

Minutes of an on-line meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 8th June 2020 at 7.00pm.**

Present: Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Dodson, Healy, Roberts and Verey.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell and Sheila Caws (Clerk)

120/20 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Cooper, Cllr Orchard (both unable to attend online at present).

121/20 Questions from the public

None

122/20 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meetings (11th May and 1st June 2020)

The minutes of 11th May were confirmed as correct – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Calloway. The minutes of June 1st were also confirmed as correct – proposed Cllr Kimber, seconded Cllr Roberts. They will be signed at a later date.

123/20 To receive regular reports

- (a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell reported that the IW Council was now working to the new normal and Council meetings can be held virtually until May 2021. A Scrutiny Committee meeting has been held on-line which feels like getting back to normal. An update is due for the NHS App, which should remove some of the glitches that were found during the trial. IWC Cllr Mosdell was pleased that trialling the App here has brought a new level of awareness of the IW by the Government. Loss of the senses of taste and smell has been added as a symptom and she will try to find out if there are any plans to modify the App to allow it to work on older phones. Test and trace remains the most important element of controlling the virus. In response to a question about care homes, IWC Cllr Mosdell replied that currently six homes have no cases and the most badly affected one has 13. All homes have been supplied with the necessary PPE and the relationship with the homes is improving. Following a comment that the new social distancing measures to be rolled out in IW towns do not include improved provision for bicycle storage, IWC Cllr Mosdell said that she would check with the appropriate councillor. The reduction of on-road car parking spaces must be reversible as it is only a temporary measure, even though it may last up to 18 months. A discussion on active travel and cycleways in the Parish will be included on the next agenda.
- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard – the Clerk will contact the Churchwarden at St George's to see if any progress has been made by the Diocese regarding the faculty for work on the table top tombs.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – several footpaths are being undermined in the area above the anaerobic digester. The Chairman intends to walk these paths and will send reports to Rights of Way as necessary.
- (d) IWALC/Chairman's report - once again there is very little to report. The Chairman inspected the Gore cemetery for rabbits and walked the perimeter – to be covered later. He also spent a good deal of time trying to locate the correct person at Southern Water to speak to with respect to the possibility of providing a water fountain on the cycleway. Despite managing to locate a regular number (i.e. not an 0800 number) for Southern Water he only ever managed to get through to their customer accounts people. He eventually e-mailed but has heard nothing back.

At one stage the Arreton Hare was sporting a face mask but this had gone yesterday and the Community Hall remains closed.

A vehicle was noted apparently removing the National Lottery equipment from the Arreton Post Office a few weeks back: the Post Office itself remains shut with no indication as to when it may re-open.

UKOG - as last month - the Planning Application has gone in but it is not being considered at present due to the lockdown. It is unknown when the PC will need to comment.

Covid 19 Assistance - Simon and the Clerk are the focus of this but it seems people are managing without assistance from the PC.

Footpaths and Rights of Way – the Chairman has walked most footpaths and bridleways and put in five defect reports to the Council. The majority of these relate to a need to cut back vegetation and, in one case remove a fallen tree. In general bridleways are used and are easily followed, and footpaths are neither.

IWALC - there was no IWALC meeting in May and none are planned in the immediate future. Jill Webster, the IWALC County Officer, circulated a number of e-mails, but these were generally of no significance for Arreton Parish Council, and in those that might be there was nothing noteworthy. Unsurprisingly much of the correspondence related to the impact of Covid 19 on council activities.

- (e) Meeting reports – Cllr Verey reported on a Zoom meeting held on 2nd June 2020 with Bob Seely MP, Darren Cattell (Dep Ch. Exec.) and Kirk Millis Ward, both from NHS Trust
There was a question and answer session with most of the questions covering the Covid 19 outbreak.

As many as possible clinics have started to resume at St Mary's with due regard for safety of patients and staff with appropriate PPE. Clinicians reviewing the most urgent cases. The hospital has designated Hot and Cold areas and there are eight patients with Covid 19 in hospital (2/6/20). There are spare beds, the hospital is in recovery period and the staff are trying to reintroduce clinics for outpatients.

All care homes will be supported by the Trust as necessary for the supply of PPE, with repeated deliveries on a weekly basis.

As with elsewhere in the country the exact number of cases of Covid 19 is unknown. There has been a spike in the number of cases in care homes and the hospital has provided professional qualified nursing care to those care homes with Covid. Digital technology is being used to obtain advice from GPs.

The peak in the number of cases on the Island is about two to three weeks behind the mainland. That peak has now passed but preparations are being made for a worst-case scenario of a second peak in September, Wave2. Unfortunately, there is no way to keep-up-to-date with accurate figures as there is a reluctance at national level to issue these. Any release of data would require permission from NHS England. However, it may be that figures will be released weekly.

Any insights in to the results from the IW App are understandably limited as the App is still in the development stage. They will be rolling out a second version at some point, which will be easy to download when it is available. So far, 500 tests have been ordered through the App. Also, every patient is tested at Outpatients or A&E and therefore significant numbers have been tested. There is no one significant hotspot, although the vast majority of requests have come from towns.

Bob Seely, asked for a half hour session once a fortnight and the NHS representatives agreed to give regular updates.

- (f) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: nothing to report as all matters are reported under the relevant agenda items.

Other matters: the planning application for Little Budbridge has been approved. The application for glamping at a site in Blackwater was refused by the IWC Planning Committee.

Councillors have participated in sessions with Bob Seely MP and the Lord Lieutenant Susie Sheldon.

The Clerk received a request from some metal detectorists asking if their details could be forwarded to anyone who might give them permission to search on their land. As yet, no reply has been sent.

There is nothing else to report that is not already included as an agenda item.
It was agreed that a reply would be sent to the detectorists to say that their information had been circulated to parish councillors but that we have no means of contacting landowners.

124/20 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 139/20 – there were no declarations.

125/20 Finance

The finance report for May was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £14,923.81 at the end of May. The following payments were agreed and would be made by BACs:

Staff costs	£409.24
Natural Enterprise (Merstone Station)	£300.00
Mr GW Hughes (internal audit)	£115.00

126/20 Planning and Appeals

To consider any applications recently received:- none received.

127/20 Oil drilling

The planning application is now open for public comment and a meeting will have to be held. This will need careful consideration as it will have to be held on-line. IWC Cllr Mosdell offered to get in touch with Democratic Services to see if they could offer any advice on holding large meetings on-line. The Chairman will draft a protocol for discussion and the meeting will be held at the end of June or early July.

128/20 Annual Internal Auditor's report 2019/2020

The Annual Internal Auditor's report 2019/2020 was received and it was noted that no further action is necessary.

129/20 Accounting Statements 2019/2020

The Accounting Statements 2019/2020 were approved and will be signed at a later date.

130/20 Certificate of Exemption 2019/2020

The Certificate of Exemption 2019/20 was approved and will be signed at a later date.

131/20 Covid-19

There have been problems with the monitoring of e-mails by the IW Hub and some of our replies have gone unnoticed. The Clerk will mention this to someone at the Hub.

132/20 Pest control

The Chairman inspected the Cemetery one evening and there were a considerable number of rabbits. Quotes for pest control were considered and it was agreed to take up that of Mr Neil Hallett, subject to suitable references. It was noted that the holes will have to be filled in but no decision was taken about this.

133/20 Dog fouling

There has been a notable increase in the amount of dog fouling, especially off-road. It was agreed that the Clerk should investigate the provision of another bin at the junction of the path from School Lane (A9) with Shepherds Lane (A17).

134/20 Lorry parking

A large lorry has been parked on the lay-by at the Cemetery regularly but the occurrences are increasing to an almost daily basis and the tractor unit is now removed. There is nothing to indicate that this is private land and so notices will be produced at some point. In the meantime,

the Chairman will contact the company in question to outline the position and recommend that the company use the official car park further up the road. As this has not been maintained regularly, the Clerk will contact Island Roads about it.

135/20 Annual inspection of the burial grounds

This is usually held immediately before the July meeting. As small outdoor gatherings are permitted, the Clerk will make plans for this to take place.

136/20 Community drinking water tap

As noted in the Chairman's report, the Chairman has not yet been able to make contact with Southern Water but he will visit their office when it is safe to do so.

137/20 Hedge cutting

Some hedges in the village are beginning to overhang the pavements. A polite notice will be put in the next Newsletter asking residents to keep their hedges in check and the matter will be reviewed at the next meeting.

138/20 To note the date of the next meeting, 13th July 2020

139/20 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Calloway said that she had not heard anything about the Post Office.

Cllr Healy noted as a matter of concern that there had been a fatal traffic accident on the Downs last Saturday, in the vicinity of the quarry at the top of Shepherds Lane.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.49pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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