

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Monday 3rd April 2023 at 7 pm at Arreton Community Hall

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

In attendance: eight residents and the Clerk

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Roberts, IWC Cllr Ellis and PCSO Keefe.

2. MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON 04/04/2022

The minutes were agreed and signed.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIRMAN ON THE BUSINESS OF ARRETON PARISH COUNCIL FOR 2022/23.

The Chairman presented his annual report, which is appended to these minutes (Appendix I).

4. REPORT FROM IW COUNCILLOR SUZIE ELLIS

IWC Cllr Ellis sent her report which is appended to these minutes (Appendix II).

5. POLICE REPORT

There was no report from the Police.

6. OPEN FORUM

- Cllr Kimber was thanked for his report on the flooding which led to the IW Council undertaking some action.
- Problems with parking at the School during pick-up and drop-off times continue. However, there has been some alleviation as parents of the 27 children in Reception have been given permission to park in the car park of the Community Hall. It is hoped that Arreton Barns may allow the parents of children in Y5 and Y6 to park there.

The meeting closed at 19.24

Chairman

Date

Appendix I: Report of the Chairman of Arreton Parish Council

The major concerns for the year ending December 2022 have related to the ongoing severe flooding experienced by Arreton residents. In 2021, there was flooding mainly caused by surface water run-off from agricultural land on Arreton Down. The Chairman considered this to be due to exceptional and unlikely to occur again. However, in 2022 there were three severe flooding incidents: in June and August and September. Each of the incidents resulted in tons of silt being deposited through the village, both in the road and in properties, and in many properties being flooded externally and internally. A significant cause of the June and August 2022 flooding was run-off from the agricultural land to the south west of the village, although this was only part of the problem. The June 2022 flooding resulted in the landowner of the land to the southwest of the village undertaking earthworks aimed at reducing or eliminating run-off from the fields onto Main Road. The August flooding showed this to be only partially successful.

Whilst the focus of concern re flooding has been Arreton it is noted that properties in Chapel Lane Merstone are also prone to flooding and that the PC wrote to IW Council expressing concern over flooding in the main road to Newport adjacent to the entrance to West Standen: this is of particular danger to cyclists and also to oncoming drivers who can temporarily lose vision through the windscreen.

The flooding in Arreton and elsewhere on the Island has resulted in the IoW Council appointing an officer with responsibility for investigating and hopefully addressing flooding.

Cllr Calloway resigned with effect from 6th September after several years of dedicated and effective service. Whilst no-one is irreplaceable her resignation left a significant gap. Mrs Pat Phillips, the long-serving Burial Registrar retired with effect from 31st December.

Public attendance has been minimal, due to the low-key nature of the matters discussed.

Over the past 12 months some of the significant issues have been

- The proposal to introduce beavers into the Yar has moved forward with the appointment of a Beaver Recovery Project Officer. The Parish Council received a briefing on the status of the proposal in February. This was at a very early stage before many of the affected parties had been contacted.
- The Parish Council supported the Cricket Club in the celebrations of the Queens Jubilee.
- The acceptance that the Parish needs to produce an updated Parish Plan to inform how proposals for additional development should be assessed.
- The issue of speeding vehicles has been given more prominence by the police and the PC was encouraged by a presentation given at the September meeting.
- The planning application for Broadfields Farm – this aimed to regularise many actions taken at the site which were not covered by approved planning applications. This was considered at the July 2022 meeting and drew a significant public attendance.
- 12 ornamental cherry trees were purchased. Three were planted in Saint George's cemetery so that when the existing trees reach their end their replacements will be a good size. Three more were planted in Gore cemetery. A tree to commemorate the Queens jubilee was planted at the Arreton Community Centre by the Management Committee.
- Traffic delays at the Hare and Hounds and also at Arreton Cross were discussed several times but other than raising it with Island Roads the PC can do little.

- The number of residents on the mailing list for the e-newsletters increased significantly during the year. The PC see the newsletter as an important way, and often the only way, of communicating with residents.

Other more run-of the-mill issues have taken up most of our time.

We have continued to review and comment on planning applications, something I believe we do very well. Twenty-nine applications were received this year.

At Gore cemetery the problem of rabbits excavating burrows across the site appears to have been resolved.

Financially the financial position remained satisfactory, with the Precept remaining the same as the previous year. Significant expenditure has been on grounds maintenance and the Clerk's salary. Payments to Island Roads for emptying dog bins is another relatively large expenditure. Three table-top tombs in Arreton Churchyard were repaired (one of which was listed), which resulted in a large one-off payment but this had been budgeted for. We have continued to make small contributions to a number of organisations which we believe provide benefits to residents.

I would again like to express the Parish Council's appreciation for those who regularly pick litter in Arreton and the surrounding footpaths. Their efforts are much appreciated and the impact is clear.

Finally, I believe that Arreton has a cadre of parish councillors who work well together. I would particularly like to thank Councillors Verey, Calloway and Roberts for their dedication and commitment in participating in the myriad meetings and discussions held by outside organisations over the past 12 months and Councillor Orchard for his detailed comments on planning applications. Thanks are also due to Mrs Pat Phillips, who worked quietly in the background as our Burial Registrar until her retirement at the end of the year. We also benefit from a competent and efficient Clerk, to whom I express my thanks and appreciation.

Martin Kimber (May-September 2022)

Nicholas Gurney-Champion (September 2022 – March 2023)

Chairmen, Arreton Parish Council

Appendix II: Report of IWC Cllr Suzie Ellis

Despite having faced some personal health challenges this year, I have continued to enjoy representing Central Rural Ward, and supporting the community locally.

A significant amount of my time has been spent on issues around flooding, and whilst we have made progress in some areas I continue to work with Southern Water, the IWC, Our MP, the EA and local landowners to address ongoing issues faced by many residents. I was pleased to see so many attend the public meeting the IWC held to discuss planning issues, and enjoy ongoing communication with many residents who were present.

Planning issues are still high on the agenda, with much work to be done around breaches of planning conditions and enforcement. I am pleased to have facilitated a meeting between a representative of Merstone residents, the chair of Arreton PC and the IWC planning dept, and the applicants and agent regarding Broadfields Farm which has led to ongoing dialogue between residents and owners, and I hope a better understanding on both sides. I remain committed to seeking fair and balanced outcomes for all.

Traffic concerns, road safety and speeding continue to be high amongst the concerns raised with me, and I continue working with residents, parish councils, Island Roads and the Neighbourhoods Policing Team to address. I am particularly grateful to Insp Matt Gooding for his pro-active approach, and his willingness to engage with residents, I feel his attendance at Parish Council meetings has been very helpful. I am disappointed however that the formation of a Central Rural Speedwatch Group has not so far been successful due to a lack of volunteers - I remain hopeful that this will be the year we see it get off the ground!

I have attended many meetings and briefing and training sessions with the Isle of Wight Council, I continue to sit on Policy and Scrutiny Committee for Childrens Services as well as a number of smaller working groups and enjoy supporting our Primary schools both as Ward member and as an associate Governor of the Stenbury Foundation.

Whilst I have not been able to regularly attend Arreton Parish Council meetings this year, I have continued to submit reports and been in regular contact with the Parish Clerk, who I would like to thank for her unfailing help and support.

I am always very happy to hear from residents, and to speak on the telephone or to meet in person where appropriate.

I publish regular updates on my facebook page including Planning Notices and Traffic Orders together with other information which residents may find useful.

I will continue to give my best, and I thank residents for their support.

Suzie Ellis
April 2023