

**ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on-line on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at 7 pm

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**Present:** Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Dodson, Healy, Orchard, Roberts and Verey

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell, two residents and the Clerk

Before the meeting commenced, a minute’s silence was held in memory of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh who died on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from Cllr Cooper

**2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 08/04/2018**

The minutes were agreed and will be signed at a later date. It was noted that no meeting was held in 2020 owing to the restrictions that were in place due to the COVID 19 pandemic.

**3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE BUSINESS OF ARRETON PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2019/2021.**

The Chairman presented his annual report, which is appended to these minutes (Appendix I)

**4. REPORT FROM IW COUNCILLOR CLARE MOSDELL**

IWC Cllr Mosdell sent her report which is appended to these minutes (Appendix II)

**5. POLICE REPORT**

There was no report from the Police

**6. REPORT FROM ARRETON TRUST**

The Arreton Trust has now been wound up and any remaining funds were donated to the IW Foodbank.

**7. OPEN FORUM**

Cllr Calloway requested that the Arreton School Trust be looked into.

The meeting closed at 19.25

**Chairman** .....

**Date** .....

## **Appendix I: Report of the Chairman of Arreton Parish Council**

This report covers two years as, due to COVID 19 restrictions, no Annual Parish Meeting was held in 2020.

2019 started on a sad note with our longstanding member and recent Chairman, Councillor (Mick) Thirkettle resigning on health grounds. Sadly, he passed away some three months later. We also bid farewell in happier circumstances to Councillor Goodchild and welcomed Councillors Dodson and Roberts who were elected in May 2019. I believe that we have an enthusiastic and willing team and I can only regret that circumstances have conspired to limit our achievements.

Clearly the past year or so has been very quiet, with our monthly meetings being held mainly on-line using Zoom. In 2019 normal meetings were held.

In 2019, 11 regular meetings were held together with three additional meetings to discuss planning applications. In 2020, 11 regular meetings were held together with an additional meeting to discuss planning applications. One meeting was held for which there were insufficient attendees for it to be quorate and the meeting was re-scheduled. Covid restrictions meant that meetings from March onwards could not be held in the Community Centre and were held either on-line or a mix of on-line and in Haseley Manor Barn – with our thanks to Councillor Roberts for organising them and making sure the arrangements complied with COVID regulations.

In early January 2019, the PC began planning for an electronic newsletter. Later in the year a flier was distributed to all properties in the parish seeking email addresses and consents to be included on the distribution list for the email. Of the 395 properties in the parish, approximately 60 signed up for the newsletter. The first newsletter went out in February 2020, produced by the Clerk. More recently the newsletter has been split into two, one covering largely generic material issued by the IW Council and others and a more focussed newsletter covering items specific to the Parish. Feedback has been favourable; it would be good to increase circulation and I hope we can do this in 2021.

Clearly COVID has been an over-reaching concern in 2020. The PC stepped up to recruit volunteers to assist any residents in lockdown who needed support with shopping or prescriptions, co-ordinated by Councillor Dodson. In practice only a handful of requests were received but we were very pleased that people were willing to step in if necessary and our thanks go to those who volunteered.

The Council regularly considers and comments on planning applications. Normally these are non-controversial and attract little attention. However, the UKOG application to drill an exploratory oil well in the Parish stirred a lot of interest and objections. The members of the Parish Council considered this at two meetings and objected for a variety of reasons. We await the decision of IW Council on this. We considered 16 applications in 2019 and 15 in 2020, most of which were non-controversial. We successfully objected to a proposal to construct glamping pods on a site adjacent to Newclose Cricket Ground. We supported a proposal to build a residence on Sandy Lane, Blackwater; the IW council turned down the application but the decision was overturned on appeal.

An ongoing problem at Gore Cemetery has been the presence and activities of rabbits. The boundary of the cemetery was wired some years ago but the wiring was in poor condition and the PC advertised for tenders to install new fencing. This was installed in early 2020 but at the time of writing there are still issues and activities are ongoing to address this. Other expenditure has been on grounds maintenance at St George's Churchyard and Gore and some work to maintain and make safe gravestones, some of which at St Georges are of historical importance. Some time ago, three tombs in the Churchyard were noted as dangerous but a Faculty was required from the Diocese in order to repair them. This has now been obtained by the Parochial Church Council and work should commence in the near future.

Financially the Parish has been prudent; our expenditure is largely on tendered maintenance works and the Clerk's salary. The Parish Council has made small donations to a number of local charities, notably Gift to Nature for their work at Merstone Station. In 2020 we also paid for refreshments provided after

the unveiling of the memorial to the World War 2 Battle of Britain pilot who was shot down over the village. A donation was made to the Battle of Britain Historical Society towards costs, as they provided the inscribed stone and made all the necessary arrangements.

Although not directly involved we took a close interest in the issue of the problems caused by parents and others picking up, and to a lesser extent dropping off, children from St Georges School. This is not yet fully resolved and our involvement is as an interested party. As most of the problem is caused by non-parishioners it seems unlikely that we would agree to fund any investment needed to address the problem.

Members of the Parish Council keep an eye on the Rights of Way that run through the Parish and liaise with the Rights of Way Department to resolve any issues that arise. In 2020, these included the installation of safety railings near to Haseley Manor and also Redway Farm, due to erosion to the banks of the River Yar. Some patches of tarmac have been replaced but much remains to be made good. This latter is the responsibility of Island Roads.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my fellow councillors for their time and effort and also the Clerk, Sheila Caws, and Pat Phillips, our indefatigable Burial Registrar. Elections are due next month and Cllr Dodson is standing down due to work commitments. I hope that he will be able to return to the Parish Council in the future.

We now look forward to 2021 and wonder what it will bring.

Martin Kimber

Chairman, Arreton Parish Council

## **Appendix II: Report of IWC Cllr Clare Mosdell**

Owing to boundary changes, I will not be your ward councillor next year as Arreton will no longer be paired with Newchurch but will be part of the new Central Rural ward with Chillerton and Gatcombe, Godshill and Rookley. I will be standing for the new ward of Newchurch, Havenstreet and Ashe. Due to these forthcoming elections, the IW Council is now in a period of purdah and so I will confine my report to items that have not yet been resolved.

One such issue is the question of queues caused by the traffic lights at Downend and also speeding through Merstone, although both matters are raised regularly. With regard to planning applications, an application for a glamping site has been resisted successfully so far. The proposed oil exploration well is a tricky issue and one that will be resolved by the IW Council Planning Committee but not until after the elections.

The problems caused by the COVID 19 pandemic made life very difficult for some but there was a good community response all over the Island.

Arreton Parish Council have been lovely to work with and have been very lucky with their Chairmen.

Clare Mosdell  
IWC Ward Councillor – Arreton and Newchurch