

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 11th December 2023** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Gurney-Champion, Dodson, Healy, Mills, Orchard, Roberts and Verey.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Warren Drew, Sheila Caws (Clerk), Tim Thorne (CycleWight) and one member of the public.

200/23 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Orchard and IWC Cllr Ellis (both unwell).

The Chairman welcomed the new Clerk, Mrs Claire Gale, who was attending the meeting.

201/23 Questions from the public

There were no questions from members of the public.

202/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.

Cllr Verey declared a pecuniary interest in agenda item 207/23.

203/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 219/23

Two items were requested.

204/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (13th December 2023)

The minutes of the meeting held on November 13th were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Verey, seconded Cllr Roberts.

205/23 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor – IWC Cllr Ellis's report had been previously circulated.

Cllr Ellis has had an update (long overdue) regarding the flooded area on the Cycle Track (Blackwater End shared path):-

Stewart Chandler, the IW Council's Transport Strategy Manager, "can confirm that we have recently commissioned a scheme with Island Roads to mitigate the flooding in this location. Likewise, it is due to tie directly in with planned maintenance for the complete section through to Birchmore Lane.

We have not yet heard back as to when works will commence. Though we have urged Island Roads to programme the works for completion before Easter.

In the background we are still investigating the root cause to ascertain if it is a wider land drainage issue."

IWC Cllr Ellis has asked again that she be kept updated and will continue monitoring this as it remains near the top of her priority list.

Broadfields planning enforcement cases remain on my radar, I am aware they have started on more reservoir infilling recently and am in regular contact with Cllr Drew and the planning dept on this matter (as indeed on others).

Hale Common – IWC Cllr Ellis gave an update on the former Aquatic Centre following a site visit, scheduled at the former Arreton Garden and Aquatic Centre on 8th November 2023. During this site visit, it was apparent that a pole barn had been erected at the rear of the land on the south side of Fighting Cocks Roadhouse, Hale Common, Newport (PO30 3AR). Upon inspection of the site, it was noted that several shipping containers were also located on the land, as well as three static caravans.

The landowner explained that they intend to undertake the development in accordance with planning permission (reference: P/01579/16) for the demolition of glass house and outbuildings, construction of new tourist attraction based on Godshill Cider and

Chocolate Island, parking and landscaping (revised plans)(readvertised), however no works had yet started as they wish to make amendments to the planning application (P/01579/16).

The landowner has clarified that the pole barn had been erected for the storage of materials in align with planning permission (reference: P/01579/16), however informed us that the site was currently being used for the storage of materials in conjunction with another development.

Whilst this is not the authorised use of the land, the landowner has expressed that this was purely a temporary measure and the materials being stored in the pole barn would be moved in the following weeks.

The planning enforcement team discussed with the landowner that as Condition 12 is tied to the Cider Barn and Chocolate Island shops, this will need to be varied, as these businesses in question are no longer operating. Further to this, we drew the landowners attention to the fact various pre-commencement conditions (condition 3,7 and 8) need to be submitted prior to development.

In conversation with the landowner, it was advised that if they wish to retain the pole barn, static caravans and shipping containers on the site in conjunction with the planning permission (reference: P/01579/16), then they must seek a temporary planning application.

It was also mentioned that individuals are residing in the caravan mostly every night due to security concerns. As the permitted use of the land is not for residential use, the landowner was further informed that if they wish to continue this use, they will also need to apply for a temporary permission for the caravans to be used in conjunction with the development. The landowner is expected to submit this application no later than 29th February 2024 and IWC Ellis will ensure that the Parish Council is informed when that happens.

Please note, that we have emphasised to the landowner that failure to submit a planning application in the prescribed timeframe could result in the Local Planning Authority pursuing further enforcement action.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Flooding – IWC Cllr Ellis has been in touch with James Brewer (Planning Policy Manager) and Neil Youngs (Drainage and Flood Risk Management officer – LLFA) regarding the flooding that the houses along main road suffer from water coming off the fields behind, due at least partially to the ditches which have not been maintained by the landowner. She asked whether they could please investigate taking further action to try and resolve this issue. Unfortunately, Mr Youngs is currently on medical leave and therefore Planning has not been able to progress this yet. They are looking to source interim resources from elsewhere and have assured her that they will liaise with the landowner as soon as they are able.

IWC Cllr Ellis would like to remind all councillors that she is always here to help and available by email or phone, even when not able to be physically present.

b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – The Clerk has written to Richard Payne to request that he undertake the work on the cherry trees in the Churchyard.

The Clerk will contact Brighstone Landscaping to ask about work on a buttress and the coping stones on the Churchyard wall near Arreton Barns as well as the shed.

A large Holm Oak in the north-east corner of Gore Cemetery has been badly damaged by the wind. Two large boughs are on the ground outside the fence. Cllr Dodson reported that the landowner will clear these away when the ground dries out. It was agreed that

the Clerk would write to the IW Council's Tree Officer to ask for advice before any further work is undertaken. Brighstone Landscaping will be asked if the area can be taped off.

Both the Clerks visited the Cemetery on Friday and reported seeing a rabbit. An inspection of the fence will be required to look for any holes or other weak spots.

The magnolia prop has been replaced.

c) Highways and footpaths – Cllr Cooper reported that the overgrowth on bridge on footpath A21 has been trimmed but not cleared. Nothing has been done about the work needed on A18.

It was reported that a new post and wire fence has been erected alongside the path to the east of Michael Morey's Hump, above the Downend Chalk Pit.

d) Chairman's report - the Chairman reported that he has mainly been dealing with the administration involved in appointing a new Clerk and flooding issues in the Parish.

e) IWALC – Cllr Roberts reported that she had attended the IWALC AGM. Subscriptions will rise by 3% and it was noted that member councils now have access to HR and HSE advice.

The next Executive Committee meeting will be a TEAMS meeting with the IW Council Cabinet.

It has been suggested that it would be useful to have just one number to ring in the event of any flooding as it can be confusing as to who should be rung about what.

f) Meetings – Cllr Roberts attended a meeting with Bob Seely MP, who reported that he had been very active in retaining the £2 bus fare and flooding issues.

Cllr Roberts also attended an HIOWLGA meeting. She reported that the SSE will support grants for village halls to obtain generators in the event of power cuts.

g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has arranged for Harry Taylor to attend the January meeting to report on the 2023 World Scout Jamboree in South Korea. Other than that, there are no actions to report as anything else is covered in the agenda items.

Other matters: the planning applications for South View, Merstone Lane and Little Budbridge were approved.

The Clerk attended an AONB Management Plan Review workshop. The AONBs have now been renamed National Landscapes. The workshop covered various policies to be included in the new five-year Management Plan which is due for submission next year. There was nothing of immediate relevance to Arreton as the policies are, of necessity, very general.

The Clerk has received a letter from Rebecca Pow MP responding on behalf of DeFRA to an enquiry about Hemlock and the Weeds Act 1959. The Members of the Parish Council are thanked for sharing their concerns but, in essence, there are no proposals to amend the Act in the foreseeable future.

The outgoing Clerk would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parish Councillors past and present for all their hard work over the last ten years - they have been such an excellent group of people to work with. She would like to wish the incoming Clerk all the best for the future.

The finance report for November was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £10,123.38 at the end of November. The following payments were agreed:

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| 036-23/24 | S Caws (salary - Clerk) | £648.19 |
| 037-23/24 | S Caws (salary – Burial Registrar) | £12.25 |
| 038-23/24 | S Caws (expenses – Clerk) | £10.75 |
| 039-23/24 | IW Fest. of Music, Dance & Drama (donation) | £50.00 |
| 040-23/24 | S Caws (wreath) | £50.00 |
| 041-23/24 | S Dodson (grating for Cemetery gate) | £46.62 |
| 042-23/24 | S Caws (computer security) | £64.98 |
| 043-23/24 | Natural Enterprise (balsam project) | £300.00 |
| 1331 | Information Commissioner (data protection) | £40.00 |
| 044-23/24 | Foundation Multimedia | £150.00 |

207/23 Planning and appeals

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| Reference | 23/01946/RES |
| Alternative Reference | PP-12569345 |
| Application Received | Thu 02 Nov 2023 |
| Address | Former Merstone Valley Nurseries Merstone Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DE |
| Proposal | Approval of Reserved Matters on P/00657/18 (demolition of glasshouse; outline for housing) relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale |

It was agreed that there was no objection to this application. Councillor comments regarding the heating methods and the possible provision of outdoor play equipment in the central landscaped area were noted for submission.

208/23 Budget

The Clerk presented the second draft of the budget. The Councillors went through the figures and further adjustments were made. It was agreed that the precept will have to increase and there will be further consideration next month.

209/23 Flooding

There is still considerable flooding on the bend near the Cricket Ground in Blackwater and also near Pyle Cottages. IWC Cllr Drew will take these matters up with the IW Council.

A resident has reported that one gullies near the Hare and Magpies sculpture is clear but three others are still blocked. Cllr Dodson reported that the drain at the end of Chapel Lane in Merstone is full.

210/23 CycleWight

Tim Thorne, the Chairman of CycleWight, thanked the members of the Parish Council for the opportunity to come and talk about a project to improve the footpath A36. He explained that CycleWight, which has been in existence for 30 years, is an advocacy group for cycling on the Island.

The group is currently campaigning for a strategic network of cycle tracks throughout the Island. Some of these already exist but others need links and A36, which runs from Rookley to Birchmore Lane, would be one-such link. So far, the group has spoken to the landowner, who is supportive, Rookley Parish Council, Rights of Way, the Ramblers and the IW Bridleways Group.

The proposal is to widen the path to 4 metres and have half dedicated to horses and the other half to walkers and cyclists. However, a survey will be required to bring the path to such a condition as to attract funding. This survey will cost in the region of £3,000+VAT and Mr Thorne requested that the Parish Council consider giving a donation towards the cost. Cyclewight have some funds and Mr Thorne will be approaching other potential donors.

Mr Thorne left the meeting and after some discussion, it was agreed to donate £100.00 with an offer to write a letter of support if requested.

211/23 Planning Enforcement

It was agreed that the Parish Council is not in a position to contribute to the proposed Planning Enforcement scheme at the present time, as the current cost of participating is well beyond the Parish Council's budget. However, should other payment options be offered, they will re-consider their decision.

212/23 Burial Regulations

The Burial Regulations were amended to permit more cremation urns to be placed in a grave than is currently permitted. The Regulations will come into force on 1st January 2023.

213/23 Community Hall

Cllr Dodson reported that Kim Powell from Arreton Cricket Club has joined the Trustees. The Hall will be painted inside in the near future.

214/23 Horringford verge

Although the verge at Horringford has been planted with wild flowers, they were not seen this year. It was agreed to wait and see what happens in the spring.

215/23 Methodist Church lay-by.

A letter has been received from the members of the Methodist Church asking for the support of the Parish Council. They have been given to understand that there will be a second application for a disabled space in the lay-by outside the Church. Should permission be granted, this would completely fill the available parking space and leave no room for the congregation to park or for hearses etc. It was agreed to support the Church members in the strongest possible terms.

216/23 Traffic Regulations

The members of the Parish Council have received notice of a proposed new Traffic Regulation for a short length of double-yellow lines in the road at the end of the cycletrack at Horringford. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to Island Roads asking what these lines would achieve.

217/23 Donations

A request for a donation has been received from Citizens' Advice. It was agreed to defer this to the next meeting.

218/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 15th January 2024

Councillors were requested to note that this meeting is a week later than usual due to the Christmas and New Year holidays.

219/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

Two items were raised:-

- i) Cllr Healy raised the question of using the Community Hall as a warm space in the colder weather. He had seen one advertised in Northwood WI Hall. It was suggested that once a week on Thursday morning was a possibility, although heating costs could be high. However, it could be a good focal point for the village. Cllr Healy will contact Northwood Parish Council for further details.
- ii) Cllr Verey reported that Cllr Orchard had sent some additional information for inclusion in the Biodiversity Policy. She also reminded the Clerk to change AONB to National Landscape.
- iii) This being the Clerk's last Parish Council meeting, due to her retirement, the Chairman gave a vote of thanks for the excellent work for the Parish Council and the Parish over the last 10 years.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.16pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

14th December 2023

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..... Chairman

..... Date