

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 15th January 2024 at 7.00pm in Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Gurney-Champion (Chair), Cooper, Dodson, Roberts and Verey.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Suzie Ellis, Claire Gale (Clerk), Alan White (IWC Highways PFI – Group Engineer), Ian Middleton (Island Roads) and 3 members of the public.

001/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Orchard (unable to attend due to the dark and cold conditions), Cllr Mills (on holiday), Cllr Healy (attending a medical appointment) and Zhana Vincent (IWC Highways) unable to attend due to illness.

002/24 Safer Roads Project – A3056

The Chair welcomed Alan White (IWC Highways PFI – Group Engineer) and Ian Middleton (Island Roads) who gave a presentation on proposals to change speed limits on the A3056 Arreton to Blackwater section and on Merstone Lane. The proposals came about following an assessment by the Road Safety Foundation Charity which identified the route as high risk for all users based on vehicle flow and casualty rates over 5 years. Department for Transport Safer Roads Fund (Round 3) is funding the project. Road layout plans were shared which identified the mitigation measures proposed to include a formalised variable speed limit reduction from 30mph to 20mph at key school drop off and pick up times to replace the current advisory illuminated speed signs. Replacement signs would be remotely operated so more responsive than the existing pre-programmed signs. Current funding is insufficient to provide a right hand turn facility out of the school site. National speed limit signs that would be replaced with 40mph were indicated on the plan.

Councillors discussed the proposals and made the following comments. It is currently very difficult to exit the Downend Road junction safely with the speed of the traffic. A 30mph limit from this junction for vehicles entering and leaving the village of Arreton would be safer. A 30mph limit on the section towards Newport in both directions would enable safer exit from the Downend Road junction for people turning right. It was noted that land had been compulsorily purchased at this junction some years ago to alter the road layout to include a roundabout but this had never been pursued. A section taken off the left verge at the bottom of Downend Road would allow 2 cars to sit abreast, one to turn left towards Sandown and one to turn right to Newport, to prevent traffic backing up the hill so much at peak times. A 30mph speed limit would be preferable on Downend Road.

On the A3056 beyond Merstone Lane a reduction in the speed limit from 60mph to 50mph is welcomed.

On Main Road, Arreton it was noted there have been 2 accidents where pedestrians using the bus stop have been injured despite the 30mph speed limit.

Regarding East Lane concerns were raised about the speed of traffic on this road which is often used as a short cut and an alternative to Merstone Lane. A 30mph speed limit would be preferable on both roads.

Other concerns in Arreton were noted. In the area around Mole Valley the lack of pavements and routes to bus stops makes this area very dangerous especially for residents with mobility issues. At the bus stop on Merstone Lane there is a dangerous post sticking out in the bank. The Merstone Lane North bus stop is dangerous for passengers getting off the bus. At Station House, Horringford

the speed limit is 30mph after the cycle path. The 30mph limit should start the other side of the bend towards Harvey Browns.

Congestion is a problem at the Hare and Hounds traffic lights due to people turning right, a separate lane is needed. Verge cutting affects visibility (particularly at junctions) at different times of year. Councillors were thanked for their comments. A further formal public consultation will follow. Alan White and Ian Middleton left the meeting.

003/24 World Scout Jamboree 2023

Harry Taylor thanked the Parish Council for their donation towards his attending the World Scout Jamboree. His own fundraising included being a car park marshall and an event in Newport. Harry gave a full report of his trip from an overnight stay in a Scout Hut in Southampton, flying from Gatwick to Dubai then on to South Korea. Time in the capital Seoul included a visit to the Korean War Museum, experiencing the heat, sights, sounds and smells of the city including travelling on the metro. The group then went to the camp site, attended the opening ceremony and interacted with Scouts from all over the world. They keep in touch via a Whats App group for the 3000 people who attended. This part of the trip had to be cut short due to the heat. They relocated to the Dragon City Hotel for 2 weeks and visited the Korean Legoland, the demilitarised zone on the border with North Korea and the Olympic Stadium. Harry remarked on the different culture, food and etiquette. Harry's next challenge is completing his Duke of Edinburgh Award.

The Chair thanked Harry for his presentation and wished him well with his future endeavours.

004/24 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

005/24 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.

There were no declarations of interest.

006/24 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 023/24

No items were raised.

007/24 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting (11th December 2023)

The minutes of the meeting of 11th December were approved and signed.

008/24 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Suzie Ellis apologised for her recent absence due to health issues. Flooding has been the main issue she has been dealing with recently. There continue to be enquiries about the Broadfields planning application. She has a meeting organised with the IWC Planning Team in February and will report back at the February Parish Council meeting. Cllr Gurney Champion asked if Cllr Ellis would follow up his request to IWC on behalf of residents for a letter setting out the existing and planned flooding mitigation measures so that this can be used in correspondence with insurance providers. Cllr Dodson stated that Merstone residents also need support. There is a drain at the end of Chapel Lane set back in the bank which is full and ineffective. Cllr Verey raised concerns about river flow. Cllr Ellis had no knowledge of who is responsible for monitoring this. Cllr Verey stated she would make further enquiries through a contact at Newchurch Parish Council.

b) Cemetery and churchyard matters

The Clerk reported that in Gore Cemetery the hedges have been trimmed and God's Garden has been tidied, shed repairs are in hand. A quotation for the repairs to the buttress and wall is

awaited. Richard Payne has some availability to complete the work on the cherry trees in February.

c) Highways and footpaths

There were no reports.

d) Chairman's report

Cllr Gurney Champion reported responding to emails and receipt of a letter of resignation from Cllr Orchard after over 50 years of service with effect from 31st January 2024. He will respond to this and accept the resignation. Thanks were given to Cllr Roberts for hosting an evening on 8th January when a presentation was made to the former Clerk.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts is unable to attend the IWALC executive meeting on 25th January. She had attended a topic meeting which included information from The Footprint Trust. It had also been noted that sand had been removed from Ryde beach for sandbags. Information is available from Island Roads about the decline in the effectiveness of sand bags over time.

f) Meeting reports

There were no reports.

g) Clerk's report

The Clerk reported CycleWight have been advised about the donation, a letter supporting the Methodist Church has been sent to Island Roads about the layby and a response sent to Scott Headey at IWC about the TRO for double yellow lines at Hale Common.

Planning Applications 23/02149/6PA Fulford Farm and 23/01696/RVC Downend Chalk pit have been approved.

The handover from the outgoing clerk is complete. Changes to the bank mandates will be brought to the next meeting. The Clerk attended the IWALC topic meeting on 14th December which included input from IWC Trading Standards and IWC Planning Department. The defibrillator was installed at the Methodist Church on 22nd December. An invitation was received for councillors from Alan Wilds to take a tour of the Southern Water Treatment Plant at Sandown.

009/24 Finance

The finance report for December was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £8,750.59. The following payments were agreed.

To agree the following payments and any other invoices received:

045-23/24	C Gale (Dec salary - Clerk)	£401.41
046-23/24	S Caws (Dec salary - Clerk)	£420.77
047-23/24	C Gale (expenses - Clerk)	£41.10
048-23/24	S Caws (expenses - Clerk)	£21.55
049-23/24	HMRC Quarterly PAYE (Oct-Dec)	£489.71
050-23/24	C Gale - Speedwatch Equipment	£189.99
051-23/24	Retirement Gift	£100.00
052-23/24	Wight Tactical - Pest Control	£30.00
053-23/24	IW Defibrillators	£1,000.00
054-23/24	Arreton Community Hall	£253.00

010/24 Planning and Appeals

The following applications were considered.

Reference	23/02237/FUL
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Alternative Reference	PP-12685957
Application Received	Tue 19 Dec 2023
Address	Land Adjacent 3 Birchmore Cottages Birchmore Lane Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3BW
Proposal	Proposed detached dwelling (revised scheme)

Cllrs agreed a neutral response and to comment that there are safety concerns due to the restricted visibility to the left exiting the site at a point where vehicles are known to exceed the speed limit. The site plan does not give any information on drainage or how adequate provision will be made for the proposed new dwelling.

Reference	23/02163/FUL
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Tue 05 Dec 2023
Address	Land Adjacent Frys Cottage Arreton Street Arreton Newport Isle Of Wight PO30 3AD
Proposal	Proposed dwelling

Cllrs agreed to object to this application as it is lacking in detail on design including the materials to be used, provision for drainage and sustainability.

011/24 Flooding

It was noted that road puddle flooding issues at Blackwater have improved.

012/24 Budget

Cllrs considered the draft budget for 2024/25 as presented. No further changes were made. It was agreed to submit a precept request to IWC for £18,000.

013/24 Donation

Cllrs considered a request from Isle of Wight Citizens Advice for a donation and agreed on a sum of £150 towards this valuable work.

014/24 Pest Control

Cllrs considered further pest control measures in Gore Cemetery following the recent visit on 11th December. It was agreed to instruct Wight Tactical to visit again in 3 months from the date of this visit.

015/24 Gore Cemetery tree

Cllrs considered the condition of the holm oak in Gore Cemetery and examined some recent photographs taken by the Clerk. Information had been received from the IWC Tree Officer who had inspected the site. It was confirmed that the tree does not have protection by being in a conservation area or TPO whether individual or woodland and the IWC would have no objection to work being carried out on the tree. Several options were put forward. It was noted that the neighbouring landowner would be willing to remove any cut wood. It was agreed that Cllr Gurney Champion would make a visit to the site and report further at the February meeting with a view to all councillors visiting before the March meeting. The area will remain taped off.

016/24 Burial fees

The Clerk was requested to provide information about fees being charged locally at other burial grounds and report back at the February meeting for further consideration of the burial fees for 2024/25.

017/24 Internal Auditor

Cllrs agreed to appoint Gareth Hughes as internal auditor for the financial year 2023/24.

018/24 Calendar

The calendar of meetings for 2024/25 was agreed. Cllr Dodson will book the Community Hall for these dates.

019/24 D Day 80th Anniversary

Cllrs considered marking the D Day 80th Anniversary Commemoration on 6th June 2024. The Clerk was asked to contact St Georges Church to see if the bells could be rung at 6.30pm.

020/24 Community Speedwatch

Cllrs approved the Community Speedwatch Equipment Loan Agreement. The Clerk will arrange for the equipment to be handed to the group.

021/24 Community Hall

The main room at Arreton Community Hall has undergone redecoration. The kitchen and toilets will be next. Bookings are up and Kim Powell has set up a Facebook page.

022/24 To note the date of the next meeting, 12th February 2024

The date was noted.

023/24 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

There were no other matters.

The meeting concluded at 9.03pm.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

E-mail: arretonpc@outlook.com Telephone: 07587 008183

22nd January 2024

..... Chairman

..... Date