

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2019** at **Arreton Community Hall** at **7.00pm**.

**Present:** Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Cooper, Orchard, Roberts and Verey.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell, PCSO Keefe and Sheila Caws (Clerk).

**154/19 Apologies for Absence**

Cllr Dodson (work) and Cllr Healy (family commitment)

**155/19 Questions from the public**

There were no questions.

**156/19 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (8<sup>th</sup> July)**

The minutes of the meeting held on July 8<sup>th</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Kimber, seconded Cllr Verey.

**157/19 To receive regular reports**

(a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell that the Regeneration Team would be making a presentation to Newchurch PC regarding plans for Branstone Farm. As the invitation had initially been sent in error to Arreton, IWC Cllr Mosdell offered to arrange a presentation for Arreton PC after the visit to Newchurch. The offer was accepted.

The housing numbers on the draft Island Plan need to be challenged. These numbers are set by the Government and 10,000 new houses over the life of the Plan is an unreasonable figure. The IW Council will work through the MP to change the figure.

Both Arreton and Newchurch have been subjected to recent by-elections due to outside influences. This involves considerable costs for the parish councils and also extra work for staff at the IW Council, who have to organise and oversee the process.

IWC Cllr Mosdell's newsletter has not yet been delivered due to her standing in the Newchurch by-election, followed by a bout of illness.

(b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – the Clerk will check if the brick enclosure is being kept tidy and will contact Brighstone Landscaping if necessary.

The Clerk will also contact the Churchwarden at St George's to check on the progress of the Faculty.

A new bench is required in the Cemetery and the Clerk will investigate costs.

(c) Highways and footpaths – the traffic lights remain the same and so IWC Cllr Mosdell will request that someone from Island Roads comes to talk to us. The Clerk will chase repairs to the damaged signpost at Blackwater and also the blocked drain in the road by the Cemetery.

Cllr Kimber is walking the footpaths on behalf of the Ramblers.

The closure of the cycleway at Horringford was not done in the school holidays. Divers have been working on the bridges but the closure will now be for six weeks with a diversion through Haseley. The landowners have given permission for cyclists to use the diversion but not horses as it would be too dangerous.

There is a smell of gas at Horringford Bridge as there have been a lot of leaks in the area.

The cycleway is getting narrower and so IWC Cllr Mosdell will contact Rights of Way.

(d) Police – PCSO Keefe reported that the monthly Beat Surgeries would continue to be held at Arreton Post Office.

Cllr Calloway asked PCSO Keefe to put in an occasional appearance at the school parking areas at 2.45 to see and be seen. The major issue is the behaviour of a minority of parents.

- (e) IWALC/Chairman's report – the IWALC AGM was held on 18<sup>th</sup> July at the Riverside Centre. The meeting was basically a series of fairly dry reports and a series of appointments to outside bodies on which IWALC has seats. There were some interesting discussions in some areas, especially the perception that IW Council did not listen to or engage with the town and parish councils. There was a feeling that councils were involved too late in any discussions, often on a take-it-or-leave-it basis.

The Planning department was discussed at length. A workshop had been planned by IWALC to discuss housing, on 13<sup>th</sup> September which would have involved councils submitting written questions in advance and a panel of planners responding at the meeting. However, the IW Council have said that no senior people are available on the date. After some discussion it was agreed that IWALC will go back to the Council's head of planning (Wendy Perera) and offer dates in October for a meeting along the lines mentioned. On planning training councils were asked to submit nominations. There was some discussion around this as the larger councils were interested in training more directly focussed on their needs.

The item on Scrutiny Review generated discussion over the general ineffectiveness of scrutiny and a feeling that IWALC should have right to vote on the committee.

The AONB report highlighted issues over the planned coastal path – the MoD do not want people on their Newtown range and English Heritage do not like the idea of free access to Osborne House land.

The main concern of CPRE was the housing targets. The report on 'Prevent' suggested no meaningful report could be given for security reasons!

The meeting concluded with an agreement to move the dates of monthly meetings to the last Thursday in a month. The meeting finished at 9:30.

My impression was of a loosely managed meeting with few resolutions. Appointments to outside bodies were mainly nodded through. However, papers were sent out in advance which was good. Upcoming meetings on 26 Sept and 31 Oct – as circulated by Clerk.

Chairman - Battle of Britain Memorial will be discussed later but the Chairman has had several conversations with the Battle of Britain Memorial people and also a call from the Sandown Airport Aviation Museum, who have also got roped in, and appear to be picking up some of the organising – they were looking to put up a marquee at the site in case of rain.

The Chairman inspected the cemetery fence from both sides and counted approximately 18 entry points, mostly on the east side where there is grassland with sheep grazing. The entry points were mainly burrows but there were two breaks in the wire on the north side and around 20m where the wire was probably low enough for the rabbits to jump over. On the south side, where maize was growing, there was vegetation preventing a close inspection of around half the length. There were two or three areas where there seemed to be warrens along the fence line.

The Chairman met with Andrew Taylor from Perreton Farm, who is happy for the Parish Council to have someone address the problem after the maize has been harvested in September. Whilst it would be fairly straightforward to beef up and repair the wire in the fence, it seems to me that the problem would be the warrens where either the rabbits would have to be disposed of before blocking up the holes or there would need to be an extended period of hole blocking afterwards to wear them out.

- (f) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: although the Clerk contacted Island Roads regarding the blocked drain in the road outside the Cemetery some while ago, nothing appears to have been done. The Clerk will chase. Arreton Barns were contacted regarding the buddleia on the path by the Churchyard and have agreed to trim it.

Other matters: planning permission has been granted for the five shepherd's huts at Arreton Barns, the 38 caravans at Arreton Nursery and the bio-mass boiler at Broadfields Farm.

There have been no further meetings regarding the school parking but there has been action regarding a proposed planning application to use part of the school field.

The bank mandate has finally been completed and is now in force. Another mandate will be required for the new councillors and will be an agenda item at the next meeting.

The new noticeboards at Blackwater and Merstone Station are in place. The board at Merstone Station is double-sided and so the Parish Council will have the use of the east-facing side.

**Training:** Cllrs Dodson and Roberts have been booked on the new councillor training organised by IWALC and due to be held in October.

The Clerk will be attending training on the subject of the new website accessibility regulations, also in October.

**158/19 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 171/19** Two items were raised.

**159/19 Finance**

The finance report for July and August was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £14,601.97 at the end of July. The following payments were agreed:-

Staff costs	£666.31
Brighstone Landscaping (grounds maint.)	£1090.20
Ringway Island Roads (dog waste bins)	£388.08

**160/19 Planning and Appeals**

To consider any applications recently received:-

Reference	19/00679/FUL
Alternative Reference	PP-08012090
Application Received	Mon 29 Jul 2019
Address	Land on the junction of Hale Common and Bathingbourne Lane (known as 'Fighting Cocks Field') with access off Macketts Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AS
Proposal	Proposed glasshouse, ancillary energy centre and associated facilities and infrastructure; formation of vehicular access

It was agreed that they had no objection to this application. However, there were concerns.

- 1) That provision will be made to comply with the Dark Skies policy, especially owing to the proximity of the Observatory.
- 2) That the hedges surrounding the site will be retained.

**161/19 Standing Orders**

The Standing Orders were reviewed and agreed – proposed Cllr Calloway, seconded Cllr Verey. With the impending possibility of oil drilling in the Parish, it was agreed that there should be a policy for speaking to the Press. This will be an item on the next agenda.

**162/19 Risk Assessment**

It was agreed that the Chairman and the Clerk should review the Risk Assessment Schedule.

**163/19 Cemetery fence**

Cllr Kimber produced a draft tender document and it was agreed upon subject to an amendment stipulating the gauge of wire to be used. The Clerk would add any necessary wording regarding dates and contact details – proposed Cllr Kimber, seconded Cllr Calloway.

**164/19 Litter bins at Merstone Station**

It was noted that there were no litter bins at the Merstone Station car park. Natural Enterprise do not provide them and so it was agreed to monitor the situation to see if a bin was required before the Parish Council offered to supply one.

**165/19 School parking**

The Chair of the Governors has put in a pre-application for using the school field for parking. The response appeared to be positive but with some provisos. Approval from Sports England will be required and there must be no adverse impact on neighbours. A strong objection has been received from a resident. However, given that there is a problem with parents' driving and there will continue to be, the use of the school field does seem to be a reasonable solution. Cllr Calloway attended a meeting at the School between the IW Council and the School to discuss parking. There is no role for the Parish Council at present and so no further action is required at this time.

**166/19 Dog waste bin at Park Cottages**

The lid is missing from the bin at Park Cottages and so it was agreed to purchase a replacement at a cost of approximately £100 and ask Island Roads to fit it.

**167/19 WWII memorial**

The plans for the memorial service are now in place and Cllrs Calloway and Roberts will provide the refreshments at Haseley Manor after the service next Thursday. The Arreton Community Hall Trust are covering the costs of the food and drink and it was agreed to pay the costs of two members of staff from Haseley Manor to serve the refreshments at £8.50 per hour per person – proposed Cllr Kimber, seconded Cllr Verey.

**168/19 Barn Dance**

It was agreed to cancel the proposed Barn Dance on the recommendation of Cllr Calloway.

**169/19 April 2020 meeting**

The April 2020 meeting will fall on Easter Monday. It was agreed to move it forward a week to April 6<sup>th</sup>. As the Community Hall will not be available, the Clerk will book the Methodist Hall.

**170/19 To note the date of the next meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> October 2019****171/19 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only**

The death was announced of Jeff Aston of Merstone, who was the Chairman of the Parish Council for many years. It was agreed that the Clerk would send a card to the family. Cllr Calloway requested a letter to support an Honours nomination.

**172/19 To pass a resolution to exclude the press and public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act to discuss confidential matters**

It was agreed that the Clerk's hours would increase to 35 per calendar month with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.09pm.

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

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23<sup>rd</sup> September 2019

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Chairman

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Date