

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 9th May 2022** at **7pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

090/22 Apologies for Absence

Cllr David Healy (on holiday)

091/22 Election of Chairman and acceptance of office

Cllr Kimber indicated his willingness to stand again until such time as he moves away from the Parish and, in the absence of any other nominations, he was elected unanimously. Proposed Cllr Gurney-Champion, seconded Cllr Calloway. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read and signed.

092/22 Questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

093/22 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Calloway was nominated and elected – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Verey.

094/22 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meetings (4th and 29th April 2022)

The minutes of the meetings held on April 4th and April 29th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Gurney-Champion.

The Chairman brought forward the consideration of the planning applications – see agenda item 098/22 below.

095/22 To receive regular reports

- (a) Isle of Wight Councillor – IWC Cllr Ellis reported that during April she attended both formal and informal IW Council meetings, which included Corporate Scrutiny, Corporate Parenting Board, Planning, Appointments and Employment Committee and several training and briefing sessions. She joined various parish councillors on a recent visit to the Anaerobic Digestion Plant, which was a very useful and informative visit. She also attended the AONB AGM and Forum held at the end of April and attended a presentation by Izzie Tween of HIWWT regarding the plans for introducing Beavers along the Eastern Yar. She has no new news regarding Chillerton and Rookley School but note it is on the agenda for Corporate Scrutiny this month. She has worked and met with residents on rights of way and planning issues and has had several discussions with senior officers and cabinet members in relation to resolving these issues.
- Post-meeting note – the IW Council have decided to retain Chillerton and Rookley Primary School. Several matters were raised.
- i) IWC Cllr Ellis will contact Insp Matt Gooding to ask if his offer of a meeting is just for the councillors or for members of the public as well.
 - ii) IW Cllr Ellis believes that the delay in publishing a decision on the planning application for yurts at Blackwater is to do with the provision of access to the nearby Right of Way.
 - iii) The delay in producing the Island Strategy is to do with the need for further work on comments received during the consultation period.
 - iv) The situation on current re-wilding proposals and the possible need to produce food in the event of shortages is a matter for DeFRA and landowners and the IW Council has no input.
 - v) Is there a map of the locations of dog waste bins? IWC Cllr Ellis will investigate.

IWC Cllr Ellis and the member of the public left at 7.42pm - see above for the timing of the consideration of the planning applications.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – the Clerk noted that no response had been received from Mr Burrige following the acceptance of his quote to replace the bench in Gore Cemetery. Cllr Calloway will contact him.

Councillors were requested to check for signs of the presence of rabbits if they happened to be visiting Gore Cemetery.

- (c) During the Walk the Wight event last Sunday (May 8th) several roads in the Parish were either shut or controlled by traffic lights, leading to considerable build-ups in traffic, particularly in the Blackwater area. Whilst the members recognise the need for safety measures to be in place, it was felt that these were either inappropriate in some places or poorly managed. The Clerk will contact Island Roads for comment.

The Chairman reported that the cycleway at Stickworth is getting fairly overgrown and that Island Roads have patched the length of cycleway between Merstone and Blackwater with tarmac and hoggin.

- (d) IWALC – The Chairman missed the last IWALC meeting as he was away. It was a topic meeting and the presentation by Aspire has been circulated.

There is a TEAMS meeting on Thursday with the IW Council. Councillors Verey and Calloway have identified some issues to be raised – this is an Agenda item tonight.

Chairman – The Chairman said that it was a long month but was little to report.

He is keen to try and move forward on the provision of defibrillators. A key issue is the need for a power supply and he therefore checked with Peddlers at Newchurch as to whether their defibrillator has a power supply. Somewhat to his disappointment they confirmed it had and they had had to use an electrician to install a power line to it. He did prepare a draft letter for the Clerk to be sent to the Methodist chapel regarding the installation of a defibrillator at the Arreton chapel.

A resident contacted the Chairman regarding the signs outside the *White Lion* interfering with the view of oncoming traffic for drivers exiting the school/pub car park. This can be raised under agenda item 109/22.

The Chairman has been invited to a service on 5 June to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in the Minster Church. The Vice Chair will attend as the Arreton representative.

The Chairman did not visit the digester as he has previously visited and is familiar with the process.

The Chairman has contacted Southern Water to try and identify a contact with whom we could discuss a possible water fountain on the cycle path at Horryngford.

- (e) Meetings reports

The Clerk attended the AGM and Forum of the AONB at the end of April. It was reported that £134,000 has been spent in grants with £180,000 still to be distributed. The Farmers' Clusters are proving very successful. Work is ongoing with Kent AONB plus three sites in France on various projects and there are also several Biosphere projects underway. Work is also ongoing with the Medina College to create a TGCSE qualification.

- (f) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has contacted the landowner regarding the tree planting at Merstone and received a reply to suggest that it be discussed again in the autumn before the next planting season.

The Clerk has written Mr Betteridge to accept his quote for replacing the bench in Gore Cemetery. However, although the e-mail has been read, nothing further has been heard. The Clerk will contact him again.

The Clerk has contacted the pest control contractor and asked for a visit at the end of May.

All other matters are agenda items.

Other matters: the planning application for Billinghamurst has been approved, subject to certain conditions regarding smallholdings and the submission of a Management Plan.

The application for Middle Barn has been refused on the grounds that a request for prior approval is not appropriate as the building has not been used purely for agricultural purposes recently.

As reported by the Chairman, Cllrs Gurney-Champion, Roberts and Verey attended visits organised by the manager of the anaerobic digester.

A few more names have been added to the Newsletter distribution list.

Training

IWALC have arranged a training session on Parish Plans and Housing Needs Surveys for next month but no invitation has yet been sent.

096/22 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 109/22 – There were no declarations of interest. One item was requested to be raised.

097/22 Finance

The finance report for April was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £14,832.82 at the end of April. The precept of £10,400 has been received. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salaries etc.)	£336.00
S Caws (expenses)	£10.00
S Caws (bunting)	£8.99
S Caws (bunting)	£19.97
S Caws (bunting)	£8.99
S Caws (serviettes)	£23.98

098/22 Planning and appeals

Note that this agenda item was brought forward.

Reference	22/00618/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-11157612
Application Received	Fri 01 Apr 2022
Address	Little Budbridge Farm Budbridge Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DH
Proposal	Proposed reroofing of barn and the installation of solar panels
Reference	22/00654/FUL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Thu 07 Apr 2022
Address	Land At Palmers Farm Brocks Copse Road Wootton Ryde Isle of Wight PO33 4NP
Proposal	Proposed extraction of sand and gravel and restoration to agriculture

It was agreed that there was no objection to the application at Little Budbridge Farm.

The Members considered the transport details of the application to extract gravel from Palmers Farm, Wootton as there could be an impact on traffic in the Parish. It is proposed to route the lorries from the extraction site in Wootton through to the Downend traffic lights and on to Arreton Cross, where a right-hand turn will take them to

the Wight Building Materials site at St George's Down (which is in the Parish) and then back by the same route in reverse. The members agreed that the application could not be supported as it stood and to object on the following grounds:-

i) There are already traffic problems at both these junctions, without the addition of regular lorry trips throughout the working day. The members' main concern is the junction at Arreton Cross, which can see a considerable build-up of vehicles when they are prevented from turning right by oncoming traffic in both directions and the lane for those turning left is not long enough to permit anyone to use it once two or three cars are waiting to turn right. The frequent presence of large lorries will not help the situation. The Parish Council has long been requesting remedial action at the junction to help relieve the congestion, especially in the summer months.

ii) The members are also concerned about the potential for accidents, as a heavily-laden lorry will take some time to gain momentum from a standing start in order to cross the road to make their right-hand turn. The traffic coming from both directions can legally be doing 60mph at this point and, whilst the sight-lines of those coming from Arreton are excellent, those coming from Newport are unsighted until they reach the top of an incline on a left-hand curve not far from the junction. Equally, the lorry drivers will be unable to see exactly what is coming from the right and, if the road appears to be clear, they will have to take their chance to move.

iii) With regard to the Downend traffic lights, the main problem will be for the lorries returning to Wootton. Traffic is frequently held up in this direction as vehicles at the front of the queue wait to turn right and there is not enough room for other vehicles to pass them on the left. There is a filter light but this can be erratic as to whether it works or not. Again, members have been lobbying for a long time to have a separate lane created for those turning right. Problems and hold-ups at both these junctions could cause issues with the proposed timetable of lorry movements, no matter how carefully planned.

iv) The members realise that these are not problems that can be solved by the Planning Department but because of them, it was agreed that the members cannot support this application as it stands and therefore wish to register an objection.

099/22 Insurance

Three insurance quotes were considered and it was agreed to accept a three-year deal with Zurich, our current insurers, at a cost of £297.71 pa. Both the other quotes were considerably more expensive.

100/22 Accounts 2021/22

The annual accounts were presented and agreed, noting that they are subject to audit – proposed Cllr Kimber, seconded Cllr Roberts.

101/22 Appointments to outside bodies

The following appointments were made:-

Arreton Community Hall Management Committee – Cllr Calloway and Cllr Kimber

Arreton School Trust – Cllr Calloway and Cllr Roberts

IWALC – Cllr Kimber and Cllr Calloway

Environment and Sustainability Forum – Cllr Verey

South Wight Parishes Health and Well-being Forum – Cllr Roberts

Cllr Healy will be asked if he wishes to remain on the Community Hall Management Committee.

102/22 General Power of Competence

A resolution was passed declaring that the criteria to hold the General Power of Competence are met, namely that two thirds of the members are elected (minimum is six out of eight councillors – seven were elected) and the Clerk is suitably qualified.

103/22 Defibrillators

The Clerk will make an official approach to the Methodist Church asking about the possibility of placing a defibrillator somewhere on the building.

104/22 Events

All the arrangements for the Jubilee events at both the Cricket Club and the Community Hall are in hand. The members of the Community Hall Trust intend to plant a cherry tree in front of the Hall.

105/22 Litter and dog waste bins

The use of the dog waste bin at the *White Lion* was monitored and the usage is sufficient to keep the bin in place.

The Clerk was contacted by a private waste collection company but it was agreed not to take up their offer at this time.

106/22 Parish Plan and Housing Needs Survey

Following advice received from the Planning Department, it was agreed to wait until both the *Island Strategy* and a new template for a Housing Needs Survey are in place. IWALC intend to offer training on Parish and Local Plans.

107/22 IW Council Cabinet meeting with town and parish councils

Questions for the forthcoming meeting were discussed and it was agreed to put forward one on the potential problem of beavers undermining the cycleway and another on local resilience in the event of an escalation of the current hostilities in eastern Europe.

108/22 To note the date of the next meeting, 13th June 2022

Ian Boyd from Arc Consulting will be giving a presentation on resilience.

109/22 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

A resident has commented that the A-frame signs on the pavement outside the *White Lion* can impair visibility to the right when exiting the lane next to the pub. The members will wait and see if there are any other complaints.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.58pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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12th May 2022

..... Chairman

..... Date