

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 11th September 2023** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Gurney-Champion, Cooper, Dodson, Mills, Orchard, Roberts and Verey
In attendance: Sheila Caws (Clerk), four members of the public and two members of staff from Southern Water.

144/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Healy (on holiday) and IWC Cllr Ellis (IW Council business)

145/23 Southern Water

Mr Adam Wilds, the County Customer Manager (IOW) for Southern Water and a colleague attended the meeting. Mr Wilds briefly outlined the waste water treatment facilities in the Parish, which are his responsibility along with sewers and other waste water infrastructure on the Island. He then responded to questions that had been sent in and took further questions from the floor.

The Chairman thanked Mr Wilds and his colleague for attending. They then left the meeting.

146/23 Questions from the public

A comment was received regarding the slow progress in setting up a Speedwatch campaign in the Parish. The Clerk will contact the relevant Police Officer to ask about the provision of equipment and will also re-circulate the details of how to contact the Police to report potential speeding offences.

147/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Gurney-Champion declared a non-pecuniary interest in the planning application for Newclose Cricket Ground.

148/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 160/23

Three items were requested.

149/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (10th July 2023)

The minutes of the meeting held on July 10th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Orchard.

150/23 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor – in her absence, IWC Cllr Ellis gave a verbal report to the Clerk as, although she has been busy, there was little that applied directly to Arreton.

IWC Cllr Ellis reported that she had met with Russell Chick from the Planning Department with regard to the planning applications for Broadfields Farm. The noise and drainage reports have now been received and passed on to Environmental Health for their consideration. IWC Cllr Ellis has called the applications in and so it is possible that they will be considered by the Planning Committee.

IWC Cllr Ellis has reported building work on the land next to the *Fighting Cocks* to the Planning Department. Cllr Cooper also wished to raise the question of the works and distributed photographs to show the nature of it. As IWC Cllr Ellis has already reported the matter, the Clerk will contact the Planning Department and ask to be kept in the loop.

b) Cllr Dodson reported that the Burma Star bench in the Churchyard has been repaired.

The Clerk reported that Brighstone Landscaping had all the materials for repairing the shed in Gore Cemetery but at that time were waiting for a change in the weather. The Clerk will enquire as to the current status and also chase them for quotes for repairing a buttress and wall in the Churchyard.

The Clerk has also received a complaint about the overhanging tree in the north-east corner of the Gore Cemetery and has contacted Brighstone Landscaping to attend to it.

c) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Cooper reported that the junction of paths A18 and A21 is very overgrown. The bridge on A21 is still overgrown to the extent that the bridge is rotting. The Clerk will contact Rights of Way.

d) Chairman’s report - the Chairman reported that he had not been required to undertake any Parish Council business this month other than e-mail correspondence with the Clerk. He had attended the Cricket Club Summer Fair which was a great success despite the weather. He thanked all those councillors who had attended on the day or helped with the organisation.

e) IWALC – the Communications Officer has retired and the Committee is looking to appoint a replacement.

There was much discussion on the IW Council’s apparently high-handed manner of taking over town and parish council assets, in this case a car park in Ventnor that had been run by Ventnor Town Council. It was agreed to write a strongly-worded letter to the IW Council.

f) Meetings – Cllr Gurney-Champion attended the regular on-line meeting with Bob Seely MP but there was nothing that was relevant to Arreton.

g) Clerk’s report – Agenda and Minutes Record: there were no actions arising from the last minutes that are not covered in the agenda.

Other matters: the planning application for Chapel Nurseries, Merstone has been approved. The applications for the LDC for Greenacres and for houses on the land next to Arreton Primary School have been refused.

The Clerk received a request from the *IW County Press* regarding any buildings under our control that may contain RAAC. In consultation with the Chairman, the Clerk replied to say that, as far as is known, the Parish Council does not have direct responsibility for any buildings that may contain this material but that checks would be made if necessary.

The Clerk has completed the three-yearly response to the Pensions Regulator to confirm that the Parish Council does not employ anyone who needs to be enrolled in a pension scheme.

Mr Read from the charity IOW Defibrillators is attempting to make contact with the Methodist Church following the latter’s request for a valuation for the equipment which was passed on by the Clerk.

The Blackwater resident who has offered to organise the local Speedwatch campaign has had some volunteers come forward and is planning to organise a meeting to explain the scheme to them in more detail.

The information leaflet has gone to print but, owing to an error on my part, was not ready for distribution tonight.

151/23 Finance

The finance report for July-August was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £14,616.72 at the end of August. The following payments were agreed:

019-23/24	S Caws (salary (July) - Clerk)	£391.17
020-23/24	S Caws (salary – Burial Registrar)	£100.30
021-23/24	S Caws (salary (August) - Clerk)	£391.17

022-23/24	S Caws (expenses – Clerk)	£86.54
023-23/24	S Caws (expenses – Burial Registrar)	£8.00
024-23/24	Ringway Island Roads (dog bins)	£760.32
025-23/24	S Caws (Parish map print)	£12.00
026-23/24	SLCC (book purchase)	£141.80

152/23 Planning and appeals

Reference	23/01178/HOU
Alternative Reference	PP-12306968
Application Received	Wed 12 Jul 2023
Address	Little Sullens Farm Burnt House Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 2PP
Proposal	Proposed single storey extensions; alterations to including cladding; detached garage; porch
Reference	23/01368/RVC
Alternative Reference	PP-12360367
Application Received	Fri 04 Aug 2023
Address	Newclose County Cricket Ground Blackwater Road Newport Isle of Wight
Proposal	Variation of condition no 1 on P/00422/10 to allow the metal frame of the marquee to be retained during the period 1st October to 30th March

With regard to the application for Little Sullens Farm, the members agreed that they had no objection to this application. However, there is a concern about the increase in window area and the possibility of light spill. Of particular concern is the full-length dormer window. Whilst providing light inside the property, it will not be possible to totally mitigate the amount of light emitted at night by such a large area with an overhanging roof and side cheeks (Design, Planning and Access Statement para 3.9).

As noted above, the DPAS para 4.9 (EV12 Dark Skies) suggests the the alterations will have significant overhangs to reduce light pollution within the AONB. The large dormer is facing southwards and the neighbour at Old Farm is also to the south. The additional square metres of window lights have not been calculated but the large dormer window alone could be more than 15 square metres. This may not be significant from miles away as the light pollution from Portsmouth and Newport emits a permanent background glow but close up to the property, unless there are thick blinds or curtains, it will affect the neighbouring farm. Also, given the elevation of the building in the surrounding landscape, any light spill from the large window is going to have an impact on the area.

Given the importance the IW Council places on Dark Skies, the members of Arreton Parish Council would like to see further consideration given to mitigating the impact of the large dormer window on the surrounding area.

8.11pm Cllr Roberts took the Chair

With regard to the application for Newclose County Cricket Ground, the members agreed that they had no objection to this application. However, they would like to see a condition attached that the covering remains removable and cannot be replaced by anything permanent.

Cllr Gurney-Champion returned to the Chair

153/23 Events

There was nothing further to report on any plans to commemorate D-Day 2024.

154/23 Community Hall

Cllr Dodson reported new fire alarms, fire doors (including the serving hatch), emergency lights and signage had been installed along with the new NHS Pod, for which the NHS pay rent. There is also a new alarm in the disabled toilet. A fire inspection will take place in October.

Cllr Dodson was asked if any Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) had been used in the construction of the Hall to which the answer is none.

155/23 Biodiversity

Cllr Verey produced a list of points which she thought ought to be considered in any discussion of bio-diversity in Parish policies. She recommended that an inventory be taken of historic boundaries, SSSIs and SINCS sites in the Parish and that there should be local nature recovery strategies and bio-diversity action plans for heathland and acid grassland habitat. Green spaces e.g. the Cemetery should also be included and further green spaces be created. Recognition should be given to air quality, low pollution and dark skies. Also important is the recognition of historic trees and the planting of new trees. Protection should be given to high quality agricultural land and against the flooding of property and roads.

Cllr Verey was requested to draw up a draft bio-diversity policy along the lines of examples found by Cllr Mills.

156/23 Cherry trees in the Churchyard

The Clerk has received a quote for work to remove dead wood from the cherry trees in the Churchyard but as it came to over £2,000 further quotes will be needed. The Clerk will obtain these.

157/23 Financial Regulations

A new shorter version of the Financial Regulations was received and approved – proposed by Cllr Cooper, seconded by Cllr Dodson and carried unanimously.

158/23 Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25

The councillors agreed that they did not wish to respond to the IW Council's invitation to comment on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2024/25.

159/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 9th October 2023

160/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Three items were raised:-

- i) Cllr Verey raised the point that the campaigners against gravel extraction in Wootton (WAGE) were still using Arreton in their title and asked if anything could be done about this? This will be an agenda item at the next meeting.
- ii) Cllr Verey has produced a list of local businesses to be contacted regarding the Dark Skies policy. It was agreed that as many as possible would be contacted by e-mail initially.
- iii) Cllr Verey has previously raised concerns about the presence of poison hemlock on roadside verges in the Parish. The Clerk will write to Natural England and DeFRA asking for advice on how to deal with it and also to request that it be added to the register of noxious weeds.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.44pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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14th September 2023

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Chairman

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Date