

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 8th July 2024** at **7.00pm** in **Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Gurney-Champion (Chair), Dodson, Mills, Roberts, Cooper, Verey and Taylor.

In attendance: Claire Gale (Clerk), 1 member of the public.

111/24 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Healy who was responding to a neighbour's emergency and IW Cllr Suzie Ellis due to ill-health.

112/24 Questions from the public

A member of the public advised that the Isle of Wight Police had attended Merstone Lane with speed monitoring equipment and subsequently posted images and information on Facebook stating no speeding vehicles were detected. The Community Speedwatch group was left feeling undermined and demoralised. A letter will be sent to the police and one of the volunteers who has resigned will be contacted asking him to reconsider.

113/24 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations.

114/24 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 124/24

Cllr Verey had one item regarding her future service as Parish Councillor.

115/24 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th June 2024

RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of 10th June 2024.

116/24 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Ellis submitted a report by email which stated it has been a quiet month probably due to the General Election. Cllr Ellis has been working with Stickworth Lane and Hall residents regarding access issues they experience during flooding. Cllr Ellis is in contact with Island Roads, Rights of Way and planning on this and trying to find a way forward. The work on the Cycle track at Blackwater has finally been completed. The updated IPS is back out for public consultation and runs to Monday 19th August. Cllr Ellis continues to be available by phone and email.

b) Cemetery and churchyard matters

The Chair reported that a few anomalies had been resolved. It was noted that the Wyld Trust area of the cemetery known as God's Garden is listed separately in the maintenance contract.

c) Highways and footpaths

Cllr Dodson has reported an overhanging tree on the cycle track 200m from Merstone Manor. The Clerk read out an email from IWC Rights of Way regarding the installation of new bridle gates on footpath A3 and advising that the landowner whose cattle feeder is on the cross-field path A2 will be spoken to. Cllr Roberts has reported 2 large rabbit holes on path A14, the Haseley Lane cycle track. Cllr Cooper observed that there are still many verges to be cut long after the "no mow May" period has finished.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson reported that various works have taken place since the new committee has been operating. New signage has been mounted on the front of the Community Centre, repainting is complete, gas and electrical safety certificates have been renewed and meters registered. The Social Club is linked up with the heating system.

e) Chairman's report

The Chair has been dealing with burial matters in conjunction with the Clerk and preparing for the meeting.

f) IWALC

There have been no meetings since last month's report.

g) Meeting reports

Cllr Verey attended the Environment & Sustainability meeting online on 20th June 2024. They had a presentation from Caitlin Woombs about the Solent Seascape Project, introducing the idea of behavioural change via education for those that may visit the Sea Grass meadows, coastal marshes, coastal protected areas and birds in the SPA, or people who would like to get involved volunteering. She was introducing the idea that all forms of water sports have the potential to damage the "Blue Carbon" ecosystem. They are working with various projects and trusts including the Institute of Marine Science P'mth which is reintroducing native oysters under piers and pontoon grids, creating new habitats for Little Terns (floating pontoons), making cage protections for ground nesting Ring Plover. They are mechanically moving sediment to create saltmarshes (this may happen in the Medina) and they are attempting to germinate harvested sea grass pods in various ways, harvested in the next month they are researching ways of reintroducing seagrass to increase the meadows. They can be found at Seaview, Calshot and Farlington. The Chair thanked Cllr Verey for attending.

h) Clerk's report

Following the last meeting Jaqui Gill was advised of APC's support to apply for a grant to clean the War Memorial, Natural Enterprise was advised that the grant application was successful. The Clerk submitted the bank mandate paperwork to Lloyds Bank Ryde. The White Lion was thanked for the D Day commemoration tea and supper. Rights of Way was advised of 2 issues. CCLA was contacted re Schools Trust and Wight Computers re IT improvements.

It was noted that the following planning applications have been granted:

24/00547/RVC

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

Variation on condition 2 on 23/01178/HOU to allow garage size to be increased

24/00283/HOU

Location: Stickworth Lodge Stickworth Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AP

Proposal: Alterations and conversion of garden room to form bedroom and ensuite

The Housing Needs Survey Working Group met at Haseley Manor on 17th June. The Clerk attended SLCC online Cemeteries Legal Compliance Course (19th and 20th June) and the Parish Council Domains Helper Service session online on 1st July. The follow up session about selecting an approved registrar is also booked. The Dark Skies letter and support request was sent to Rookley Parish Council as they have now appointed a new Clerk. The laptop is booked in for RAM upgrade. Numerous burial matters have been dealt with. An interment is to take place on Weds 17th July at Gore. Community Speedwatch was contacted for updated statistics.

The Clerk was asked to circulate meeting agendas to the email circulation list from now on.

An invitation was received from the Isle of Wight St John Priory Group for The Commissioning of their new Chaplain. Cllr Roberts may be able to attend and will respond directly. The Parish Council considered a request from Wootton Parish Council to write to IWC stating a new planning application should be made for gravel extraction in the Wootton area but did not feel able to comment as it is outside the parish. Natural Enterprise have thanked the Council for the grant and confirmed that the Merstone Station site is owned by IWC and managed by Natural Enterprise. An email was received from the landlords of The White Lion who were pleased to take part in the 80th Anniversary of D Day commemorations. Enquiries with Ventnor Town Council about the status of the South Wight Parishes Health and Wellbeing Forum have concluded that it is no longer operating. Rookley Parish Council has confirmed that they support the Dark Skies initiative and will survey the local area and if appropriate send out letters to all local businesses.

117/24 Finance

The finance report for June was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £19,817.51. The quarterly finance report for April to June was noted.

RESOLVED: To agree and approve the payments as presented.

118/24 Planning and Appeals

There were no planning applications for consideration. An email from IWC with details of the IWC consultation on the Draft Island Planning Strategy was noted. Details will be posted on the Parish Council website and circulated to residents.

119/24 Housing Needs Survey

The Council considered the leaflet, questionnaire and timeline that resulted from the working group meeting held on 17th June. Cllrs Dodson and Mills offered their home addresses as drop off points in Merstone. Other pick up and drop off points were settled as Arreton Post Office, The White Lion Pub and Leslie's Garage Blackwater. The Clerk was asked to prepare a distribution list for councillors to hand deliver leaflets and to post them to addresses in Burnt House Lane. Gretel at Community Action will provide secure boxes for the public drop off points and organise the printing.

RESOLVED: To approve the leaflet, the questionnaire and timeline for the Housing Needs Survey and to allocate up to £100 for printing costs from the Parish Plan budget heading for 600 A5 leaflets on 130gsm paper and 100 surveys on 75gsm paper.

120/24 Arreton School Trust

The Clerk has had further correspondence with the CCLA. The next stage is to call a meeting of the Trust to complete the CCLA mandate form and then the bank mandate. The meeting will take place at the Community Hall during August.

RESOLVED: To call a meeting of the South Arreton Rookley Education Foundation Trust during August and report back to the September meeting.

121/24 IT Update

The Clerk is following up the gov.uk domain name via the Parish Council Domains Helper Service webinars. The laptop is booked in for the RAM upgrade. A revised quote has been received for the agreed improvements saving an additional £20.40.

122/24 Burial Matters

The annual inspection of burial grounds took place at 6pm this evening. At Gore Cemetery consideration was given to the unsuitability for burial of some of the plots due to the encroachment of the hedge over the years. Further tree planting to obscure the view of the anaerobic digester plant and to close the gap left by the removed holm oak needs further consideration. The contact details on the gate signage need updating. At St Georges churchyard it was noted that the self-seeded trees (2 oak trees and 4 cherry trees) are doing well. It was also noted that one of the memorial tablets has been removed.

The Council considered the criteria for the inhabitant and non-inhabitant burial fees and proposed wording for an exception to the Table A fees to recognise when individuals have been resident in the Parish for a substantial period but are not resident at the date of death.

RESOLVED: It was agreed that at Gore Cemetery an autumn clear up would take place with signage displayed in advance, Cllr Roberts will contact Haseley Farm regarding a basic repair to the fencing in the corner where the holm oak tree has been removed, Cllr Taylor will organise pruning of overgrown trees and shrubs. The Clerk will contact Island Roads and Wight Energy about the full drains and gully by the gates and Brighstone Landscaping with queries over the shed repairs. Cllr Taylor agreed to make enquiries about the removed memorial tablet at St Georges churchyard.

To agree the amended wording to the Burial Regulations with effect from 8th July 2024.

123/24 To note the date of the next meeting 9th September 2024

124/24 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Verey advised that she expected to stand down in the next 6 months.

The meeting concluded at 8.55pm.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

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

23rd July 2024

..... Chairman

..... Date