

Minutes of the **Annual Meeting** of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 11th May 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

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

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

057/26 Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies.

058/26 Election of Chairman and Acceptance of Office

Cllr Gurney-Champion stated he was willing to stand. The Chairman signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr Gurney-Champion as Chairman for the ensuing year.

059/26 Election of Vice-Chairman

Cllr Dodson was proposed and seconded to stand as the Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: To elect Cllr Dodson as Vice-Chairman for the ensuing year.

060/26 Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Council considered the appointments.

RESOLVED: To appoint Cllrs Dodson, Filer and Mills to the Arreton Community Hall Management Committee, Cllrs Dodson and Roberts to the Arreton School Trust, Cllr Roberts as IWALC representative, Cllr Taylor was appointed Parish Council Safeguarding Officer and will report on any items of note from the IWC Mental Health Alliance as she receives information at work. No appointment was made to the IW Council Environment and Sustainability Forum.

061/26 Casual Vacancy

The Clerk advised that a notice to electors was published on 5th May and runs until 26th May. If no election is called a notice of vacancy will be published on 2nd June inviting written applications by 12th June. Candidates may be offered the opportunity to make a presentation during the week beginning 15th June with the successful candidate attending their first meeting on Monday 13th July.

RESOLVED: To agree the timetable for co-option to the Parish Council.

062/26 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

063/26 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

There were no declarations.

064/26 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 078/26

Cllrs Filer and Dodson gave notice of items.

065/26 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th April 2026

RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 13th April 2026.

066/26 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

The newly elected IWC Councillor for the Central Rural Ward was welcomed to the meeting. IW Cllr James Whelan plans to attend Parish Council meetings once a quarter.

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman attended the funeral of Cllr David Healy, visited the land at Chapel Lane and prepared for this evening's meeting.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the last meeting the Clerk contacted Island Roads about issues with the Merstone/Redway cycle track (response that there are multiple jobs planned at this location), large holes in the car park at Merstone Station (update awaited) , the ditches Merstone cut to East Lane (inspected by the District Steward - Island Roads does not own any ditches or verges here), wooden post barriers on A3056 opposite The White Lion and Vicarage Cottage (update awaited), fly tipping in the layby near the Hare and Magpies sculpture. The Clerk also emailed Gift to Nature about the poor state of the car park at Merstone Station and emailed IWC Planning Enforcement for an update on the New Barn Industrial Park. The Clerk was asked to contact IWC Enforcement again as councillors have observed further works taking place on the concrete bases over the last 2 weeks. The Clerk emailed St John Ambulance about possible further community first aid sessions in the autumn (they aim to return before the end of the year), contacted Arreton Cricket Club about a donation following the School Trust meeting and emailed Arreton Primary School about rats in the bin area (the school is aware of the issues and has received pest control support).

It was noted that the following planning application was granted on 13.04.26:

25/00794/FUL

Chalkpit Downend Road Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 2PA

Proposed club building including covered (external) firing points, indoor range and club room.

The Clerk also prepared for and attended Arreton School Trust meeting at Haseley Manor on 20th April. Actions to wind up the Trust have been carried out and a response from CCLA closing the account has been received. A further meeting is due to take place on 15th June when the distribution of the fund will be dealt with. Forms to close NS&I Endowed Graves Account and remove signatory on Lloyds current account were prepared for this meeting. The Clerk prepared Casual Vacancy documents, end of year accounts and AGAR papers for audit. Burial matters included grave marking for interments at the churchyard and Gore Cemetery and attending a burial at Gore Cemetery. IWC has advised that the great crested newt report **is** for Broadfields Farm is expected in the next month.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson reported that an EPC has been completed. Quotations have been sought for the installation of solar panels and batteries and the grant application will be submitted by the deadline of 21st May. Planning approval will be needed due to the hall being in a conservation area. The new door has been fitted to the Social Club. It was noted that the map on the wall outside needs updating.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts was away when the last IWALC meeting took place but reported there is refresher training for councillors on 13th June and a Zoom topic meeting on 18th June 7-9pm by the Ramblers if anyone wishes to attend. Wootton Parish Council had asked for information about whether other parishes had organised walks. Cllr Dodson stated he would supply some information for the Clerk to add to the website. IWBRUG minutes and a presentation from "We the 33" have been circulated. The Clerk was asked to invite the "We the 33" co-ordinator Lucy Hardy to attend a future meeting.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no other meeting reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

Cllr Taylor was thanked for organising the fence repair at Gore Cemetery to keep the rabbits out. It was noted that there are a growing number of mole hills in the area towards the back righthand side. The Clerk was asked to seek quotations for dealing with the moles.

h) Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Dodson reported that a number of new speed limit signs have been installed on Blackwater Road and East Lane but empty poles have been left in the following locations- opposite Arreton House on Downend Road, East Lane in the passing

place, on Merstone Lane between the junction at the Main Road and the service road. The Clerk will contact Island Roads to ask when these will be removed.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

The Volunteer Tree Warden reported a quiet month but there is now training planned for June. Cllr Taylor advised that there is a very old horse chestnut tree at Fulford Farm alongside the bridleway that runs from Perretton Farm to Fulford which he might like to look at.

067/26 Finance

i) To receive the finance report for April

The Clerk stated that the receipt of £244 was paid to the Parish Council in error by the funeral director. This should have been paid to St Georges PCC. The error will be rectified as soon as possible.

ii) To agree payments as presented

It was noted that payments included the insurance premium which is year two of the three-year contract agreed last year.

iii) To sign the form to close the NS&I Endowed Graves Account and transfer the balance to the Lloyds Current Account

The form was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

iv) To complete the Lloyds Current Account removal of signatory form

The form was signed by the Chairman and Clerk.

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

068/26 Planning and Appeals

The Council considered the application:

26/00265/FUL

Budbridge Gardens, Budbridge Lane, Arretton, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3DH

Demolition of existing building; Proposed replacement stable block with solar panels (revised plans and additional information)(readvertised application)

RESOLVED: To submit a neutral response with no comments.

069/26 Annual Accounts 2025/26

The Annual Accounts were signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: To receive and approve the annual accounts for 2025/26.

070/26 External Auditors Conflict of Interest Form

The Clerk and Chairman completed the External Auditors Conflict of Interest Form for submission with the annual audit documents.

071/26 Internal Audit Report 2025/26

The Council considered the Internal Auditors Report.

RESOLVED: To receive and note the Internal Audit Report 2025/26.

072/26 Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

The Annual Governance Statement was signed by the Chairman and the Clerk.

RESOLVED: To approve the Annual Governance Statement 2025/26

073/26 Accounting Statements 2025/2026

The Accounting Statements, signed by the RFO was then signed by the Chairman.

RESOLVED: To approve the Accounting Statements 2025/2026

074/26 Commencement Date for the Exercise of Public Rights

The Clerk advised that the dates for the Exercise of Public Rights have been set as 4th June to 15th July. The announcement will be published on 2nd June.

RESOLVED: To note the dates for the exercise of public rights.

075/26 Community Resilience

Cllr Taylor reported that following contacting volunteers and assessing the challenges for elderly residents and carers at Stickworth in the event of flooding, the Community Resilience document is now complete and will be emailed to the Clerk. The Hale Maintenance Volunteer Reserves will be contacted as they have a boat. The document will be kept under review. IW Cllr James Whelan offered to meet with Stickworth residents if it would be helpful. It was noted that ambulance service owned defibrillator cabinets will no longer have codes, so will be unlocked. IW Defibrillators is also moving to unlocked cabinets.

076/26 Gift of Land

A visit to the site off Chapel Lane took place prior to the meeting. The Chairman provided a map showing the area. The land is adjacent to a public footpath. It is edged on all sides with deep, wide ditches which are currently difficult to see due to the amount of vegetation. There are some pipes feeding into the ditches from the properties in Chapel Lane. Concerns were raised about the potential cost of bringing the land into use as an amenity and thereafter insuring and maintaining it. Expenses could include erecting fences and signage, clearing ditches, rodding field drains, hedge-cutting, purchasing items such as benches, dog bins and trees and obtaining insurance cover. Other organisations that might work in partnership include IW Rotary which is currently looking for an environmental project, Gift to Nature, Men in Sheds. **RESOLVED:** The Chairman will contact IW Rotary and Gift to Nature and investigate possible costs of maintaining the area including the ditches then bring more information to the next meeting.

077/26 To note the date of the next meeting 8th June 2026

078/26 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Filer produced photographs of the impassable concrete pathway in front of Park Cottages. The hedge is extremely overgrown. A diagonal route has been mowed across the grass. This is not suitable to be used by disabled and elderly residents. Number one is a private dwelling that has been unoccupied for some years and numbers two to four (run by the housing association) house 2 disabled residents and one elderly person. The Clerk was asked to contact IWC again to see what can be done.

Cllr Dodson has refreshed the planters and provided receipts. The dirty condition of the bus stops was raised. As there is no response from Southern Vectis to complaints it was suggested that the community hall window cleaner is approached for a quotation to clean the shelters 3 times a year.

The meeting closed at 8.42p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council
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14th May 2026

..... Chairman

..... Date