

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 13th March 2023** at **7pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

046/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Dodson (working), Cllr Roberts (unwell) and IWC Cllr Ellis (unwell).

047/23 Questions from the public

None received.

048/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.

None received.

049/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 066/23

Four items were raised.

050/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (13th February 2023)

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

051/23 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor – in the absence of IWC Cllr Ellis there was no report.

b) Cllr Orchard commented that the contractors had made a good job of the grass cutting in the Cemetery.

It was noted that the bolt on the double gates at the Cemetery had snapped. The Clerk will make arrangements to get it repaired.

c) Highways and footpaths – it was noted that the Arreton village sign at the Downend Road junction has been replaced.

As there had been no response to the previous message in the Newsletter, the Clerk was asked to repeat a request for residents willing to monitor rights of way in their area.

Cllr Verey reported a new width restriction warning sign in the Bury Lane at the junction with East Lane.

d) Chairman's report - the Chairman reported that he had attended the recent IWALC topic meeting (see item f below). He had also met with Cllr Healy regarding the Arreton Community Hall Trust (see item 058/23 below).

e) IWALC – Cllr Gurney-Champion will attend the next IWALC executive meeting on March 30th as Cllr Roberts will be away. Cllr Roberts has submitted some questions to IWALC in advance of the meeting.

f) Meeting reports – both the Chairman and the Clerk attended the IWALC topic meeting on February 23rd at County Hall. The subjects covered included second and holiday homes, empty properties, the new IWC Housing Company and, perhaps most importantly for the Parish Council, the Draft Planning Enforcement Strategy. Several representatives from the smaller councils present expressed concern as to the lack of an affordable payment mechanism for those councils and so, hopefully, more attention will be paid to this.

Cllr Roberts attended the on-line meeting between IWALC and the IW Council Cabinet. The Chairman of IWALC has produced notes on the meeting which are appended to these minutes.

g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk produced a set of comments on the IWC's Draft Planning Enforcement Strategy which have been sent.

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

Other matters: the planning application for a field shelter at Little Budbridge Farm has been approved. Work on three Leylandii trees at Stickworth Hall has also been approved.

Owing to the lack of a positive response from the majority of town and parish councils, the IW Council has decided not to ask them to support the funding of the VCSE Service, which will continue to be maintained by the IW Council to the best of their ability. Our contribution (£40) will not therefore be necessary.

The Clerk has received a letter of thanks from the organisers of the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival for the donation from the Parish Council. In the past, tickets have been given to donors but in the light of new stringent regulations on chaperoning and other issues being introduced by the IW Council, the organisers regret that they can no longer do this. Thanks have also been received from Naturezones and our donation was noted in their February newsletter. The local Scout who also received a donation to help fund attendance at the World Scout Jamboree has sent their thanks and promised to come and talk to the Parish Council on their return.

052/23 Finance

The finance report for February was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £5,272.87 at the end of February. It was noted that the monies for both the IW council burial precept and the reclaimed VAT have been received. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs	£386.70
Brightstone Landscaping (Ch'yard wall repairs)	£84.00
Ringway Island Roads Ltd (dog bins)	£626.40

053/23 Planning and appeals

None received.

054/23 Burial fees

The final figures for the increase in burial fees for 2023/24 were agreed.

055/23 Burial Regulations

No amendments were made this year and the current regulations were agreed.

056/23 Defibrillator

There is no further progress to report. The Clerk was requested to chase progress on work on the electrics at the Methodist Church and insurance.

057/23 Proposed street names

A request has been received to select a name for the new development between *Challen Way* and *Beresford* on the main road at the south-eastern end of the village. Given a choice between *Horringford Rise* and *Hawthorn Rise*, the members opted for *Hawthorn Rise* on the grounds that the new development was not close enough to *Horringford* and might cause confusion.

058/23 Arreton Community Hall

Several of the current trustees of the Community Hall are looking to retire and it was decided to investigate the current situation before looking to the future. The Parish Council, as the owners of the land, are the custodian trustee but the day-to-day running of the Hall is the

responsibility of the Community Hall Management Committee, which includes up to three Parish councillors. The Chairman now has copies of various deeds and will report back on their contents. Several questions were raised including insurance, the supply of electricity to the Hall, the situation of the Social Club, which occupies part of the building, and the holding of an annual meeting of the Trustees.

059/23 Gore Cemetery shed

The Clerk arranged a meeting with a second contractor but has not, as yet, received a quote. In the event of one not arriving, the Clerk will contact a third person.

060/23 Internal Auditor

It was agreed to appoint Mr Gareth Hughes as the internal auditor for the 2022-23 accounts.

061/23 Events

A meeting was held at Arreton Cricket Club and was attended by representatives from the Club, the Methodist Church, the Parish Council and St George's Church. It was agreed to hold one event on Sunday, May 7th that would begin with a walk (a nature trail or a treasure hunt) from the Cricket Club that would end at Haseley Manor with a picnic and possibly some small competitions. Another meeting has been arranged for March 27th.

062/23 Risk Register

Amendments to change out-of-date wording of the Risk Register were approved. The Asset Register will be an agenda item for next month to review the position of the Community Centre, which could have implications for the Risk Register. It was agreed that ultimately, the deeds for the Community Centre would be deposited at the IW Record Office.

The Chairman and the Clerk will look into arrangements for the storage of electronic back-up documents.

It was agreed that the Clerk would investigate obtaining an extra copy of the Cemetery map as a back-up, to be stored elsewhere.

063/23 Trees

It was agreed that if the landowner of the area opposite the *White Lion* where ash trees are being cleared can be found, the members of the Parish Council would look into replacing those trees. The Clerk was requested to contact the IW Council to ask if there was any objection to an offer to plant whips to replace the missing trees.

064/23 Parish information leaflet

Cllr Roberts has produced a further draft of a parish information leaflet. Several suggestions were made for other inclusions and it was agreed that the format would depend on the content.

065/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 3rd April 2023

The change of date was noted as Easter Monday falls on April 10th. The meeting will be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting.

066/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

i) The Clerk raised the point of catering arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting – tea, coffee and biscuits will be provided.

ii) Insp. Gooding from Hampshire and IW Police will be attending the meeting to provide an update on speeding and other traffic issues.

iii) The problems with dark skies and the amount of lighting on industrial premises was raised. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

iv) The amount of litter and the possibility of asking Island Roads to litter-pick the road verges was raised and will also be an agenda item at the next meeting.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.40pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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20th March 2023

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Chairman

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Date