

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 12th February 2024** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

In attendance: Claire Gale (Clerk), PSCO Justin Keefe and 1 member of the public.

024/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Cooper (on holiday) and IW Cllr Suzie Ellis (unwell).

025/24 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

026/24 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.

027/24 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 041/24

Cllr Verey, Cllr Gurney-Champion and the Clerk (on behalf of Cllr Cooper) gave notice of items for discussion only.

028/24 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the previous meeting (15th January 2024)

The minutes of the meeting of 15th January were approved and signed.

029/24 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Suzie Ellis was unable to attend. The Clerk will ask for an IW Cllr to attend the next meeting if Cllr Ellis is still unwell.

b) Cemetery and churchyard matters

There were no additional matters to those listed on the agenda.

c) Highways and footpaths

Cllr Verey reported regular flooding and deep mud on the cycle track between Merstone and Horringford. The tarmac is very thin on the path and there are large dangerous potholes. Cllr Verey will forward photographs to the Clerk so that Island Roads and the Rights of Way Team can be advised. Cllr Healy reported difficulties for mobility scooters on local pavement routes and will advise the Clerk of further details for reporting.

d) Chairman's report

Cllr Gurney Champion reported responding to emails, visiting the Southern Water Treatment Plant, contacting undertakers regarding cemetery matters and visiting Gore Cemetery to inspect the condition of the holm oak tree.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts attended the last topic meeting which discussed the opening of a new Community Law Centre in March, noted a meeting for village hall operators to be held by Community Action IW in March and considered the benefits of town and parish councils using a gov.uk email address. IWALC have invited councils to put forward any training requests. Cllr Roberts has circulated the minutes.

f) Meeting reports

Cllr Roberts reported attending the IWALC cabinet meeting where housing needs and biodiversity net gain was discussed. At MP Bob Seely's Zoom meeting with councillors on the 8th February he agreed to meet the Monitoring Officer to see if more could be done about difficult Councillors.

PCSO Justin Keefe advised that PC Liz Clapp has been appointed as the designated PC for 10 Parish Councils including Arreton. He is in regular communication with the Community Speedwatch group and follows up offences with home visits. Recent matters dealt with include the theft of car batteries and battery energisers used in rural fencing and rogue traders. New posters will be sent through soon due to the change in Beat Surgery times.

g) Clerk's report

Comments were sent to IWC Highways re proposed speed limit changes. Rev Kath Abbott and Jackie Gill were contacted re dates to avoid for cherry tree works and Richard Payne has been booked to complete this. The Clerk attended the SW Water Treatment Plant visit. The precept demand was submitted to IWC. Wight Tactical has been booked to attend Gore Cemetery in March. The speed gun has been handed over to the Community Speedwatch Group. They will attend the March meeting to provide an update.

Planning application 23/01943/FUL Wight Farm Energy Arreton Road Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3FD Location: Proposed extension to existing silage clamp and proposed storage/attenuation pond has been approved.

Councillors and residents are invited to attend a meeting Newchurch Parish Council is organising on 29th February regarding flooding and speeding issues. A website training session is planned. The Councillor Vacancy notice has been published. Burial Registrar inquiries have been dealt with. All are welcome to submit comments to Island Roads consultation during February. The next IWALC training is on 21/02/24 6-8pm Riverside Centre. IWALC invites nominations from Town and Parish Councils for the Royal Garden Parties 2024. Cllr Orchard will be asked whether he would like to be nominated, if not Cllr Dodson is willing to have his name put forward. Town and Parish Councils have been invited to request a free portrait of King Charles III. Gretel Ingham of the Rural Housing Enabler project will be invited to attend the April meeting.

030/24 Finance

The finance report for January was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £6,083.06. The payments were agreed as presented.

031/24 Bank Mandate

The Council agreed that the Clerk be added as signatory to the Lloyds Current account and Mrs Sheila Caws and Cllr John Orchard be removed. It was agreed that Mrs Claire Gale, Mr Nick Gurney-Champion and Mr David Healy be signatories of the Arreton Parish Council NS&I Investment Accounts.

032/24 Planning and Appeals

There were no applications.

033/24 Burial Fees

Cllrs considered a report comparing burial fees charged locally by IWC and private providers. It was noted that the current fees at Gore Cemetery and St Georges Churchyard are significantly below rates charged elsewhere. Given the increasing cost of grounds maintenance, general upkeep and insurance it was agreed to increase the fees from 1st April 2024 and to continue to review these annually.

034/24 Burial Regulations

CLLrs considered revisions to the burial regulations in the light of an inquiry from a member of the public about conducting a “DIY” funeral. Following discussion Cllr Gurney-Champion agreed to bring a revised draft to the March meeting.

035/24 Gore Cemetery Tree

Cllr Gurney-Champion had inspected the damaged holm oak tree and concluded that professional services would need to be engaged due to the size and condition of the tree. The Clerk will seek quotes for consideration at the March meeting. These will be for the removal of the tree to a safe height with options to take the wood away or have it stacked on site depending on the cost.

036/24 Churchyard Wall Repairs

The Council agreed to go ahead with the repairs to the wall at the Churchyard as per the quotation provided by Brighstone Landscapes Ltd.

037/24 D Day 80th Anniversary

Cllr Dodson reported that the bell ringers have been booked by Jacqui Gill for 6th June. CLLrs will investigate options for the provision and location of a fish and chip supper. The Clerk will approach the primary school to ask about the use of their parking facilities during the evening. Arreton Cricket Club are keen to be involved in the event.

038/24 Donation

CLLrs agreed a donation of £250 towards the valuable work of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance.

039/24 IWC Consultations

The Council decided not to submit a formal collective response to the current IWC consultations on Street Furniture Licensing, Supplementary Planning Document on Sustainable Drainage Systems and School Transport. CLLrs are welcome to submit individual responses.

040/24 To note the date of the next meeting 11th March 2024

The date was noted.

041/24 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Cooper had emailed the Clerk with a request from a resident to ask Island Roads to consider continuing the same sequence with the traffic lights at the Hare and Hounds junction as currently in use with the temporary traffic lights. CLLrs Verey and Gurney-Champion raised the question of granting the Freedom of the Parish to acknowledge the contribution of local residents to the community for consideration at the March meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9.14pm.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

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

20th February 2024

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Chairman

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Date