

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on-line on **Monday 8th March 2021 at 7.00pm.**

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

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell, Sheila Caws (Clerk) and four members of the public.

A short presentation was given by Mr Jamie Marsh from the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust, followed by a question-and-answer session. He spoke about the proposal to introduce beavers to the eastern Yar. A report is attached to these minutes.

Cllr Cooper arrived at 7.26pm.

The session finished at 7.32pm and Mr Marsh left the meeting.

037/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Dodson (work commitments)

038/21 Questions from the public

There were no questions but Diana Conyers introduced herself as the Chairman of IWALC, who is undertaking to visit as many Town and Parish Council meetings as possible as an observer.

039/21 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (8th February 2021)

The minutes of February 8th were confirmed and will be signed at a later date – proposed Cllr Verey, seconded Cllr Roberts. It was requested that the Clerk write to the couple who are frequently seen litter-picking round the village to thank them for their efforts.

040/21 To receive regular reports

- (a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell outlined the arrangements being made for the forthcoming election to keep it Covid safe. There will be no door-to-door canvassing but arrangements can be made for a one-to-one meeting if required. Purdah will begin on March 22nd.

The last formal Cabinet meeting before the election will be held on Tuesday and Scrutiny will be held on Thursday. Meetings with the Director of Public Health and also the Local Outbreak Engagement Board will be less frequent in future.

IWC Cllr Mosdell also said that the report from the Planning Department on the UKOG application, that had been due at the end of March, has now been postponed for two or three weeks. The application will not go before the Planning Committee until at least June at the earliest due to the election.

Those working in the Community, such as tradespeople, can now go to the new community testing site. Details are available from IWC Cllr Mosdell. This may cause an increase in the number of positive cases as asymptomatic cases could be picked up.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – it was agreed to dig out a shallow arc under the pedestrian gate at the Cemetery and put down some gravel to prevent it sticking in the mud when opened. This will be done by councillors once Covid regulations permit.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – the Chairman reported that he has been in contact with Island Roads detailing issues relating to the Newport to Sandown cyclepath; one relating to potentially dangerous erosion and one with lower priority covering lifted tarmac and damaged overflows/spillways (grips) in the Redway/Stickworth area. Island Roads responded and have put up handrailing at the erosion sites in response to the first issue and forwarded details of the second issue to the Asset Manager and Senior District Steward for their attention. They also confirmed that Island Roads' Asset Manager undertook a site visit

on Thursday 11th February and reported on the concrete 'grips' that had been washed out or damaged between the cycleway and the ditch on the opposite side of the river.

Island Roads have started repairing eroded tarmac and potholes on the Newport to Sandown cycle path, on the Merstone to Horringford section and where the cycle path follows the access road from Blackwater to the Merstone Manor area. The quality of the repairs looks poor.

Whilst not in Arreton the request from Southern Water to close the cycle path between Alverstone and Sandown for six months to install eel screens at the water treatment works intake seems excessive. As a civil engineer, the Chairman cannot believe the works will justify such a closure. There is quite a lot of working space available at the intake and the water treatment works appears near enough to store any plant and equipment. Clearly there would be traffic using the cycle path but he would hope that only very limited closure should be permitted. It would appear that discussions are now ongoing to keep the path open to pedestrians and only close it completely when necessary. Cyclists and horseriders will still have to be diverted.

- (d) Chairman's report – as it has been another quiet month with little to report, the Chairman has included some thoughts.

The sudden introduction of traffic control in Arreton whilst Wightfibre are installing internet cable raises some issues. BT managed what appears to have been a very similar exercise with only evening traffic control. It also seems that Wightfibre are duplicating BT's, which seems odd. Councillor Healy did query this with the Council and was told it was thought better to do the work before lockdown ended and traffic was back to normal levels. The Clerk only got a few days' notice of these works.

The Chairman is of the opinion that the Clerk's e-mail newsletters are excellent but he would like to see more parishioners on the distribution list. It was felt that once Covid restrictions are lifted, there should be another leafletting run in the summer to try and encourage more parishioners to sign up.

As an aside the Community Hall Committee has been contacted to confirm that the Hall will be available as a polling station.

IWALC – Cllr Calloway reported on the last IWALC meeting when Clive Joynes (Electoral Services and Local Land Charges Manager for the IW Council) spoke about the electoral arrangements for the forthcoming election. She asked about canvassing arrangements for candidates but IWC Cllr Mosdell has answered that in her report (see above).

There was also a session on hedges and hedgerows. It would appear that it is difficult for the IW Council to plant roadside hedgerows as they normally only own one metre of land from the edge of the carriageway and that does not give sufficient room for planting.

- (e) Meetings reports – Cllr Roberts attended a meeting of the South Wight Parishes Health and Well-being Forum. South Wight Parishes Health and Well -being Forum Hub meeting 25/2/21

A talk was given about the Mental Health Alliance, which seems very valuable. The Alliance or Hub was set up very rapidly quite early on in the pandemic, to enable people with mental health problems to access help without going through their GP. It has a wide membership including providers and commissioners of mental health services, Local Authorities, Third Sector organisations and patients and carers. Working in partnership, the Alliance has developed a strategy that aims to develop joined- up Mental Health services across the Hampshire and Isle of Wight footprint through a common workforce, to improve access and patient experience of the people of Hampshire and Isle of Wight with mental health needs.

The Hub can be accessed by:

- Calling 111 to access the specialist mental health triage service or more directly 01983 822099
- Visiting the IOW Mental Health Community Hub website iwmentalhealth.co.uk
- Dropping in to the Integrated Mental Health Hub in South Wing, St Marys

Both the 111 and online services are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, while the hub is open for drop-ins between 10am and 10pm every day, including weekends and bank holidays.

Separately it was also pointed out that AgeUK do, for example, training in use of smart phones, as everything these days seems to be on-line

- (f) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has reported the potholes on Downend Road and the blocked drain at Hale Common to Island Roads. The pothole has been repaired and the blocked drain should be dealt with this week as roadworks are scheduled for the area. The Clerk is also in contact with Island Roads regarding the Network Integrity Register and the request to widen Downend Road at the junction at Arreton Cross.

Other matters: the planning application for new houses on land adjacent to Rose Barn, Chapel Lane, Merstone has been refused, as has the application for an extension to Sanbara, also in Chapel Lane. It is noted that work is potentially underway at Merstone Valley Nurseries and also at the new farm shop at Hale Common, as both applications now contain requests for condition compliance to be agreed.

Councillors are reminded that the pre-election 'purdah' period will begin on March 22nd.

Training - Several councillors and the Clerk attended a session on the 'Environmental aspects of planning' organised by IWALC last month. An excellent summary is contained in the latest IWALC bulletin and a copy is attached to these minutes.

The Clerk attended some sessions of the SLCC's virtual Practitioners' Conference last month. Three sessions in particular were of interest, two on the management of burial grounds and one on resilience planning. The Clerk will share the outcomes of these with future agenda items.

041/21 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 053/21 – Cllr Verey requested that an item be raised.

042/21 Finance

The finance report for February was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £7711.81 at the end of February. The VAT claim has been paid. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salaries, expenses etc.	£418.59
Arreton Community Hall Fund (hall hire)	£51.00
Ringway Island Roads (dog bins)	£367.20

043/21 Planning and appeals

Reference	21/00234/HOU
Alternative Reference	PP-09484224
Application Received	Fri 05 Feb 2021
Address	Great East Standen Manor Burnt House Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 2PW
Proposal	Demolition of garage; Proposed replacement garage with store

Reference	21/00235/LBC
Alternative Reference	PP-09484224
Application Received	Fri 05 Feb 2021
Address	Great East Standen Manor Burnt House Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 2PW
Proposal	Listed Building Consent for demolition of garage; Proposed replacement garage with store
Reference	21/00272/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-09491113
Application Received	Wed 10 Feb 2021
Address	Land between Challen Way and Beresford Main Road Arreton Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Proposal	Proposed four dwellings; formation of vehicular access, new roadway and parking; associated landscaping

It was agreed that there were no objections to the applications for a new garage at Great East Standen Farm.

With regard to the application for new dwellings between Challen Way and Beresford, it was agreed that there was no objection subject to certain conditions.

- 1) The comments from Island Roads are noted and supported. It is assumed that these
- 1) The comments from Island Roads are noted and supported. It is assumed that these objections will be rectified before the application is agreed.
- 2) The application is rather light on detail, especially with regards to drainage and sewage.
- 3) The members of the Parish Council feel that the documentation provided is inadequate and would like to ask for tree and ecology reports.
- 4) The members of the Parish Council would also like to ask for an archaeology report.

044/21 Trees

The Terms of Reference for the Tree Project Working Party were agreed.

045/21 Working parties

It was agreed that the formation of working parties to discuss resilience planning and the newsletter should be deferred until after the election.

046/21 Internal audit

It was agreed to appoint Mr Gareth Hughes as the Internal Auditor for the 2020/21 audit.

047/21 Dog bin

It was agreed to purchase a new dog bin for Heasley Lane rather than Shepherds Lane. It will be situated at the junction of the Lane and footpath A14. The Clerk will begin the process in the new financial year.

048/21 Burial Regulations

The Burial Regulations were considered and changes suggested. They will be finalised at the next meeting. The Regulations need further detailed consideration in consultation with the Burial Registrar and these will be undertaken later in the year.

049/21 Brownfield sites

The request from the IW Council for suggestions of available brownfield sites was considered. There were no suggestions but Cllr Verey raised the question as to why redundant glasshouse sites were not deemed to be brownfield, given the industrial nature of the heating systems. The Clerk will raise the point.

050/21 Beavers

There was nothing further to discuss and the Clerk will forward any questions to Mr Marsh. It was agreed that the Clerk would invite the Project Manager to come and make a more detailed presentation once the appointment is made.

051/21 Donation

A request has been received for a donation to the Hampshire Child Children’s Air Ambulance. A sum of £50 was agreed.

052/21 To note the date of the next meeting, 12th April 2021

The meeting will be held on-line as Covid regulations are unlikely to be lifted before then.

053/21 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Cllr Verey requested that residents be asked for their memories of dairy farming in the Arreton Valley with a view to a future exhibition on farming heritage.

Diana Conyers thanked the Parish Council for allowing her to attend and said that local plans were a possible topic for a future IWALC meeting.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.01pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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10th March 2021

..... Chairman

..... Date