

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

**Present:** Cllrs Gurney-Champion (Chair), Dodson, Taylor, Healy, Roberts

**In attendance:** Claire Gale (Clerk)

**036/25 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence received from Cllr Mills (on holiday) and Cllr Cooper (on holiday).

**037/25 Questions from the public**

No members of the public were present.

**038/25 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011**

There were no declarations.

**039/25 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 049/25**

Cllr Dodson gave notice of an item.

**040/25 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025**

**Resolved:** To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2025.

**041/25 To receive regular reports**

**a) IW Councillor**

This position is still vacant. The Clerk will contact IWC for an update.

**b) Cemetery and churchyard matters**

Following a resident report that the prop on the magnolia tree has fallen down the Chairman attended Gore Cemetery. A strap will be fitted to the prop so that it remains in place in windy conditions. The Chairman and Clerk will follow up an enquiry about a fallen grave stone at plot C21.

**c) Highways and footpaths**

Cllr Dodson reported that a car had gone through the hedge in Merstone Lane. The Clerk read out the response from Island Roads about the traffic monitoring equipment installed by them at the request of Island Roads for 2 weeks in February. The Clerk will contact IWC about accessing the data and whether any remedial measures are planned.

**d) Community Centre**

Cllr Dodson reported that the NHS Pod is to be removed at the end of March as it is not being used much. This will mean a loss of £200 per month income. 2 additional bookings for Tai Chi and Age UK volunteer sessions will start soon. A grant application has been submitted to improve accessibility at the entrance doors. Upgrades to the car park have been made – namely sleeper barriers to prevent parking on the grass, signage and a mirror.

**e) Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported dealing with emails, preparing for this meeting and conducting the Clerk's annual appraisal.

**f) IWALC**

Cllr Roberts attended a meeting which included a presentation from the Youth Justice Service which has now been circulated to councillors. The police also attended and stated they were pleased with how effective the speed watch projects were and that more personnel are now employed. The Clerk will request details from IWALC of a recent Code of conduct initiative. There is a remote meeting on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> regarding the new IWC Committee system if anyone wishes to join.

g) **Meeting reports**

There were no meeting reports.

h) **Clerk's report**

Following the last meeting the Clerk emailed Island Roads and IWC asking for further information about traffic monitoring equipment installed in Merstone. IWC was contacted to advise them of Councillor Verey's resignation and Wight Computers instructed to disable the email address. Environmental Health was contacted requesting further action on the vermin at Park Cottages. All Grounds Maintenance Contractors were advised of outcome of tender process. IW Music Festival was advised of donation and bank details requested.

Planning permission has been granted for **24/01907/RVC** Land Between 5 Huxford And Boxtree Arreton Street Arreton Isle of Wight. Variation of conditions numbers 2, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18 and 23 on P/00362/18 to comply with approved site layout plan (18-1121-006-1<sup>st</sup> Rev A) and approved highway access and junction design (C1640/PL/002 Rev 8 and C1460/PL/503 Rev 3)

The Clerk followed up queries on the Arreton School Trust bank mandate, prepared for and attended the Trust meeting. The primary school has been invited to apply for funding. Research about closing the fund is underway. Trustee business is being conducted by email at present. The Clerk reviewed the Code of Conduct to bring to this meeting. A meeting and walk round St Georges Churchyard and Gore Cemetery was conducted with new grounds maintenance contractor. The new format cash book spreadsheet has been set up. The March (Spring Quarter) Newsletter has been drafted and circulated. The Grant Application form has been drafted and posted to website. Notification has been received from O2 that the 2G signal will be switched off at the end of the year. The Parish Council mobile phone will need to be replaced as this works on 2G. The Clerk began preparation for Annual Parish Meeting in April. The Councillor resignation notice was published stating the vacancy will be filled at the forthcoming election in May. The Clerk will respond to Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council is interested in joining with them on The Greening Campaign if a project is put forward.

**042/25 Finance**

The finance report for February and the current account balance of £10,743.39 was noted.

**Resolved:** To agree and approve the payments as presented.

**043/25 Planning and Appeals**

There were no applications.

**044/25 Government's Consultation on Establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority in Hampshire and The Solent**

The Council considered the response to the seven questions on the Government's consultation on Establishing a Mayoral Combined County Authority in Hampshire. Concerns were noted about whether the island would receive adequate representation and investment. Reassurances need to be sought that the islands demographic, hidden areas of deprivation, identity and unique character will be recognised.

**Resolved:** The Clerk will circulate a draft response to all councillors for approval.

**045/25 Code of Conduct Review**

The Council reviewed the Code of Conduct.

**Resolved:** To approve the code of Conduct as presented.

**046/25 Donation to Natural Enterprise Himalayan Balsam Mitigation Project**

The Council considered donating £250 to the Natural Enterprise Himalayan Balsam Mitigation Project. This project has been supported in recent years. The value of this work was recognised.

**Resolved:** To agree a grant of £250 to Natural Enterprise for the balsam project.

**047/25 The Big Lunch 2025**

The Clerk has requested a pack from Eden Project Communities to support this event. Once the details are known information will be shared on the Community Hall Facebook page and sent to the primary school, social club and cricket club. The date will be circulated to residents on the email contact list.

**Resolved:** To hold a tea with musical entertainment at the Community Hall on the afternoon of Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

**048/25 To note the date of the next meeting 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025 (to be preceded by the Annual Parish Meeting)**

**049/25 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only**

Cllr Dodson will contact mobile banking and food services to see if they would be interested in visiting the village on a regular basis.

The meeting closed at 8.26p.m.

**Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council**

E-mail: [clerk@arreton-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@arreton-pc.gov.uk)

Telephone: 07587 008183

14<sup>th</sup> March 2025

..... Chairman

..... Date