

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

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

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

**001/26 Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

**002/26 Questions from the public**

There were no questions.

**003/26 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011**

There were no declarations.

**004/26 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 015/26**

No items were raised.

**005/26 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**RESOLVED:** To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025.

**006/26 To receive regular reports**

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Gladwin reported that she wants answers from IWC following the recent fatal accident in Godshill in an area already raised with as a concern. There are ongoing issues with speeding in Merstone. A review promised in November by Island Roads has not been forthcoming. IWC is awaiting a response from Central Government following IWCs objection to the suggestion local council elections due in May will be postponed. Cllr Gladwin continues to monitor planning and enforcement issues in the Parish.

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported dealing with emails, preparing for this meeting and attending the Community Hall Christmas lunch. The Chairman thanked Cllrs Dodson and Filer for organising this and the ongoing monthly community lunch which is very well attended.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the December meeting the Clerk posted the approved Risk Assessment on the website, contacted Ability Dogs 4 Young People about the donation and attending a future meeting and contacted Leigh Jackman of Godshill Parish Council regarding setting up Facebook.

The Clerk also completed a NALC webinar on Assertion 10 Made Simple, enquired about a Risk Assessment for the Tree Warden with Wight Nature Fund, reviewed the Asset Register, attended Met Office Webinar 3 on Community Resilience (Information, Products and Services). A review of documents in the website Media Library was carried out and old documents were deleted as appropriate. Access to the CCLA online account for the Schools Trust was set up. Council policies and procedures were reviewed. The annual VAT claim was prepared and submitted. The annual IWC Burial Precept claim was made.

The Clerk was given approval to sign up for 2 SLCC cemetery webinars due to take place during February.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson stated that a new pilates class had started and was proving popular. The Social Club doors need replacing and a quotation is awaited. The community defibrillator session with Glen Abbott of St John Ambulance will go ahead on 16<sup>th</sup> March 10am-12noon. The Clerk will email residents about this and information will be included in the next newsletter.

e) IWALC

No meetings had taken place. Cllr Roberts shared a request from IWALC asking member councils to take part in a poll about whether to support a bid for the IWC Information, Advice and Guidance contract. Cllrs agreed to support the bid and the Clerk will respond accordingly to the poll.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no other meeting reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

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

h) Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Cooper asked what the latest position was on the speed limit changes that have been approved for the parish. The Clerk will enquire about this and request information about the continued use of temporary traffic lights at the Hare and Hounds junction.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

Steve Davis reported that he has been concentrating on preparation work improving his tree identification skills and understanding the resources, data and records that are available across many different platforms. He has been familiarising himself with the Arreton Parish boundaries, the locations of existing TPOs, recorded ancient trees and the general tree stock in the parish. There is only 1 currently recorded ancient tree in the parish, a horse chestnut in the grounds of Arreton Manor. With a custom area map from the Ordnance Survey website he has created a 1:10,000 map on a single large sheet that contains the entire Arreton parish. He is now in the process of marking this up with the locations of the current TPO's and other significant records. He is planning to walk all the footpaths and rights of way in the parish to properly understand what the tree stock looks like on the ground and to tie this up with the current records. Mr Davis reported that he has had one interaction with a member of the public who was concerned about changes to fencing alongside a bridleway near Stickworth Hall. The landowner had advised that some cutting back of the adjacent trees would be required. As these are mature trees he had already been in touch with the IWC regarding potential TPO's and requesting a precautionary investigation. Mr Davis visited the site, met with the gentleman and provided a more accurate location for each of the trees to the council officer dealing with the request. The Chairman thanked Mr Davis for this conscientious start and the time he has already given to the role.

## **007/26 Finance**

The Council considered the finance report for December, payments as presented and the Quarterly Budget Report.

**RESOLVED:** To note the finance report for December, approve the payments as presented and note the Quarterly Budget Report.

## **008/26 Planning and Appeals**

### **25/01816/RVC**

Location: South View, Merstone Lane, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3DG

Proposal: Variation of conditions 2 and 3 on 23/01667/HOU to allow a change in approved materials

The Council considered the application. It was noted that the change of materials made a significant difference to the appearance of the building and that more information was needed about the materials to show they would match the existing building in line with the original permission.

The Chairman also raised concerns about the expansion of the car park at the Island Distribution premises and the impact this may have on flooding. No one was aware of any planning application relating to the premises. The Chairman will investigate and report back.

**RESOLVED:** To object to planning application 25/01816/RVC due to the lack of detail in the application and the possible visual impact caused by the change of materials.

#### **009/26 Budget 2026/27**

The Council considered the amended draft budget which set the precept at £19,500 keeping it the same as last year.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the draft budget as presented and request a precept of £19,500.

#### **010/26 Internal Auditor**

The Council considered the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the financial year 2025/26

**RESOLVED:** To approve the appointment of Mr Gareth Hughes as Internal Auditor.

#### **011/26 Calendar of Meetings 2026/27**

The Council considered the meeting dates for 2026/27

**RESOLVED:** To approve the meeting dates.

#### **012/26 Policy and Procedure Review**

The Council reviewed the following policies and procedures:

- i) Grievance Policy
- ii) Disciplinary Policy
- iii) Equality and Diversity Policy
- iv) Complaints Procedure
- v) Freedom of Information Policy
- vi) Community Resilience Plan

A query was raised on paragraph 4 of the Complaints Procedure which will be discussed at the next meeting. The Community Resilience Plan will be considered at a future meeting. Cllr Taylor will be meeting with Iain Lawrie from IWC next week.

**RESOLVED:** To approve the Grievance, Disciplinary, Equality and Diversity and Freedom of Information Policies.

#### **013/26 Exclusive Rights of Burial**

The Clerk brought forward a request from the owner of the exclusive rights of burial of plot B147 at Gore Cemetery for the Burial Authority to buy back the plot due to a change in circumstances.

**RESOLVED:** To agree to buy back the burial plot at the purchase fee of £140.

#### **014/26 To note the date of the next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

#### **015/26 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only**

No matters were raised.

The meeting closed at 8.22p.m.

**Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council**

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19<sup>th</sup> January 2026

..... Chairman

..... Date