

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 3rd April 2023** at **7.30pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Gurney-Champion, Cooper, Dodson, Healy, Mills, Orchard and Verey
In attendance: Sheila Caws (Clerk) and eight members of the public.

067/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Roberts (away) and IWC Cllr Ellis (unwell).

068/23 Inspector Gooding (Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary)

Inspector Gooding of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary made a welcome return. He said that he was pleased to be given the opportunity to talk to the Parish Council and members of the community. He spoke about the campaign against anti-social driving, which was launched in February this year and there is now an operational Road Policing Unit on the Island again. The members of this unit are also backed up by other officers in their own areas.

He explained how and where the mobile speed cameras were utilised. He also gave some statistics as to the numbers arrested for drink or drug driving over Christmas and early this year, including six in the Arreton/Newchurch area in January and February. He was pleased to report that there had been some accidents due to drink/drug driving since January but no serious injuries.

Insp. Gooding also spoke about the campaign against speeding. Figures on the Island are generally lower than in Hampshire and the Wootton/Binstead area has the highest number over here.

The Inspector then took questions:-

Is it possible to reduce the speed limit between Harvey Browns and Apse Heath? There are a number of tourist attractions in the area, with traffic leaving and joining, plus the employees at Wight Salads cross the road near the *Fighting Cocks* to get to their accommodation in Macketts Lane?

Can the 6'6" width restriction in Merstone Lane be enforced other than buses and the bin lorries on collection day? There are no lights or footpaths in the Lane and its use by large vehicles, not to mention speeding, makes it dangerous for pedestrians.

There are several horse boxes being used in the area that are in poor condition. Are they being checked?

The answer to the horse boxes was they should be but this is not being one at present. The Inspector said that he would pass on all the above points for consideration.

Is the use of a breathalyser automatic after a minor road traffic accident (RTA)? No, not unless there are any injuries.

Regarding Speedwatch, it was noted that nothing had been set up in Godshill. Funding is available from the IW Council for speed guns.

Inspector Gooding was thanked for coming and will be invited back next year.

069/23 Questions from the public

There was a question on the IW Council's draft Enforcement Policy to which the Clerk replied that the Parish Council's comments had been sent.

070/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Gurney-Champion and Cllr Verey both declared a non-pecuniary interest on the planning application for housed next to the School and Cllr Verey also declared a non-pecuniary in the application for a garden building at Horringford House.

071/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 083/23

Nothing was raised.

072/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (13th March 2023)

The minutes of the meeting held on March 13th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Orchard.

073/23 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor – in the absence of IWC Cllr Ellis the Chairman read out her report.

March has been a fairly quiet month and IWC Cllr Ellis has little to report other than that she has continued to work primarily on issues relating to planning and flooding within the Parish. She was pleased to hear from residents that the noise nuisance from Broadfields Farm seems to have abated at present; she has asked for an update from Planning on these applications, but had not received one at the time of writing.

IWC Cllr Ellis has been in contact with Rights of Way who are concerned that the two access points to the cycle track, which was a condition of the Harvey Browns planning, had not been put in place but after speaking with Planning and the owners, she is pleased to confirm that it is still very much going ahead.

She has had a complaint that, despite the recent upgrades to the cycle track, there are still some flooding issues at the Blackwater end and that the ‘knobbly’ surface is not suitable for walking or cycling. IWC Cllr Ellis has passed these to Island Roads and awaits a response!

b) The Clerk reported that the pest control contractor had visited the Cemetery and reported the presence of two rabbits. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the owners of Perreton Farm and request permission to continue monitoring the Cemetery boundary from their land.

It was noted that the cherry trees in both the Churchyard and the Cemetery are showing signs of new growth.

The Clerk reported that she had contacted a local firm to ask if the bolt on the Cemetery gates could be repaired but has not as yet received a response.

c) Highways and footpaths – it was noted that two local footpaths (A13 and A16) have been blocked by electric fencing due to the presence of sheep in the area. It is a temporary measure but it should not happen.

d) Chairman’s report - the Chairman reported that he had mostly been occupied with preparations for this evening’s meeting.

e) IWALC – in the absence of Cllr Roberts, the Chairman had intended to attend the last IWALC meeting but a family emergency prevented this. The Clerk will circulate the minutes when they are available.

f) Meeting reports – nothing to report.

g) Clerk’s report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the items noted at the end of the last meeting have been held over to the May meeting due to the length of the April agenda.

All other items from the last meeting are covered by agenda items.

Other matters: there have not been any decisions on recent planning applications.

The new bank mandate is now in place.

It is noted that the last surviving member of the Burma Star Association on the Island, Mr Harry Aitken, has died at the age of 101. His funeral will take place at St George’s Church on Thursday, April 13th. Mr Aitken has attended several Burma Star events in the Parish and also the annual Remembrance Day services in the Church.

On that subject, the Clerk has received a message regarding road works that are scheduled to take place in the lane leading up to the Church at some point between April 12th and the

14th. The Clerk has contacted Island Roads to see if the 13th can be avoided as the hearse will need access to the Church and the funeral is expected to be well-attended.

The Clerk is currently experiencing problems with the Parish e-mail address and will be using an alternative until further notice.

074/23 Finance

The finance report for March was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £4,175.07 at the end of March. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salaries etc.)	£715.21
Brighstone Landscaping (grounds maint.)	£649.76
Wight Tactical (pest control)	£30.00

075/23 Planning and appeals

Reference	22/01693/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-11544965
Application Received	Wed 21 Sep 2022
Application Validated	Thu 02 Mar 2023
Address	Vesses Farm Macketts Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AS
Proposal	Conversion and adaptation of barn, to include single storey extension and replacement enlarged roof, to form single residential dwelling (Use Class C3)
Reference	23/00393/HOU
Alternative Reference	PP-8839177
Application Received	Fri 03 Mar 2023
Address	Horringford House Horrington Hale Common Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Proposal	Proposed oak outbuilding
Reference	23/00394/LBC
Alternative Reference	PP-8839177
Application Received	Fri 03 Mar 2023
Address	Horringford House Horrington Hale Common Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP
Proposal	Listed Building Consent for proposed oak outbuilding
Reference	23/00407/RVC
Alternative Reference	PP-11985102
Application Received	Mon 06 Mar 2023
Address	4 Birchmore Cottages Birchmore Lane Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3BW
Proposal	Variation of condition 4 on 21/02260/FUL to amend the drainage system (readvertised application - corrected certification)

Reference	23/00435/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-11958187
Application Received	Thu 09 Mar 2023
Address	Land Adjacent Arreton Primary School Off School Lane Arreton Isle of Wight
Proposal	Proposed three detached dwellings with parking, access and garden

It was agreed that there were no objections to the applications for Vesses and Horryngford House, although it would be good to see the encouragement of sustainability features generally.

Although there was no objection to the application for an amendment to the drainage system at 4 Birchmore Cottages, it was questioned as to whether the overflow system was suitable. The members also supported the comments from Natural England on nitrate mitigation and the necessity of a management scheme.

The Vice-Chairman took the chair.

With regard to the application for three houses next to the School, after some discussion it was agreed to object to this application on the following grounds:-

- i) The members are given to understand that beneath School Lane there is a large Victorian brick-built culvert which renders the road hollow. Consequently, it would be unable to bear the weight of construction lorries and other heavy vehicles for any length of time. The culvert has collapsed in the past, blowing the manhole covers in the area.
- ii) Due to this culvert, which takes Arreton Stream under the road, it will be difficult to reconstruct the road, as offered by the applicant.
- iii) Should the road be reconstructed, who would be responsible for maintenance in the future, given that the ownership is currently unknown?
- iv) Island Roads recommend widening the road to a minimum width of 3 metres but this is not an option due to the proximity of the School wall on one side and a sharp drop into the gardens on the opposite side. Access for emergency vehicles, particularly fire engines, could therefore be a problem, especially as the largest vehicles require a road width of 3.7 metres.
- v) There is also an old metal gas pipe in the vicinity.
- vi) There is no mains drainage in the area and so a package treatment plant (PTP) and soakaway drainage is proposed. However, the field to the east is usually awash in wet weather as there is a 250-foot drop from the top of the field and the water that comes down has already created a channel in the road. Soakaway drainage is therefore not a viable option, as the current arrangements cannot cope and there do not appear to be any existing culverts in the applicant's land.
- vii) There is no indication on the plans as to the proposed location of the PTP.
- viii) The site is within an AoNB. In the past, buildings in the AoNB have been restricted to one storey and the proposal here is for two. However, the proximity of other two-storey buildings in the immediate vicinity is noted.
- ix) In the application, it is stated that the proposed development is more than 20m from the nearest watercourse but reference has been made above (ii) to the Arreton Stream which is within 20 metres. This waterway comes under the jurisdiction of the Environment Agency as it is a tributary of the River Yar (eastern).
- x) According to the *Design, Access, Heritage and Planning Statement (DAHPS)*, the proposal will offer "... much needed family housing ..." (para 2.5, p4). However, although it was done some years ago, a Housing Needs Survey for the village found that the requirement was for smaller two-bedroomed houses that would potentially be affordable and this is unlikely to have changed given the current housing situation. There are sufficient detached houses in

the village already, negating the need for any more and new detached houses are unlikely to fulfil the need for affordable family homes.

xi) There is current planning permission for more than 100 houses in the village and the members do not see a need for further building at present.

xii) Given the history of the area, the members would like to see an archaeological report compiled.

xiii) Although not an objection, the members note that reference is made in the *DAHPS* of discussions held with Arreton and Newchurch Parish Council (*sic* – para 1.5, p2). Arreton and Newchurch parish councils are separate entities and in view of the mention of Cllr Clare Mosdell, who sits on the Isle of Wight Council, it is thought that the reference should be to the Ward of Arreton and Newchurch. No discussions have been held with the Parish Council, although they would have been very welcome, and any comments from Cllr Mosdell must be some years old as the Arreton and Newchurch Ward disappeared in the election of 2021. Cllr Mosdell is no longer the Ward Councillor for Arreton as she remained with Newchurch.

xiv) Generally, the Members would like to see an encouragement towards sustainability.

The Chairman returned to the chair.

076/23 Land adjacent to the *Fighting Cocks*

It has been noted that three static caravans have appeared on the site without planning permission, although only looks as if it has been properly sited.. There are no facilities on-site. The Clerk will contact Planning.

077/23 Defibrillator

The Clerk has received a quote from the Methodist Church to fit the necessary electrics for a defibrillator. It is unclear from this whether it is to be positioned in the porch of the Church or on a outside wall and so the Clerk will check. It was agreed in principle to cover the cost. The matter of insurance still needs to be settled.

Coverage in other parts of the Parish was discussed and it was noted that Merstone is quite well-covered including one at Broadfields Farm with 24-hour access. Blackwater is less well-provided for and the Chairman agreed to contact the Toyota Garage to see if they would be willing to install one.

078/23 Gore Cemetery shed

The Clerk has received a second quote but needs to return to the providers of the first quote as the work detailed in them both does not currently match.

079/23 Events

It has been agreed that an event to mark the Coronation of HM The King Charles III will be held on Sunday, May 7th 2023. It will begin with a nature walk starting at Arreton Cricket Club from 11am. It will finish at Haseley Manor Barn with a picnic lunch and cream tea. Food will be provided along with tea, coffee and squash. There will be games such as guess the name of a teddy and the number of sweets in a jar. 500 flyers will be printed at a cost of £38.75. It was agreed that food and printing costs will be met by the Parish Caouncil.

080/23 Trees

The Clerk has contacted the IW Council regarding an offer to replace the felled ash trees opposite the *White Lion* but has not as yet received a response.

081/23 Parish information leaflet

In the absence of Cllr Roberts this was deferred.

082/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 15th May 2023

Please note the change of date due to the addition of a Bank Holiday on May 8th to mark the Coronation of HM The King Charles III. This will be the Annual Meeting of the Parish Council.

083/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Nothing was raised.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.10pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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12th April 2023

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Chairman

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Date