

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Gurney-Champion, Cooper, Dodson, Healy, Mills, Orchard and Roberts  
In attendance: IWC Cllr Ellis and Sheila Caws (Clerk)

**084/23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Verey (family commitment).

**085/23 Election of Chairman and acceptance of office**

Cllr Gurney-Champion indicated his willingness to stand again and, in the absence of any other nominations, he was elected unanimously. The Declaration of Acceptance of Office was read and signed by the Chairman.

**086/23 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Healy indicated his willingness to stand again as Vice-Chairman and, in the absence of any other nominations, was elected unanimously.

**087/23 Questions from the public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**088/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.**

None received.

**089/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 107/23**

One item was requested.

**090/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (3<sup>rd</sup> April 2023)**

The minutes of the meeting held on April 3<sup>rd</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Dodson.

**091/23 To receive regular reports**

a) IW Councillor – IWC Cllr Ellis reported that, as ever, Ward work this past month has mainly involved meetings and telephone and email communications with residents in connection with planning applications, the majority of which have been concerning the application for a Wind Turbine at Knightsbridge Farm, Roud – she met with the applicant on site to discuss this application and has also spoken with the AONB and IWC planning officers to gain a better understanding of the detail.

More widely within the ward as a whole work has primarily centred around ongoing flooding issues and she is in conversation with Southern Water regarding its somewhat overwhelmed infrastructure and, with the help of Neil Youngs (IWC Drainage and Flood Risk Management Officer), various landowners and Island Roads to try and tackle a number of ongoing issues.

IW Cllr Ellis has met with Cllr Jordan (Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Highways PFI and Transport) regarding the very welcome £2.14m grant towards improvements to the A3056, which is a specific project of works that DFT has insisted needed undertaking. At this stage the works are proposed/potential improvements, a number of the features will require public consultation (such as the speed limits) and proposed works at Crouchers Cross and some of the footway works opposite the *Fighting Cocks* will need third party land. At this stage she understands that landowners have not yet been approached, and therefore the delivery of these proposals at this stage cannot be 'guaranteed'. The project includes the following proposals:

- A reduction in speed limits at the following locations;
  - Blackwater junction through to Merstone Lane junction from 60mph – 50mph
  - Merstone Lane junction from 60mph – 50mph
  - Merstone Lane junction through to the existing 30mph limit outside of Arreton Barns, Arreton from 60mph – 40mph
  - Branstone within the vicinity of Jubilee Nurseries through to the existing 30mph on the approach to Branstone Cross from 50mph to 40mph •
- The introduction of variable speed limits outside of Arreton Primary School and Broadlea Primary.
  - Improved pedestrian facilities, including new footpaths and bus stop upgrades outside of:
    - Isle of Wight Distribution Ltd / Topline Windows
    - Suzuki Garage, Hale Common
    - APS Produce through to Watery Lane (Fighting Cocks Cross) to Sandown Airport – Scotchells Brooke Lane junction
- Speed reactive signage;
  - Main Road, Arreton
  - Eastern side of Branston Cross
  - Approaches to Apse Heath Mini Roundabout
  - Newport Road, Lake within the vicinity of the Manor Road and Alfred Road junctions
- Improvements to road markings and signage throughout the route.
- Additional street lighting at key junctions;
  - Down End Road with the A3056
  - Apse Heath Mini Roundabout
  - Scotchells Brook Lane (Sandown Airport)
- Carriageway widening at Crouchers Cross (bend on the A3056 between the junction of Merstone Lane and East Lane)
- The installation of vehicle safety barrier on the approach to Gore Cemetery (eastern side of the A3056)
- The upgrading of existing vehicle safety barrier between ‘Isle of Wight Distribution’ and Merstone Lane to allow for a motorcycle restraint system

IWC Cllr Ellis arranged for Year 5 of Godshill and Chillerton and Rookley School to visit County Hall on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May to learn more about how the IW Council works and to have a look around. She will contact Arreton Primary school to see if they would like a similar visit. She was also pleased to be able to support year 6 SATS at Godshill Primary last week.

Meetings and training she has attended this last month have included the AONB AGM, Corporate Parenting Board, Commercialism and Scrutiny Training, Planning / dIPS update briefings, Finance and Funding briefings and environmental forums.

Cllr Orchard asked about the flooding on the cycleway at Blackwater, near the garage. IWC Cllr Ellis said that she had reported it to Island Roads but there has been no further progress as yet. Cllr Orchard asked who was responsible should there be an accident whilst people attempted to by-pass the flood. IWC Cllr Ellis will follow this up.

b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters: the Clerk reported that the post that holds the Cemetery gate closed has been repaired. However, there is a problem with it and the second gate cannot be opened. The Clerk has followed this up and hopefully it will be fixed.

The Burma Star bench in the Churchyard has become rather rickety. One of the Churchwardens is investigating the ownership of it.

c) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Verey sent a report regarding the apparent temporary repair of potholes near Alma Cottage in Merstone Lane and appearance of others near Greenfields, also in Merstone Lane. Graffiti sprayed under the Budbridge Lane railway bridge has been cleaned.

Cllr Healy reported that one of the posts in the cycleway at the end of the Merstone Station platform had been damaged and the repair was unsatisfactory. Island Roads disclaimed responsibility but apparently the District Steward has now raised a job number to instigate a repair. Cllr Healy will monitor this and IWC Cllr Ellis will follow up the matter with Island Roads.

The dog bin at Merstone Station is still without a lid. The Clerk will follow this up.

The footpath to the north of the bungalows at Newlands is very overgrown but it is usually cleared by Rights of Way in the summer. It is rarely used as the cycletrack is just to the south of it.

d) Chairman's report - the Chairman had little to report as unfortunately he has been unwell and was unable to attend any of the Coronation events.

e) IWALC – the minutes of the last meeting have been circulated.

f) Meeting reports – Cllr Dodson reported that he had received a report from a member of the steering group overseeing the proposed release of beavers into the Eastern Yar.

The project is ongoing but Izzie Tween, the Beaver Recovery Project Officer, has resigned for family reasons. A replacement is being interviewed. Until a Government position is clarified there are no releases legally allowed across England. It is understood that if permission is granted to apply for a licence then the HIWWT will apply for three pairs of beavers to be released in the Eastern Yar valley. The steering group continues to engage and to discuss concerns and there has been a tour to the Devon beaver project which has revealed examples of positive habitats creation and areas of conflict. Obviously, the steering group aims to ensure that negative conflict is avoided and it has been suggested that the parish councils do need to have a voice on the steering group and it has been noted in recent meetings.

Cllr Roberts reported that she attended the meeting with Bob Seely MP. There was nothing to report of direct interest to Arreton. Subjects covered included education, and health. The Stroke Unit at St Mary's Hospital is the best in the country and 150 new nurses have been appointed. Apparently, South Wight has a full complement of GPs.

The Clerk reported that she had attended the Annual General Meeting and Forum of the AoNB Steering Group. An overview of the previous year's activities was given and it was explained that although a five-year management plan was due, the lack of an Island Plan made this impossible to produce. Therefore an interim one-year plan had been drawn up.

g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has not as yet followed up the question of the caravans at Hale Common.

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

Other matters: the planning application for Vesses has been refused.

The Clerk has chased information on the insurance for the defibrillator, Gore Cemetery shed repairs and the trees opposite the *White Lion*. The only response has been regarding the trees. This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

It should be noted that the Parish Council no longer has the General Power of Competence as we no longer meet the criteria.

The Clerk has purchased an extra set of keys for the notice boards as Cllr Dodson has offered to keep the notice boards up-to-date should the Clerk be unable to do so. The Clerk also has a spare set.

The problems with the Parish e-mail address as noted at the last meeting have now been resolved.

Training: Cllr Mills is booked to attend the sessions on updating councillors' skills to be held at the end of June/early July.

Following a brief discussion with IWC Ellis, it was agreed not to pursue the matter of the caravans at Hale Common.

#### **092/23 Finance**

The finance report for April was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £17,779.66 at the end of April, having received the annual precept of £15,000 from the IW Council. The accounts for the Coronation Picnic were approved and the following payments were agreed:

Staff costs	£888.36
GW Hughes (internal audit)	£150.00
Zurich Municipal (insurance)	£305.40
Arreton Cricket Club (donation)	£56.00
The IW Foodbank (donation)	£56.00
Coronation picnic expenses	£76.96

The Clerk requested and was given permission to process a payment of £35.00 to the NHS Printing Service before the next meeting.

#### **093/23 Planning and appeals**

Reference	23/00595/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12061403
Application Received	Fri 31 Mar 2023
Address	Greenacres Farm Burnt House Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 2PN
Proposal	Proposed siting of a twin unit mobile home to be used as self-contained holiday accommodation.
Reference	23/00620/HOU
Alternative Reference	PP-12070882
Application Received	Wed 05 Apr 2023
Application Validated	Wed 05 Apr 2023
Address	The Poplars Chapel Lane Merstone Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DD
Proposal	Proposed single storey extension to form garden room; rear veranda

It was agreed that there were no objections to either of these applications. However, with regard to Greenacres Farm, the members requested that a condition be imposed that prevented the permanent occupation of the new building and a bat survey was requested before the demolition of the old barn.

#### **094/23 Annual accounts 2022/23**

The annual accounts for 2022/23 were received and approved – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Orchard.

**095/23 Internal Auditor's Report 2022/23**

The report from the Internal Auditor for 2022/23 was received. No further action is necessary.

**096/23 Annual Governance Statement 2022/23**

The Annual Governance Statement 2022/23 was received and approved.

**097/23 Accounting Statements 2022/23**

The Accounting Statements for 2022/23 were received and approved.

**098/23 Certificate of Exemption 2022/23**

The Certificate of Exemption 2022/23 was approved and signed.

**099/23 Appointments to outside bodies**

The following appointments were agreed:-

Arreton Community Hall Management Committee – Cllrs Dodson, Healy and Mills

Arreton School Trust – Cllrs Dodson and Roberts

IWALC representative – Cllr Roberts

IW Council Sustainability Forum – no appointment made

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

The Clerk will investigate the latest positions regarding the Arreton School Trust and the South Wight Health and Well-being Forum.

**100/23 Defibrillator**

The Clerk reported that no further progress has been made as clarification is still required on the insurance. The Clerk has chased this but has not as yet received a reply.

**101/23 Gore Cemetery shed**

The Clerk is still awaiting a response to a request for an updated quote from the first provider. Cllr Roberts will provide the Clerk with the details of another potential provider.

IWC Cllr Ellis left the meeting.

**102/23 Events**

It was reported that the Coronation events were very successful with around 80-90 people attending the picnic in Haseley Manor Barn. Thanks go to the members of Arreton Cricket Club, the Methodist Church and St George's Church for their co-operation in organising the event. Thanks also go to those who provided food, games and prizes. A total of £112.00 was raised from the games and donations, with £56.00 each being donated to Arreton Cricket Club and the IW Foodbank.

The Cricket Club will be holding a Summer Fair in August and have requested help from the Parish Council on the day.

**103/23 Litter picking**

It was agreed to give two litter-pickers previously purchased by Cllr Kimber to two residents of the Parish who regularly collect litter from along the main road in Arreton. A third picker was given to Cllr Dodson for use in Merstone. With regard to other areas, it was suggested using the site FixMyStreet to report litter. The Clerk will investigate.

**104/23 Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

A letter has been received from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission requesting permission to place a sign on the fence at Gore Cemetery noting the presence of a war grave there. The members agreed that they had no objection.

**105/23 Community Hall**

Cllr Healy reported that no new officers had come forward for election at the recent AGM and there was also a problem in that the Treasurer could not present the accounts as relevant bank statements had not been received. This was despite repeated requests for them. It was agreed that the current Chairman and Treasurer would remain in post until an EGM in July. Other ways of running the Hall will be investigated.

The current booking system for the Hall was discussed as it is currently hosted on the Parish Council website. Cllrs Dodson and Healy intend to meet with the webmaster to see if an alternative can be set up that is self-supporting.

There are other issues that also require attention, which will be dealt with in due course.

**106/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

**107/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**

i) Cllr Roberts raised the question of the proposed Parish information leaflet. This will be an agenda item next month. It was agreed to add the location of defibrillators in the Parish and also Police contact details.

ii) Cllr Gurney-Champion announced that his father will be celebrating his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in a week's time. The members of the Parish Council offered their congratulations.

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

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

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17<sup>th</sup> May 2023

..... Chairman

..... Date