

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2021** at **7.00pm** in **Haseley Manor Barn**

**Present:** Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Cooper, Gurney-Champion, Healy, Orchard, and Roberts.

**In attendance:** IWC Cllr Ellis and Sheila Caws (Clerk).

**121/21 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Verey (shielding)

**122/21 Co-option of councillor**

Only one application was received and so Nicholas Gurney-Champion was duly co-opted on to the Parish Council.

**123/21 Questions from the public**

There were no questions

**124/21 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meetings (9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2021)**

The minutes of the meetings held on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Orchard, seconded Cllr Roberts.

**125/21 To receive regular reports**

- (a) Isle of Wight Councillor - the period since the election has been incredibly busy with many induction sessions, meetings, and briefings for all newly elected members. Much of this has had to be online due to continuing restrictions, and I applaud the IWC Officers ability to deliver such a wealth of information in often challenging circumstances – I have certainly learned a lot and feel that I have hit the ground running!

There was some confusion at Full Council over committee appointments, and currently I have been appointed to the Audit Committee and have been elected to the Corporate Parenting Board. Changes will be made at the next Full Council meeting on Wednesday 21 July and whilst I will remain on the CPB, my committee memberships will change and I will come off Audit Committee and will join Policy and Scrutiny for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration and Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services, Education and Skills. I will also be a substitute for Pensions and Planning and have completed the additional training needed to sit on the Planning Committee.

I have been appointed to the Shadow Cabinet as Conservative Spokesperson for Environment, Heritage and Waste management and, as such, will be in regular touch with officers on matters and issues relating to this portfolio and have been asked to join the task and finish group on Fly Tipping.

I have been busy with ward work and helping residents on issues around the ferries and availability for NHS patients, planning, planning enforcement, housing, fly tipping, unkempt verges, bins, speeding and parking.

I have kept up to date with the Chillerton and Rookley School consultation, speaking both with members of the SOS group, the Governing Body and Officers. You will have seen that the school will re-open in September, and Cllr Debbie Andre, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, Education and Skills, will make her decision once she has received the Officer's report covering all the options available.

I have met with a resident and Cllr Claire Critchison to discuss retrospective planning and planning enforcement issues and we hope to work together on this going forward.

I had a meeting last week with planning officers to discuss the UKOG application to drill at Arreton, to ensure I am fully up to speed with all details of this. I also submitted my comment to object to their application to the Environment Agency for an environmental permit, which

you can read here. We also spoke of ongoing issues around Broadfields Farm and the traffic using Chapel Lane and they have agreed to look into this again.

Many residents, as well as the Parish Council, have raised concerns with me about large tractors travelling to and from the Anaerobic Digester Plant in Arreton down lanes for which they are too wide. I have spoken with the local police who suggest reporting specific incidents to them via their website but do stress that tractors are exempt from width restrictions when directly accessing their land. I have also spoken with Neville Peachey, works manager at the AD plant, who has confirmed that the original planning conditions specified certain routes for the farms involved at the time. The other (two) farmers that supply the AD plant currently do not have agreed routes, and are asked to take the quickest legal route available, Mr Peachey has stressed that if they do not do this – ie they go down a 6' 6" in a too wide tractor – they are breaking the law, and this should be reported to the police via their website. Rude or unthoughtful driving can be reported to Mr Peachey directly, with a registration number, date and time, and he will investigate and deal with it. Email is [neville.peachey@wfenergy.co.uk](mailto:neville.peachey@wfenergy.co.uk)

I have also had the following reply from the Police and Crime Commissioners Office:

*"Dear Councillor Ellis,*

*I am writing on behalf of Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, in response to your email to her about large tractors using narrow lanes in your ward. Donna has asked me to thank you for your contact, and your warm wishes upon her appointment.*

*As you may be aware, traffic management measures are largely a matter for the local council as the highways authority, but police can become involved if and when enforcement activity is deemed to be an appropriate solution to the issues identified. I also recognise that the co-operation of local businesses such as the farmers is key to ensuring community harmony and respectful use of the roads by all users.*

*On Donna's behalf, I have made contact with Hampshire Constabulary to make them aware of this as an issue, and ask if they are sighted on any local working arrangements or agreed routes that tractors should be following. I will also be making a note of this particular issue so if the opportunity arises in her meetings with organisations such as the NFU, she can raise this on behalf of your community and others across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight who may be impacted by this.*

*Thank you again for getting in touch with Donna, I know it is appreciated and your concerns have been heard.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Richard Andrews*

*On behalf of Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight "*

The individuals proposing the Hale Common Sports Complex CIC have been in touch to request I meet them on site to discuss but so far a date has not been arranged for this.

Welcome Back fund – I understand all Parish/Town Councils have now received letters relating to this, and that Arreton PC did not, in fact, submit a bid. (In April letter went out asking T & PC's to submit bids, some did some didn't - a previous letter was sent out prior to this explaining this was what would happen – the entire 191k is not all available to those T&CPs and other organisations that submitted a bid, the majority will go on wider Island-wide projects such as Beach Officers and Cleaning and a communications campaign promoting shop local and COVID-safe shopping - and those that bid will get a share of the remainder.)

Cllr Calloway and I met with Maria Herbert (Arreton St Georges Headteacher) to discuss parking at the school. As a result of this, I am meeting with Maria at the beginning of the holidays for a detailed briefing of the history around the issues, following which I will go back to Jade Kennett and Island Roads and push for them to come and properly clear the overgrown area of the car park and make a strong representation for them to put a second

entranceway at the top as previously discussed. I have also offered to don a high-viz and stand on the corner in an effort to encourage drivers to show better manners – should anyone else wish to take a turn please let myself or the school know!

All IWC councillors act as parents to children in care and looked-after children but three others have been elected to the Corporate Parenting Board.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – nothing to report.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – water is pooling in the road near to the Hale Common Garage, which Island Roads have dealt with once already.

The Chairman reported that some significant repairs have been made to the cycle path but he has only seen the work between Merstone and Herringford so far.

The bridleway A17a (to the east of Haseley Manor) has become very overgrown but RoW are aware of this.

- (d) IWALC/Chairman's report – the Chairman obtained costs for a defibrillator from the Ambulance Service whilst attending a first aid course. The cost is about £1,050 from the IW NHS or around £900 from the British Heart Foundation based on £600 for the defibrillator plus £300 for the box. The NHS one needs a code to open, obtained by calling 999, whereas the BHF one must be unlocked at all times. This is an agenda item for later discussion.

Apart from that it's been another quiet month. The Chairman reviewed a letter forwarded to the Clerk and himself on the subject of UKOG site drainage but felt it to be of little value. If any councillor is interested then it can forward it to them.

The Chairman is keen that some form of social event is arranged later this year. Again, an agenda item.

The Chairman noted in the national press that Southern Water have had a large fine imposed by the Courts for unlawfully discharging untreated wastewater into Southampton Water and the Solent. It is not relevant to us but it suggests very poor (historic) operations.

IWALC - a meeting was held on June 28th but Arreton was not invited as our nominee names had not been received. This has now been rectified. The points of potential interest in the minutes are:

- Basic skills training courses for councillors are being arranged (our Clerk is kept informed of these and circulates councillors).
- The July meeting will be on Zoom.
- It was proposed to hold a workshop to look at the future of town and parish councils and their role in building strong communities. The National Association of Local Councils (NALC) has offered their support, including some possible funding from BHIB (their insurers). It was proposed that the workshop will be held in September 2021.
- The Parliamentary Boundary Review was raised and it was proposed that as a principle that Town and Parish Councils should not be split between two MPs.

- (e) Meetings reports – Cllr Calloway and the Clerk attended a part of virtual session on the new Island Plan earlier this evening, although neither could stay to the end. Much of the session was taken up with housing and the Clerk will circulate the PowerPoint presentation.

A proposal has been made to bring back a railway line from Ryde to Newport. Cllrs Kimber and Gurney-Champion will attend an on-line meeting.

- (f) There was nothing to report on the tree project.
- (g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has been in touch with PCSO Justin Keefe regarding speeding in Merstone Lane and also its use by tractors going to the anaerobic digester. PCSO Keefe spoke to the manager at the Arreton site and, at the time of writing, was intending to contact the Stag Lane site. With regard to speeding, he passed the complaint on to his colleague, the Roads Policing Sergeant for the Island. They are aware of these issues as a local resident keeps one of his officers up to date. They plan to carry out several operations in the near future if time allows them. He has also requested

the speed camera van to visit this location but is not sure as to the space available to park it.

The Clerk contacted IWC Cllr Mosdell asking if there was any further information on the Beaver Project. Newchurch PC had recently had a presentation from the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust and she requested that we be kept informed of any progress.

The Clerk has contacted the Planning Department regarding the law on advertising hoardings but has not as yet received a reply.

The Clerk has recently written to Gift to Nature regarding the picnic table on the cycle track near Shide but has not, as yet, received a reply.

**Other matters:** an extra meeting was held to consider the UKOG application to the Environment Agency for an environment permit. The Clerk was contacted by the Clerk to Newchurch Parish Council to say that they had resolved to support our response to the EA. He was provided with a copy of our comments.

The planning application for a barn at Bury Lane Farm has been granted.

The audit documents have been sent to the auditors and the notices regarding the rights of the public to examine the accounts are currently on the notice boards.

Having lost two of our newsletter recipients to moves elsewhere, the purchasers of one of the houses have asked to be included on the mailing list.

**126/21 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 139/21 – four items were requested.**

**127/21 Finance**

The finance report for May was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £13,782.02 at the end of May. The following payments were agreed:

010-21/22	S Caws (salary – June)	£411.80
011-2-21	S Caws (expenses)	£24.39
012-21/22	HMRC (PAYE)	£91.60
013-21/22	P Phillips (salary and expenses)	£55.95
014-21/22	Wight Tactical (pest control)	£60.00
015-21/22	S Caws (salary – July)	£421.20

**128/21 Planning and appeals**

Reference	21/01166/6PA
Application Received	Tue 01 Jun 2021
Address	Bury Lane Farm Bury Lane Arretton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DP
Proposal	Agricultural prior notification for a storage barn

It was agreed that there was no objection to this application. However, it was noted that windows are shown in the roof and there is a flight of stairs leading up from the first floor but there is no floor plan for the attic.

Concern was also expressed as to whether the drainage system has the capacity to deal with the potential extra demand.

**129/21 Burial grounds**

The annual inspection of the burial grounds took place before the meeting. The Clerk will contact Brighstone Landscaping to discuss potential work at Gore on the hedge by the bin store, two damaged trees in the western hedge, a tidy-up of God's Garden, a trim of the hedge outside of the road boundary fence and the removal of some of the ivy from the shed

roof. They will also be reminded of the work still outstanding on the holes and the dead shrub.

In the Churchyard, work is needed on two of the buttresses on the western wall, an overgrown area in the north-west corner and the ivy that is falling off the wall near to the entrance board in the eastern corner. Work on the yew tree is also still outstanding.

It was noted that some of the ironwork on the endowed graves was in a dilapidated state and Brighstone Landscaping will be asked if they can deal with that. The Chairman undertook to tidy up the Burma Star area.

The Clerk will contact Wight Stonemasonry regarding a wobbly cross in Gore Cemetery.

**130/21 Pest Control**

It was agreed that no further visits would be required until September as no rabbits were seen during the visit at the end of June.

**131/21 Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders were reviewed and agreed without change.

**132/21 Roadside verges**

Island Roads have offered to work with town and parish councils to manage roadside verges and so the Clerk will enquire as to what this entails. Of particular concern is the SINC site at Crouchers Cross (C304A).

**133/21 Defibrillators**

The cost of defibrillators is noted in the Chairman's report (see above). Suggested sites for new installations included the Cricket Club, the Post Office/Chapel, the Toyota garage at Blackwater and Broadfields Farm, Merstone. Cllr Calloway will enquire as to whether any of these are potentially available. The Clerk will investigate the possible existence of a national register.

**134/21 Zoom subscription**

As council meetings now have to be held face-to-face, it was agreed to cancel the Zoom subscription.

**135/21 'Nextdoor Arreton' website**

It was agreed not to investigate the 'Nextdoor Arreton' website at the present time. It was agreed to continue promoting the Newsletter.

**136/21 Litter bins**

It has been suggested that litter bins be placed by the bus stops near Arreton Barns. The question was raised as to whether Island Roads would agree to empty them as there was no safe place to stop near the southern one. It was agreed to enquire as to whether Arreton Barns would agree to empty the bins if the Parish Council provided them.

**137/21 Post-lockdown community event**

It was agreed to consider holding a Barn Dance in October.

**138/21 To note the date of the next meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2021**

To begin at 7pm and the venue is expected to be the Community Centre.

**139/21 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**

i) A resident sent through some Government information regarding beavers which will be borne in mind should an application be submitted for a licence to release them.

ii) IWC Cllr Ellis said that Godshill Parish Council were considering lighting a beacon as part of the celebrations for the HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee next year and were inviting other parish councils in the Central Rural Ward to join with them. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

iii) A question was raised as to the holding of camping rallies on private land and whether there was a requirement for a license?

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.04pm.

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

Hillis Side, Rew Street, Gurnard, Isle of Wight PO31 8NW

E-mail: [arretonpc@outlook.com](mailto:arretonpc@outlook.com) Telephone: 07587 008183

14<sup>th</sup> July 2021

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Chairman

..... Date