

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Gurney-Champion, Cooper, Dodson, Healy, Mills, Orchard, Roberts and Verey  
In attendance: IWC Cllr Ellis, Sheila Caws (Clerk) and one member of the public.

**126/23 Apologies for Absence**

None

**127/23 Questions from the public**

There were no questions from members of the public.

**128/23 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011.**

None received.

**129/23 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 143/23**

None requested

**130/23 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meetings (15<sup>th</sup> May and 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023)**

The minutes of the meetings held on May 15<sup>th</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Healy, seconded Cllr Dodson.

The minutes of the meeting held on June 12<sup>th</sup> were confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Orchard.

**131/23 To receive regular reports**

a) IW Councillor – IWC Cllr Ellis gave a verbal report as, although she has been busy, there was little that applied directly to Arreton.

She has contacted Insp. Gooding of the Hampshire & IW Police to ask for an update on the speeding in Merstone Lane. Cllrs Dodson and Mills reported that it has got worse.

Work is in progress on the cycletrack near Blackwater Garage in Blackwater but there are currently discussions between the IW Council and Southern Water with regard to responsibility.

The culvert behind the Cherrywood estate has been cleared by the landowner and will be done regularly in future.

IWC Cllr Ellis attended the recent meeting on school place planning at Medina High School.

She is currently trying to activate a Community Speedwatch campaign in the Central Rural ward. It was agreed to produce a flyer and distribute them with the information on the Cricket Club's Summer Fair. IWC Cllr Ellis will arrange for the appropriate Police Liaison Officer to attend a Parish Council meeting and a local resident is willing to co-ordinate a Speedwatch group in Arreton and Rookley. It was noted that incidents of speeding should still be reported on 101 and residents are to be encouraged to do so and also to report them to IWC Cllr Ellis.

IWC Cllr Ellis left the meeting at 7.30pm.

b) The Clerk as Burial Registrar reported that there had been more burials in the first three months of this year than in the whole of last year.

It was noted that the grounds maintenance contractors had cleared the layby at Gore Cemetery.

c) Highways and footpaths – nothing to report.

d) Chairman's report - the Chairman reported that he had not been required to undertake any Parish Council business this month. He had attended the Red Squirrel Forum as a trustee of the IW Red Squirrel Trust and reported that there was a problem with the squirrels' habitat

due to the unauthorised felling of trees. The IW Council's Tree Officer will co-ordinate instances of illegal tree felling and report them to the appropriate authorities.

e) IWALC – IWALC's Annual General Meeting was held at 7pm on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June at the Riverside Centre. The meeting was open to all councillors and there were 28 participants, representing 21 member councils. The Chair welcomed everyone, especially representatives from Calbourne, Newtown and Porchfield Parish Council, which has recently joined IWALC. The main business of the meeting was the election of officers for the 2023/24 financial year, including the Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, members of the training and communication groups and delegates to other organisations. Diana Conyers, the outgoing Chair, had already notified members that she was not going to stand again. She was thanked for her time in office and Anne Bamford, a Freshwater Parish Councillor and the former Vice-chair, was elected unanimously to replace her. Steve Cooper, Mayor of Ventnor, was elected as Vice-chair and Sue Hardy was once again elected as Treasurer.

The meeting also received the accounts for the 2022/23 financial year and agreed to appoint Maxine Warr as the organisation's auditor. A number of minor amendments to the organisation's Constitution were approved and a report was received from the outgoing Chair on the organisation's activities during the past year.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft Bill, aka Martyn's Law, is currently going through Parliament and could have an impact on small village halls etc. that are currently used for events. As no one had heard of this, it will be investigated.

f) Meetings – Cllr Roberts attended both the IWALC AGM and the regular on-line meeting with Bob Seely MP. The potential consequences of Martyn's Law were also raised at this meeting.

g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has contacted IOW Defibrillators and the Methodist Church regarding the siting of a machine at the Methodist Church. They have been requested to deal directly with each other with the Clerk copied in to any e-mails. Nothing has been heard to date.

The Clerk has contacted the Planning Department regarding the jumping pillow at the *Fighting Cocks*. The response is that if it has foundations or is fixed to the ground permanently then planning permission is required.

The Clerk has contacted Brighstone Landscaping regarding clearing the layby at Gore Cemetery.

All other issues from the last meeting are covered by agenda items.

Other matters: the planning application for Tientu, Chapel Lane has been approved.

The Clerk received a Freedom of Information request regarding the amount of CO<sup>2</sup>e emissions produced by the Parish Council in recent years. A reply was sent saying that no figures were kept as the PC has no premises or vehicles that would produce any such emissions.

Training

Cllr Mills has recently attended two sessions of general councillor training organised by IWALC.

### **132/23 Finance**

The finance report for June was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £17,052.52 at the end of June. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salaries, expenses etc.)	£710.17
Natural Enterprise (Merstone Station)	£300.00
Brighstone Landscaping Ltd (grounds maintenance)	£1,354.16

### **133/23 Planning and appeals**

Reference	23/01055/RVC
Alternative Reference	Not Available

Application Received	Tue 20 June 2023
Address	Greenacres Hale Common Arreton Newport PO30 3AP
Proposal	Lawful Development Certificate for continued use of dwelling unrelated to agriculture

The members agreed that they had no objection to this application.

### **134/23 Burial grounds**

Following the annual inspection of the burial grounds prior to this meeting, the following points were noted:-

#### **Gore Cemetery**

The gates require an overhaul.

The grate under the gates needs clearing.

Although the bins have been emptied there was rubbish in the bin area.

The shrubs in God's Garden need pruning.

The inside of the roadside hedge needs to be cut back.

The lower branches of some trees and shrubs should be pruned.

The magnolia prop needs to be checked.

#### **St George's Churchyard**

A repair to the Burma Star bench is in hand.

A buttress and part of the wall on the north (Arreton Barns path) wall require repointing.

Ivy on the east wall needs cutting back.

Dead wood in the cherry trees should be removed.

Small saplings of oak and cherry were found and will be marked by Cllr Verrey.

The Clerk will contact the grounds maintenance contractors to discuss the work.

It was suggested that a note be put in the next Newsletter regarding the removal of dead flowers etc. from graves in the Cemetery.

### **135/23 Gore Cemetery shed**

The Clerk has received two quotations for on the shed in Gore Cemetery. It was agreed to accept that from Brighstone Landscaping Ltd for £1,060.00 +VAT.

### **136/23 Events**

A representative from Arreton cricket Club attended the meeting to finalise the details of the Parish Council's participation in the Club's Summer Fair in August. It was agreed that the members of the Parish Council would provide cream teas, with costs recovered, and also to have a stall to advertise the work of the Parish Council. Details were discussed as to the provision of a float, tables (if required), a gazebo and display material for the stall.

Plans are in place for the lighting of beacons nationally to commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the D-Day landings in 1944. It was agreed that the Parish should participate.

### **137/23 Information leaflet**

The latest draft of the information sheet was approved.

### **138/23 Printing**

The Clerk presented figures for the scanning and/or printing of the plot map for Gore Cemetery and also a large-scale map of the Parish. The Clerk was authorised to spend up to £50.00 on the work.

**139/23 Community Hall**

Cllr Healy reported that Mr Calloway and Mrs Phillips had retired as Chairman and Treasurer/Hall Bookings Clerk respectively. Richard Page from the Social Club was elected as the new Chairman. Cllr Dodson will take on the roles of Treasurer, Bookings Clerk and Correspondence Secretary and Cllr Healy will take over as the Minutes Secretary.

Work on the fire alarms will take place at the end of July. An inspection by the Fire Brigade identified a lack of fire doors to the kitchen and so quotes will be obtained for the work. An electric fuse box also needs replacing.

The TV Licensing Authority are convinced that a TV Licence is required for the building but will be informed that this is not the case.

An advert will be placed for a new cleaner who can hopefully also undertake a caretaking role as well.

An NHS pod will be installed at some point.

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) draft bill (aka Martyn’s Law), is currently going through Parliament. This could potentially have a big impact on village halls and was brought to the attention of the Committee.

**140/23 Biodiversity**

S.40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (updated) came into force on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023. This states that “Every public authority must, in exercising its functions, have regard, so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving and enhancing biodiversity.”

It was agreed to find out what this actually involves and will be an item on the next agenda.

**141/23 Financial Regulations**

Having previously agreed to consider a shorter version of the current Parish Council’s Financial Regulations, the Members looked at examples from other Councils on the Island. The Clerk was asked to produce a document based on two of the them.

**142/23 To note the date of the next meeting, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2023**

**143/23 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only**

Nothing was raised.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 9.05pm.

**Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council**

Hillis Side, Rew Street, Gurnard, Isle of Wight PO31 8NW  
E-mail: [arretonpc@outlook.com](mailto:arretonpc@outlook.com) Telephone: 07587 008183

12<sup>th</sup> July 2023

..... Chairman

..... Date