

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at 7.00 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

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

**In attendance:** Claire Gale (Clerk), IW Cllr Caroline Gladwin, Steve Davis (Volunteer Tree Warden)

**164/25 Apologies for Absence**

There were apologies from Cllr Filer (unwell).

**165/25 Questions from the public**

There were no questions.

**166/25 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011**

There were no declarations.

**167/25 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 179/25**

Cllr Roberts gave notice of an item.

**168/25 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

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

**169/25 To receive regular reports**

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Gladwin reported that changes had been required by Planning Inspectors to the Draft Island Plan. 2 developments in Rookley totalling 77 houses had been added and the development boundary had been changed to accommodate them. There are a further 6 areas added in towns. By agreeing to the changes, the house building target is kept to 704 per year rather than 1104. IWC considered this was a more acceptable way forward than starting the plan again at a likely cost of £1million. On other planning matters IWC is due to issue an enforcement notice for the unauthorised caravans at Hale Common and the Broadfields application will now be considered in 2026. A member of the public stated that if an updated newt survey is required this is likely to be after May. Cllr Gladwin is awaiting the Island Roads Annual Report.

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported dealing with emails, preparing for this meeting and attending a very well supported Carol Service at St Georges Church.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the November meeting the Clerk submitted a response to the Broadfields planning application, added the amendment to the Risk Register, advised Wight Stonemasonry that their quote to clean the tablets in Gods Garden was accepted, advised The Isle of Wight Youth Trust that their grant application was successful and requested bank details and emailed residents to advise them about the Heat Survey meeting at The Gallybagger Inn, Chillerton on 20<sup>th</sup> November.

In addition the Clerk completed Draft Budget preparation, advised Arreton Primary School about the partnership with Community Payback at St Georges Churchyard, continued compiling community information for the website, received an acknowledgement of Schools Trust bank complaint letter, completed online training sessions 1 (Winter Weather Hazards) and 2 (Climate Change & Community) of the Met Office Community Resilience Course, contacted the CCLA about getting the online account set up,

continued data entry on Scribe Cemeteries software, instructed Wight Computers to set up Tree Warden email, researched other communities Facebook groups and drafted and circulated the December edition of the quarterly newsletter.

An email was received from IWC about introducing restrictions on PSPOs on all council-owned public spaces prohibiting the use of disposable barbeques, release of balloons and use of sky lanterns.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson has been in touch with Glen Abbot of St John Ambulance about running first aid sessions in the Parish. This may include the school, cricket club and community hall. Dates and further information to follow.

e) IWALC

No meetings had taken place. Cllr Roberts circulated a NALC email with information about webinars which may be of interest to councillors.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no other meeting reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

The Clerk advised that the Community Payback project in the churchyard would now go ahead on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

h) Highways and Footpaths

No matters were raised.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

Steve Davis reported that initial aims will be identifying heritage trees, looking for TPOs, understanding risk and looking at semi-natural woodland and new planting. He is waiting for a date from The Tree Council for the online induction module. To be considered ancient a tree would date from 1600 or earlier. So far only one ancient tree has been identified in the Parish, a horse chestnut tree on the edge of Arreton Manor, although a beech tree has also been noted at the entrance of the Old Vicarage. Cllr Taylor stated that there is a horse chestnut tree that may be of interest adjacent to bridlepath 2 on the section from Ratmore withy-bed to Fulford. Mr Davis attended an open day at Island 2000 at Shide in Newport. They will be distributing native trees. Mr Davis hopes that a form inviting the public to submit tree information can be shared via the Parish Council website once drafted.

### **170/25 Finance**

- i) To receive the finance report for November and to agree payments as presented

**RESOLVED:** To note the finance report for November and approve the payments as presented.

- ii) To consider the draft budget for 2026/27

The Council considered the draft budget and proposed a few small amendments. Cllr Roberts offered some saplings if hedging plants are needed for Gore Cemetery and Cllr Dodson put forward planting bulbs next year would make an attractive display in the village. The revised budget will be considered at the January meeting.

### **171/25 Planning and Appeals**

There were no applications or appeals.

### **172/25 Community Resilience**

Cllr Taylor has drafted a plan and will bring it to the next meeting. A tabletop exercise taking around one hour will be planned for early in 2026 to be incorporated in a Parish Council meeting which may begin at the earlier time of 6pm.

**173/25 Social Media**

Councillors had looked at local community Facebook groups such as those for Rookley, Godshill and Wroxall. Cllr Mills stated that linking the group to Instagram would enable it to reach a wider audience. WhatsApp could also be considered for sharing information only and could be set up just for this purpose with community resilience in mind. Cllrs Mills and Taylor were willing to support the Clerk by taking on an administrator role. Joining questions and rules were considered. The rules will include no lobbying or political campaigning.

**RESOLVED:** The Clerk will contact Leigh Jackman at Godshill Parish Council to assist with the setting up of a Facebook Group called Arreton Parish Community and Information Group which will link to Instagram and use an image of the Hare and Magpies as the header photo. The use of Facebook will be reviewed after 6 months.

**174/25 Risk Assessment and Asset Register**

The Council considered the amended Risk Assessment and Asset Register.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the amended Risk Assessment and Asset Register.

**175/25 Annual Report of Burial Registrar**

The Council considered the annual report of the Burial Registrar. The Clerk stated that an outstanding burial fee of £750 was due to be paid.

**RESOLVED:** To note the annual report of the Burial Registrar.

**176/25 Volunteer Tree Warden Email**

The Chairman stated that it had been necessary to set up an official email address for the Parish Tree Warden with the gov.uk domain in line with the other email addresses.

**RESOLVED:** To approve setting up the Tree Warden email address.

**177/25 Ability Dogs 4 Young People**

The Council considered a request from Ability Dogs 4 Young People to contribute to their Education Package Project.

**RESOLVED:** To award a grant of £100 to the Ability Digs 4 Young People Education Project and invite the charity to attend a future meeting.

**178/25 To note the date of the next meeting 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**179/25 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only**

Cllr Roberts had received a query from a member of the public about the banner outside the primary school. This is a matter for Island Roads or the police.

The meeting closed at 8.12p.m.

**Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council**

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11<sup>th</sup> December 2025

..... Chairman

..... Date