

Arreton Parish Council Newsletter

June 2023

Another Newsletter after quite a gap but at least I have plenty of news, even if some of it quite old.

Parish Council news

The year began with the retirement of our long-serving Burial Registrar, Mrs Pat Phillips. Many of you may know Pat through all her other many activities including the Methodist Church and the Community Hall. Pat took over from her father, Martin Moore, as Parish Clerk and Burial Registrar in 1978. Mr Moore served from 1937 and his predecessor, Mr Whitbread, was in post from at least 1909. Having served a mere ten years myself, I am obviously still a newcomer. Pat resigned as Clerk and Burial Registrar in December 2010 but returned briefly in May 2011, resigning again as Clerk three months later. However, she remained as Burial Registrar until December last year. Forty-four years of service is a remarkable record. Her mother was also a parish councillor for 18 years in the 1950s and 60s and so the family, between them, have clocked up a remarkable total of over 100 years in the service of the Parish Council.



Picture courtesy of Kathryn Toney

Pat's retirement was marked by a celebration at Haseley Manor, courtesy of Anthony and Vivian Roberts, and the current Chairman of the Parish Council, Cllr Nicholas Gurney-Champion, presented Pat with a card, a garden gift voucher and a piece of glassware from Isle of Wight Studio Glass at Arreton Barns. The Members (past and present) and current Clerk of Arreton Parish Council wish to thank Pat for her dedicated service over the years.

Burials

Whilst on the subject of burials, some of you may not be aware that the Parish Council own the Cemetery at Gore (opposite the anaerobic digester). At the risk of sounding like a sales pitch, plots can be purchased in advance for either burials or cremation. The Parish Council is also responsible for the maintenance of the graveyard at St George's Church. Whilst this is closed to any further burials of coffins, there is an area reserved for the interment of ashes under the large cherry tree nearest the Church. Full details are available on the website - arreton.org.uk/category/burial/ - or by contacting the new Burial Registrar, Mrs Sheila Caws, on arretonpc@outlook.com or 07587 008183.

Flooding

Following on from the devastating floods in the village last year, a meeting was held in the Community Centre in January which was organised by the IW Council in their role as the Local Flood Authority. It was attended by a senior Planning Officer, the Drainage and Flood Risk Management Officer and a member of the Emergency Planning team. Several councillors and residents visited during the afternoon and early evening and the IW Council team said that they received good feedback. The Drainage and Flood Risk Management Officer has provided a recent update:-

“There have been some developments which have seen a multi-agency approach to certain issues in Arreton. I contacted the Environment Agency as there were issues with the stream that passed behind the houses on the eastern side of the village. The EA decided that it was not within their remit and so it was passed back to me. I sent a letter to the landowner asking him to carry out some repairs and additions to the watercourse however they have not been completed as he spoke with the NFU Secretary regarding my request so I am now dealing with them to move forward with this issue.

“The owners of Haseley Manor have been busy as I requested that they maintain their watercourse more effectively and this work has been done. This will allow a better, and increased flow through their land.

“Following the drop-in meeting at the community centre we received some feedback which is currently being actioned and I am hoping to have some results from this in the near future. I have also become a member of the farmers’ cluster group which has given me access to farmers’ land and farming practices, which has proved to be incredibly valuable. Using this knowledge, I will be able to push for some changes that will see a reduction in flood risk throughout the village.”

Budget

In February, the Parish Councillors set the Budget for 2023/24, which also sets the precept (Council Tax) for the year. Owing to an increase in spending with higher wages and other costs, the precept was increased from £10,400 to £15,000. This is a rise of 44.3% which, as a headline figure seems rather high. However, Arreton has always had a small precept compared to other town and parish councils and this increase means a rise of approximately 22p a week per household, from 50p to 72p, which puts the increase into some sort of context.

Coronation Picnic

In May, residents and guests came together to celebrate the Coronation of HM King Charles III. The event, held on Sunday, May 7th, took place at Haseley Manor Barn, courtesy of Anthony and Vivian Roberts, and was organised by a combined group from Arreton Cricket Club, the Methodist Church, the Parish Council and St Georges Church.

The day began with a Scavenger Walk, organised by the members of the Cricket Club, which went from the Club to the Manor via the Garlic Farm and a good number of members and Parish residents took part. Around 90 people then enjoyed the lunchtime picnic and games in the Barn plus a visit from Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. The event was free but proceeds from the games and donations on the day were divided between the Cricket Club and the IW Foodbank, which each received £56.00.



Thanks go to all those who attended and made it a success but particular thanks go to those who provided the food and drink and looked after the games.

Defibrillators

The members of the Parish Council are working with members of the Methodist Church and the charity IOW Defibrillators to install a machine on the outside wall of the Church. Other defibrillators are located in or near the Parish:-

Newchurch Pavilion, Watery Lane - available 24/7; public access

Robin Hill Country Park - access limited to Park opening times (variable)

Perreton Farm - available 24/7; public access

Wight Lion - availability times varied; public access

Wight Building Materials Blackwater Quarry, St Georges Down, Newport, PO30 3BX - available 24/7; public access

Blackwater Mill Residential Home - available 24/7; public access

JMC Broadfields Farm - available: 24/7. Phone 999 in emergency and get cabinet code

Dairymans Daughter (in locked cabinet on front wall of the pub) – availability limited to opening hours daily 08.00-22.00 hrs. Phone 999 in emergency for cabinet code.

Events

Community Lunch - the monthly Community Lunch is held in the Community Hall on the third Thursday of the month. Anyone who wants a two-course meal out with wine or soft drink (for a suggested donation of £5) then just come along to Community Hall at 12:30ish. Next month's lunch will be on Thursday, July 20th.

Arreton Open Gardens - Five gardens in Arreton will be open to raise money for the Scouts and WightDASH/WOW on Sunday July 30th from noon to 4 30pm. These are the Old Vicarage, Haseley Manor (cream teas and plant sales) Spreets Rew, Horrington House and Station House. Teas will also be served at the Coach House next to the Old Vicarage. Tickets £5 (children free) which lets you into all the gardens and can be bought from any of the open gardens on the day or the Post Office a few days before.

Arreton Cricket Club Summer Fair will be held at the Cricket Club on Saturday, August 5th from 11am to 3pm. The numerous attractions are too many to list here but watch out for posters nearer the date.

If you are organising or know of any forthcoming events, please let the Clerk know – arretonpc@outlook.com If there isn't a Newsletter in the offing then an e-mail can be sent and a notice put on the website. Posters are always helpful as well.

Planters



As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the concrete planters around the Parish were in need of some tittivation and a request was put out to see if anyone knew who had been looking after which planters. Based on the information received, Cllr Simon Dodson undertook to replace any sad and tired plants with more colourful geraniums and the results are quite impressive. Cllr Dodson is also undertaking the watering and maintenance of the flowers and the other members of the Parish Council are very grateful to him.

Speeding

Speeding is an on-going problem on many roads in the Parish. Some of you may have attended the Parish Council meetings where Inspector Matt Gooding from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary came to talk about new initiatives regarding traffic offences. The main news was the setting up of a Road Traffic Unit on the Island and so we were no longer dependent on officers coming over from Hampshire. As reports in the local papers show, they have been quite successful in making their presence felt amongst the less law-abiding drivers out there. However, the problem of speeding has not gone away and residents are encouraged to report instances to the Police. This can be done by either dialling 101, at the local beat surgeries (see below for details) or on-line at hampshire.police.uk/contact/af/contact-us/ The date and time of the incident(s) is important and vehicle registrations are very helpful.

Police Beat surgeries

Surgeries are held By PCSO Justin Keefe every four weeks at Arreton Post Office from 10.15 to 11.10 on a Tuesday subject to operational constraints. The next two surgeries are due to be held on July 28th and August 15th. The dates are posted every four months or so on the notice boards around the Parish and also on the 'Notice Board' page on our website - arreton.org.uk/category/notice-board/



Improvements to the A3056

The IW Council has announced that Government funding has been received for improvements to the A 3056, which is the main road through Arreton.

£2.1 million secured for A3056 safety improvements

A main road on the Isle of Wight will get new safety measures thanks to a multi-million-pound injection of government cash.

The Isle of Wight Council has been successful in its bid to the Department for Transport's Safer Roads Fund and has been given £2.1 million to drive forward safety improvements to high-risk areas of the A3056, between Blackwater and Lake.

Proposed safety measures and upgrades include:

- a reduction in speed limits and the introduction of variable speed limits near schools;
- improved pedestrian facilities, including new footpaths and bus stop upgrades;
- speed reactive signage;
- improvements to road markings and signage;
- additional street lighting at key junctions.

Following this announcement, detailed designs will be drawn up and there will be a period of consultation for some of the proposed changes.

Councillor Phil Jordan, Cabinet member for highways and infrastructure, said: "The intention of the scheme is to reduce identified high-risk areas and to improve the overall safety of the route for all public highway users.

"Any targeted funding for areas where there are proven road safety concerns is very much welcomed by me. This is a significant amount of money, which will be important in terms of improvements to the A3056 and particularly for road safety.

"We will continue to work closely with local communities and parish councils to deliver these safety measures as efficiently and effectively as possible."

"The council's bid was supported by the Island's MP, Bob Seely, who said: "I'm delighted the Department for Transport has agreed to finance the £2.14 million road safety scheme on the A3056.

"The council put together a strong bid and I was pleased to support it.

"I have no doubt that this scheme, combined with the excellent work being done by the new Isle of Wight Roads Policing Team, will make our roads safer."

Announcing the allocation of £47.5m across the country in the Safer Roads Fund, transport secretary Mark Harper said: "Britain's roads are some of the safest in the world, but we are always looking at ways to help keep motorists and all road users safer.

"That's why we're investing £14.4 million across the South East and this is the first crucial step to ensuring local councils have the support they need to keep everyone safe, while also reducing congestion and emissions."

The funding has been allocated to 27 different schemes around the country where the risk of collisions causing death or serious injury are highest, according to a list drawn up by road casualty reduction charity the Road Safety Foundation.

Complaints against the NHS



Do you have a complaint about NHS treatment you, or someone you know has received?

SWAN Advocacy are commissioned by the Isle of Wight Council to provide the free, independent and confidential support to:

- Help anyone making a complaint about any NHS service including hospitals, GP surgeries, the ambulance service, dentists, pharmacies, opticians, community nursing and NHS-funded care homes.
- Help anyone who wishes to complain on behalf of a friend or relative, provided that person has given written consent where they are able to do so. We can also support with complaints about the treatment of someone who has died
- Help you to understand the NHS complaints process, and support you with letter writing, preparing and attending complaints meetings, taking your complaint to Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.
- Ensure your views, feelings and concerns are listened to by the appropriate NHS body

For free, independent and confidential support, contact SWAN at:

Tel: 03333 447928

Email: IoW@swanadvocacy.org.uk

Web: www.swanadvocacy.org.uk/iow



@SouthWestAdvocacyNetwork



@SWANadvocacy



@SouthWestAdvocacyNetwork

PARISH COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS

Chairman: Cllr Nicholas Gurney-Champion – c/o arrettonpc@outlook.com

Clerk: Mrs Sheila Caws - arrettonpc@outlook.com 07587 008183

Burial Registrar: Mrs Sheila Caws – arrettonpc@outlook.com 07587 008183