

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

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

042/22 Apologies for Absence

None received.

043/22 Questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

044/22 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (14th February 2022)

The minutes of the meeting held on February 14th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Roberts.

024/22 To receive regular reports

- (a) Isle of Wight Councillor – in the absence of IWC Cllr Ellis, there was no report.
- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – Brighstone Landscaping has removed the two dead trees from the eastern hedge and also removed a quantity of ivy from another tree in the same hedge.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – the Chairman reported that there is erosion of the riverbank along the cycletrack between Merstone and Stickworth. He will take some pictures so that the matter can be reported.

Cllr Orchard reported that the bridge had been replaced on footpath A39 between the cycletrack at Blackwater and Stone Farm. It has been widened to take wheelchairs but there is still a step up at either end. The Clerk will contact Rights of Way to ask if this needs attention or if work is still in progress.

Cllr Cooper asked if there had been any news on the 'lost' footpath up to St George's Down, which was being investigated by the Local Access Forum as part of the Rights of Way: Restoring the Record project. The answer was none so far.

Cllr Cooper also asked if there was any further progress on the problems with traffic queueing at the Downend traffic lights. The answer was again negative and a brief discussion ensued on possible solutions. It was suggested that the District Steward be invited to discuss the problem, which the Clerk will arrange. It was also suggested that the air pollution in the area be measured, owing to the amount of stationary traffic.

Cllr Gurney-Champion commented on recent flooding in the road adjacent to the entrance to West Standen. It is of particular danger to cyclists and also to oncoming drivers, who can be temporarily unsighted due to the amount of water thrown up, especially by lorries. This is in addition to the habitual flooding opposite the entrance to Newclose. The Chairman will draft a letter to Island Roads.

The Clerk has received an e-mail from residents in Horringford concerning the clearing of a bank between Challen Way and Beresford. The bank was planted with shrubs some years' ago when the pavement was extended and the Parish Council contributed towards the costs. The bank has been completely cleared and is now a scene of devastation, made worse by the fact that the rubbish has not been completely cleared away. It is not known whether this was the work of an Island Roads team or contractors. It was suggested that the District Steward be contacted.

The question of parking in the Methodist Chapel lay-by was discussed again and it was agreed that signage should be requested.

It was noted that the dog bin at Horringford was overflowing.

- (d) IWALC/Chairman – Cllr Roberts attended the IWALC special topic forum on Housing on February 24th 2022. See under meetings reports.

IWALC arranged a visit to Sandown sewage treatment works on 4th March. The Chairman and Cllrs Calloway and Roberts attended, together with around 15 other councillors from across the Island. The key message he took from the visit was that there is some spare capacity at the plant. It was said that it was planned to construct an additional storm tank (where flow in excess of the capacity of the works is stored and partially treated). When constructed this will reduce the frequency and quantities of partially treated sewage discharged.

IWALC have started to take an interest in Parish planning and the Chairman expects them to initiate some form of training.

Chairman – it has been a very quiet month again.

Together with the Clerk and Cllrs Calloway and Verey, the Chairman inspected the site being offered for a Jubilee tree planting – this is an agenda item.

The chairman spoke with Tina Cooper of Arreton Cricket Club and told her that Cllrs Roberts and Calloway would liaise with the cricket club regarding the planned Queen's Jubilee event. Again, this is an agenda item.

The Chairman visited Sandown Waste Water Treatment Works, as noted earlier.

The Chairman advised that he will not be present at the April meeting, due to family commitments in half term and he apologised for this.

(e) Meetings reports

i) Cllr Calloway attended the regular Zoom meeting with Bob Seely MP, who is going to consult with the relevant partners concerning various traffic issues on the Island. Reference was also made to the £1million pounds recently received by the IW Council as part of the Government's Levelling-up project.

ii) Cllr Roberts attended the South Wight Parishes Health and Well-being Forum on February 23rd, where a talk was given by Darren Cattell - Chief Executive of IOW NHS Trust. He has been in post since December, when the previous occupant left, having been her deputy for the last five years. A significant number of patients coming in for treatment are found to have Covid and so it is a challenge to keep them separate from other patients. At least 10% of staff appointments are vacant but staff have been asked to step up and perhaps change roles e.g. podiatrists trained to deal with lower limb care and treat ulcers. Many others have answered the call. The CEO himself was a porter on New Year's Eve. Staff are suffering from burn out and so are being cared for with yoga sessions and other such options.

The Trust is now trying to recruit quality staff to improve the whole standard in the hospital. For example, a recruitment drive is being organised internationally for nurses. Also, apprenticeships are being set up to relieve staffing shortages.

CQC rating is now "good" but now the aim is for "excellent".

A staff survey had a 65% response rate, which is very high and that is because staff felt that they would be listened to, so it was worth replying.

There now are 389 patients waiting a year for treatment, whereas 1100 were waiting over a year and so great progress has been made. Staff are coming from mainland to help the eye department and are undertaking cataract operations at weekends for example.

The Trust has acquired £48million for equipment which they are carefully and gradually using.

iii) Cllr Roberts attended the recent IWALC topic meeting on affordable housing. The IW Council want all town and parish councils to look around for derelict properties of any sort and to tell Jamie Benchley, the IW Council Housing Needs Manager.

There are currently 2,500 households on Council Housing Register and, in an ideal world, the IWC would prefer to build three or four houses in a village rather than large developments. There are 35 families in emergency accommodation, the highest number for a long time. Rough sleepers were 24 about a year ago, and now only two and so good progress has been made.

As a means to alleviate housing problems, apart from Sovereign Housing and Southern Housing (large housing associations and not locally focussed), the IWC is working to build affordable homes with

- i) Vectis Housing – independently run housing association, only working on the Island and so can dictate who gets their houses. The Branstone development is an example of a Vectis development.
- ii) Community-led Housing Manager IWC - James Prickett where local people get together to build, rent or steward houses for very local people. They focus on community self-build, co-housing, community land trusts, housing cooperatives.
- iii) Capture Homes, Director Peter Griffiths– a private housing association on the Island. Director used to work for the IWC in housing. They are still in development but their aim is to build affordable housing.

An interesting meeting with the feeling the council really are dedicated to solving the affordable housing needs on the Island over a five-year time-scale. The MP is to be asked to put pressure on the Government to prevent Housing Association tenants being given the right to buy and then sell on in five years or so.

- (f) Tree Working Party – the cherry trees have been planted in Gore Cemetery and the Churchyard and the Clerk will write to William Hall to thank him for doing the work.
- (g) Clerk’s report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk contacted the Methodist Church with regard to the advice received from the IW Council’s Parking Officer re the parking problems in the lay-by. Having had a white line painted in front of the access gates, there are no plans at present to proceed any further.

All other matters are agenda items.

Other matters: the planning applications for the extension at Arreton Manor Farm, the lean-to at Lilly-Mill Cottage and the four houses between Challen Way and Beresford have all been approved.

A visit to the Waste Water Treatment Works at Sandown that was arranged by IWALC on March 2nd took place.

The Clerk is in the process of organising a visit to the anaerobic digester site.

The Clerk has printed the newsletter flyers ready for distribution.

046/22 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 063/22 – Cllr Orchard Kimber declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for The Blandings. Two requests were received for items to be raised under 063/22

047/22 Finance

The finance report for February was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £6,627.12 at the end of February, an increase as the IW Council burial precept and the VAT repayment have both been received. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs	£421.60
IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival (donation)	£50
The Wave Project (donation)	£50
Brighstone Landscaping Ltd (grounds maint.)	£60.00

048/22 Planning and appeals

Reference	22/00304/HOU
Alternative Reference	PP-11003122

Application Received	Thu 17 Feb 2022
Address	The Blandings Hale Common Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Proposal	Proposed home office (revised scheme)

It was agreed that there was no objection to this application.

049/22 Asset Register and insurance valuation

The Asset Register and insurance valuations were reviewed and agreed.

050/22 Trees

A resident of Merstone has offered a plot of land on which to plant trees, possibly as part of the Queen's Green Canopy project. The Chairman, Cllrs Calloway and Verey and the Clerk met with the resident to view the area. After a discussion as to the best way to proceed, it was agreed to defer a decision until the next meeting.

051/22 Gore Cemetery

Regarding quotes for a replacement bench at Gore Cemetery, it was agreed to defer the item whilst waiting for clarification on the quotes.

052/22 Signs at the Fighting Cocks crossroads

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

053/22 Grounds maintenance

It was agreed to accept the tender from Brighstone Landscaping Ltd for a three-year contract, commencing on April 1st 2022.

054/22 Burial fees

It was agreed not to increase the burial fees this year but to review the wording before next year.

055/22 Events

Cllrs Calloway and Roberts have agreed to work with the members of Arreton Cricket Club on plans to celebrate HM The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

056/22 Litter bins

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

Cllr Gurney-Champion suggested the positioning of a litter bin at the entrance to Standen House, which he offered to empty.

057/22 Litter and dog waste on footpaths

It was agreed that the Clerk would write to Wight Salads requesting that footpath A21 be kept clear of litter.

058/22 Arreton Cross

The Clerk will contact the District Steward to see if anything can be done to alleviate the traffic problems at Arreton Cross.

059/22 Beaver Project

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting. It was noted that the HIWWLT have sent a questionnaire to all households on the Island.

060/22 Parish Plan

IWALC appear to be considering holding a training session on Parish Plans.

061/22 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Monday, April 4th 2022 before the regular monthly meeting. It was agreed to provide refreshments.

062/22 To note the date of the next meeting, 4th April 2022

Please note that this is a week earlier than usual and will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

063/22 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

i) Ian Boyd from Arc Consulting will be invited to the June meeting of the Parish Council to speak on resilience. Cllr Verey requested that Mr Boyd be asked to include communications in his presentation.

iii) Cllr Verey also requested that, at some point, the Parish Council discuss communications in the event of a national emergency such as war.

ii) A possible scheme for parking at Arreton Primary School is under discussion again.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.12pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

18th March 2022

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..... Chairman

..... Date