

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 10th January 2022** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Cooper, Gurney-Champion, Healy, Kimber, Orchard, Roberts and Verey
In attendance: one member of the public and Sheila Caws (Clerk)

001/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Calloway (unwell) and IWC Cllr Ellis (prior engagement)

002/22 Questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

003/22 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (13th December 2021)

The minutes of the meeting held on December 13th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Orchard.

004/22 To receive regular reports

- (a) Isle of Wight Councillor – IWC Cllr Ellis said that, owing to it being quiet over Christmas, there was nothing to report but that she was always available by phone or e-mail.
- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – the bins in the enclosure at Gore Cemetery are full and there is more rubbish stacked beside them. The Clerk was requested to contact the contractor to ask them to deal with this.

The slats in the grid under the main gate are wobbly – Cllr Orchard volunteered to have a look at them to see what needs doing.

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

- (c) Highways and footpaths – a red plastic fence surrounding a hole on the edge of the cycleway has been there for some time and a hole is now forming on the other side of the track. The Clerk was requested to contact Island Roads regarding the problem.
- (d) IWALC – IWALC is carrying on as usual and has arranged two briefings with the Council relating to the Draft Island Planning Strategy. The Chairman watched the recording of one of these on line. In his opinion there was nothing discussed of concern/relevance to Arreton. The key point he took is that the Draft Strategy will be published in the next few months for comments before being finalised and submitted to central government for approval.

IWALC has arranged a virtual presentation by Jackie Weaver on codes of conduct in local councils on February 3rd.

Apart from that it has been a quiet month.

Chairman – the Chairman reported that he had visited Gore Cemetery a couple of times to check on rabbits. Where there appeared to be a potential entry on the south side, he blocked the hole with chicken wire and earth which, on a second visit, appeared to be untouched. However, he thinks there are some signs of rabbit scrapes within the Cemetery. The double gates were not properly closed which he fixed.

The drainage channel grating at the double gates is not properly bedded (see (b) above).

The Chairman had intended to let the manager at the *Fighting Cocks* know that it had been decided that the PC would not promote a CPR kit at the pub as there was one very nearby at the Newchurch sports field. However, he has not managed to see him yet.

- (e) Meetings reports – no reports
- (f) Tree Working Party – the trees are due to be delivered to Cllr Verey tomorrow (Tuesday 11th) and will be planted in due course after a consultation with the Burial Registrar.

- (g) Clerk's report – **Agenda and Minutes Record**: it has been very quiet due to a combination of the Christmas/New Year period and concerns over the latest COVID developments. There is therefore nothing to report in this section that is not already covered in an agenda item.

Other matters: the dead tree at Merstone has been felled and therefore it must be assumed that either the IW Council or Island Roads took responsibility for it. The Clerk was not directly informed until an e-mail received today (Monday 10th) from Island Roads reported that the matter was closed.

The Clerk has renewed the computer security with a two-year deal with Norton.

The Clerk received a letter from Wight Coaches asking if they could site an advertising banner at the Community Hall. As this is not the Parish Council's responsibility, the Clerk referred them to the Community Hall Management Committee.

- 005/22 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 020/22** – Cllr Cooper declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning applications for Billinghamurst and Hale Manor Farm. Cllr Gurney-Champion declared a non-pecuniary interest on the application at Hale Manor Farm and Cllr Orchard declared a non-pecuniary interest in the application at Sandy Lane, Blackwater.

Cllr Gurney-Champion and the Chairman requested items to be raised under agenda item 020/22.

006/22 Finance

The finance report for December was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £6,882.66 at the end of December. The following payments were agreed:

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| Staff costs (salaries, expenses etc.) | £506.00 |
| S Caws (computer security) | £139.99 |
| Brighstone Landscaping Ltd (grounds maint.) | £579.60 |
| Arreton Comm. Hall M'ment Trust (hall hire) | £68.00 |

007/22 Planning and appeals

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| Reference | 21/02394/FUL |
| Alternative Reference | PP-10426841 |
| Application Received | Mon 29 Nov 2021 |
| Address | Land at Hale Manor Farm Hale Common Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AR |
| Proposal | Retention and completion of electrical substation in connection with farm shop, café/restaurant |
| Reference | 21/02444/FUL |
| Alternative Reference | PP-10446280 |
| Application Received | Fri 03 Dec 2021 |
| Address | Billinghamurst Hale Common Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AR |
| Proposal | Proposed change of use from dwelling house to learning facility based on horticulture and independent living skills |
| Reference | 21/02331/FUL |
| Alternative Reference | PP-10313672 |

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| Application Received | Fri 19 Nov 2021 |
| Address | Land Opposite Cherry Tree Cottage Sandy Lane Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3BS |
| Proposal | Provision of agricultural barn to store equipment and a small tractor |

With regard to the application at Hale Manor Farm, it was agreed that there was no objection to this application.

With regard to the application at Billinghamurst, it was agreed that, whilst horticultural therapy is seen as being beneficial and there is no objection to this application in principle, the application cannot be supported as it stands. There is a lack of detail in the application – for example, the Design and Access Statement refers to various rooms but there is no accompanying floor plan to explain the layout. Given the size of the plot, it would also be useful to know if it has smallholding status, as this would have further planning implications. In section 22 of the application form, it is stated that the site cannot be seen from elsewhere when in fact it can. However, this visibility may not be sufficient for the purposes of a site visit and therefore renders the question of visibility ambiguous.

Whilst this application is not within the Parish, it is situated right on the boundary. It was agreed that there was no objection to this application, although a lack of detail was noted, particularly in the justification of the proposal. It was also agreed to note and support the comments made by Island Roads and the conclusion regarding the limitations as to the usage of the proposed building.

IWC Cllr Ellis reported that she had been in touch with the Chairman of the IW Council Planning Committee, IWC Cllr Lilley, to request that the application of a glamping site at Blackwater be decided by the Planning Committee rather than an officer decision, which is likely to be approval with conditions. It was agreed that this was not satisfactory and a letter will be sent to IWC Cllr Lilley to request that the decision not to go to the Planning Committee be reconsidered.

008/22 Budget 2022-23

New items were added to the Budget to take plans for the forthcoming year into account. Some figures were unavailable at the time of the meeting but the Clerk will produce a final draft for the next meeting with the aim of not increasing the precept.

009/22 Calendar of Meetings 2022/23

The calendar of meetings for 2022/232 was agreed. It was noted that Easter Monday 2023 falls on the second Monday in April and so it was agreed to hold the meeting a week earlier on April 3rd 2023.

010/22 Grounds Maintenance contract

The grounds' maintenance was agreed and will go out to tender early in February.

011/22 Defibrillators

The Chairman contacted the NHS trust regarding defibrillators and the key issues are the cost of £1560 including an external cabinet and the requirement for a power to allow heating in cold weather.

After some discussion, it was agreed to budget for one defibrillator next year, with the Methodist Chapel most likely to be the best location. It was agreed that a location in Merstone should also be a consideration but a power supply might be a problem. There are possible solutions, which will be investigated, as will grant funding. See also the Chairman's Report regarding the *Fighting Cocks*. The expenditure was proposed by Cllr Healy, seconded by Cllr Roberts and agreed unanimously.

- 012/22 Burial fees**
It was agreed to defer a decision on burial fees until March so that the costs of the new grounds' maintenance contract could be taken into consideration.
- 013/22 Litter bins**
It was agreed to defer this item until the Clerk has received information on any possible insurance liabilities.
- 014/22 Balsam removal**
A request has been received from Gift to Nature for financial help for the project to remove Himalayan Balsam (deemed to be a problem weed) from the banks of the eastern Yar and Merstone Stream. This is an ongoing project that is working downstream from the river's source and has now reached Arreton. It was agreed to give a one-off grant of £250.00 to the project.
- 015/22 Donation**
Requests for donations have been received from Citizens Advice IW and Cowes Men's Sheds. It was agreed to give £100 to Citizens Advice IW but not to donate to Cowes Men's Sheds.
- 016/22 Data protection policies**
The Data Protection Policy, the Data Retention and Disposal Policy, Retention of Documents Appendix A and the Privacy Notice were reviewed and agreed.
- 017/22 Parish Plan**
The Chairman will contact IWALC to see if there is any training or advice available on producing Parish Plans. It was suggested that an article be included in the next Newsletter.
- 018/22 Phone and internet outage**
Residents in the Horringford area and the eastern end of Arreton village lost internet and land line connections when the BT box at Horringford was totally obliterated by a car in mid-December. To date, most residents have been re-connected and there are no issues that the Parish Council needs to take up with BT.
- 019/22 To note the date of the next meeting, 14th February 2022**
Cllr Cooper offered his apologies in advance.
- 020/22 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**
i) A Beaver Recovery Project Officer has been appointed by the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust. It was agreed to make contact to request a meeting.
ii) Cllr Gurney-Champion noted that some communities organise consortiums to buy fuel oil in bulk, possibly including Chale and Chillerton on the Island. It was suggested that an article be included in the next Newsletter to see how many residents do rely on oil for heating.
iii) the Clerk was asked to resurrect the idea of extending the left-hand lane of Downend Road at Arreton Cross.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.57pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

13th January 2022

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..... Chairman

..... Date