

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 14th April 2025 at 7.30 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

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

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

050/25 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Gretel Ingham and Misha Cook from Community Action IW.

051/25 Questions from the public

A member of the public asked if any IWC candidates had contacted the Parish Council. No one had.

052/25 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations.

053/25 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 049/25

Cllr Dodson and Cllr Taylor gave notice of items.

054/25 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 10th March 2025

Resolved: To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10th March 2025.

055/25 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

This position is still vacant. The vacancy will be filled at the election on 1st May.

b) Cemetery and churchyard matters

A burial is due to take place on 17th April. The new grounds maintenance contract has started. 2 cherry trees have been planted by the Chairman as agreed at the annual inspection.

c) Highways and footpaths

There were no matters raised.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson reported that the NHS Pod has been removed today. The Wight Aid grant was successful and new entrance doors will be fitted in the next few months.

e) Chairman's report

The Chairman reported dealing with emails, preparing for this meeting and planting 2 cherry trees in Gore Cemetery.

f) IWALC

Cllr Roberts attended the regular meeting. Councils are still encouraged to sign up to the Respect and Civility Code. The merits of introducing beavers to the island were discussed. Arreton Parish Council is not in favour of this in the light of information from the National Farmers Union about the risks of damage to the cycle track infrastructure and trees. Although some funding may be available in the short term to repair beaver damage there is no guarantee of future assistance.

g) Meeting reports

There were no meeting reports.

h) Clerk's report

Following the last meeting the Clerk emailed IWC re Ward Cllr vacancy. It will be filled at the May election. The relative who emailed regarding a fallen headstone at Gore Cemetery was advised this has been reinstated. IWC was asked for data collected by the traffic monitoring equipment installed in Merstone. The

Chillerton and Gatcombe Clerk has been advised Arreton PC is interested in principle in partnering on a project with The Greening Campaign. The approved Code of Conduct was added to website documents. Natural England was advised of donation to the balsam project and bank details were requested. Dates for Annual Parish Meeting and The Big Lunch were emailed to residents. IWALC was contacted to request Steve Cowley's code of conduct document. The Devolution Consultation response was drafted, circulated and submitted.

The IWC Notice of Election and Notification of Nominations was displayed on APC noticeboards. The Annual Parish Meeting agenda published and Chairmans was report drafted. Insurance quotations were obtained. The Burial Fees and Regulations were circulated to funeral directors and stonemasons and posted on website. The Clerk completed Schools Trust correspondence and processing of grant to Arreton Primary School, removed of old signatories from bank account and is applying for online banking. The Safeguarding Policy was drafted.

The Clerk read out the results of the IWC fixed camera data which will be forwarded to the Merstone Speedwatch Group. The Council asked the Clerk to respond to IWC expressing surprise at the data. Cllr Dodson will circulate information from an article in the national press about speed monitoring via mobile phones.

056/25 Finance

The finance report for March and year end finance report were presented. The current account balance of £10,087.13 was noted. The monthly fee for the Scribe Cemeteries package will be paid by direct debit.

Resolved: To agree and approve the payments as presented.

057/25 Planning and Appeals

i) The Council considered the following applications:

25/00291/RVC

Location: Greenacres, Hale Common, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AP

Proposal: Removal of agricultural occupancy condition no.7 on TCP/11471A

Resolved: To object to the removal of the condition due to the need for housing for agricultural workers.

25/00398/RVC

Location: Garretts Farm, St Georges Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3BA

Proposal: Variation of condition no 1 on P/00055/17 for the continued use of land for winning and working of sand and gravel and restoration works

Resolved: To support continued use.

ii) No representative of Community Action IW was able to attend. Neighbourhood Planning will be considered at the May meeting.

058/25 Insurance

The Council considered the insurance quotes presented.

Resolved: To approve the 3-year contract with Zurich Insurance with effect from 1st June 2025.

059/25 Grant Application from St John's Ambulance

The Council considered an application from St Johns Ambulance.

Resolved: To award a grant of £250 on condition it is used on the island and 1 or more community first aid sessions take place in the Parish.

060/25 Safeguarding Policy

The Council considered the draft Safeguarding Policy.

Resolved: To agree the Safeguarding Policy with local contact details added and to appoint Cllr Taylor as Safeguarding Officer.

061/25 The Big Lunch 2025

The Clerk shared information from the pack supplied by Eden Project Communities. Councillors will provide items for the Tea and Cake for the event. A poster will be prepared by the Clerk and circulated to Councillors and the community.

Resolved: To hold a Tea and Cake event at the Community Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 8th June from 4-6pm.

062/25 Arreton Primary School Closure

The Chairman had received an email from a parent asking for continued support as the diocese has referred the IWC to the Office of the Schools Adjudicator. The Clerk will contact the parent asking how the Parish Council can assist.

063/25 To note the date of the next meeting 12th May 2025

064/25 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Dodson advised that there had been no progress with the condition of the property at Park Cottages. The Clerk will follow this up with IWC Environmental Health. Cllr Taylor raised the potential for the Parish Council and the community to assist vulnerable households in an emergency and will contact Ian Lawrie at IWC for advice for consideration at the July meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.43p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

E-mail: clerk@arreton-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07587 008183

29th April 2025

..... Chairman

..... Date