

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November 2023** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

In the absence of the Chairman, Cllr Gurney-Champion, the Vice-Chairman, Cllr Healy, took the Chair.

**179/23 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Orchard and IWC Cllr Ellis (both unwell). Cllr Gurney-Champion notified the Clerk that he would be slightly late.

**180/23 Questions from the public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**181/23 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.

**182/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 199/23**

Two items were requested.

**183/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (9<sup>th</sup> October 2023)**

The minutes of the meeting held on October 9<sup>th</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Verey, seconded Cllr Roberts.

**184/23 To receive regular reports**

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

b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – Cllr Dodson reported that the narrow grate under the gates at Gore Cemetery was badly corroded and needed replacing, which he is organising. The Clerk was requested to contact Brighstone Landscaping to ask them to clear the gully.

c) Highways and footpaths – nothing to report.

d) Chairman's report - the Chairman reported that he had attended the Remembrance Service at St George's Church yesterday (Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>) and laid a wreath on behalf of the Parish Council.

He happened to see the District Steward from Island Roads this morning and reported the flooding on Blackwater Road between the Cricket Ground and the West Standen entrance. The District Steward will put in a report.

e) IWALC – Cllr Roberts reported that this month's meeting had been about assets, especially those taken over from the IW Council, which does not directly affect Arreton at this time.

Cllr Roberts asked about the proposals for planning enforcement, which will be looked at by IWALC.

There was a discussion on the creation of emergency plans, particularly in relation to the recent flooding.

The IW Council's Scrutiny Committee have undertaken a funding review. The Council has had to use £2.400,000 from the £4,000,000 contingencies budget.

The IW Council has purchased houses for Ukrainian refugees, which will revert to the Council when the refugees are able to return home.

Domestic violence constitutes 24% of crime on the Island. The Hampton Trust has taken over from WightDash in providing support for victims.

f) Meetings – Cllr Roberts attended a training session on budget setting, organised by IWALC. The Clerk was requested to send out the slides to all the Parish Councillors.

g) Clerk’s report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk requested a letter from the IW Council regarding the actions taken on mitigation following the floods in the summer of 2022 but has not received a response as yet.

The Clerk has checked the .

**Other matters:** there have not been any notifications regarding planning applications.

The Clerk has been contacted by Mr Calloway regarding the installation of a defibrillator at the Methodist Church. Work is going ahead and they are arranging for an electrician to come and do the necessary wiring.

**Training:** Cllr Roberts attended a training session organised by IWALC on Finance and budget setting.

7.15pm Cllr Gurney-Champion arrived and took the Chair. He then gave his report – see above.

### 185/23 Finance

The finance report for October was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £10,747.35 at the end of October. The following payments were agreed:

Newsquest ( <i>IW County Press</i> advert)	£544.80
Staff costs (salaries etc.)	£492.47
NHS Printing Services (information leaflets)	£131.50

### 186/23 Planning and appeals

Reference	23/01667/HOU
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Mon 25 Sep 2023
Address	South View Merstone Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DG
Proposal	Proposed single storey side extension

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, two buttresses to north elevation and cladding of the south and east elevations of building 6 (revised description to include cladding) (re-advertised)

Reference	23/01696/RVC
Alternative Reference	PP-12489957
Application Received	Fri 29 Sep 2023
Address	Downend Chalk Pit Downend Road Arreton Isle of Wight

Proposal	Variation of condition 2 on P/00216/17 to allow alterations to elevation details of workshop and office building
Reference	23/01943/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-12536692
Application Received	Thu 02 Nov 2023
Address	Wight Farm Energy Arreton Road Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3FD
Proposal	Proposed extension to existing silage clamp and proposed storage/attenuation pond

It was agreed that there was no objection to the application for an extension at South View.

It was agreed that there was no objection to the revised application for Little Budbridge but that the comments on the previous application still stood i.e.

- 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.

It was agreed that there was no objection to the application for alterations to the proposed office and workshop at Downend Chalk Pit but there are some concerns:-The building will be very visible from the bridleway above the site, which is within the AoNB.

- i) A Landscape and Environment Management Plan was produced for the original application (P/00206/17). Is this being monitored?
- ii) The members would like to draw attention to the Dark Skies Policy and would like to ensure that no lights are visible during the hours of darkness outside of working hours.

It was agreed that there was no objection to the application for increased storage at the anaerobic digester but that the following concerns should be raised:-

- i) The members consider that although only at limited times of the year, more traffic will be generated at those times, which may have implications for what is an already busy road.
- ii) There is inevitably some smell from the material stored on site and the members are concerned that this may increase with more storage capacity.
- iii) In the *Design, Planning and Access Statement*, reference is made to an ecology report (p9 s6.0). Members would like to see a copy of this report included in the documents for public information.
- iv) The members are concerned about the reference to the use of pipes to irrigate nearby fields with liquid digestate (Mayer Brown – *Addendum to Transport Statement* p1 para4) There is no information in the application as to where these pipes are situated and is the condition of these pipes monitored regularly? The site sits over the water table that supplies drinking water to the Island and a leak from these pipes would have an effect on the nitrate content of this water, which is already high.

- v) The site is also close to a SINC site (C304A)
- vi) It was also noted that no dimensions or capacity were given for the new pond.

**187/23 Planning enforcement**

IWALC intend to look into the proposals from the IW Council regarding the provision of planning enforcement services next year, particularly in relation to smaller councils as the current proposals are too expensive. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask the Island branch of the SLCC to invite the IW Council's Strategic Manager Planning & Infrastructure Delivery, Ollie Boulter, to a meeting to discuss the problem.

**188/23 Budget**

The Clerk presented the first draft of the budget, which included known increases such as pay rises and increased expenditure on emptying the dog bins. Councillors were requested to consider any other potential increases or projects for next year.

**189/23 Community Hall**

Cllr Dodson reported that the NHS Pod is now in use on Thursdays, which brings in some income.

There will be a presentation this week to thank WightAid for their contribution of £2,500.00 towards the new fire doors.

The Hall was rated as low-risk following the recent fire inspection.

Cllr Dodson had asked about the curtilage of the Community Centre. Reference to the Trust Deed showed that the Trust was responsible for the car park and boundaries as well as the building.

**190/23 Biodiversity**

Cllr Verey was thanked for producing the draft of a new Bio-Diversity Policy, which was approved.

**191/23 Cherry trees in the Churchyard**

The Clerk has received two quotes so far for work on the trees and is expecting a third. It was agreed that the main purpose of undertaking the work was to remove the dead wood. It was also agreed that, should the third quote be more expensive or involved than the others, then the second one would be accepted.

**192/23 Asset Register**

The Asset Register was approved.

**193/23 Dark Skies**

Cllr Verey produced a draft letter to be sent to local businesses reminding them of the IW Council's Dark Skies Policy and requesting that lighting at night was kept to a minimum. It was agreed to post the letters rather than e-mail them. Cllr Cooper commented that the lights from the greenhouses near him had been very bright recently.

**194/23 Climate and Ecology Bill**

The members considered a request from a group called Zero Hour, requesting support for the Climate and Ecology Bill currently going through Parliament. Cllr Verey discovered that the Bill was unlikely to get a second reading but it was agreed not to get involved anyway as there could be a political element to this.

**195/23 Flooding**

There have been some minor instances of flooding following the recent heavy rains. The one major issue was Blackwater Road, as reported by the Chairman (see item 184/23 d). Although Cllr Gurney-Champion had the opportunity to speak to the District Steward, the Clerk will follow this up with Island Roads. It was noted that there is one drain in the vicinity but it does not appear to be in the right place. It was also noted that the drain at the junction of Chapel Lane and Merstone Lane is also in the wrong place as it is too far out from the kerb.

Cllr Healy reported that three of the four gullies at Downend Road were solidly blocked. Cllr Dodson reported that recent flooding near School Lane was caused by the culvert under the Lane being blocked by a collection of old tennis balls and footballs. This has now been cleared.

**196/23 Community Speedwatch**

The Community Speedwatch campaign is now underway in Merstone and Blackwater with 11 volunteers. They are borrowing a speed gun from the IW Council initially but this may not continue in the long term. The organiser has requested that the Parish Council consider purchasing a gun for use by local volunteers. This was agreed up to a limit of £200.00 and the gun would remain the property of the Parish Council and be loaned to the volunteers.

**197/23 Donations**

The Clerk has received a request for a donation for the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival 2024. The Parish Council has made donations in previous years and it was agreed to contribute £50.00

**198/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

**199/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**

Two items were raised:-

- i) The Clerk reported that she had contacted Island Roads regarding the verge at Horringtonford but had not yet received a response.
- ii) Cllr Cooper reported that one of the caravans in the field next to the *Fighting Cocks* now appeared to be being lived in. Lights have been seen at night and there is a gas canister in place although there is no sign of movement. Electricity and water were already supplied to the site. In the absence of IW Cllr Ellis, the Clerk was requested to contact Cllr Drew to see if he had any further information.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.11pm.

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

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15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

..... Chairman

..... Date