

Minutes of a meeting of the Parish Council on **Monday 14th November, 2016** at **Arreton Community Hall** at 7pm.

Present: Cllrs Thirkettle, Roome, Cooper, Hayden, Cllr E Oulton and Cllr R Oulton

In attendance: Sheila Caws (Clerk)

166/16 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Grisman, Cllr Orchard and IWC Cllr Richards (all unwell)

167/16 Questions from the public

No members of the public were present.

168/16 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (10th October)

The minutes of the meeting on 10th October were confirmed and signed. Proposed Cllr Roome, seconded Cllr Hayden.

169/16 To receive regular reports

- a) IWC Councillor's report – in the absence of IWC Cllr Richards there was no report.
- b) Cemetery and churchyard matters
It was agreed that a meeting with Brighstone Landscaping regarding the Churchyard was no longer necessary. Cllr R Oulton asked if anything could be done to neaten the edges of the grass round the stones where ashes are buried. The Clerk will contact Brighstone Landscaping to enquire.
- c) Highways and footpaths
A considerable amount of work is being undertaken at the entrance to the chalk pit at Down End but the reason is not obvious.
The work on the highways, especially at Blackwater has been noted.
The order to divert footpath A41 at Rookley is in place.
- d) IWALC and Chairman's report
IWALC have requested that each town and parish council request an item to be dealt with by Island Roads. A request for a 20mph speed limit through Merstone will be put forward. The pot holes in School Lane were mentioned but the Clerk will check the asset maps as the road is unadopted and therefore probably not the responsibility of Island Roads.
The Chairman reported on the meeting with Mr Pearson of Wight Salads concerning the community fund being set up by the owners of Hale Common Solar Farm. Various projects were suggested, including repairing the Community Hall Car Park or work on rights of way. Another suggestion was the creation of a footpath in the Churchyard to give access to the Dairyman's Daughter's grave and the Churchyard in general, perhaps with a seat. The Chairman will pass all these ideas on at the next meeting with Mr Pearson.
- e) Clerk's report: Agenda and Minutes Record - the Clerk contacted the manager of the anaerobic digester and a meeting will be arranged when he comes back from leave.
The Clerk contacted Rights of Way to ask about the replacement of safety signs on the cycleways. There was some e-mail correspondence but it all went quiet after it was sent to Planning to find out who actually oversaw the Red Squirrel Trail project. The Clerk will chase.

Other matters - the Clerk has contacted Cllr Fuller with regard to his attending a meeting but has not yet received a response.

The Clerk received notification that the business rates on the Cemetery are to be revalued and was asked to check the details on-line. This proved to be something of a problem with no address or postcode. A phone call to the helpline and a very helpful gentleman eventually tracked the registered address down to Cllr Roome's house. This

is presumably because the address was registered when Mr Moore was Parish Clerk as he lived there. The Clerk will get the details changed. The good news is that the rates are going down.

The Clerk has received a newsletter and raffle tickets from Ability Dogs 4 Young People.

170/16 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 165/16

No declarations were received and the Clerk requested that an item be raised under agenda item 186/16.

171/16 Finance

The finance report for October was agreed and the following payments approved

Staff costs	£328.25
M Thirkettle (PA system)	£189.00
Brighstone Landscaping (grounds maint)	£1,008.00
M Thirkettle (wreath)	£50.00
Newsletter costs	£35.00

The balance of the current account was £11016.46

172/16 Planning and Appeals

None have been received.

173/16 Website

The calendar and the domain name were the last remaining problems. The Clerk will arrange a meeting with Foundation Multimedia and Cllr R Oulton to resolve any outstanding issues. All councillors were in favour of the new look.

174/16 Fun Day 2016

The Chairman has purchased a PA system at a cost of £157.50 plus VAT. A demonstration of its powers was given. A banner will be bought at a later date and Biltmore offer a service of replacing letters at £10 a time, to enable it to be re-used.

175/16 Fun day 2017

The Clerk drew up terms of reference but it was agreed to defer the matter to the next meeting to consider the necessity of a full committee.

176/16 Budget 2017/18

The budget for the next financial year is under consideration. Various suggestions were made, including money put aside for other councils for the provision of public toilets, hiring a 'portaloo' for the car park at Merstone' and solar lights for the cherry tree. It was agreed that, rather than have our own Christmas tree, the Clerk would contact Mrs Phillips and offer a financial contribution to the cost of the tree at the Methodist Chapel.

177/16 Council Tax Reduction Scheme

The proposals put forward by the IW Council were discussed and it was agreed that they were necessary but it was unfortunate that the less well-off would be most affected.

178/16 Parking / Recycling and waste storage

The IW Council's draft Guidelines for Parking Provision as Part of New Developments Supplementary Planning Document and Guidelines for Recycling and Refuse Storage in New Development Supplementary Planning Document were discussed and it was agreed that they should be supported.

179/16 Burial ground maintenance

Although the quote for repainting the plates on the Cemetery all was above the £500 limit, it was proving difficult to find someone to offer another quote. It was therefore agreed to suspend that particular standing order and accept Mr Filer’s quote.

180/16 Phone boxes

It was agreed that there was no objection to BT removing a redundant phone box in Blackwater.

181/16 20mph Conference

A report on the conference, attended by the Clerk, was received and placed on file. A copy is attached to these minutes.

182/16 Battle of Britain memorial

The Clerk has been contacted by the Battle of Britain Historical Society with a view to erecting a stone to commemorate the death of a Battle of Britain pilot on land at Heasley Farm. It was agreed that it was good idea but that the location of the crash site was probably not suitable for a stone and another site would have to be found nearby. The Clerk will make further enquiries.

183/16 Newsletter

The latest newsletter has been completed but a copy sent to the Chairman for proof-reading had not arrived.

184/16 Pension

The Clerk updated the Parish Council on the situation regarding automatic enrolment. As none of the staff are entitled to an automatic pension, the RFO will write to them to see if they wish to fund one themselves. A declaration has to be made by the summer of 2017.

185/16 To note the date of the next meeting, 12th December 2016

186/16 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Ventnor Town Council is attempting to breathe new life in to the MY Life a Full Life initiative but no one wished to attend.

187/16 To pass a resolution to exclude the public and press under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 to discuss staff matters

The Clerk requested permission for overtime in view of the amount of work involved in putting information on the new website. It was agreed that she could take up to a maximum of six hours.

The meeting concluded at 9pm

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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21st November 2016

..... Chairman

..... Date