

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 14th February 2022** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Calloway, Healy, Kimber, Orchard and Roberts
In attendance: Sheila Caws (Clerk)

021/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Cooper (holiday), Cllr Verey (family commitment) and IWC Cllr Ellis (prior engagement)

Cllr Calloway left the meeting at 7.06pm.

022/22 Questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

023/22 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (10th January 2022)

The minutes of the meeting held on January 10th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Roberts.

024/22 To receive regular reports

- (a) Isle of Wight Councillor – following on from the quiet of the Christmas period, January kept IWC Cllr Ellis busy with ward work, particularly around planning enforcement and road safety issues, and she has attended meetings and training sessions both at County Hall and on-line, including Policy and Scrutiny for Neighbourhoods and Regeneration, Corporate Scrutiny and Cabinet, Fly tip and litter task and finish group – and a very interesting training session on counter terrorism!

Unfortunately, she was admitted to hospital on the 14th January where she stayed for one week, followed by a week's recovery at home.

The Officer's report following the consultation on the future of Chillerton and Rookley school was published, ahead of Cabinet meeting on 10th February when a decision on the outcome was deferred - whilst any potential alternative options are welcome and should be explored, her principal and immediate concern remains in relation to the ongoing uncertainty that these continued postponements are causing, and she sincerely hopes that this latest delay will lead to a decision one way or other in the very near future.

On speeding / traffic management issues – there was discussion at the Neighbourhoods and Regeneration Policy and Scrutiny meeting of the speed limit review (Island wide speed survey) which is currently being undertaken and the desperate need for enforcement of speed limits. IWC Cllr Ellis has asked if the IWC would consider a social media campaign around education on road safety and Cllr Phil Jordan said it was something he thought we could take forward. Both councillors and IW MP Bob Seely have been lobbying Donna Jones, PCC, for a dedicated Road Police Unit to be reinstated on the Island, which has the highest rate of accidents and deaths on roads, outside of London, in the country. The need for a dedicated unit cannot be stressed highly enough. IWC Cllr Ellis attended a briefing meeting on Saturday 29th Jan, at which Donna Jones PCC was present and, when asked, Ms Jones confirmed that she accepted the need for a dedicated RPU and is working hard to bring this to the Island as soon as possible.

IWC Cllr Ellis had a meeting on Monday (7th Feb) with James Brewer, Senior Planning Officer, to discuss the findings of the flood surveys, the resulting reports, which are almost completed, and a separate project with the Environment Agency that will aim to provide grant funding for flood resilience measures for properties not covered by the reports and any of the recommendations within them. Also discussed was the housing needs survey, which is currently underway and will be published in the first half of 2022 in support of the next version of the Island Planning Strategy. Mr Brewer was asked about Arreton's wish to carry out its own housing needs survey and he suggested it would be useful for this to go ahead as the last one was carried out in 2014 but suggested waiting six months until the IPS had been published.

IWC Cllr Ellis has spoken with Cllr Jonathan Bacon about RoW and how their management policy fits in with the need to be more sensitive to biodiversity within the network and he was very keen to take this forward. A meeting is being scheduled with himself, Natasha Dix (Strategic Manager - Contracts, Waste and Environment) to discuss Rights of Ways policy on the mowing of footpaths / bridleways, particularly in regard to the Climate and Environment Strategy, and the undertaking to consider the effect of all Council decisions on the Biosphere. She will report back when this meeting has taken place. She has also secured a commitment from Cllr Bacon to go forward with an 'Any bin will do' public education/media campaign to remind the public that they can put dog poo in any bin and a joint press release has been issued on this.

IWC Cllr Ellis had a meeting with a senior Planning Enforcement Officer to discuss the many ongoing issues at Broadfields Farm and is pleased to report that a number of cases are being opened and some action should finally be taken over the many breaches of conditions which have taken place on this site.

IWC Cllr Ellis has had meetings with a number of residents to discuss planning issues, including a visit to the site of the Hale Common Farm Shop and Restaurant to talk about delays with their access road. It is a rather impressive building, and I look forward to seeing it finished and open.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – the pest control contractor visited Gore Cemetery at the end of January and reported that no rabbits were sighted. It was agreed that he be requested to make a further visit in March.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – the hole in the cycletrack between Merstone and Herringford has been repaired.

The Chairman will check footpath A21 for reported litter before the next meeting.

There has been another serious road accident in the village. This one, involving a motorcycle, occurred outside the *White Lion* on January 26th.

- (d) IWALC/Chairman – IWALC met on Zoom on January 27th. The Chairman noted the following points of interest.
 - Membership invoices are being sent out on Friday 28 January.
 - The cost of attending IWALC training courses for non-IWALC councils is to increase from £50 to £75/head – the first increase for 12 years. There is no direct impact on Arreton.
 - To date 46 people have signed up to attend the up-coming Jackie Weaver Zoom meeting/talk
 - Some Clerks are not forwarding IWALC information emails to their councillors – not an issue for Arreton.
 - IWALC will be having monthly meetings with the Isle of Wight Council on the second Thursday of each month – the first at 12:30pm
 - Planning is clearly a major concern and will be considered further.
 - The IW Council Leader attended and said that the housing situation has deteriorated due to Covid and she described it as 'dire'. Apparently there has been a significant influx of people to the island and the problem has been exacerbated by private renters moving out of the market.
 - Speeding - strong feeling that the police are not only failing to enforce speed limits but more seriously are not interested. (There was apparently, if heard correctly, a blitz last weekend with a unit over from the mainland and around 50 tickets issued.) It was agreed that IWALC would write to the Police Commissioner.
 - There was a meeting arranged by the Boundary Commission at the Marriott Hotel in Portsmouth on the subject of the proposed changes to parliamentary constituency boundaries.

Subsequent to the meeting a visit to Sandown sewage treatment works has been arranged for March 2nd. The Clerk sent details round on 31 Jan

Chairman – the Chairman spoke to the manager at the *Fighting Cocks*, to advise him that the PC had decided it would not promote a CPR kit at the pub as there was one very nearby at the Newchurch sports field. The pub is about to start fundraising for a CPR and was advised that he was welcome to approach the PC for a contribution but could not predict if it would be approved.

The Chairman spoke with Tina Cooper of Arreton Cricket Club about the possibility of a joint PC/CC event/picnic on the Sunday of the Queen's Jubilee weekend. She was receptive to this and the CC at its AGM last week agreed to establish a group to organise an event. Hopefully we can nominate representative(s) from the PC to work on this. This is an agenda item.

The Chairman has e-mailed IWALC to suggest that there be some training/advice on the preparation of Parish Plans. At the time of writing, no response has been received.

Along with most other councillors, the Chairman attended the briefing given by Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife trust on the possible introduction of beavers on the Eastern Yar.

(e) Meetings reports

i) a meeting was arranged with the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust to discuss the possible introduction of beavers into the Eastern Yar. The Clerk will produce a report.

ii) Cllr Roberts attended a meeting of the South West Parishes Health and Well-being Forum in January. One of the speakers was Andy Savage from Breathe Easy, a local charity that works with the British Lung Foundation to support those with respiratory conditions. The second speaker was Ian Boyd, who manages the Community Resilience Project on behalf of Community Action IW. A copy of the minutes from the meeting are attached to these minutes for information.

(f) Tree Working Party – the trees will be planted by William Hall as soon as possible. There are now 12 trees instead of six due to an error on the part of the supplying nursery.

(g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk contacted the IW Council's Parking Officer regarding the problems with the lay-by at the Methodist Church. The advice received is that if the Parish Council have identified a Traffic/Parking issue, it should be sent to Island Roads for their Road Safety Engineer to assess and make any recommendations and then the Council's Contract Management Team would draft a Traffic Regulation Order for consultation. One option could be a time limit of, say, two hours.

The tender for the grounds' maintenance contract has been advertised in the *IW County Press* and on the Parish website. The closing date is March 7th.

Other matters: the planning applications for the tractor shed at Blackwater and the electricity substation at Hale Common have both been approved. However, the summerhouse at Little Budbridge has been refused, one of the reasons being it would be an "incongruous addition".

A visit to the Waste Water Treatment Works at Sandown has been arranged by IWALC for March 2nd. Several members have already signed up.

Training: Cllr Roberts will attend the 'Introduction to Planning' session in March, organised by IWALC.

025/22 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 041/22 – Cllr Orchard declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for Lilly-Mill Cottage. One request was received for an item to be raised under 041/22

026/22 Finance

The finance report for January was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £5,649.07 at the end of January. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salaries etc.)	£550.52
Citizens Advice IW (donation)	£100.00
Wight Tactical (pest control)	£30.00
Newsquest Media Group (newspaper advert)	£189.96
Budbridge Manor Nurseries (cherry trees)	£283.90

It was noted that the Newsquest payment had to be made in advance.

027/22 Planning and appeals

Reference	22/00049/HOU
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Thu 13 Jan 2022
Address	Arreton Manor Farmhouse Arreton Street Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AA
Proposal	Demolition of conservatory; proposed single storey rear extension
Reference	22/00050/HOU
Alternative Reference	PP-10542482
Application Received	Thu 13 Jan 2022
Address	Lilly-Mill Cottage Blackwater Hollow Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3BJ
Proposal	Proposed single storey glass roof on side elevation

With regard to the application at Arreton Manor Farmhouse, it was agreed that to support this application as the new extension was an improvement on the existing structure.

With regard to the application at Lilly-Mill Cottage, it was agreed that there was no objection to this application. Whilst it is not within the remit of a planning application, it was noted that there is an existing covenant on this site relating to the land on which the proposed structure would be built.

028/22 Budget 2022-23

The budget for 2022-23 was agreed and the precept set at £10,400, with no increase on last year.

029/22 Internal Auditor

It was agreed to appoint Mr Gareth Hughes as the internal auditor for the 2021-22 accounts.

030/22 Asset Register and insurance valuation

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

031/22 Events

The Chairman has been in touch with Arreton Cricket Club (see item 024/22d) and it was agreed to liaise with them with regard to an event to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Cllr Roberts suggested that she and Cllr Calloway represent the Parish Council. In the absence of Cllr Calloway, it was not possible to finalise this.

The Chairman, Cllr Kimber, left the meeting at 8.02pm. In the absence of the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Calloway, Cllr Orchard took the chair.

032/22 Trees

In the absence of Cllr Calloway, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

033/22 Gore Cemetery

Cllr Calloway obtained a quote for replacing the bench at Gore Cemetery. However, it was not itemised and she has requested that one be provided. It was agreed to obtain further quotes. It was agreed to accept a quote from Brighstone Landscaping to remove two dead trees from the eastern hedge in Gore at a cost of £50 +VAT.

034/22 Signs at the Fighting Cocks crossroads.

In the absence of Cllrs Calloway and Cooper, it was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

035/22 Litter bins

It was agreed to write to the owners of Blackwater Mill Residential Home to ask if they would be willing to allow a member of their grounds staff to empty a litter bin if one were to be provided near the entrance to the property.

036/22 Litter and dog waste on footpaths

Quantities of litter have been seen on footpath A21 again. The last time this happened, it was cleared up fairly quickly. The Chairman has already agreed to walk the path again to see if the problem is persisting.

A letter was received from a resident regarding the dropping of dog waste bags in the vicinity of their house. Without making any commitment, the Clerk was requested to write to ask if a dog bin would help to alleviate the problem.

037/22 Donations

Requests for donations were received from the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival and the Wave Project IW. Donations have been given to the Festival in the past and last year's was returned as it found not to be needed due to COVID restrictions. Cllr Roberts endorsed the Wave Project and it was agreed to give £50 to both organisations.

038/22 Parish Plan

There was nothing further to report on the proposed Parish Plan.

039/22 April meeting

The Clerk will be absent on April 11th and so it was agreed to move the meeting to April 4th.

040/22 To note the date of the next meeting, 14th March 2022

041/22 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

A flyer for the newsletter campaign needs to be finalised as soon as possible.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.20pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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18th February 2022

..... Chairman

..... Date