

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 8th April 2024** at **7.30pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Healy (Vice Chair), Dodson, Mills, Roberts, Cooper and Verey.

In attendance: Claire Gale (Clerk), 3 members of the public.

059/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr Gurney Champion (due to family matters) and IW Cllr Suzie Ellis (due to ill-health).

060/24 Questions from the public

In answer to a question from a member of the public it was confirmed that the defibrillator is registered with the British Heart Foundation.

061/24 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations.

062/24 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 072/24 it will can inform the IWC

No items were raised.

063/24 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2024

RESOLVED : To approve and sign the minutes of the meeting of 11th March.

064/24 Rural Housing Enabler Project

The Vice Chair welcomed Gretel Ingham from the Rural Housing Enabler Project. Gretel took up her post in August 2023. The scheme is being delivered by Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE) on behalf of DEFRA, and is designed to help boost the supply of new, affordable homes across England. Gretel shared some statistics for the Isle of Wight including that 95% of households cannot afford a median mortgage, there are 85% fewer rentals available than in 2019, 21% of the population is over 70 years old, 20% do not have access to a car, 34% of children are living in poverty and only 65 affordable homes were built in 2023. Many working families on the housing list face temporary housing in accommodation such as Gurnard Pines which has an impact on school attendance and causes other social issues. The project is targeting rural settlements (under 3000). Gretel will be working with Julie Hutchinson IWALC representative on the rural housing project and Town and Parish Councils. Conducting a housing needs survey is a priority. Once complete it will inform the IWC when considering planning applications and is useful to developers. It was noted that the last survey for Arreton was completed in 2014 and the Parish Council publicised the IWC survey of 2020. Cllr Healy stated that the parish is made up of Arreton, Merstone and Blackwater which have different needs. Gretel offered to provide support to enable the parish council to compile a Housing Needs Survey and collate the results. The likely timescale is 4-6 months.

RESOLVED: Cllrs Roberts, Healy and Dodson agreed to form a working group work with Gretel Ingham.

065/24 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Ellis submitted a written report highlighting that she continues to work on the Broadfields Planning application, flooding issues (particularly in Merstone) as well as ongoing resident concerns about potholes, speeding and road safety issues. Cllr Ellis can be contacted at any time by telephone or email.

b) Cemetery and churchyard matters

The Clerk confirmed that the Gore cemetery shed maintenance is complete.

c) Highways and footpaths

Cllr Cooper stated the drains outside Gore Cemetery and in the layby in Merstone Lane are blocked. The Clerk will advise Island Roads.

d) Chairman's report

In the Chairman's absence there was no report.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts attended the cabinet meeting on 14th March where a presentation was given on licensing, there was also discussion about the current committee system at IWC. Cllr Roberts attended the Executive Meeting on 28th March which resolved to encourage IWC to adopt the Draft Island Planning Strategy, discussed the use of glyphosate in agriculture and the benefits of community led housing projects. Cllr Roberts also attended the IWALC Planning Training. The presentation from this training has been circulated to councillors.

f) Meeting reports

There were no meeting reports.

g) Clerk's report

The Clerk confirmed that following the March meeting the Burial Regulations and Fees were updated and circulated to funeral directors and monumental masons. Jaqui Gill has confirmed use of the Coach House on the 80th Anniversary of D-Day and Kim Powell is in touch with her. The Youth Trust was advised of the approval of their donation to be sent in April. Co-option posters were published on the website, noticeboards, in the Post Office and emailed to residents and councillors. The contractor for Holm Oak works and the neighbouring landowner were contacted. Russell Chick (IWC Planning) has been asked for an update on the progress of the Landscape and Environment Management Plan on P/00206/17.

Various Burial Registrar inquiries have been dealt with. At Gore there was an interment of ashes on 22nd March and a burial on 27th March. The VAT claim has been submitted. Approved February minutes have been sent to National Savings to confirm the update to the bank mandate. The Clerk attended the IWALC Planning training on 3rd April and the IWC Future Governance Meeting on Thursday 4th April.

An email received from Monique Gallop concerning setting up a food waste distribution centre was noted.

066/24 Finance

The finance report for March was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £6,446.85.

RESOLVED: To agree and approve the payments as presented.

067/24 Planning and Appeals

To consider any applications recently received:

Application No: 24/00355/FUL

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

Proposal: Proposed conversion, alterations and extension of outbuildings to provide ancillary accommodation and a self-contained annexe

Councillors considered the application. It was noted that the lighting to the outside of the property was stated as forward-facing lights 4 times 500 lumens vastly exceeding the recommended maximum of 500 lumens under the Dark Skies Policy. There is also no mention of any timer or sensor devices. The use of coloured garden lighting was also considered excessive. The grasses listed are not of a native species or suitable for the chalk downland site which has an AONB designation. The lack of sustainable provision such as the use of solar panels is disappointing.

RESOLVED: To take a neutral stance and add comments about the excessive lighting, unsuitable planting and lack of sustainability in the application.

Application No: 24/00389/FUL

Location: Former Arreton Garden and Aquatic Centre Hale Common Arreton Isle of Wight

Proposal: Retention of open sided barn, four storage containers and three static caravans in association with construction of approved scheme P/01579/16

Councillors considered the application. The history of different applications on this site has caused confusion and there is contradictory information. An old application appears to have re-emerged following the failure of an application for works units with accommodation above. Concerns were raised about the lack of information about waste water provision. An application for temporary approval for 3 years given the original application was 06.03.2017 is too long.

RESOLVED: To object to the application.

Councillors considered the following additional 2 applications received on the Press List from IWC today.

Application No: 24/00330/6PA

Location: Heasley Farm Heasley Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AN

Proposal: Agricultural prior approval for agricultural storage reservoir

Councillors considered the application which is to increase the capacity of an existing reservoir. This will help alleviate local flooding issues.

RESOLVED: To support the application.

Application No: 24/00481/FUL

Location: Hillcroft Budbridge Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DJ

Proposal: Demolition of existing buildings and proposed replacement storage building

Councillors considered the application and acknowledged that the site will be greatly improved by the new buildings but noted that there is no hedge height specified on the Bury Lane side. The topography of the site means that the buildings will be very obvious from the west. The hedge height is only 2 metres but the building is 4.5metres high to the eaves. Excavating on the east side would enable the intrusion of the building to be lessened. No lighting plan was included. The Dark Skies Policy needs to be kept in mind particularly at the end of the business day.

RESOLVED: To take a neutral stance and add comments about the topography of the site and Dark Skies Policy.

068/24 D Day 80th Anniversary

Kim Powell stated that she is willing to organise attractions based at the Coach House which could include a musician, face painting, candy floss and a few activities for children. Cllr Dodson stated the bells will be rung from 6.30-7.30pm.

069/24 IT Report

Councillors examined the IT Report. It was considered that further information was needed about the benefits of a gov.uk domain name, how this might affect the community hall bookings on the website and ongoing costs. It was noted that it would be helpful to contact Cllr Graham Stoddart-Stones at Bembridge Parish Council who has some experience and expertise in this area.

070/24 Councillor Co-option

Councillors thanked Kathryn Taylor for her application for the casual vacancy which they had considered and invited her to take up the position.

RESOLVED: To co-opt Kathryn Taylor to Arreton Parish Council.

071/24 To note the date of the next meeting 13th May 2024

Cllr Cooper advised that he may be attending a family funeral in New Zealand on this date.

072/24 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

073/24 To pass a resolution to exclude the public and press under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960

Councillors considered a request from the Clerk for additional hours to complete work on the Parish Council laptop and website and from the Burial Registrar to begin work on compiling digital burial records.

RESOLVED: To agree an additional 12 hours for the Clerk and 10 hours for the Burial Registrar.

The meeting concluded at 9.06pm.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

E-mail: arretonpc@outlook.com Telephone: 07587 008183

26th April 2024

..... Chairman

..... Date