

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 8th September 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

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

In attendance: Claire Gale (Clerk), IW Cllr Caroline Gladwin, 1 member of the public

113/25 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

114/25 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

115/25 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations.

116/25 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 129/25

No items were raised.

117/25 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2025

RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th July 2025.

118/25 To receive regular reports

a) **IW Councillor**

IW Cllr Gladwin provided an update on the Broadfields Planning application following the cancellation of the July IWC Planning Committee meeting where it was due to be discussed . A report about great crested newts on site is in progress and a site visit is planned by the IWC Planning Team as drone photographs show a reservoir that has been partly filled in. Cllr Gladwin expressed frustration over the lack of action in response to the Merstone Community Speedwatch data. A Central Rural joint approach to Speedwatch might be helpful. IWC will conduct a review of speeding hotspots during November.

b) **Cemetery and churchyard matters**

The Clerk advised that she will be meeting a representative of the Probation Service Community Payback Team soon about them assisting with a project at the churchyard clearing ivy and overgrown vegetation. A response is awaited from IW College as to whether their public service course leader may be interested in assisting too. Advice is being sought from a stonemason on removal of ivy from gravestones and tombs.

c) **Highways and footpaths**

Cllr Cooper presented a map of Footpath A10 marked up with a section that is overgrown. Rights of Way will be advised by the Clerk. Complaints about overgrown vegetation at Park Cottages persist. The Clerk will follow this up. Cllr Healy asked if there would still be access during Island Roads works outside Gore Cemetery later this month. The Clerk will enquire.

d) **Community Centre**

Cllr Dodson reported that it has been a busy summer. Floor repairs, collapsed drains and potholes have been dealt with, the front doors have been replaced and the back door will be fixed this Friday.

e) **Chairman's report**

The Chairman reported dealing with emails and preparing for this meeting. The Chairman has attended two meetings with other representatives of the Central Rural Parishes.

f) **IWALC**

Cllr Roberts reported attending the Executive meeting in July. There was further discussion of the Civility and Respect Award Programme with NALC encouraging Councils and individual councillors to sign up. Brading Town Council is keen to set up Community Speedwatch. Enhancing biodiversity and Southern Vectis introducing new electric vehicles was also on the agenda. Cllr Roberts also attended a remote Teams meeting

where concerns were raised about the lack of influence with IWC by town and parish councils, the late timing of IWC media releases and there was discussion of the return of IWC to a cabinet system from the recently introduced committee system following a directive from central government.

g) Meeting reports

There were no meeting reports.

h) Clerk's report

Following the last meeting the Clerk advised Arreton Cricket Club of the £100 grant to fund a bouncy castle at the end of summer fair and processed the payment, requested the grounds maintenance contractor to action matters raised at the burial grounds' inspection, advised St Georges Church Warden of the results of the inspection of the churchyard, chased IWC about the overgrown Footpath A10. The Clerk also responded to Arreton Speedwatch re return of the equipment and possible collaboration with other Parishes in future, contacted Arreton Barns and the neighbour at The Old Vicarage about clearing vegetation/ivy, contacted a stonemason for advice on stone cleaning and ivy clearance, contacted the plant manager at the Anaerobic Digester to request clearing of the grating outside Gore gates (this has been completed), emailed IW College about partnering with the Parish Council on churchyard or cemetery projects. The funds were transferred from the NS&I savings account and an instant access and a 12month fixed term savings account was opened.

Planning permission has been granted for:

25/00754/RVC Land Adjacent Hale Manor Quarry Hale Common Arreton Isle of Wight

Variation of condition 1 on P/00385/17 to allow for extension to time period for completion of extraction and restoration of land. Decision Date: 18/07/2025

With comments collected from councillors by email during the summer break a neutral response was submitted to application:

25/01054/HOU Durton Farm, Long Lane, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2NW

Proposed single storey side extension to form inside swimming pool

The Clerk has also chased IWC re authority to release additional report on Merstone Speeding from Island Roads. A request was made to Cllr Gladwin to assist with speaking to the Highways Team on the advice of Cllr Julie Jones-Evans (Chair of IWC Environment Committee that oversees Highways and the PFI Contract). The Clerk has been copied in on correspondence between Cllr Gladwin, Island Roads and Bob Castle.

The Clerk has registered for the Met Office Community Resilience Course (online dates 10th, 18th Nov and 9th Dec 16:00-17:30). A review of accounts records held has been conducted and documents disposed of in line with the Document Disposal and Retention Policy. The current account bank mandate variation has been completed. The Clerk has continued entry of data to the Scribe Cemeteries software package. Details of all plots and exclusive rights have now been entered, work has started on entering the burial records.

The Clerk also contacted the Church Warden about a fallen willow tree branch neighbouring the churchyard following report from grounds maintenance contractor. The Church Warden will speak to the neighbour so that it can be removed. A meeting has been set up with the Community Payback Team leader regarding possible involvement with works at St Georges Churchyard. Island Memorials was contacted re the condition of stones/lettering on memorials in God's Garden. Further information is awaited. The Clerk prepared the IT Policy to comply with JPAG regulations by March 2026. The Financial Regulations were reviewed and amended.

It was noted that correspondence was received to advise that Merstone Community Speedwatch have reluctantly ceased running sessions. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks.

119/25 Finance

i) Councillors received the finance report for July/August and agreed the payments as presented.

ii) The Clerk confirmed that the larger NS&I account has been closed and the 2 savings accounts with Lloyds Bank are now operating.

iii) The annual review of the Financial Regulations was conducted.

RESOLVED: To agree and approve the payments as presented and to approve the amended Financial Regulations.

120/25 Planning and Appeals

The Council considered the following planning application recently received:

25/01269/HOU

7 Cherrywood View Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AY

Replacement conservatory

RESOLVED: To submit a neutral response.

121/25 IT Policy

The Council considered the IT Policy as presented. The Council must have an IT Policy by March 2026 to ensure compliance with JPAG regulations. Cllr Filer confirmed that her official council email address is now in use.

RESOLVED: To approve the IT Policy.

122/25 Community Emergency Plan

In August Cllr Taylor attended a tabletop exercise about responding to flooding run by Ryde Town Council. Due to the lack of funding the Emergency Planning Team at IWC is looking to town and parish councils and the voluntary sector to be involved with responding to community emergencies. This might include helping to get messages out to the community in the event of water outages, adverse weather etc.. and coordinating use of local resources such as 4x4 vehicles and tractors and buildings to provide shelter or warm spaces. There is a need to identify the vulnerable. Cllr Taylor will contact the IWC Emergency Planning Team to invite them to a Parish Council meeting and an article about this will be included in the September newsletter.

123/25 Central Rural Parishes Update

i) The Chairman had attended 2 meetings of the Central Rural Parishes Liaison Group which includes the parishes of Arreton, Godshill, Rookley and Chillerton and Gatcombe where there was discussion about areas collaborative working on common interests such as greening and biodiversity. The Chairman shared the Charter for the group which states it is for discussion only and has no decision-making powers.

ii) The Chairman reported that a Greening Project meeting set up by the Central Rural Parishes Liaison Group will take place on 25th September 2025 6.30pm at Rookley Village Hall to gauge community interest. Details will be circulated via the newsletter and website.

124/25 Website

The Council considered including on the Parish website pages for publication of events for the Parish Churches and other established community groups such as the Cricket Club as well as local amenities and attractions such as Robin Hill, The White Lion and Harvey Browns. Cllr Dodson stated that the Community Hall page would also benefit from a refresh.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will make enquiries about improvements with the website designer.

125/25 Grant Application

The Council considered a grant application from UKSA for a contribution towards their Test the Water Programme which benefits children from Arreton Primary School. The Chairman attended a reception at UKSA in July and was very impressed with the facilities and the range of activities on offer.

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £150 to UKSA

126/25 Woodland Trust

The Council considered information from the Woodland Trust about their tree planting programme. Deliveries of free trees take place during March and November. To be eligible the land must be accessible to

the public and the landowner must give permission. Groups can apply for up to 4 packs of trees containing 30, 105 or 420 saplings. Information will be sent out in the newsletter and residents invited to put forward possible locations in the Parish.

127/25 Sculpture Maintenance

The Clerk purchased the Barrentine Decking oil as recommended by the sculptor for maintaining the hare and magpie sculpture which requires 2 coats each autumn. Cllr Roberts agreed to complete this.

128/25 To note the date of the next meeting 13th October 2025

129/25 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

No matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

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16th September 2025

..... Chairman

..... Date