

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council on **Monday 11th January, 2016** at **Arreton Community Hall** at **7.30pm**.

Present: Cllrs Thirkettle, Cooper, Grisman, Hayden, Orchard, E Oulton, R Oulton and Roome

In attendance: IWC Cllr Richards, Sheila Caws (Clerk), four members of the public and one press representative

001/16 Apologies for Absence

None

002/16 Questions from the public

A question was raised about the speed limit in Down End Road, the lack of pavement and the position of the bus stop. It was felt unlikely that the speed limit would be changed but the Clerk will put in a request to Island Roads. Given that Arreton Manor is no longer open, the Clerk will write to Southern Vectis to see if the stop can be repositioned.

A question was also raised about activity in the chalk pit further up the road. The last planning application was in 2001 but it would appear that the pit is now being used as a waste transfer station for inert materials, with a consequent increase in the volume of traffic. The Clerk will write to Planning to see if a change of use application is required or if an operators' licence is necessary. Cllr Cooper raised concerns about old roof tiles that had been stored in the quarry but now had either gone or been ground in.

003/16 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (14th December)

The minutes of the meeting on 14th December were confirmed and signed. Proposed Cllr Grisman, seconded Cllr Hayden.

004/16 To receive regular reports

a) IWC Councillor's report

Cllr Richards attended most of a rather long Scrutiny Committee.

He will take a look at the chalk pit but it may be covered for general industrial use.

The planning application for Cheeks Farm was granted.

Pot holes are becoming a problem again.

Nothing further has been heard about the speeding in Merstone.

b) Police report - the report from PCSO Keefe was distributed. There was one road traffic incident in Blackwater and a case of anti-social behaviour in Merstone, which was a dispute between neighbours over property. There were also two cases of assault in Blackwater, which were counter allegations of the same incident.

c) Cemetery and churchyard matters

Digger drivers are still tending to cross graves when coming in and out of the cemetery, especially up by the shed. The Clerk will contact the Burial Registrar to ascertain the exact position of graves in the area.

Cllr Orchard asked if anything could be done about silt collecting in the corner of the lay-by by the gate. The Clerk will contact Brighstone Landscaping to ask for advice.

d) Highways and footpaths

Weeds are growing up through the footpath at Park Cottages. Cllr Thirkettle will raise the matter at the meeting with Island Roads this week. There is also a problem with water lying in the road opposite the shop.

A re-active speed sign in Merstone could cost £4,500 plus installation costs.

e) IWALC report

There is nothing to report as there was no meeting in December.

f) Clerk's report - Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk contacted Bembridge Parish Council regarding the maintenance of Rights of Way but as they employ lengthsman for general duties, the cost cannot be broken down. Some other costs are incorporated in to their Grounds Maintenance contract.

The Clerk contacted Pat Phillips regarding a plan of the Cemetery showing the pipe. Pat is checking to see if she has one.

The Clerk has contacted Andrew Turner MP to ask for his support of the Speed Limits on Roads (Devolved Powers) Bill but has as yet received no response.

Training: The Clerk will attend a session on Contracts and Tendering on January 20th, organised by the IW branch of the SLCC.

Cllrs Thirkettle, Roome and Grisman will attend a training session on HR on February 10th, organised by IWALC.

The Clerk has booked a place on the SLCC course on Burial Compliance on March 8th. The cost is £145 plus VAT and travel.

Other matters: the Chairman will attend the Waste Forum on January 12th.

The Clerk has contacted G J Banks regarding the monitoring of the cracks in the War Memorial, which was due to end in December.

There will be a meeting of the working party to discuss the 2016 Fun Day on January 18th.

005/16 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011. To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 015/16

Cllr Orchard raised a question in connection with Gore Cemetery

006/16 Finance

The finance report for December was agreed. The balance of the current account was £9,871.76, including three unrepresented cheques.

1057	S Caws	Salary	£346.31
1058	S Caws	Expenses	£36.60
1059	Post Office Ltd	HMRC / PAYE	£209.60
1060	Mrs R Thirkettle	Flowers	£15.00

The Clerk will contact Gareth Hughes to see if he is willing to audit the accounts this year.

007/16 Planning and Appeals

There were no applications this month.

008/16 Budget 2016/17

There was a discussion on proposals for next year's budget, including an increased amount for training and the newsletter. Cllr R Oulton requested that the newsletter should bring in £500 in advertising in a year or expenditure be reduced. It was agreed that £4,500 for a reactive speed sign in Merstone was more than the Parish Council could afford but there may be other means of raising the money. It was agreed that the precept would have to be raised but the increase would be kept to a minimum.

009/16 Burial precept

The IW Council have agreed to pay the invoices for 2012/13 and 2013/14. The amount for 2014/15 will be paid once agreement is reached as to the wording of the document, which is being prepared. Cllr R Oulton will find out if the IWC wishes to work to a calendar year or a financial year.

010/16 Grounds maintenance and Council insurance

The tender document was discussed and will be confirmed at the next meeting.

011/16 Complaints procedure

A Complaints Procedure was agreed. Proposed Cllr R Oulton, seconded Cllr Roome

012/16 Oil exploration

Licences for the latest round of oil exploration have been granted by the Government and a good deal of interest is being shown in a well known as Arreton 2 which was drilled in the 1970s. It was on Perreton Farm, between the Cemetery and the farm buildings. At present, nothing can happen until a planning application is submitted. Should anyone wish to comment, then a letter to the newsletter will be acceptable but not an article.

013/16 Newsletter

The Newsletter has been published and delivered. The Clerk requested that Cllrs Orchard and Grisman submit claims for the amounts spent on delivery.

014/16 To note the date of the next meeting, 8th February 2016

015/16 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Orchard requested that the Burial Registrar be asked how much space was left in the Cemetery and should plans be made for the future acquisition of land?

The meeting concluded at 9.25pm

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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25th January 2016

..... Chairman

..... Date