

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Gurney-Champion, Dodson, Healy, Mills, Orchard, Roberts and Verey  
In attendance: Sheila Caws (Clerk), one member of the public and Mrs Nichola Coates (Head Teacher, Arreton Primary School)

**161/23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Cooper (on holiday) and IWC Cllr Ellis (unwell)

**162/23 Questions from the public**

Mrs Nichola Coates, the Head Teacher of Arreton Primary School, spoke about plans to alleviate the parking problems at the School during drop-off and pick-up times. Having cleared the plans with Portsmouth Diocese and other interested parties, the intention is to apply for planning permission to put a turning area in the field next to the existing car park. This is already being used in fine weather but the plan is to install a weather-proof surface consisting of either geogrid matting or gravel/shingle. Festival matting could be used as a temporary measure over the winter. Mrs Coates emphasised that the whole field cannot and will not be turned into a car park as there are legal requirements regarding the size of school playing fields.

Mrs Coates also thanked the Community Hall Committee for allowing the parents of Reception and Y1 pupils to park in the car park at those times.

An offer of land had been received from a local farmer but unfortunately it was too steep to be practical.

Mrs Coates was thanked for sharing the plans and then left the meeting.

There were no questions from members of the public.

**163/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.**

There were no declarations or requests.

**164/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 177/23**

Two items were requested.

**165/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (11<sup>th</sup> September 2023)**

The minutes of the meeting held on September 11<sup>th</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Mills, seconded Cllr Roberts.

**166/23 To receive regular reports**

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

b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters - the Clerk has chased Brighstone Landscaping regarding the overhaul of the shed and the replacement of the prop under the magnolia bush in Gore Cemetery.

c) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Verey reported that graffiti on the railway bridge at Merstone Lane was an ongoing problem but was always promptly removed.

d) Chairman's report - the Chairman reported that he had not been required to attend any meetings on behalf of the Parish Council this month but had received a considerable number of e-mails.

e) IWALC – Cllr Roberts reported that a new Communications Officer has been appointed. Responsibilities will include the Bulletin and the website. There was a comment on the length of the Bulletin but this is set to continue.

Colin Rowland (Director of Neighbourhoods – IW Council) has been invited to come and talk about car parks.

There was a request for subjects for training sessions.

f) Meetings – Cllr Verey attended the regular on-line meeting with Bob Seely MP but there was nothing that was particularly relevant to Arreton. There was talk about how the IW could reach net zero by 2050, including how to store green electricity in batteries.

g) Clerk’s report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has sent a letter to both DeFRA and Natural England regarding Poison Hemlock (*Conium maculatum*).

All other actions are covered by items on the agenda.

Other matters: the planning applications for the frame at Newclose Cricket Ground and the extension/garage at Little Sullens have been approved. Work on some trees at Arreton Barns has also been approved.

Cllr Dodson visited a Merstone resident regarding drainage problems in the area. The IW Council’s Drainage and Flood Risk Management Officer has paid a visit at Cllr Dodson’s request and a report is awaited.

The Clerk spoke to Mrs Phillips about the current status of the installation of a defibrillator at the Methodist Chapel. Mrs Phillips will report back later this week.

With regard to the report from the Drainage Officer, Cllr Dodson gave an update. The Officer reported that there are a number of issues in respect of the drainage in Merstone Lane. The gully opposite Chapel Lane sits back into the verge, which has not been maintained for some time and so Island Roads have been requested to rectify this at the earliest opportunity. The rest of the gullies form part of a standard drainage system but do need work to alleviate any further damage to the resident’s property. The gully outside his house sits in a hollow so when the gully becomes overwhelmed and the water collects it forms a puddle that causes the issue. The Officer has proposed that Island Roads install a new, larger gully a few metres up the road and connect the outfall into the original gully which will be backfilled and the tarmac levelled. This will prevent ponding outside of the resident’s house and thus solve the issue. A plan has been submitted to Island Roads with the recommendation that the works be done before the worst seasonal weather arrives. The Drainage Officer will monitor the situation

### 167/23 Finance

The finance report for September was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £13,218.87 at the end of September. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salary etc.)	£719.17
Brighstone Landscaping Ltd (grounds maint.)	£1207.55

### 168/23 Planning and appeals

Reference	23/01545/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12425035
Application Received	Mon 04 Sep 2023
Address	Little Budbridge Farm Budbridge Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DH
Proposal	Proposed installation of solar panels and two buttresses to building 6

It was agreed that there was no objection to this application. However, there are some points that the Members would like to be taken into consideration.

- i) The proposed buttresses are to be built in brick. The Members request that conservation bricks are specified rather than engineered, as the former would be more in keeping with the surrounding buildings and particularly the house, being Grade II listed. The buttresses will be facing the house and engineered bricks would detract from the setting.
- ii) The Members note that black cladding is proposed for the south and east faces of the barn. The Members wish to ensure that there will be no cladding on the north wall as this faces the house and would be most inappropriate in that setting.

**169/23 Six-month Budget review**

The Clerk highlighted a known budget deficit with regard to the dog bins. Otherwise, everything else is on target.

**170/23 Budget**

The Clerk drew attention to known changes for next year (see above – item 169/23) and asked for consideration of any possible extra expenditure next year on projects and suchlike. Participation in the IW Council's new Planning Enforcement Scheme was discussed as the figures suggested by the IW Council are way above the Budget. The Clerk will contact the clerks of other small councils and Cllr Roberts will raise it with IWALC to ask how other small councils are proposing to deal with this.

**171/23 Community Hall**

Cllr Dodson reported that the NHS Pod is now ready for use. A donation of £2,500 has been received from WightAID to pay for the new fire doors with a request that their logo be featured on the Community Hall page of the website. Cllr Dodson intends to update that page and will provide some text and the WightAID logo.

**172/23 Biodiversity**

Cllr Verey produced the first draft of a Biodiversity Policy. Unfortunately, some members were unable to open the document and so the item was deferred to next month. Cllr Verey will circulate the Policy in a different format.

**173/23 Cherry trees in the Churchyard**

Three tree surgeons have been contacted. One is too busy, the Clerk is arranging a meeting with a second and the third has yet to reply.

**174/23 Asset Register**

There was some discussion as to the ownership of the Community Hall. The Parish Council owns the freehold of the land but not, it was agreed, the Hall. Cllr Dodson will circulate a copy of the insurance policy.

Cllr Healy asked about public liability insurance for Gore Cemetery. The clerk will check the wording.

Cllr Gurney-Champion asked about replacement costs for the shed for insurance purposes.

**175/23 Wootton, Whippingham and Arreton Against Gravel Extraction (WAGE)**

Cllr Verey raised concerns about Arreton being included in the title of the group, which was originally Wootton Against Gravel Extraction. However, the other Members felt that as the Parish Council was not specifically referred to, there was no need to take the matter further and it was agreed to take no further action.

**176/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**177/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**

Two items were raised:-

- i) On behalf of a resident, Cllr Verey raised a question about the verge at Horringford that had inadvertently been mown too far up the bank by Island Roads. The plan had been to re-seed it with wild flowers last November but there did not seem to be much evidence that this had taken place. The Clerk will chase Island Roads.
- ii) The Clerk asked about the letter to local businesses regarding Dark Skies in the area that Cllr Verey had drafted. As it has not yet been circulated, the Clerk will do so and it will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

**178/23 To pass a resolution to exclude the public and press under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to discuss staff matters**

The resolution being agreed and the Hall cleared, the Clerk announced her intention to retire at the end of December. After some discussion on the details, it was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk would work together on an advert.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

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12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

..... Chairman

..... Date