

Minutes of a meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 14th June 2021** at **7.00pm** in **Haseley Manor Barn**

Present: Cllrs Kimber, Calloway, Cooper, Healy, Orchard, and Roberts.

In attendance: One member of the public, IWC Cllr Ellis and Sheila Caws (Clerk).

094/21 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Verey (shielding)

095/21 Questions from the public

There were no questions

096/21 To receive and confirm the minutes of the previous meeting (17th May 2021)

Several amendments to typing errors were made. Minute 071/21(b) para 3 was amended to read "...the matter will now be resolved after the annual inspection of the burial grounds." Minute 071/21(c) para 2 was amended to read "... at present but it is either biodegradable or should soon ...". The minutes of the meeting held on May 17th were then confirmed and signed – proposed Cllr Calloway, seconded Cllr Roberts.

097/21 To receive regular reports

- (a) IWC Cllr Ellis reported that she is rapidly becoming used to how the IW Council works. She has investigated the situation with parking in the lay-by near the Methodist Chapel, which is on the Island Roads Project network. The matter is currently on the Highways Integrity and Safety Network and IWC Cllr Ellis is endeavouring to find out how such projects are scored to determine their position in the Register but has not as yet received a reply. IWC Cllr Ellis is also endeavouring to find out who owns the land at Arreton Cross where the Hare and Magpies sculpture is situated. She also reported that work on the problems of parking at the School has not progressed due to various issues.
- (b) Cemetery and Churchyard matters – there has been little activity recently. The Chairman reported that there are some large thistles in the hedge and that the bush has not yet been removed or the holes filled in. The Clerk will chase Brighstone Landscaping and also request that they take some height off the roadside hedge next time it is cut. It was noted that the annual inspection of the burial grounds will take place next month.
- (c) Highways and footpaths – Island Roads appear to have recently marked some areas on the cycleway that need patching but this is only a small proportion of the work required. Cllr Orchard reported that a picnic bench on the cycleway at Shide is collapsing. The Clerk will contact Gift to Nature as they installed it about 20 years ago.
- (d) IWALC/Chairman's report – the Chairman reported yet another quiet month with mainly negatives, although on the positive side the Clerk obtained litter picking equipment which is now with him. The Chairman and Councillors Healy and Calloway attended a meeting of the Community Hall Committee – the first one for around a year. At the time of the meeting, it seems the Hall will re-open on June 22nd, barring any dramatic changes in Government COVID policy. The Hall is in good financial shape, due in no small measure to the government grant it received. At the May meeting, the Chairman undertook to write to Wight Salads about litter on footpath A52. However, after the meeting he walked the footpath and there was little or no litter visible and so he has not written. IWALC - the May meeting was cancelled because IWALC interpreted government COVID guidance as requiring in-person meetings and no suitable location could be identified.
- (e) Meetings reports – Cllrs Calloway, Roberts and Verey attended a virtual meeting held by Bob Seely, MP. It was reported that the new IW Council councillors are already looking at

ways to improve and secure housing for local people and to protect and enhance the countryside from an environmental point of view, with a request for parishes to send/share any ideas to IWC Cllr Jonathan Bacon plus copy in to the MP. They would like for instance to know and be given ideas of how houses can be protected for locals and be ready for climate changes: the question was, what would we like to see added to the Planning office arsenal of conditions. Cllr Verey raised points re Nitrate trading platform and RSPB Swift bricks or Swallow nests?

There was a discussion on the network of Southern Water and pollution into the Solent, which is currently piped to south of the Island, and there was to be a meeting with them within the two months June/July. The outflows are from Sandown waterworks, which appear to process most waste water from the Island. There was also a conversation on river catchment areas, including from Arreton, high nitrates, nitrate vulnerable zones, nitrate trading, beavers, HIWWT and Natural England. Climate change and the drinking water resource from mainland are important in the light of the proposed increase in house numbers.

Bob Seely is keen to bring tidal wave power companies to the Ventnor area, although Councillors were aware that the export electricity subsea cable infrastructure for the Island does not have sufficient capacity for any new projects, such as tidal, solar or AD plants. Details of this can be found from circa 2013/2014 on council website, any new plan would have to include a very big expenditure on an upgrade to these facilities for electric export. The MP wants to get Government funding to bring this industry to the Island.

Apparently, the Island has the record of being the third worst in the UK for sustainable transport infrastructure.

As noted in the Chairman's report, a meeting of the Community Hall Committee has taken place. Although it had been hoped to re-open on June 22nd, an announcement from the Prime Minister today has put that back to at least July 19th.

The South-west Parishes meeting, normally attended by Cllr Roberts, was cancelled due to being too close to last month's elections.

- (f) There was nothing to report on the tree project. However, attention has been drawn to a national project to plant Sakura cherry trees to celebrate the UK's relationship with Japan. In view of the Arreton Church's connection with the Burma Star Association, it was agreed not to offer to participate and to continue to make our own arrangements.
- (g) Clerk's report – Agenda and Minutes Record: the Clerk has been in touch with Geoff Pidgeon, the Island Roads District Steward for the Arreton area, regarding the 'car park' at Arreton Cross. He has put in a job request to clear the brambles but no action as yet. The Clerk has also arranged for the purchase and installation of a new dog bin in Heasley Lane but again, no action as yet. The Clerk will chase this one to make sure that it has been actioned.

The Clerk contacted Godshill regarding our decision on footpath A32/GL52 but did not receive a response. She will now formally contact Rights of Way.

Other matters: an extra meeting was held to consider the revised application for a glamping site at Blackwater.

The Clerk has been in contact with GJ Banks regarding work on the tombs in the Churchyard, which should take place in the summer. Access to water and electricity has been requested and the Clerk has contacted the Churchwardens regarding this but has not, as yet received a response.

Unfortunately, we have lost two of our newsletter recipients due to house moves out of the area. However, both wrote very complimentary comments on our information service.

Cllr Healy has produced a notice regarding co-option for the vacant seat on the Parish Council. Both that and the official notice will be posted in the community this week.

In view of the fact that the IW Music, Dance and Drama Festival took place in a virtual format this year, the organisers decided that it would be wrong to accept any grants. They have

therefore refunded our donation of £50 and, in their letter, they thanked us for our support in this and previous years.

098/21 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 113/21 – three items were requested.

099/21 Finance

The finance report for May was received and the balance in the current account was noted as being £13,782.02 at the end of May. The following payments were agreed:

Staff costs (salaries, expenses, etc.)	£435.74
Mr G W Hughes (internal audit)	£120.00

100/21 Planning and appeals

Reference	21/01166/6PA
Alternative Reference	Not Available
Application Received	Tue 01 Jun 2021
Address	Bury Lane Farm Bury Lane Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3DP
Proposal	Agricultural prior notification for a storage barn

It was agreed that there was no objection to this application.

101/21 Annual Internal Auditor's report 2020/21

The Annual Internal Auditor's report 2020/2021 was received and it was noted that no further action is necessary.

102/21 Accounting Statements 2020/21

The Accounting Statements 2020/2021 were approved and signed.

103/21 Certificate of Exemption 2020/21

The Certificate of Exemption 2020/21 was approved and signed.

104/21 Pest Control

It was agreed to have a further visit for pest control purposes at the end of June and another, if deemed necessary, at the end of August. The matter will then be re-considered in September. Possible work on the pedestrian gate will be considered at the annual inspection of the burial grounds next month.

105/21 Parking at the Methodist Church

See the IWC Councillor's report above. The Clerk will ask the Secretary of the Methodist Chapel to contact IWC Cllr Ellis with details of occasions when there was difficulty in accessing the double gates due to parked cars. It was noted that white lines had been in place across access points but were not renewed after the road was resurfaced. Their re-instatement will be requested.

106/21 Merstone Lane – large vehicles

A complaint has been received regarding large vehicles, mostly tractors, using Merstone Lane as a short-cut, particularly to the anaerobic digester. This is despite a width-restriction on the road. IWC Cllr Ellis will contact the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire to see if anything can be done and the Clerk will get in touch with the local NFU. It was noted

that the width restriction notices are not obvious at each end of the lane and it would be better if the restriction was noted on the signposts on the main roads.

107/21 Merstone Lane - speeding

Another complaint has been received regarding speeding in Merstone Lane, particularly in the early evenings. Most of the signage is hidden in the hedges and there has been little enforcement action. The Clerk was requested to invite PCSO Keefe to a meeting. The Clerk will also enquire as to whether any other parish councils have installed their own interactive speed restriction signs.

108/21 Arreton School Trust

The Arreton School Trust has been inactive for some time now and so the Clerk will write to the Vicar to request a meeting to decide the way forward.

109/21 Freedom of Information Policy

The Freedom of Information Policy and the Schedule of Publications were reviewed and agreed with no changes.

110/21 Beavers

It was agreed that the Clerk should write to the Hampshire and IW Wildlife Trust to see if there was any progress on the proposal to introduce beavers to the eastern Yar.

111/21 Newsletter

It was agreed to undertake another leaflet drop and also to display posters in prominent locations. The Clerk will amend the existing flyer.

112/21 To note the date of the next meeting, 12th July 2021

To begin at 7pm – venue to be confirmed. The meeting will be preceded by the annual inspection of the burial grounds, commencing at 6pm in Gore Cemetery. This is for councillors only.

113/21 Any other matters raised by councillors for discussion only

- i) It was noted that UKOG have applied to the Environment Agency for a licence for exploratory drilling in Arreton. It was agreed that the Parish Council should comment and an extra meeting will be held at 7pm on Monday 28th June at Haseley Manor Barn.
- ii) Cllr Cooper drew attention to a new large advertising sign at the Fighting Cocks crossroads and queried if planning permission was required. The Clerk will investigate.
- iii) Cllr Calloway asked if there were any defibrillators in the Parish, other than at the School. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next meeting and the Chairman will make enquiries as to costs.

There being nothing else raised, the meeting concluded at 8.47pm.

Sheila Caws, Clerk to the Council

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16th June 2021