

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 8th November 2021** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Calloway, Cooper, Gurney-Champion, Kimber, Orchard, Roberts and Verey
In attendance: IWC Cllr Ellis and Sheila Caws (Clerk)

177/21 Apologies for Absence
Cllr Healy (unwell).

178/21 Questions from the public
In the absence of any members of the public there were no questions.

179/21 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (11th October 2021)
The minutes of the meeting held on October 11th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Verey, seconded Cllr Gurney-Champion.

180/21 To receive regular reports

(a) Isle of Wight Councillor – IWC Cllr Ellis reported that due to an extended period of medical leave she had not been able to undertake Council work over the past few weeks, and wished to note her thanks to those colleagues, council officers and Parish Council members and staff who had offered support. She is very glad to now be back at work, albeit slightly limited in capacity. She was not able to attend the public meeting held by Captiva on 7th October at Godshill Primary School regarding their proposed development ‘Lily Cross’ on the Scotland Farm site but she had a private meeting with them the following week, during which she was able to see the presentation they had made, and was updated on feedback received.

Whilst not able to attend the Planning Committee meeting for the UKOG application, she was grateful to IWC Cllr Spink for reading her representation so eloquently and delighted that the application was unanimously refused. She believes that it sends a strong and clear message that we will work in together for the good of the environment and the good of the Island.

IWC Cllr Ellis attended last week’s (Wednesday 27th October) online Environment and Sustainability Forum, where the formation of the proposed Mission Zero Hub was discussed. Last week she also had an interesting visit to Wight Building Materials, to have a look at their operation. She was encouraged by their efforts to operate in an environmentally friendly way – including much work on re-wilding and heathland restoration on and around St Georges Down and by their commitment to employing local people.

IWC Cllr Ellis has kept in regular touch with Cllr Debbie Andre regarding the future of Chillerton and Rookley School, who has kindly kept her updated as well.

Speeding issues remain at the top of her agenda – although she is advised that no decisions will be made until the Islandwide speed review is completed at the end of the year.

IWC Cllr Ellis emailed Neville Peachey, General Manager at the WFE Anaerobic Digester, and asked whether he would be prepared to come out and talk to Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council and he has extended an invite for councillors to go and have a look round the site and discuss issues around tractors – might Arreton be interested in either visiting the site or having Mr Peachey come to a PC meeting?

She is still planning to arrange a public meeting regarding flooding issues, to be held in Godshill.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council has visited the anaerobic digester site twice before and a further visit was being arranged for April 2020 but had to be postponed due to the COVID 19 pandemic. This has now been provisionally re-arranged for April 2022.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – the Clerk reported that the pest control contractor had visited the Cemetery at the end of October and one rabbit was sighted. The Chairman will undertake a walk round the outside perimeter to check for potential access points and the pest control contractor will be asked to visit again in January.

The repairs to the tabletop tombs in the Churchyard have been completed and are currently covered to allow the lime mortar to set. The Clerk has informed the Churchwarden so that the Diocese can be notified that the Faculty has been completed.

- (c) Highways and footpaths – The cycleway was flooded badly between Newchurch and Sandown but this is outside of the parish. The Chairman failed to walk the Parish footpaths due to a knee problem.

Cllr Calloway reported that the footpath near her home was very overgrown – the Clerk will report this to the Rights of Way department.

- (d) IWALC – There was a meeting on 28 October held on Zoom and attended by Councillor Calloway. The meeting was a topic meeting at which Cllr Phil Jordan, Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure, briefed members on the impact of changes to the Island Roads PFI.

Key points were:

IWC Cllr Jordan explained that the previous administration, as part of its attempts to reduce expenditure, had renegotiated the Island Roads PFI contract. The result was a reduction of £2 million in the Island Roads' budget, about £1.5 million of which has already been implemented. The main areas where 'savings' have been made are as follows:

- Street cleaning: £200,000 pa
- Grass cutting: £200,000 pa
- Winter servicing (i.e. gritting): £60,000
- CCTV: £160,000 pa
- Road markings: £10,000 pa
- Street furniture: £80,000 pa
- Street lights (trimming and dimming): £25,000 pa
- Traffic management: £30,000 pa
- Models and counters (i.e. data collection): £50,000 pa
- Litter collection, including bin emptying: £100,000 pa
- Emptying of dog bins: £50,000 pa
- Help desk: £70,000 pa
- District Stewards: £35,000 pa

IWC Cllr Jordan explained that these savings have resulted in changes in the frequency or mode of service delivery. For example, street cleaning, grass cutting and bin emptying used to be done as often as needed but now there is a fixed schedule, while CCTV cameras are no longer monitored. He emphasised that the levels of service provision are still in line with minimum national standards, where such standards exist. He also explained that local councils can, if they wish, negotiate with Island Roads to receive a higher level of service provision, if they are able and willing to pay for it. Several councils are already doing this.

The original contract contained 14 core strategies to be completed within certain time limits but not all of these have yet been signed off, including the repair of walls and the completion of the upgrade or repair of all roads.

IWC Cllr Jordan also informed members of a planned change in the method of removing weeds from pavements and other public spaces. He explained that Island Roads had tried to avoid the use of glyphosate (a weed killer) by removing weeds manually but this had not been effective, resulting in many complaints about weeds and the risk of damage to paved surfaces. They have therefore decided to return to the use of glyphosate next year. He explained that the Council has consulted with 18 other local authorities who have tried other methods but had to resort to glyphosate.

It was agreed that the Clerk would circulate the IWALC minutes in future.

Chairman's report – the main effort of the Parish Council in the past month has been to prepare the PC's presentation to the IW Council's Planning Committee relating to the application for permission for exploratory oil drilling. I came in late for this work and set out our objections based on the work done by other councillors.

The Chairman was contacted by Clare Mosdell, as a Newchurch Parish councillor, seeking to collect evidence of use of the track running from Wacklands northwards to the cycle path near Haseley Manor. Newchurch PC are seeking to have this recognised as a public right of way. It was suggested that this be publicised in our next newsletter.

The Clerk circulated the text of the flier seeking email addresses of residents, which we distributed a couple of years ago. The Chairman did revise this and circulated his suggested revisions but the feeling was that the need was for something punchier and less wordy. This is an agenda item for later.

In the clerk's absence the Chairman prepared some text for the IWALC newsletter.

Apart from that it's been a quiet month.

- (e) Meetings reports – Cllr Roberts attended the South Wight Parishes Health and Well-being Forum where there was a presentation from the head of the IW Ambulance Service. Revisions to the Service are planned to make it more efficient and to include direct referral to other services. It was also noted that there are 17 ambulances on the Island all year round plus paramedics and emergency cars but, in summer, visitors boost the population figure from 140,000 to 250,000.

The Clerk attended the AGM of the AONB Steering Group where a presentation was given on the Annual Report.

Cllr Verey reported that at the Environment and Sustainability Forum a plan was proposed to create local hubs to bring together all interested parties in an area for discussions etc. This is at an early consultation stage.

Cllr Verey attended a meeting convened by Historic England to discuss the listing of buildings. However, she felt that it was an exercise intended to benefit London consultants. Historic England officially list buildings but have no powers of enforcement or protection.

- (f) Tree Working Party - the cherry trees have been ordered but not yet delivered.
- (g) Clerk's report – the Clerk contacted Island Roads again regarding the contract to empty the new dog bin in Heasley Lane. It has now been added to the schedule and will be emptied twice a week in winter and three times in summer, as are the others.

The Clerk wrote to IWC Cllr Phil Jordan, other local IWC councillors and Island Roads regarding the land for sale at the Hare and Hounds/Robin Hill junctions. The immediate response from Island Roads was negative but Cllr Jordan at least asked for more details, although nothing further has been heard.

Other matters: the planning application for an extension at Arreton Manor Farm has been refused.

Two meetings were held to discuss the Parish Council's submission to the IWC Planning Committee regarding the UKOG oil well application, which was presented by the Chairman, Cllr Kimber. The Planning Committee's vote to refuse the application was unanimous.

The Clerk has contacted Island Roads again regarding the dead tree outside Dovecotes. A response was received to say that "it [the tree] is not an asset they [Island Roads] maintain" and that it has been passed to "the authority" for a decision, which will be chased. The Clerk looked at the maps that were issued at the time the Island Roads contact came into force but there does not appear to be one for the relevant section of Merstone Lane, although there are ones for the sections to the north and south. The Clerk has asked Island Roads for clarification as to whether there should be a map.

181/21 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 196/21 – Cllr Kimber declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for Blandings. Three items were requested to be raised.

182/21 Finance

The finance report for October was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £10,862.02 at the end of October. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs	£432.56
Wight Tactical (pest control)	£30.00
Brighstone Landscaping Ltd (grounds maint.)	£496.80
S Caws (wreath)	£50.00
GJ Banks (IW) Ltd (table top tombs repairs)	£2,891.76
Wight Tactical (pest control)	£30.00

183/21 Planning and appeals

Reference	21/02027/HOU
Alternative Reference	PP-10282775
Application Received	Fri 08 Oct 2021
Address	The Blandings Hale Common Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Proposal	Proposed home office

It was agreed that there was no objection to an office on this site. However, there were some concerns over the size of the proposed building and, should the application be approved, they would like to see a condition attached that only permits the building to be used as a home office and that conversion to a dwelling under permitted development be disallowed.

In addition, the building is within the curtilage of a Grade II listed building which should, presumably, have some bearing on the nature of the materials used. The Supporting Statement refers to the fact that ‘... the building opposite has used the same materials ...’, which is true up to a point. The artist’s impression on the front cover of the Statement shows a building clad in milled timber (presumably stained), whereas the one opposite is of wavy-edged, wider planks of lapboard in their natural state. In the Supporting Statement it does say that if a more appropriate suggestion is made for the cladding then ‘this can be easily considered and changed with minimal fuss.’ (Para 3.6). It was agreed that there should be a better match with the existing building, as some weight is being given to its proximity.

One further question that has not been considered is that there is no mention of drainage for the waste water from the WC. It was agreed to request that this and the points above be addressed should the application be permitted.

184/21 Budget reconciliation

The Clerk presented a copy of spending to date. Cllr Gurney-Champion had some questions regarding the overall figures and the Clerk will send him copies of last year’s accounts, which will help in answering these.

185/21 Budget 2022-23

The Clerk requested that Councillors begin consideration of the Budget for 2022-23.

- 186/21 Burial regulations**
New regulations were approved for 2022.
- 187/21 Defibrillators**
A discussion was held as to potential positions for defibrillators. The owners of the *Fighting Cocks* are interested in providing one and Cllr Kimber will contact them with a view to a joint enterprise. Defibrillators are already in place at the School and Broadfields Farm, although there are concerns about the accessibility of the one at the School. The owners of the Farm are willing to make theirs' publicly available. Other suggestions were the Community Centre, the Methodist Chapel and Blackwater Garage. Contact will be made and Graham Filer of G Filer Engineering will also be asked if he is willing to participate.
- 188/21 Litter bins**
The Clerk has contacted Island Roads with regard to litter bins but has not, as yet, received a reply.
- 189/21 Community events**
It was agreed to postpone the December Barn Dance in view of the rising numbers of COVID 19 cases on the Island. No decision was made on a future date.
- 190/21 Newsletter**
It was agreed that a flyer will be sent out after Christmas to re-advertise the Newsletter. Cllr Kimber will compose an initial draft.
- 191/21 Light of Love event**
Councillors were willing to participate but would like more details. The Clerk will investigate.
- 192/21 Neighbourhood Plan**
A discussion was held as to the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan. This will be discussed more fully at the next meeting and the Clerk will obtain an idea for costs from other clerks.
- 193/21 Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**
It was agreed not to participate in the formation of a plan as there is little scope for improvement in the Parish.
- 194/21 Rights of Way**
The Chairman reported that he had been contacted by Newchurch Parish Council, who are looking to establish a permanent right of way between the cycletrack near Haseley Manor and Wacklands. Evidence of long-term continual use is required and it was agreed to make a request for any such local evidence in the next Newsletter.
A discussion on proposed improvements to the existing network is deferred to the next meeting.
- 195/21 To note the date of the next meeting, 13th December 2021**
- 196/21 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**
i) Details of recent flooding in Chapel Lane have been received by the Clerk. As the e-mail was addressed to the MP, the Clerk will acknowledge receipt of the e-mails and request to be kept informed.
ii) Cllr Calloway raised the question of the Arreton School Trust. It was agreed that the Clerk should contact the Vicar with a view to reviving and reviewing the existing Trust.

iii) The Governors of the Federation of Oakfield and Arreton Primary Schools are looking to defederate. It was suggested that the Clerk write to Arreton Primary School to say that the Parish Council will support whatever decision the Governors make as being the best for the School.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.26pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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12th November 2021

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Chairman

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Date