

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 12th June 2023** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

108/23 Apologies for Absence

IWC Cllr Ellis (prior commitment)

109/23 Questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

110/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.

None received.

111/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 125/23

One item was requested.

112/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (15th May 2023)

The signing of the minutes of the meeting held on May 15th was deferred for corrections to be checked.

113/23 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor – in her absence IWC CLLR Ellis sent a report.

May was a busy month for council business, although not particularly so at ward level!

You will have seen that a paper regarding Primary School Place Planning was brought forward, and then withdrawn, and that Chillerton and Rookley school was one of the four schools named in the report, with a proposal that it should be formally amalgamated with Godshill Primary from this Autumn. I am hoping that we will soon get a clear plan for C&R school, as the uncertainty has dragged on far too long for all involved.

I enjoyed supporting Year 6 SATS at Godshill Primary School and was there again on last week handing out certificates at their Awards Assembly.

I was pleased to hear from the Chair of Governors at Arreton St Georges that they finally are making headway on the traffic issues, with the diocese having lifted the car parking restriction on the field – I understand they will be submitting a planning application to formalise that imminently. I continue to work closely with the schools and enjoy having an active involvement.

At the Annual Council Meeting in May I kept my appointment on Policy and Scrutiny for Childrens Services Committee and was also appointed to Corporate Scrutiny, Licensing and Appeals committees.

Last week I attended a briefing by the senior Policing Team on the Island, which was a very useful session. Of particular interest is 'Golden Mile' which is a scheme whereby they 'target' roads / areas of roads that are of particular concern to residents for regular police presence – so do feed back to me your 'top roads' and I can get them added to the list. Merstone Lane is on this list currently; I would be interested to hear from residents as to whether they have noticed any changes in anti-social driving as a result.

I have had the following response from Stewart Chandler, IWC Highways and Transport Client Manager, in regards to the 'knobbly area' on the cycle track at Blackwater:

"I can confirm that Highways CMT have been in lengthy discussions with Island Roads about this section of the shared path and how it can be resolved. Unfortunately, this

may still take some time to finalise, as we do need to understand what is causing the flooding and what measures are acceptable to address them. Especially given the sensitive nature of the site due to its proximity to the watercourse.

“However, in the interim I have raised the concerns with Island Roads and requested that they consider installing some temporary measures to prevent the use of the grasscrete (knobbly section). To clarify this section does not form a part of the shared route, as it is purely to facilitate a wayleave for Southern Water to access the pumping station.

“As regular user of this route I have experienced the issues in this section and I would rather get muddy than use the grasscrete. Whilst not ideal, we do hope that we will be an informed position to have the flooding issues addressed later this year.”

I am also concerned about the lack of a crossing for the Cycle Track at Blackwater, and shall be raising this with Cllr Jordan upon his return from leave.

b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters: the Clerk reported that the both Cemetery gates now open but suggested that an item be included in next year’s budget for their repair.

Cllr Dodson reported that one of the Churchwardens at St George’s is looking at a repair of the Burma Star bench in the Churchyard, which has become unstable.

Cllr Dodson also reported that he had walked the external boundary of Gore Cemetery and not found any evidence of rabbit activity.

The Clerk thanked Cllr Dodson for tidying the area around the Burma Star graves and removing rubbish that had accumulated under the adjacent tree.

The Chairman reported that the gates of the Cemetery had been left open and that he had closed them.

Cllr Cooper requested that the grounds maintenance contractors be asked to remove any rubbish they find in the layby outside Gore Cemetery.

c) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Cooper requested that the Rights of Way department be asked to clear the brambles off the bridge on footpath A21 at Macketts Lane. It was quite overgrown and could cause the bridge to rot.

d) Chairman’s report - the Chairman had nothing to report as he had not attended any meetings recently.

e) IWALC – training for harmony in councils has been offered but it was agreed that, fortunately, the members of the Parish Council were currently not in need of it.

It was suggested that the report from Bob Seely MP be included in the IWALC Newsletter as so few people actually attend the meetings.

The IW Council is considering setting up a working group to see how smaller parish councils could look after non-statutory services.

The IWALC AGM will be held shortly to which all councillors are invited. The Chairman hopes to attend as does Cllr Roberts.

f) Meeting reports – Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the regular meeting with Bob Seely MP. It was reported that the Islands Forum, chaired by Michael Gove MP, was meeting on the Isle of Wight but no other details were forthcoming. The potential for provision of a higher education facility on the Island was also discussed, as was the cost of ferry fares.

g) Clerk’s report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has requested that the Commonwealth War Graves Commission place a sign on the fence at Gore Cemetery.

Cllr Roberts gave two litter pickers to the local residents who regularly clean up round the village.

The Clerk investigated websites that can be used to report litter to local councils and found a page that is part of a bigger site called 'Fix My Street'. The latter can be used for reporting all sorts of problems and hazards and it will be added to the information leaflet.

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

Other matters: the planning applications for Horringford House, The Poplars, Middle Barn and Greenacres Farm have all been approved, as has tree work at Stickworth Hall.

A letter has been received from Lloyds Bank explaining the Financial Services Compensation Scheme in relation to businesses. The Parish Council's account is covered in the event of the Bank going out of business.

The Clerk has received an e-mail from one of the Churchwardens at St George's expressing appreciation for the way in which the Parish Council takes care of the Churchyard. There has been a recent visit by IWC councillors and their opposite numbers from Coburg in Germany, which is twinned with the IW, and photographs of the Churchyard were taken by the German guests. Apparently, the last visit was ten years ago.

There have been two serious road accidents in the Parish in the last three weeks although only one person was injured, albeit severely.

Otherwise, it has been a relatively quiet month since the last meeting.

114/23 Finance

The finance report for May was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £17,053.06 at the end of May. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs	£403.77
NHS Printing Services (Coronation flyers)	£35.00
Cllr Dodson (plants)	£75.40

115/23 Planning and appeals

Reference	23/00763/RVC
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Tue 02 May 2023
Address	Tientu Merstone Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DF
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 on 19/00970/HOU to reflect as-built with chimney, rear dormer, PV panels and window styles
Reference	23/00871/HOU
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Tue 16 May 2023
Address	Chapel Nurseries Chapel Lane Merstone Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DD
Proposal	Proposed single storey side extension with roof terrace over; proposed replacement raised roof to create additional living accommodation at first floor level with balcony; alterations
Reference	23/00904/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12169525

Application Received	Mon 22 May 2023
Address	Land between Challen Way and Beresford Arreton Street Arreton Isle of Wight
Proposal	Proposed stable block and mixed use of existing field for a mix of agricultural and equestrian purposes

The members agreed that they objected to the application for Tientu on the following grounds:-

i) In the original application for an extension at Tientu (19/00970/HOU), approval was given for two Velux-type windows on the rear elevation of the first floor of the new extension. These have been replaced by a dormer window which has considerable implications for the privacy of the next-door neighbour as the sightlines from a skylight are considerably more restricted than those from a dormer window. In the event of this application being granted, the members request that frosted glass be installed.

ii) The Members note that the room that was approved as a study in the original application is now shown as a bedroom. The members consider that this has implications for an increased load on the sewage system and possibly extra traffic entering and leaving the site.

iii) A large external chimney has been built on the south side of the house which was not included in the original application as approved. The members understand from the next-door neighbour that "it is very dominant and an eyesore".

The Members agreed that they had no objection to the application for an extension to the bungalow at Chapel Nurseries. A question was asked as to whether a fire escape was necessary as there was a kitchen on the first floor and so the Clerk will ask for advice from the Planning Department.

The Members objected to the application for stable on the land between Challen Way and Beresford on the following grounds:-

i) First of all, the members of the Parish Council would like it to be noted that they have no objection to the use of the field for mixed agricultural purposes.

ii) The Members are concerned that the application for the stable may affect the amenities of neighbouring properties, particularly as the proposed building is close to the boundary and dwelling on Plot 2. Odour is an inevitable consequence of keeping a horse or pony and there is no detail regarding the storage and disposal of manure.

iii) The Members are also concerned as to the possible increase in nitrates in the soil.

iv) The Members note the reasoning for building the stable block in the garden p 8, para 6.3 in the *Supporting Statement*. However, this would appear to be contradicted by the following paragraph (6.4) where it is stated that the provision of stabling is common amongst horse owners and that the field in question will be used for grazing by sheep and a pony. Therefore, if the usage of the land i.e. the field is acceptable for equestrian purposes and "... it follows that the principle of a stable block is equally acceptable", then this statement refers to the field and not the garden. The Members would argue that using a garden for equestrian purposes is not acceptable and would have no objection to the siting of the stable in the field.

v) Reference is made to a nearby stable (p 2, para 2.5) but it is noted that this is in a field and not a domestic garden.

vi) There is a lack of detail in the application for the stable block with no mention of any hardstanding, which would presumably be necessary outside the stable doors, nor of the supply of any services e.g. water and electricity.

vii) There is also a lack of detail in the plans regarding access to the field from the garden as no opening is shown in the hedge. The Members assume that access would be required to allow the pony out to graze in the field? Also, with no rear access, it is presumed that deliveries of hay and straw and possibly access for a horse box would be through the garden with the potential for an increase in traffic to and from the site.

- viii) In the event of this application being approved and the necessity for an electricity supply for lighting, the Members would like to see consideration given to the IW Council's Dark Skies Policy.
- ix) The Members note that there is inconsistency in referrals to "a pony" e.g. p 3, para 1.3 and "ponies" e.g. p 6, para 4.1.
- x) The Members are also concerned as to the reference for using the proposed stable block "... in conjunction with the applicants' temporary accommodation ... whilst building the house." (p 3, para 1.3) with no indication as to what that use might be.
- xi) There is a further reference in para 6.7 (p 9) to intentionally locating the stable in the garden as it "... is to be used for domestic purposes in conjunction with the occupation of that respective dwelling." The members do not consider that to be a sufficient reason for building the stable in the garden, assuming that the domestic usage will be temporary. With the stable in the garden, they have concerns about its use in the future.

116/23 Defibrillator

The insurance for the defibrillator will be covered by the Methodist Church and so the Clerk will now instruct IOW Defibrillators to go ahead with the installation.

117/23 Gore Cemetery shed

The Clerk has contacted a second builder but has not as yet received a response.

118/23 Events

A representative from Arreton cricket Club attended the meeting to request the help of the Parish Council at their Summer Fair in August. It was agreed that cream teas would be provided for sale and that costs would be recovered. It was also suggested that the Parish Council have a stall to publicise what we do.

119/23 Dark Skies

The IW Council is applying for Dark Skies accreditation. Whilst the Parish is not in the area under consideration, it is on the boundary and it was agreed that the Clerk would write to relevant businesses requesting that they take steps to reduce the amount of light emitted e.g by using downlighters. It was also agreed to write to Rookley Parish Council to ask if they would co-operate in seeking to reduce the amount of light from the caravan site on the common parish boundary.

It was also noted that the IW Council has or will receive a substantial sum of money for road improvements such as street lighting, speed limits and road widening. Whilst welcoming the initiative, the Members requested the Clerk to contact IWC Cllr Ellis to see if she has any knowledge of time scales and if there will be any consultation. Of particular concern is a proposal for street lighting at Arreton Cross due to a possible effect on the Dark Skies policy in the area.

120/23 Information leaflet

The Members agreed that they were happy with the first draft of the information leaflet, although more work is required. It was suggested that the dates of the monthly Police visits be included and the positions of defibrillators in the Parish, plus a link to a website listing walks on the Island. It was suggested that it be reprinted annually but that updates be included in the webpage version. The Clerk will investigate printing costs once the format is finalised. It was also suggested that, in addition to delivery to all households in the Parish, copies be held at the Post Office and the churches. Residents will be requested to let the Parish Council know if they have new neighbours.

121/23 Community Hall

Cllr Dodson reported that he and Cllr Healy had met with the Webmaster regarding the booking diary for the Hall. However, as there are bookings through to 2025 and these would have to be transferred to a new system manually, it was agreed to continue with the present system for the time being. Cllr Dodson will take over responsibility for maintaining the diary from Mrs Pat Phillips.

A fire inspection has taken place and there are several recommendations to follow up. An asbestos management survey has also been undertaken and the report is pending. Repairs to the Social Club are ongoing and the cleaning company has been changed.

The bank statements were eventually forthcoming and the Trustees have approximately £13,250 in their current account and £3,000 in savings. Increase in the hire charges are being introduced to cover the higher utility costs but the Social Club is in negotiations for a reduction in the costs of the electricity supply.

122/23 Complaints Procedure

The Complaints Procedure was reviewed and adopted.

123/23 Trees

It was agreed to wait to see if there were any proposals for re-aligning the road in the Arreton Cross area before making a decision on re-planting trees in the area.

124/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 10th July 2023

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

125/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Cllr Cooper raised the question of a bouncy play installation at *The Fighting Cocks*. He asked if planning permission was required as it was so big. The Clerk will investigate.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.49pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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14th June 2023

..... Chairman

..... Date