

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 12^h October 2020** at **7.00pm** at **Haseley Manor Barn and on-line**.

Present: Cllrs Calloway, Cooper, Dodson, Kimber, Healy and Roberts in person.
Cllrs Healy and Verey on-line.

In attendance: IWC Cllr Mosdell (on-line), Sheila Caws (Clerk) in person and one member of the public (on-line).

185/20 Apologies for Absence
Cllr Orchard (unwell)

186/20 Questions from the public
None.

187/20 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (14th September 2020)
It was noted that Cllr Calloway's name appeared twice in the note of those present. The minutes of September 14th were then confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Roberts, seconded Cllr Cooper.

188/20 To receive regular reports

(a) IWC Councillor – IWC Cllr Mosdell reported that most of the recent work has been on the Government's proposed new housing numbers, which are unrealistically high on the Island.

In response to a question, IWC Cllr Mosdell said that there are currently 37 active cases on the Island. The question of people from the mainland being sent to the Island for Covid 19 tests and therefore using public transport (the ferries) was raised. Cllr Mosdell said that as the use of public transport to attend tests was discouraged, there has been a media campaign on the mainland to discourage those offered tests on the Island not to accept because of the transport issue. The ferry companies are not in a position to ask why people are traveling and anyone who wishes to stay in their car on board must give 48 hours' notice. Unfortunately, the test booking system cannot be tweaked to recognise IW postcodes.

(b) Cemetery and churchyard matters – there has been no response from Wight Stonemasonry regarding the repairs in Gore Cemetery and so the Clerk will chase them.

(c) Highways and footpaths – work has been done on the undergrowth on the cycleway in the vicinity of Merstone Manor. Unfortunately, this has been done by a flail, which is very unsightly and a complaint was received from a Merstone resident, who thought that the Parish Council was responsible. The work has undoubtedly improved the width of the cycletrack at that point but the method used was totally unsuitable. A letter will be sent to Rights of Way outlining our concerns. Cllr Healy will draft it and Cllrs Kimber and Dodson will supply photographs. IWC Cllr Mosdell will also inspect the area.

The fences near Stickworth Hall are still appalling but the work is not yet finished. There are potholes in the road at Down End, near the entrance to Arreton Manor. The clerk will report them. The poor surface on the cycle track near Blackwater Garage will also be reported.

- (d) Chairman's report – the Chairman reported another quiet month. The Chairman, Councillor Dodson and the Clerk met with Community Action Isle of Wight who wished to discuss Arreton's issues and response to Covid 19. The Clerk's report covers this.

The Chairman spent some time reading and drafting a draft response to the Government's White Paper, *Planning for the future*, and circulated this to councillors for review before the Clerk submitted it to IWALC. It sounds as though the document has drawn a lot of criticism generally and Bob Seely has submitted what the Chairman thought was a well-argued criticism from the Isle of Wight's perspective.

The Chairman is keen to increase the distribution of the Clerk's (excellent) email newsletters and will approach the Arreton Post Office to see if a poster can be displayed in their window to encourage residents to register to receive it.

IWALC – there are no meetings to report on as the AGM was postponed. IWALC continue to send out regular e-mails but generally these are of little or no relevance to Arreton.

- (e) Meeting reports – nothing to report
(f) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk contacted Island Roads regarding the planter at the Arreton Barns bus stop. The bus stop is due to be replaced in October and Island Roads will replace the planter at the same time.

The Clerk also contacted Southern Housing and they will endeavour to deal with the overgrown hedge, as they did before.

All other items are covered in the agenda.

Other matters: the Clerk was contacted by a person who had written a poem about Merstone Station and asked if it could be put up somewhere for passers-by to read it. The Clerk put him in touch with Natural Enterprise.

Cllr Dodson was contacted by a resident regarding sewage disposal which involved Island Roads. The Clerk subsequently contacted them and has received a reply which has been passed on to the resident.

The Chairman, Cllr Dodson and the Clerk attended a meeting with AgeUK IW regarding resilience planning, with particular reference to Covid 19 (see agenda item 199/20).

189/20 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 206/20 – traffic accident near Blackwater.

190/20 Finance

The finance report for September was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £12,095.16 at the end of September. The following payments were agreed and would be made by BACs:

S Caws (salary – incl. backdated pay rise)	£581.57
Wight Computers Ltd (website update)	£360.00
Brutton & Co (Diocese of Portsmouth faculty)	£302.00

191/20 Planning and appeals

Reference	20/01247/RVC
Alternative Reference	PP-08951789
Application Received	Wed 05 Aug 2020
Address	Little Budbridge Farm Budbridge Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DH
Proposal	Variation of condition 2 on 19/01039/FUL to include four conservation roof lights (corrected description - readvertised application)

As this was a re-advertised application, it was agreed that no further comment was necessary.

192/20 Trees

A discussion took place as to the merits of planting trees in the Parish. It was agreed that a survey would be undertaken in the Newsletter to see if there were any suggestions as to where trees could be planted. It was suggested that the School be contacted to see if they wished to become involved.

It was noted that some trees had been planted at Arreton Cross, near the sculpture. These may have been overcome by the brambles and it was suggested that the Green Gym be asked to undertake some clearance work.

It is still hoped that some more cherry trees can be planted in St George's Churchyard. Cllr Calloway will ask Mr Betteredge to survey the existing trees in the Churchyard as to their condition.

All councillors will be asked to look at their own areas to see if there are any suitable sites for planting. Trees are available from the Woodland Trust.

193/20 Website

Work on the website is progressing but a meeting will need to be held to consider the special requirements of the Community Hall diary.

194/20 Risk Assessment

Amendments were agreed and the Risk Assessment document will be signed at the next meeting.

195/20 Pest Control

Further pest control work will be needed and the Chairman and Cllr Dodson will liaise with the contractor. The Clerk will organise signs for the gates, requesting that they be kept shut.

196/20 Parking at Arreton Primary School

Discussions are ongoing with the owners of Arreton Barns, although the area is not an all-weather car park. Some work has been done on the hedge in the pub car park but it was felt that more spaces could be created with a concerted clearance of the brambles.

The school staff have been working hard to keep the traffic moving through the area at drop-off and pick-up times and the Clerk was requested to write to the Head Teacher to say that it had been noted.

A meeting has been organised by the IW Council for November 2nd and the Parish Council will be represented.

There may be some merit in investigating the provision of parking at Arreton Cross but there is no appetite for capital spending at present and the site is on a main arterial road.

197/20 Planning – housing numbers

A letter has been received from Bob Seely MP regarding the proposed house building figures. It was agreed to support his efforts to reduce the numbers and the Clerk will contact him to ask what sort of support he requires.

198/20 Planning – changes to regulations

Having sent comments to NALC via IWALC and NALC having sent an excellent paper to the Government, it was agreed to take no further action on this matter.

199/90 Resilience planning

At a meeting with AgeUK IW, the Parish Council was asked to consider the preparation of a resilience plan in case of an emergency. It was agreed to look at the template, to be supplied by AgeUK IW and then agree on further action.

200/20 Community drinking water tap

The Chairman visited Southern Water's offices at Fairlee two weeks ago and subsequently put in a request to Southern Water regarding the provision of a drinking water fountain at Horryngford. There has not been any response as yet and so the Chairman will attempt to contact the Head Office by phone.

201/20 Newport-Sandown cycle route

The Chairman will prepare a report on the condition of the cycle track - see also the item in the reports – 188/20 (c). Cllr Verey drew attention to the app *Widen my path* as a means of reporting defects and suchlike and noted that some of the points that had been noted were already referred to on the app.

202/20 Lost path

The Parish Council has been contacted by the Local Access Forum to see if there would be support for the re-instatement of a lost path on St George's Down under a Government initiative. It was agreed to do so and the Clerk was also asked to mention a path to Wacklands that has been used unofficially by residents for many years.

203/20 what3words

The Parish Council has been approached to support the use of the *what3words* app, which is a location-finding tool. It was agreed to do so and it will be publicised locally.

204/20 Computer

The Clerk requested that the members consider the purchase of a laptop for Parish Council business. This was agreed and the Clerk will investigate costs.

205/20 To note the date of the next meeting, 9th November 2020

The meeting will be held in Haseley Manor Barn and on-line, Covid 19 regulations permitting.

206/20 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

- i) Problems were encountered during the meeting with the quality of sound reproduction, particularly but not only for those attending on-line. Cllr Dodson suggested the purchase of some form of speaker and agreed to investigate the possibilities.
- ii) Cllr Verey noted the recent occurrence of an accident on the main road near Longdown Lane. This is a particularly fast stretch of road.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 20.49pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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15th October 2020

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Chairman

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Date