

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 13th December 2021** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Calloway, Cooper, Kimber, Orchard, Roberts and Verey
In attendance: PCSO Keefe and Sheila Caws (Clerk)

197/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Gurney-Champion and Cllr Healy (both unwell) and IWC Cllr Ellis (prior engagement)

198/21 Questions from the public

In the absence of any members of the public there were no questions.

199/21 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (8th November 2021)

The minutes of the meeting held on November 8th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Orchard.

200/21 To receive regular reports

PCSO Keefe was invited to make a report. He reported that his monthly beat surgeries were continuing and that PC Tim Campany has retired. Cold calling is a persistent problem all year but especially at Christmas and residents are warned to be on their guard. Noisy motorbikes, especially trail bikes, have been a problem in Birchmore Lane and up on St George's Down. PCSO Keefe was asked if there are any speed cameras on the Island, to which the reply was that there are mobile ones.

- (a) Isle of Wight Councillor – IWC Cllr Ellis reported that this past month has been an enjoyable and productive one – it has been good to get 'back up to speed' with ward work, to be able to speak with and visit residents and to be back attending meetings at County Hall, including Full Council on November 17th, Policy and Scrutiny for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration on the 18th, an informal meeting of the Planning Committee on the 22nd and Policy and Scrutiny for Children's Services on December 9th. The Environment and Sustainability Forum monthly meeting was held online on the 23rd November and this month the focus was on COP26 outcomes and how these could be applied and implemented locally.

IWC Cllr Ellis attended the Remembrance Day service at Godshill, where she laid a wreath on behalf of the Isle of Wight Council. The service was very well attended, and she and her husband attended the mass held in All Saints Church following the service. The Rev'd Kath Abbott kindly arranged for a wreath to be laid on her behalf at St Georges, Arreton, during the service held there.

She has been into St Georges CE Primary School several times this month to attend assembly and to hear pupils read – she will be doing the same at Godshill and Chillerton and Rookley in the New Year, COVID restrictions allowing.

The first public consultation evening for Chillerton and Rookley School was held on Thursday 2nd December, from 1800-1930 at Godshill Primary School and IWC Cllr Ellis was in attendance. There was a surprisingly low turnout. Unfortunately, the consultation evening held at Chillerton and Rookley School had to be moved to Thursday 9th December, 1800–1930 and she was not able to attend due to a clash with a meeting of the Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Children's Services on the same evening.

The first monthly quiz night was held at The Gallybagger on Friday 12th November and it was a wonderful evening – highly recommend going along, the CGCA will be holding them regularly on the second Friday of each month.

Neville Peachey, General Manager at the WFE Anaerobic Digester, has suggested that a Parish Council visit is arranged for the spring, and he will be in touch in good time to arrange this [note: this has already been arranged].

IWC Cllr Ellis has visited the Scotland Farm proposed development site at Godshill to gain a better understanding of the plans. She has also been to look at modular buildings which are being built in Sandford by a local company and was very impressed with their versatility.

After speaking with the council officer coordinating the flood investigation, Godshill PC and others – the decision has been made to hold the planned Public Meeting to discuss Flooding towards the end of January, when the results of the investigation will be available, as should be details of an Environment Agency scheme to help residents affected which is currently being developed.

A meeting of WAGE (Wootton Against Gravel Extraction) was held at the Community Centre on Wednesday 8th December. As IWC Cllr Ellis had prior commitments that evening she asked a resident to attend and to report back to her – as it happened this resident was the only attendee! Apparently, the main concerns WAGE have from an 'Arreton' perspective are around the traffic issues, as currently the route from the proposed site to their depot at St Georges is via Station Road in Wootton, then Briddlesford Road past the Lynbottom Tip and then Downend Road etc. This would require a right turn across traffic at the busy junction by the Hare and Magpie carvings and then a right turn into their depot, with the potential to bring traffic to a halt as lorries wait for a break in traffic before they can turn in to the depot. Steve Burton of Wight Building Materials has offered to come along to talk to the Parish Council and address any possible concerns you may have and has stressed that the Hale Common operation will be completed before they commence Wootton, which should alleviate traffic issues.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – the Chairman inspected Gore Cemetery for signs of rabbits. He could see no indications of any active burrows but there were a small number of scrapes at the southern end. He therefore walked the outside and it does appear that there could be access around 20m from the road. He plans to deal with this.

The seat in Gore Cemetery requires replacement and Cllr Calloway offered to investigate the price of a new one plus a replacement concrete pad.

The Clerk was requested to find out when the tomb coverings will be removed from the Churchyard.

- (c) Highways and footpaths – the Clerk will find out when Merstone Lane will be closed for roadworks next week.
- (d) IWALC – There was a meeting on 25 November held on Zoom which neither the Chairman nor Councillor Calloway were able to attend.

Chairman's report - on Saturday night a car collided with and destroyed the BT telephone/internet cabinet on the main road near the cycle track crossing at Horryngford. Properties in the area have lost internet and telephone service. The Chairman was told that it could be January before the damage is repaired but this is by no means certain.

The Chairman has investigated the numbers and locations of defibrillators within and around the parish. This is an agenda item and so he has circulated his findings and thoughts for later discussion.

He returned two sets of statements regarding the potential right-of-way being sought by Newchurch Parish Council at Wacklands.

The Chairman met with Councillor Verey to discuss the production of a neighbourhood plan – again an agenda item for which he has circulated his thoughts. He feels this is an area where IWALC could be useful.

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 by the Footprint Trust which, amongst other things, gives financial help, advice and grants on heating problems and fuel poverty. There are an

estimated 14,000 people (8,000 homes) in fuel poverty on the Island. The Trust also distributes food parcels. There was another presentation on Alzheimer's Cafes, of which there are 20 in the whole country, seven of which are on the Island. Free tea and cake is available for those with dementia and their carers. A related campaign is the one for Safe Places, which are shops and other venues that those with learning needs or dementia can go to if they need help and where staff are trained to recognise their needs and to give the necessary support.

Cllr Verey attended the Sustainability Forum which, as mentioned by IWC Cllr Ellis, was a summary of COP26. Cllr Verey will circulate the minutes of the meeting. She will also circulate a letter on fly-tipping.

Cllr Calloway attended the latest meeting with Bob Seely MP. Unfortunately, it lasted scarcely 30 seconds before Mr Seely was called back into Parliament.

- (f) Tree Working Party – unfortunately there has been a problem with the supply of the chosen cherry trees. Cllr Verey has therefore changed the order to varieties that are guaranteed to be available.
- (g) Clerk's report – Agendas and minutes:- the Clerk contacted Island Roads regarding the blocked drain in the road by Gore Cemetery. Initially, Island Roads thought it was the drain in the layby, which they refuse to deal with and promptly closed the request. Once it was pointed out to them that it was the drain in the road adjacent to the lay-by, the request was re-opened and investigated. It has now been closed again so presumably action has been taken but the Clerk has not yet had time to check.

The Clerk contacted Rights of Way regarding the overgrown stiles on footpath A10. A volunteer cleared one stile but cannot find the other one. The Clerk will liaise with Cllr Calloway as to its exact location and will reply to RoW accordingly.

The pest control contractor will return in January.

Other matters: the Cllr Calloway offered to read at the Lights of Love service in St George's Church but unfortunately the event was cancelled.

The Clerk has contacted the Revd Kath Abbott regarding the Arreton School Trust and it has been agreed that a meeting will be called in January to attempt to make some progress in re-activating it.

Nothing further has been heard about the dead tree in Merstone, which the Clerk will chase. However, Island Roads have produced a copy of the missing PFI map that covered that section of Merstone Lane. [Post -meeting note: the tree has recently been removed].

The Clerk attended the AGM of the IW Branch of the Society for Local Council Clerks (SLCC). Although attendance was low, it was nice to have the chance to meet face-to-face for the first time in about two years.

201/21 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 Verey declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for Little Budbridge.

202/21 Finance

The finance report for November was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £7,124.26 at the end of November. The following payments were agreed:

032-21/22	Staff costs	£392.60
033-21/22	Clerks expenses	£10.00
034-21/22	IW Council (election expenses)	£24.00
035-21/22	Foundation Multimedia (website)	£150.00
001326	Information Commissioner (data protection)	£40.00

203/21 Planning and appeals

Reference	21/02371/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-10419066
Application Received	Thu 25 Nov 2021
Address	Little Budbridge Farm Budbridge Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DH
Proposal	Proposed small summerhouse comprising an oak frame structure overlooking pond
Reference	21/02260/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-10370551
Application Received	Mon 08 Nov 2021
Address	4 Birchmore Cottages Birchmore Lane Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3BW
Proposal	Proposed detached dwelling with parking
Reference	21/02196/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-10351410
Application Received	Mon 01 Nov 2021
Address	Tollslie Farmhouse Birchmore Lane Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3BP
Proposal	Demolition of existing barn, single storey annex accommodation

With regard to the application at Little Budbridge, it was agreed that there was no objection in principle to a small summer house on this site. However, the application was lacking detail, with no separate floor plan or the measurements of the proposed structure. Without the figures it was difficult to make a judgement as to the scale of the building and therefore the members wished to object to this application.

It was agreed to support the comments made by Island Roads and the Public Rights of Way Service on the application for a detached dwelling at 4 Birchmore Cottages and therefore to object to this application on the grounds of access. It was noted that there was some confusion as to the means of disposal of foul sewage. The plans referred to a septic tank but the application form said a cess pit.

It was agreed that there was no objection to the application for an annexe at Tollslie Farmhouse. However, the members would like to see the annexe tied to the host property, as offered by the applicants.

204/21 Budget 2022-23

The Clerk proposed some changes to the figures as both the grounds maintenance contract and the insurance deal are due for renewal this year. It was agreed to include the potential costs for a new seat at Gore Cemetery and an allowance towards the costs of providing defibrillators in the Parish. Another draft will be considered at the next meeting.

- 205/21 Defibrillators**
The Chairman provided some notes on existing defibrillators in the Parish and proposed locations for new ones. The Chairman will investigate costs but it was agreed to potentially fund two new sites and possibly offer a contribution to the costs of two others.
- 206/21 Litter bins**
Island Roads replied to the Clerk's enquiry about litter bins to say that they currently had no capacity for emptying new bins, although this may change in the future.
An offer has been received from a local business to empty a litter bin near their premises if the Parish Council were to provide one. The Clerk will investigate the size of bins available, costs and any insurance implications.
- 207/21 Newsletter**
Further to his original draft of a flyer, the Chairman will produce another one.
- 208/21 Neighbourhood Plan**
A discussion was held as to the merits of a Neighbourhood Plan against a Parish/Place Plan. It was agreed that the potential costs of a Neighbourhood Plan were astronomically high and therefore it was decided to look at updating the 2005 Parish Plan with possibly a new questionnaire on what residents want and an updated Housing Needs Survey. An allowance for costs will be included in next year's budget. Cllr Calloway will request a copy of recent proposals by the School for parking and a play area.
- 209/21 Rights of Way**
This item was deferred to the next meeting.
- 210/21 Queen's Green Canopy**
A local resident has offered a small plot of land on which to plant a number of trees for the Queen's Green Canopy. Interest in the proposal was expressed and Cllr Calloway offered to investigate further.
- 211/21 Methodist Church lay-by**
The long-term use of the lay-by by some residents is still causing problems. The Clerk will investigate the possibility of signs for 'No overnight parking'.
- 212/21 Southern Water**
An offer has been received from Southern Water for a discussion on any flooding problems in the Parish and the possibility of a visit to their station at Sandown. It was felt that few if any flooding problems in the Parish were down to Southern Water but interest was expressed in a visit to Sandown.
- 213/21 To note the date of the next meeting, 10th January 2022**
- 214/21 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**
It was noted that there had been a spate of road accidents in the Parish recently. In addition to the loss of the BT service box at Horryngford at the weekend, a car overturned near Gore Cemetery on the same night and, earlier in the month, a double-decker bus ended up in a field near the junction between the main road and East Lane.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.16pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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16th December 2021

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Chairman

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Date