

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 4th April 2022** at **7.30pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

064/22 Apologies for Absence

IWC Cllr Ellis (unwell)

065/22 Questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

066/22 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (14th March 2022)

With one amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on March 14th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Roberts.

067/22 To receive regular reports

- (a) Isle of Wight Councillor – in the absence of IWC Cllr Ellis, there was no report.

PCSO Keefe was invited to make a report. He said that travellers had been in the area, knocking on doors and offering to clean gutters or repair roof tiles. On scams in general, he said that they were usually referred to Trading Standards, who have better powers than the Police. However, car insurance and MOT matters are still dealt with by the Police.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – Cllr Orchard noted that Brighstone Landscaping have been to cut the grass in the Cemetery.

Cllr Verey asked that it be noted that the shed in the Cemetery is in need of maintenance, particularly the bargeboards.

The Clerk was asked if the repaired tombs in the Churchyard had been uncovered yet?
The Clerk will check and e-mail GJ Banks if necessary.

- (c) Cllr Orchard reported that ramps had been added at either end of the new bridge on footpath A39 in Blackwater. Grit had also been laid on the path, presumably to help alleviate problems with mud.

The Chairman reported that the lid was missing from the dog bin at Horryngford. The Clerk will contact Island Roads as the bin is not the responsibility of the Parish Council. With regard to dog bins and problems with dog mess in the Churchyard (see the Clerk's Report), the Clerk was requested to ask if the bin near the *White Lion* car park was well-used or could it be better-placed elsewhere? Also, would a dog bin be useful in Chapel Lane?

Cllr Cooper asked if anything could be done about the brambles at Arreton Cross as it was now impossible to get down to the grassy area from the car park.

Regarding the clearance of the bank in Horryngford, the Clerk contacted Island Roads, who admitted that the tractor driver had made a mistake and offered to replant the area. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

The Clerk was requested to ask the Island Roads District Steward to a meeting.

Cllr Gurney-Champion arrived at 7.49pm.

- (d) IWALC/Chairman – unfortunately no one attended the last IWALC meeting but the Chairman said that there was nothing too significant to report. IWALC have arranged a training session relating to Code of Conduct training, details of which have been circulated by the Clerk.

Chairman – The Chairman said that it was a short month due to this meeting being a week earlier than usual and apart from preparing draft letters relating to litter on footpath A21

and flooding of the road at Newclose he seems to have done very little. He took some photographs of where the Yar is beginning to erode into the cycle track near to Stickworth Hall but on reflection felt that there was little point in writing to Island Roads about them and it would be better to raise the issue with the District Steward if he does attend a Parish Council meeting.

It looks likely that the Chairman will be moving down to Bristol in the autumn (to be nearer to family) and will therefore be stepping down as Chairman, hopefully in May.

(e) Meetings reports

i) Cllr Verey attended the Environment and Sustainability Forum in February. Subjects discussed included the renewed use of glyphosate as a weedkiller by Island Roads, the Transport Hub, carbon impact, e-cargo bikes and energy self-sufficiency for the Island. Cllr Verey requested an update on older Tree Preservation Orders, particularly in relation to diseases of elm and ash trees. This will be covered at a future date.

A talk was given by Rob Sauven, the interim Chairman of the Mission Zero Hub who reported that he is on a 6-month sabbatical bringing the Mission Zero hubs together. The land-use segment hub is now ready, they have agreed their remit and agreed actions. The land-use segment has the largest carbon footprint. They have enlisted Government departments: Natural England, Environment Agency, and the AONB plus the non-Government organisations the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust, the National Trust, Country Landowners Association and the National Farmers Union. They have work in progress with Forestry England, the RSPB and Southern Water. This Hub has a balance of people for and against beaver introduction. The Hub will be looking at land applications within the Eastern Yar Valley. The Hub will also be looking at the landscape as a "Recovery Vehicle".

DEFRA is working towards Environmental Land Management Schemes (ELMS)

The principle of the Hub is to put experts together and work on decisions of strategy using the "Natural Capital" of the landscape to not only provide food but also be sustainably managing the environment. It means decisions on how and where the money comes from to achieve this balance.

ii) Cllr Calloway attended the latest Zoom meeting with Bob Seely MP. Topics covered included the planning application at Norris Castle, Climate change, the Code of Conduct and standards in public life and the new parliamentary areas proposed for the IW. Cllr Gurney-Champion also attended.

iii) Cllr Gurney-Champion attended a meeting on the latest Housing Strategy organised by the IW Council Planning department. The number of new-build houses has been adjusted down slightly to 479 a year, equating to 7,185 over 15 years. The IW Council is very keen for town and parish councils to undertake a Housing Needs Survey and can offer advice.

It is almost certain that owners wishing to convert houses to holiday lets e.g. Airbnb, will require planning permission in the future and there is also the question of business rates for premises let for more than 134 days pa.

(f) Tree Working Party – nothing to report.

(g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has contacted Ian Boyd from Arc Consulting and invited him to speak on resilience at our June meeting.

The Clerk has written to William Hall to thank him for his help in planting the trees in the Churchyard and Cemetery.

All other matters are agenda items.

Other matters: the planning application for a new house at 4 Birchmore Cottages, Blackwater, has been approved.

The Clerk received a communication from CCLA, who hold the investment fund for the Arreton School Trust or the South Arreton Rookley Educational Foundation, to give it its correct title. They had been in touch with the Vicar, who was under the impression that

the Church was not responsible for the Trust and so the Parish Council was contacted to see if we knew anything about it. The Clerk replied to say that the Church is responsible for the Trust but that the PC were instrumental in trying to re-activate it – making it clear that we were not taking over. Cllrs Roberts and Calloway, along with the Clerk, have recently met with the Vicar and one of the Churchwardens to see if any progress can be made. Financial details have subsequently been found by the Churchwarden and passed to the Vicar.

Note: The Clerk was asked to find out how much money is involved.

Most of the Newsletter flyers have been distributed and there has been a good response with 35 new names being added to the list so far. This means that the Newsletter is now sent to approximately a quarter of the households in the Parish.

There was a problem with gaining access to the website management page this morning but the error has been fixed by Foundation Multimedia.

Training: Cllr Roberts did not attend IWALC's training session on planning as it had to be re-arranged with a different presenter, who was not a town planner. Potential attendees were given the option of not going, which Cllr Roberts opted to accept.

068/22 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 080/22 – There were no declarations of interest.

069/22 Finance

The finance report for March was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £6,165.52 at the end of March. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salaries etc.)	£640.10
IWALC (subscription)	£192.50
Brightstone Landscaping Ltd (grounds maint.)	£13.80
Ringway Island Roads (dog bins)	£572.40
Wight Tactical (pest control)	£30.00

070/22 Planning and appeals

None were received.

071/22 Trees

Cllr Gurney-Champion has yet to visit the site. It was agreed that the Clerk should write a holding response to the resident who has offered the use of the land and the item be deferred to the next meeting.

072/22 Gore Cemetery

It was agreed to accept an estimate from Mr DA Betteridge to replace the seat in Gore Cemetery along with associated ground works.

073/22 Signs at the Fighting Cocks crossroads

It had been agreed at the previous meeting to take no further action regarding the current advertising signs at the Fighting Cocks crossroads but to monitor the possible appearance of further signs.

074/22 Insurance

Three quotes have been received but the Clerk has not yet had an opportunity to evaluate them. A decision will be taken at the next meeting.

075/22 Events

Cllrs Calloway and Roberts have met with members of Arreton Cricket Club. The Cricket Club are intending to arrange a 5km walk from the Club, to be followed by a picnic on-site. The walk will be limited to 50 and those completing the walk will be given a commemorative badge. It is understood that the Cricket Club have put money aside for the badges and it was agreed to offer £100 towards the cost of them.

The members of St George’s Church would also like to participate in the Jubilee weekend and it has been agreed that a tea party will be held in the Community Hall to be organised by Cllrs Calloway and Roberts with help from St George’s Church, the Methodist Chapel and other councillors.

It was suggested that a cherry tree be planted at the Community Hall. The Committee will consider the idea.

076/22 Litter bins

Given the noticeable increase in litter around the bus stop outside Blackwater Mill Residential Home, the Clerk will write to the owners to ask if they would be prepared to empty a bin if one were to be installed near the bus stop.

077/22 Beaver Project

The Clerk was requested to ask the Project Manager if there were any plans to consult with the neighbouring parishes that surround the proposed release site. The Clerk was also requested to bring the number of TPOs in the area to the attention of the Project Manager.

078/22 Parish Plan

Following on from Cllr Gurney-Champion’s meeting report, the Clerk was requested to write to the IW Council to ask what help is available regarding Housing Needs Surveys and also if any help is available regarding the production of a Parish Plan.

079/22 To note the date of the next meeting, 9th May 2022

Please note that this is the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

080/22 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Defibrillators – the Clerk was requested to liaise with the Secretary of the Methodist Chapel. The Community Hall Committee will also investigate provision. Cllr Gurney-Champion mentioned a charity based on the IW that may be able to provide help and/or advice. The Clerk will investigate.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.15pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

19th April 2022

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..... Chairman

..... Date