closed, Cllr Roberts kindly offered the use of Haseley Manor Barn, where there is plenty of room to sit well apart and other precautions were also taken. Only councillors and the Clerk attended in person with others invited to participate by Zoom. Town and Parish Councillors are exempt from the 'rule of six' but, as it happened, there were only six present in the room on both occasions. However, there were problems with those in the room not always able to hear those on the computer and *vice versa*. Given that Covid restrictions in some form or another are unlikely to go away soon, the Parish Council has purchased a Zoom-friendly conference speakerphone. Sadly, although it has been tested in a domestic setting, we have not been able to use it for real yet as lockdown is back with us. Maybe next month.

Arreton Social Club

You may or may not be aware that the Arreton Community Centre building contains both the hall, which is available for hire by individuals or organisations, and a separate social club. Arreton Social Club occupies around one third of the building and has its own entrance at the rear. It is a Licenced Members Club (present membership fee is £15.00 per annum) and offers a competitively priced bar. There are two full sized snooker tables and as well as casual play the Club has three teams entered in the Island League.

The Social Club history goes back over 60 years and it has always been on this site. Its members were instrumental in raising funds, and indeed in the construction, of the present building. Under the current Covid lockdown the Social Club is closed, hoping to re-open in the New Year.

For further details in the first instance please contact the Chairman, Richard Page, on 638321. Please be advised that this number is on a call minder system.

Trees

The Parish Council is looking to increase the number of trees in the Parish and to this end, is investigating possible areas of land that could benefit from such planting. Planning is very much at an early stage and the scheme may not prove to be viable. However, if you have any suggestions as to where trees could be planted then please let us know. It may be possible to include front gardens but we would have to stipulate that the tree be visible from the road.



Website

The Parish website is now up-to-date and (almost) conforms to The Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 – a bit of a mouthful! These came into force earlier this year and have meant a few changes. Some work still remains to be done to make sure that older PDFs are compliant and also on the Community Centre diary.

Volunteers

For those of you who are also volunteers, I sent out an e-mail asking if you wished to remain on the list now that lockdown has re-appeared. Unfortunately, I have not heard back from many of you and I cannot assume that you wish to carry on unless you tell me. It would be useful if you could let me know either way.

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

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