

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022** at **7pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

**110/22 Apologies for Absence**

IWC Cllr Ellis (on the mainland)

**111/22 Community Action resilience work**

Mr Ian Boyd from Arc Consulting gave a presentation on resilience for town and parish councils. Arc Consulting is an environmental and ecological organisation and, in this instance, is working with Community Action IW. This is a two-year project with a possible option to continue for another four years.

Some of the objects of the project are

- To help town and parish councils with emergency planning with a view to moving towards resilience
- Supporting neighbouring parishes in working together on emergency planning
- Supporting local networks of volunteers
- How to obtain resources e.g. funding and insurance cover
- Help in creating local community hubs to use community assets and to create self-sufficiency in a community
- Help in creating a local inventory of assets etc.

The overriding aim of the project is to support volunteers and fundraising to support both the local community and to assist them in communicating with their neighbouring parishes.

Cllr Cooper arrived at 7.45pm.

The Chairman thanked Mr Boyd for his presentation.

**112/22 Questions from the public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**113/22 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (9<sup>th</sup> May 2022)**

The minutes of the meeting held on May 9<sup>th</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Kimber, seconded Cllr Calloway. Cllr Healy said that he was happy to continue on the Arreton Community Hall Management Committee

**114/22 To receive regular reports**

Isle of Wight Councillor – in her absence, IWC Cllr Ellis sent a report which said that May was a fairly quiet month and she took the opportunity to take a few days leave following the Annual Full Council meeting, which saw IWC Cllr Claire Critchison elected as the Chair of the Council for the coming year and changes to some committee chairs, including a new chair of the Planning Committee, IWC Cllr John Medland. She has also attended Corporate Scrutiny, Cabinet, Appointments and Employment and Policy and Scrutiny for Children's Services Committee Meetings.

IWC Cllr Ellis has been in to see the Head, Chair of Governors and Staff at Godshill and Chillerton and Rookley Schools. It is still not clear what plan is in place for supporting Chillerton and Rookley in becoming sustainable and to date there has not been an uplift in pupils wishing to attend in September.

IWC Cllr Ellis has also been working on ongoing planning enforcement issues and has had some meetings regarding other planning applications throughout the ward. On the Broadfields Farm application, she has had meetings with the new Chair of Planning, a Merstone resident and the Planning Officer to discuss this at length. Whilst this current

application must be considered as a stand-alone application (as indeed must all applications) – she has raised concerns with the Planning Office over the site as a whole, and requested a holistic approach be taken.

IWC Cllr Ellis has had some resident enquiries regarding the Energy Grant payments – as of 30th May, £4.478m had been paid to 29,855 direct debit and cash payers, 53% of band A-D have been paid and the postal letters with codes for non-direct debit/cash payments have started to be issued.

- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – there was nothing to report. However, there were some questions regarding the upkeep of God’s Garden and the WG Wyld Trust funds, which were given for the upkeep of the area.
- (c) Highways and footpaths - the Clerk reported that she has been in contact with Island Roads regarding the verge at Horryngford that was over-enthusiastically cut-back. Following a request from Parish Councillors, Island Roads have agreed to sow the bank with a suitable selection of wild flowers in the autumn.

Cllr Calloway reported that she thought that the right filter at traffic lights at the *Hare and Hounds* appeared to be working better.

There is a new budget for cycleways and footways.

The Chairman reported that he had walked several local footpaths, mostly for the first time since Covid started. As has long been the case, the bridle paths are generally good and the footpaths are little used and often overgrown. An issue at this time of year is where footpaths run across the middle of fields with crops. At Pagham, the path from the farm towards the cycleway has a sign at one end asking people to go round the perimeter but nothing else. Around Merstone Manor the paths through fields have been strimmed to indicate the paths – which are actually little used.

The asbestos waste adjacent to the Arreton to the Golf Club by-way has been removed some time ago, judging by appearances.

- (d) IWALC – there is nothing much to report. The Chairman could not attend the May meeting but from the minutes there seems to have been little of import save that the next IWALC Training is on the 15th June. This will be on local plans and will be delivered by the IW Council Planning Department in the Council Chamber, County Hall, which the Chairman will not be attending.

There is a TEAMS meeting on Thursday with the IW Council. Councillors Verey and Calloway have identified some issues to be raised.

Chairman’s report – the main event was the celebration of the Queen’s Jubilee, something Cllrs Calloway and Roberts were closely involved with and can report on. The Chairman thought it was well organised. Cllr Orchard made a generous contribution to costs but as this was not needed, he has suggested it go towards the cost of a new bench at Gore Cemetery.

The Chairman contacted Southern Water to try and identify a contact with whom we could discuss a possible water fountain on the cycle path at Horryngford. Southern has a scheme where they make grants to community groups and charities which is due to open for applications in July. I am unsure whether a water fountain on the cycleway would qualify, as we are neither a charity nor a community group but I suggest we ask the clerk to contact Southern Water. The link is <https://www.southernwater.co.uk/customer-and-community-grants>. However, this is not terribly user friendly and we would need to get a name to question whether we could/would qualify.

Defibrillators – there is nothing more nothing more to report. They all seem to need power to heat them to keep them useable in cold weather and the Chairman cannot see how one can be considered for Merstone unless someone volunteers a power supply.

- (e) Meetings reports

- i) Cllrs Calloway and Roberts reported on the tea party organised for HM The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee, which generally went well but no new faces turned up. There were few

attendees at the picnic organised by the Cricket Club other than the cricketers themselves and some councillors. There were a good number of entries for the hat competition organised by the Methodist Church although very few people turned up for the judging or to look at the historical display. Thanks were extended to Cllr Roberts for judging the competition. Quite a number of people attended the cream tea organised by St George's Church. The events at Arretton Barns were well attended.

ii) Cllr Calloway and the Clerk attended a brief meeting with one of the Churchwardens from St Georges. The Churchwarden has managed to obtain quite a considerable amount of paperwork from the widow of the last Treasurer, including up-to-date bank statements. It was noted that the interest on the fund is paid quarterly. It was agreed that the Churchwarden and the Clerk would contact the Bank for advice on how to proceed.

iii) Cllr Roberts attended the South West Parishes Health and Well-being Forum, which included a talk from a volunteer coastguard who explained their role. There was also a talk on the work of the IW Council's Living Well and Early Help Service, which is partnered with Aspire in Ryde and also works with the West Wight Sports Centre in Freshwater. A report will follow.

iv) Cllr Verey attended the Environment and Sustainability Forum. It is hoped to employ a Project Officer to look at the eastern Yar valley, where 5,000 hectares have been considerably degraded through the use of nitrates. It is hoped to involve other groups such as the NFU, the AONB, the National Trust and the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust. Currently farmers lack funding for environmental work as the Government's Environmental Land Management Scheme has been delayed.

There are no proposals on the draft Island Strategy to deal with potential oil extraction, only aggregates. A new round of licences for oil exploration will be granted in 2023, which would leave the Island unprotected.

(f) There is nothing to report although a tree policy was suggested. The Clerk was asked to contact Gift for Nature to ask how they managed community orchards.

(g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Ward Councillor and the Clerk are still in the process of arranging a meeting with Insp Gooding of the Hampshire and IW Police.

The Clerk still has not heard from Mr Betteridge regarding his quote for replacing the bench in Gore Cemetery.

Note: Cllr Calloway said that she had contacted Mr Betteridge and everything was in hand.

The Clerk has written to the Clerk at Wootton Bridge Parish Council regarding the costs of their Housing Needs Survey but has not yet received an answer.

The Clerk has written to Island Roads regarding the traffic arrangements at Walk the Wight and has received an acknowledgement.

All other matters are agenda items.

Other matters: the planning applications for the home office at The Blandings, the summer house at Little Budbridge Farm and also the barn and solar panels there have all been approved. The application for Budbridge Lodge has been refused on the grounds that it would be unsympathetic to the site and out of character with the wider area. The Tree Officer also requested a report.

Requests to be added to the Newsletter distribution list are still trickling in.

### **Training**

Cllrs Calloway, Roberts, Verey and the Clerk will attend the training session on Parish Plans being organised by IWALC this week.

**115/22 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 128/22 – Nothing was raised.**

**116/22 Finance**

The finance report for May was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £14,127.18 at the end of May. The following payments were agreed:

Zurich Municipal (insurance)	£297.91
Staff costs (salary, expenses etc.)	£398.34
S Caws (bunting 10mx2)	£10.93
GW Hughes (internal audit)	£120.00
Arreton Cricket Club (Jubilee pin badges)	£99.75

**117/22 Planning and appeals**

None to date.

It was noted that work has already started on Budbridge Lodge although the application has been refused - see the Clerk's report above.

**118/22 Internal Audit Report 2021/22**

The Internal Auditor's report was presented. It was suggested that the Financial Risk Assessment be reviewed and the Clerk will add it as an agenda item to a future meeting.

**119/22 Annual Governance Statement 2021/22**

The Annual Governance Statement was approved and signed.

**120/22 Accounting Statements 2021/22**

The Accounting statements 2021/22 were approved and signed.

**121/22 Certificate of Exemption 2021/22**

The Certificate of Exemption 2021/22 was approved and signed.

**122/22 Litter and dog bins**

It would appear that situation has changed at the Residential Home and the member of staff who offered to empty a litter bin has left. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the Manager, asking that staff and visitors be encouraged to use bins on site.

**123/22 Pest Control**

The pest control contractor visited at the end of May and found no evidence of rabbits. It was agreed to wait until after the annual inspection in July before suggesting a visit at the end of August. The Clerk will also ask Brighstone Landscaping to note any rabbit activity.

**124/22 Defibrillators**

The Clerk wrote to the Secretary of the Methodist Church to ask about the possibility of siting a defibrillator on the Church wall but has not as yet received a reply. See also the Chairman's report above.

**125/22 Drinking water fountain**

See the Chairman's Report above.

**126/22 Hedges**

There is one particular hedge on the Main Road that is rather overgrown. Cllr Roberts will talk to the owners but the Clerk will contact Island Roads if necessary. The Clerk will ask the District Steward if he is aware of any other overgrown hedges in the Parish.

**127/22 To note the date of the next meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

This meeting will be preceded by the annual inspection of the burial grounds, commencing at 6pm in Gore Cemetery.

**128/22 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**  
Nothing was raised.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.05p.m.

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

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15<sup>th</sup> June 2022

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Chairman

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Date