

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 9th February 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

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

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

016/26 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllrs Cooper and Mills (both on holiday).

017/26 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

018/26 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

Cllr Gurney-Champion declared a pecuniary interest under item 022/26.

019/26 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 029/26

Cllrs Filer and Roberts gave notice of items.

020/26 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026

RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 12th January 2026.

021/26 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Gladwin advised that she is currently representing the ward as an independent councillor. Cllr Gladwin has been in touch with some residents in Merstone who have been badly affected by flooding and is working with Island Roads to see what can be done to assist. Speeding and road safety issues, planning enforcement and an anti-beaver campaign also feature in Cllr Gladwin's workload.

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported dealing with emails and preparing for the meeting as well as supervising the removal of green waste following the project at St Georges Churchyard. The Parish Council has been approached by Tom Smith who is interested in offering a plot of land to the Parish Council. The Chairman has arranged to visit the site and will report back at the next meeting.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the last meeting the Clerk responded to the IWALC poll on the advice centre bid, booked on 2 SLCC cemetery webinars, emailed the resident regarding refund of exclusive rights of burial fee and surrender of plot. He has decided to retain ownership of the plot. The Clerk emailed Island Roads regarding the temporary traffic lights at the Hare and Hounds junction (the lights have now been repaired) and Alan White (IWC Highways PFI Group Engineer) about the implementation of speed limit changes on the A3056. The approved policies were published on the website and details of the First Aid session were circulated. The Planning Department Enforcement Team was contacted to enquire about whether permission was granted for expansion of Isle of Wight Distribution Depot. There was some communication with IWC Waste Management Team following Chairmans initial contact regarding the disposal of green waste from the churchyard project.

In addition the Clerk submitted the Burial Grant claim to IWC, followed up on the complaint to the bank on behalf of the Arreton School Trust with a second letter, submitted the precept request form to IWC, continued entering Burial Records on Scribe Cemetery software, attended both burial grounds to check on clearance works at St Georges Churchyard and rabbit evidence at Gore Cemetery. Some progress was made

on setting up a Facebook Community Group and this is ongoing. The Clerk completed 2 SLCC webinars on Cemetery Matters - Looking to the Future and Safety and Memorials. A short summary of the content was shared at the meeting. The Burial Fees and Regulations were reviewed and 3 contractors were contacted for quotations for works on the Gibbs tomb.

A letter of thanks for the Parish Council donation was received from Ability Dogs 4 Young People.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson reported that over 20 people have signed up for the St John Ambulance First Aid/ Defibrillator session, arrangements are in hand for some repointing on the back wall to be carried out in conjunction with IW College students and the new Pilates class has proved very popular and extra sessions are being booked.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts circulated the minutes from the last Executive Committee meeting. It was noted that Ryde and Ventnor are amongst the poorest towns in the country (not just IW) and this has helped with securing Arts Council funding. Ventnor is currently working on Armada Trail and a Dickens Trail. IWALC is pursuing the IWC for approval of Protocol 16 which relates to the relationship between the two tiers of local government and in particular Town, Parish and Community Councils taking on more responsibilities from IWC. Bus route 8 which passes through the parish will be fully electric from March.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

The Clerk has been advised that the tablet cleaning in God's Garden should be carried out in the next 2 weeks.

h) Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Healy stated that IW College Horticultural course students had done an excellent job clearing vegetation and tidying up at Merstone Station. Cllr Dodson had reported safety concerns about a leaning bus stop in Merstone to IWC Highways and Island Roads.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

The Volunteer Tree Warden reported that since the last meeting persistent heavy rain had reduce opportunities for exploring and scoping existing tree stock. He had completed one visit near the boundary with Godshill by a stream which showed a large area of willow tree clearance with stumps present, several of which were drilled and fitted with herbicide laden plugs, and timber stacked in neat conical piles. No one present knew who owned the land. He has enquired with the coordinator about dates for the training.

022/26 Finance

Cllr Gurney-Champion left the room for this item and Cllr Healy took the Chair. The Council considered the finance report for January and payments as presented including an invoice for £75.00 for the removal of the green waste following the project at the churchyard.

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

023/26 Planning and Appeals

There were no planning applications or appeals to consider. The IWC Enforcement Team had confirmed that the development at New Barn Business Park on Sandown Road is unauthorised and no planning permission is in place. The Parish Council has been added as an additional complainant and will be kept updated. Cllr Dodson noted that there were works taking place at Blackwater Mill Care Home including hedge removal and the addition of a glass atrium. The Clerk will request clarification from the Enforcement Team.

024/26 St Georges Cemetery

- i) The Chairman reported that the Community Payback Team consisting of 5 operatives and 2 supervisors had undertaken the ivy removal project at St Georges Churchyard over 2 full days in January. 13 tonne bags of ivy had been removed from the tombs near the church entrance and from graves on the north and eastern sides of the site making an enormous improvement to the appearance of the churchyard. Going forward the ivy will need to be kept under control. One of the tombs uncovered is in a very poor condition with one side laid flat on the floor and the three remaining sides kept in place by the top stone. The base is non-existent. The area has been cordoned off. Repair will be needed in due course. The Chairman had contacted IWC Waste Services who had agreed on this occasion the green waste could be disposed of at no cost to the Parish Council. The Chairman had arranged for 2 of his staff to remove the waste. The Clerk will send a letter of thanks. Thanks have also been passed on to the church warden who made facilities at the Coach House available during the project. The Clerk stated that there had been some damage caused by one of the operatives to a services cover in the verge near the Coach House. This has been reported to Southern Water.
- ii) The Clerk had obtained 2 quotations for the repair of the Gibbs Family Grade II listed tomb. A third contractor had been unable to produce a quotation due to the short time scale. A third quotation is required by the Parish Councils Financial Regulations as the cost is likely to be over £2500. The memorial is owned by the descendants of the Gibbs family who are responsible for maintenance if they can be traced. Cllr Roberts stated that Arreton Barns is owned by a family of this name. The Clerk will make enquiries.
- iii) The Clerk has been advised by IWC Planning that Listed Building Consent will be required for works to the tomb and there is no fee. The Church will also require a Faculty to give permission for any work to go ahead. The trainer on the course recently attended by the Clerk had indicated that the Parish Council might avoid a fee for this if the PCC for St Georges made the application. The Clerk will make enquiries of the church wardens.

RESOLVED: To seek a third quotation for repairs to the Gibbs Tomb for the next meeting and begin applications for Listed Building Consent and the Faculty.

025/26 Annual Review of Burial Fees and Regulations

The annual review of the Burial Fees and Regulations took place.

RESOLVED: The fees will remain the same for the next 12 months from April 1st 2026 and the reference to kerbing will be removed from item 13 of the ordinary regulations and item 15 of the Funeral Directors Regulations.

026/26 Complaints Policy

The Council considered the amended Complaints Policy. Contact details for the Chairman will be by email address only. The Clerk provided clarification on the meaning of paragraph 4.

RESOLVED: To approve the amended Complaints Policy.

027/26 Community Resilience Plan

Cllr Taylor advised that the draft Community Resilience Plan has been submitted to the Emergency Planning Team for consideration. They hope to conduct a tabletop exercise with the Parish Council before the end of the financial year. Cllr Taylor will check when this can take place.

028/26 To note the date of the next meeting 9th March 2026

029/26 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Filer provided photographs of the gully on the left at the entrance to School Lane which is blocked with large balls again. Residents have cleared around 100 tennis balls and clear as many others as they can from

their side but in heavy rain the blockage at the grille causes water to flood over the bank and down the lane affecting residents' property. The Clerk will write to the Headteacher requesting that the debris be cleared and the area checked monthly as part of the school's maintenance programme or more often if heavy rain is forecast.

Cllr Roberts produced a copy of the Parish Information Guide which is given to new people moving into the Parish. This was produced in September 2023 and needs update. The Clerk and Cllr Roberts will work on a draft for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.39p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

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12th February 2026

..... Chairman

..... Date