

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at **7.30pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

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

**In attendance:** Claire Gale (Clerk), 2 members of the public.

**074/24 Apologies for Absence**

IW Cllr Suzie Ellis (due to ill-health). The Chair welcomed newly co-opted Cllr Kathryn Taylor to her first meeting.

**075/24 Election of Chairman and acceptance of office**

Cllr Gurney-Champion stated he was willing to serve another year.

**RESOLVED:** To elect Cllr Gurney-Champion as Chairman for the ensuing year.

**076/24 Election of Vice-Chairman**

Cllr Healy stated he was willing to serve another year.

**RESOLVED:** To elect the Cllr Healy as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

**077/24 Questions from the public**

A member of the public advised the Council that objections from Southern Vectis and a member of the Community Speedwatch Group had now been posted on the planning portal for the Broadfields planning application.

**078/24 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 item 083/24.

**079/24 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 096/24**

Cllr Dodson gave notice of matters relating to parish trough planting and a flooding issue near the primary school.

**080/24 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To agree and sign the minutes of 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

**081/24 To receive regular reports**

**a) IW Councillor**

A written report received from Cllr Ellis was noted. Cllr Ellis stated that a decision on the Broadfields applications is expected by 13th August. She has made a call-in request for all 4 applications to be heard by the planning committee. Having taken advice from the IWC Monitoring Officer Cllr Ellis will not be speaking on these applications should they come to Planning Committee. She has raised concerns residents have shared over the comments from Southern Vectis and from Robert Castle on behalf of Speedwatch regarding the problem of 'too wide' vehicles using Merstone Lane.

Works to the Cycle Track at the rear of Leslie's Garage, Blackwater which were due to start w/c 15th April but didn't due to the wet weather. Works at Blackwater have also been delayed, as it has not dried out sufficiently to get underway. They are now looking to go for June/July. Carriageway Reconstruction Works are due to start in Hale Common this coming week (w/c 13th May.) Whilst Cllr Ellis is not currently able to attend Parish Council meetings she is available by telephone or email.

**b) Cemetery and churchyard matters**

The Clerk has contacted the neighbouring landowner and contractor regarding works to the holm oak. A date for a site meeting is awaited. Cllr Gurney-Champion asked to be informed of this so that he can attend. Cllr

Gurney-Champion had visited Gore and noted that there was still some dead ivy on the shed and the ridge tiles need re-bedding as there is cement missing. Cllr Cooper stated that the guttering appeared to be held on by wood screws, the water tank had not been cleaned and the roof repairs were unsatisfactory. The Clerk will check what was included in the quote for the shed works.

**c) Highways and footpaths**

Cllr Cooper arrived at the meeting. Cllr Healy noted that the temporary lights had been removed next to the Hare and Hounds but the filter lane was still problematic. The Clerk will check with Island Roads about the sequencing of the lights at this junction.

**d) Chairman's report**

Cllr Gurney-Champion has responded to emails, and corresponded with the Clerk on burial matters.

**e) IWALC**

Cllr Roberts attended the IWALC training where a presentation was given by Gretel Ingham on rural housing. It was highlighted that residents must register on Homefinder to be placed on the IWC waiting list. Cllr Roberts also attended the IWALC/IWC cabinet meeting where a presentation was given by Michelle Love of IWC on parking, highways and the floating bridge. The Draft Island Planning Strategy has been completed and approved and will now go out to consultation. The IWC will be moving to a committee system from 2025. Concerns were raised about the negative impact of Chat GPT undermining the work of teachers.

**f) Meeting reports**

There were no meeting reports.

**g) Clerk's report**

Blocked drains in Gore layby were reported to IR. The District Steward has attended site and has advised that this drain is not part of the remit of Island Roads and the council have previously been advised of this matter. Problems with Merstone Lane drainage were reported to IR. The District Steward has investigated and found that the drains were functioning correctly. IWC Planning Department was contacted re Downend Landscaping. IWC Planning Officer will visit and provide an update. The Clerk provided initial information to Cllr Taylor and submitted her Register of Interest to IWC. The Clerk followed up with Kim and Julie re D Day 80th Anniversary event.

The following planning application has been refused: 24/00389/FUL Former Arreton Garden and Aquatic Centre Hale Common Arreton, Isle of Wight. Retention of open sided barn, four storage containers and three static caravans in association with construction of approved scheme P/01579/16.

The end of year accounts had been completed and audit process is underway. This has been very time-consuming. Various burial matters have been dealt with. On 19th April there was re-installation of a memorial and an interment of ashes at Gore, on 24th April the scattering of ashes and an interment of ashes at Gore, on 7th May there was a burial at Gore. The Clerk has commenced the laptop "spring clean" and digital burial record for St Georges Churchyard.

**082/24 Finance**

The finance report for April was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £21,245.62.

**RESOLVED:** To agree and approve the payments as presented.

**083/24 Planning and Appeals**

To consider any applications recently received:

**24/00547/RVC**

Location: Little Sullens Farm, Burnt House Lane, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2PP

Proposal: Variation on condition 2 on 23/01178/HOU to allow garage size to be increased

**RESOLVED:** To take a neutral stance and to restate the comments made previously on application 23/01178/HOU regarding light pollution.

### **23/01946/RES**

Location: Former Merstone Valley Nurseries, Merstone Lane, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight  
Approval of Reserved Matters on P/00657/18 (demolition of glasshouse; outline for housing) relating to access, appearance, landscaping, layout and scale for 9 dwellings (Revised Plans)(Revised description)(Readvertised Application)

Having declared an interest Cllr Verey left the room for this item.

**RESOLVED:** To take a neutral stance on this application and to reiterate comments made previously on P/00657/18 that this development does not meet the housing needs of the Parish. The Parish Council is concerned that the increase in units from 6 to 8 and now to 9 with an additional neighbouring 2 properties under a separate application will have a detrimental impact on flooding and increase traffic problems in the area.

### **084/24 Annual Accounts 2023/24**

The Council considered the annual accounts.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and approve the annual accounts for 2023/24.

### **085/23 Internal Audit Report 2023/24**

The Council considered the Internal Auditors Report.

**RESOLVED:** To receive and note the Internal Audit Report 2023/24.

### **086/24 Annual Governance Statement 2023/24**

The Council considered the Annual Governance Statement.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2023/24.

### **087/24 Accounting Statements 2023/2024**

The Council considered the Accounting Statements.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Accounting Statements 2023/2024.

### **088/24 Certificate of Exemption 2023/2024**

The Council considered the Certificate of Exemption.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Certificate of Exemption 2023/24.

### **089/24 Appointments to outside bodies**

The Council considered the appointments. The Clerk will check the current status of the South Wight Parishes Health & Wellbeing Forum.

**RESOLVED:** Cllrs Dodson, Healy and Mills were appointed to the Arreton Community Hall Management Committee. Cllrs Dodson and Roberts were appointed to the Arreton School Trust. Cllr Roberts was appointed IWALC representative. Cllr Verey was appointed to the IW Council Environment and Sustainability Forum. Cllr Roberts was appointed to the South Wight Parishes Health & Well-being Forum.

### **090/24 Arreton Cricket Club**

The Council considered a request for support from Arreton Cricket Club to purchase equipment for their All Stars & Dynamos summer programme for 5-11year olds. Numerous other sources of funding were put forward by councillors. The club has applied for many of these already but was grateful for further suggestions.

**RESOLVED:** To agree a grant of £250 towards the cost of Arreton Cricket Club equipment.

### **091/24 Gift to Nature**

The Council considered a request from Gift to Nature for a donation of £250 for the continued upkeep of Merstone Station. The Clerk will ask for details of other funding they receive and request sight of the annual report that was due at the end of April. Cllr Verey will provide details for Merstone Station to the Chair to check on the land ownership. The matter was deferred to the June meeting.

**092/24 D Day 80th Anniversary**

The Clerk and the Cricket Club have both been in touch with the couple who have recently taken on The White Lion pub in the village. The pub will provide a free cream tea to pensioners from the village 10-11am on 6<sup>th</sup> June. Fish and chips will be available at a special price from 6.30pm whilst the bells are being rung. Both must be booked directly with the pub by 28<sup>th</sup> May. Music will be provided. The Cricket Club has arranged for candy floss and face painting. Cllr Taylor stated she would ask the Second World War re-enactment group if they would also like to take part. Posters will be distributed and residents advised. The Clerk will advise the church that the coach house is no longer needed. It was noted that the school car park can be used at any time if the gates are open.

**093/24 Arreton School Trust**

The Clerk reported that she had ascertained the names of the 3 signatories on the bank account for the trust. Two have passed away and the third is no longer the incumbent at St Georges church. Additional information is required so that the committee can meet to take this forward. This matter will be considered further at a future meeting.

**094/24 Burial Matters**

The Council considered an additional heading for the burial fees to include memorial tablets up to 45cmx 30cm (18"x12") as tablets of this size are not currently listed. The Council discussed the criteria for resident and non-resident fees. Cllr Gurney-Champion will provide proposed wording for the resident criteria for the June meeting. The Council discussed giving delegated authority to the Chair (in the Chairs absence the Vice-Chair) and Burial Registrar to resolve burial issues.

**RESOLVED:** To add memorial tablets up to 45cmx 30cm (18"x12") to the fees at £85 for inhabitants and £170 for non-inhabitants and to agree delegated authority to the Chair/Vice-Chair and Burial Registrar.

**095/24 To confirm the calendar of meetings for 2024/25 and to note the date of the next meeting 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

**RESOLVED:** To agree the calendar of meeting for 2024/25 and note the date of the next meeting.

**096/24 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only**

Cllr Dodson will be planting the Parish Council village troughs again this year. This has already been budgeted for and £80 was considered to be an appropriate amount to spend. Cllr Dodson highlighted the problem of tennis and footballs from the school blocking the culvert in School Lane and causing flooding. 20 had been removed recently and a total of over 200 had been removed last year. The Clerk will write to the school asking for their support in addressing this. Cllr Cooper noted the drainage on the hard standing outside Gore cemetery was still causing issues with debris from the road being washed into it. This will be examined on the Burial Authority annual inspection in July.

The meeting concluded at 9.20pm.

**Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council**

17<sup>th</sup> May 2024

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..... Chairman

..... Date