

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

Present: Cllrs Healy (Vice-Chair), Mills, Dodson, Cooper and Filer

In attendance: Claire Gale (Clerk), IW Cllr Caroline Gladwin, Steve Davis (Volunteer Tree Warden), Cllr Julia Laursen (Chillerton and Gatcombe Parish Council), PCSO Justin Keefe, 1 member of the public

030/26 Apologies for Absence

There were apologies from Cllrs Roberts (on holiday), Taylor (work conference) and Gurney-Champion (work commitments).

031/26 Questions from the public

A member of the public asked if there was any further information from Planning Enforcement about the development at the DPD depot. Nothing more has been received. PCSO Justin Keefe stated he was aware of the local speeding issues and acknowledged that this is an island-wide problem. He hopes to attend a community lunch at the hall in future to meet residents and will provide a report for the Annual Parish Meeting on 13th April.

032/26 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations.

033/26 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 043/26

Cllrs Dodson gave notice of an item.

034/26 To receive and confirm the Minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2026

RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th February 2026.

035/26 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr Gladwin advised that the IWC Planning Enforcement Team expect the enforcement notices for land adjoining the Fighting Cocks Pub to be served in the next few months. Cllr Gladwin has copied the Parish Council in on correspondence with a resident suffering flooding at Merstone. The Parish Council agreed to contact Island Roads to ask about ditch and road mud clearance in the Bury Lane/Merstone Lane area.

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman was not present.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the last meeting the Clerk reported planning concerns about Blackwater Mill Care Home (an acknowledgement has been received), forwarded planning enforcement concern information to Cllr Gladwin, sent a letter of thanks to the Community Payback Team, requested a third quotation for works to the Gibbs Grade II listed tomb, contacted the Church Wardens of St Georges about the Faculty, emailed and phoned Arreton Barns regarding potential connection to the Gibbs Family, applied for Listed Building Consent for the Gibbs Tomb. The Clerk also amended the Burial Regulations and Fees and circulated them, published the Complaints Procedure on the website, emailed Arreton Primary School regarding the balls blocking the gully in School Lane (and forwarded details from Bembridge Parish Council who have some ball nets available) and began work updating the Village Information Booklet with Cllr Roberts.

The following planning applications has been granted (Decision Date: 09/02/2026):

25/01816/RVC

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

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

In addition the Clerk drafted and circulated the quarterly newsletter, scanned St Georges Maps and Burial lists, updated the Parish Information booklet, dealt with police enquiry over damaged service cover near the church (this has now been repaired and no further action will be taken), visited St Georges churchyard to check accuracy of the map, requested quotes for re-lettering the cleaned tablets in Gods Garden, attended an online Scribe Cemetery session on Effectively Managing Your Burial Records, attended IWALC GDPR online training session, continued data entry into Scribe burial software and began preparation for the Annual Parish Meeting.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson reported that the boiler and fire alarm have been serviced.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts was not present.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

Following the recent reports of rabbits at Gore Cemetery to pest control company will visit this evening and report back.

h) Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Dodson had reported trees down on the cycle track and a local bridleway.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

The Volunteer Tree Warden reported that although the last month has been extremely wet he has still been able to identify a few trees worthy of closer inspection. The Tree Warden Induction Module training and basic tree surveying class should be taking place in May. At tree at Horrington was noted as having been severely lopped but on investigation it was found the landowner has followed the correct process and received approval to pollard the tree to a height of 7m. Steve offered to show the TPO map to those interested at the end of the meeting.

036/26 Finance

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

037/26 Planning and Appeals

There were no applications to consider.

038/26 St Georges Cemetery Tomb Works

i) The Clerk reported that contrary to the initial advice from IWC Planning Team a planning officer had reviewed the Listed Building Consent application and advised that an ecclesiastical exemption applies so the Listed Building Consent application has been withdrawn. The Faculty process will be sufficient. The Church Warden has advised that it may be possible to share payment of the Faculty fee with the Church as they are looking to repair some windows. The Clerk will send information to the Church Warden following the selection of a contractor for the tomb works.

ii) The Council considered 3 quotations for the repair of the Gibbs Family Grade II listed tomb.

RESOLVED: To approve the quotation from Wight Stonemasonry for the Gibbs Tomb repairs.

039/26 Gods Garden Tablets

The Council considered quotations for the repair of the cleaned tablets in Gods Garden. The tablets are all legible now that they have been cleaned. One of the tablets is cracked. If the tablets were removed from the wall for re-lettering it is not clear whether they would survive. The original stone used for the tablets is

of poor quality and replacing the tablets in future may be the best option. The current cost of granite would be around £300 per tablet.

RESOLVED: To advise the stonemasons that no further works will be conducted at present and to set aside future Wyld Trust income to cover the cost of replacing the tablets in the future.

040/26 Community Resilience Plan

A Community Resilience Plan tabletop exercise for councillors with Iain Lawrie (IWC Emergency Management Team) will take place on Monday 23rd March at 6pm at Standen House.

041/26 Parish Information Leaflet

A few small additions were agreed to the updated Parish Information Leaflet. The Clerk will circulate this to councillors and keep it updated. Individual copies will be printed as required.

042/26 To note the date of the next meeting 13th April 2026

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm to be followed at 7.30pm by the Parish Council Meeting.

043/26 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Dodson reported that local representative Robyn Munt had been elected Vice President of the NFU. It was agreed to send a letter of congratulations.

Cllr Laursen extended an invitation to councillors to join a WhatsApp Group for the Central Rural Parishes Liason Group. Cllrs Healy and Dodson offered to join it. Current projects include mapping wildlife walks, hiring out a thermal imaging camera, working with HIWWT to see where hedges and wildlife corridors can be improved and supporting the garden champions scheme.

The meeting closed at 7.44p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

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24th March 2026

..... Chairman

..... Date