

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 13th July 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)

092/26 Apologies for Absence

An apology was noted from Lucy Hardy (We the 33) who was unwell.

093/26 Questions from the public

There were no questions.

094/26 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011

Cllr Dodson declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 099/26 regarding the Broadfields planning application.

095/26 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 108/26

There were no items to be raised.

096/26 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2026

RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th June 2026.

097/26 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr James Whelan reported that there is a full council meeting on Wednesday where the issue of the large number of emergency road closures by utility companies will be addressed. In the last 12 months SSE have been responsible for 230 emergency closures and Southern Water 1500. He explained that utility companies only have to notify IWC within 2 hours of attending a site. The embargo on regular works during the summer holidays is causing a backlog over the winter. Communication channels are improving between Island Roads and IWC. The fine and enforcement system is not adequate. There is a new Director of Education at IWC. It has been noted that the percentage of home-schooled children on the island is 5% (compared with 1.2% nationally).

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman had followed up on the possible gift of land off Chapel Lane, dealt with correspondence and prepared for this meeting.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the last meeting the Clerk sent a request to Island Roads to provide additional signage at Bury Lane/Budridge Lane, reported that Budridge Lane is a No Through Road on Google Maps. The Clerk contacted the Godshill Clerk about the HIWPCC grant process for road safety measures, followed up with Godshill Matters and HIWPCC. The grant was for the financial year 25/26 only. An enquiry about future grants was sent to PCC office on 18.06.26.

The Clerk emailed the NFU (John Heather) and the Anaerobic Digester manager about speeding vehicles and debris from uncovered trailers. The Clerk contacted the Chillerton Clerk about the process for adopting bus shelters and subsequently Havenstreet Community Association and Island Roads. Island Roads ask which shelter we might like to adopt as the process is different depending on who owns it. Arreton Methodist Church was contacted about the possibility of re-siting the noticeboard. The cleaning contractor was not

contacted due to notification of the Island Roads schedule for cleaning bus stops. The Parish Council will monitor this and review it in 6 months.

The following planning application has been granted:

26/00265/FUL Granted 18.06.26 Budbridge Gardens

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

Information about the building adjacent to Budbridge Lodge not being an enforcement matter was circulated to councillors and residents. The Clerk continued entry of burial data on to Scribe Cemeteries software, submitted the Pension Regulator re-declaration, monitored and posted on the Facebook page and group, resubmitted the AGAR following query from External Auditor. The Clerk organised the replacement of the failed laptop. The Arreton School Trust held its final meeting and the distribution of funds and closure of bank account followed. The Clerk also followed up on 1 Park Cottages with Southern Housing and Island Roads. Island Roads are responsible for the verge and IWC Property services are responsible for the path. The later will write to the owner of number 1 asking that they cut back the hedge (in September following the end of the bird nesting season).

The Clerk reported that a resident of Burnt House Lane had reported ongoing issues with the volume and speed of traffic using this route particularly when diversions are in place elsewhere. This was referred on to the IW Ward Councillor. Another resident had reported overgrown hedgerows and glass on the pavement opposite the Community Hall. This was referred on to Island Roads. Cllr Dodson stated the neighbour opposite the hall is very vigilant and always attends to any issues promptly.

It was noted that the Facebook Group has 23 members to date.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson stated that quotes are being sought for the replacement of the hall floor as the glue is failing in various areas. A grant application has been made to Biffa with the outcome to be known in December. Regarding solar panels a grant application will be submitted in March when the next round of funding is due. The Chairman confirmed that whilst the Parish Council owns the land and building the Management Company is responsible for all maintenance and operation of the hall and is the licensee for the social club.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts attended the IWALC Executive Meeting on 25th June. It was noted that there is no longer a scrutiny committee at IWC and no IWALC representative on the IWC Planning Committee. Concerns were raised about a lack of consultation by IWC with Town and Parish Councils. A protocol for this is still needed. Under devolution the first combined authority meeting is due to take place in a few weeks.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no other meeting reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

There are 2 burials taking place at Gore Cemetery during July.

h) Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Cooper reported that the drain opposite the cemetery was full of weeds. The Clerk will advise Island Roads. Cllr Dodson stated the drain set back at the junction of Merstone Shute and Chapel Lane has been cleared. IW Cllr Whelan had attended a Local Access Forum meeting where he learned about the "IW

Greenway". This is a proposed 3m wide metalled pathway from West Wight to Ryde which had received a £16million grant and is due to be completed in 2029. There is currently no plan for future maintenance.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

Steve attended the tree warden training day on 17th June which covered a wide range of topics including tree health and how to assess the state of a tree.

098/26 Finance

The Clerk advised that the fixed term savings account is due to mature on 28th July.

RESOLVED: To note the quarterly report, the finance report for June and approve the payments as presented. To reinvest the balance of the fixed term savings account for a further 12 months.

099/26 Planning and Appeals

The following applications were considered:

26/00715/HOU

St Albans, Main Road, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AQ

Retention and completion of garage conversion and single-story pitch roof link extension to form annexed accommodation; alterations to external materials of dwelling

RESOLVED: To submit a neutral response.

26/00899/FUL

Sanbara, Chapel Lane, Merstone, Arreton, PO30 3DD

Proposed change of use of approved detached building/additional living accommodation to a holiday let

RESOLVED: To object to the application due to the impact on residents and traffic and parking issues.

22/00672/FUL

Broadfields Farm, Chapel Lane, Merstone, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 3DA

Full planning consent for: Retrospective infilling of a redundant farm irrigation pond; proposed development of two industrial buildings (one B8 (Storage or distribution) use, one B2 (General industrial) and B8 use); and proposed hardstanding and parking (additional noise information received)(readvertised application)

RESOLVED: To object to the application restating previous comments, concur with the comments of the Ecology Officer and require all outstanding matters to be dealt with before the application goes any further.

100/26 We the 33

Lucy Hardy was unable to attend and will be invited to a future meeting.

101/26 Report on the Annual Inspection of the Burial Grounds

The inspection took place prior to this meeting. Both burial grounds were inspected looking at signage, structures, grounds maintenance and memorials. It was suggested a mural on the wall adjacent to the shed in Gore Cemetery might be a nice feature. Local opinion will be sought via the Newsletter and Facebook.

RESOLVED: For Gore Cemetery to put up a sign asking visitors to "Shut the Gate", the Chairman will fix the dislodged tiles on the shed roof, the Grounds Maintenance contractor will be contacted to remove overhanging or broken branches, an autumn clear-up will take place, attempt to trace two families about a headstone and broken wooden cross.

For the Churchyard to contact the grounds maintenance contractor about removing the dead cherry tree and weeding the graves alongside the wall in section F including the endowed graves, complete the repair of a section of boundary wall, the Kelly family will be contacted about replacing the wooden cross with a memorial tablet.

102/26 Arreton School Trust

The Trust held its final meeting on 22nd June. The fund has been closed and grants distributed to local organisations in accordance with the trust deed, namely Arreton Primary School and Arreton Cricket Club. The bank account will be closed. Papers will be kept safely for 6 years before destruction. Thanks to all the Trustees for giving their time.

103/26 Website Accessibility

The Clerk advised that to satisfy the AGAR process in the next financial year the website will need to be reviewed and a Website Accessibility Statement drafted and published.

RESOLVED: To seek quotations for a website accessibility review and statement.

104/26 Noticeboard Locations

Cllr Dodson met with one of the Methodist Church officials earlier today. It will not be possible to fix the board to the wall. Alternative locations with better footfall were considered including the school car park and a bus shelter. Residents will be asked for their input via the Newsletter. The Clerk will provide a header for the noticeboard.

105/26 Armed Forces Covenant

Cllr Taylor stated that there are around 14,000 forces veterans living on the island. Organisations are invited to sign the pledge committing to think about veterans, serving forces and their families when offering activities and opportunities. Cllr Taylor will contact the NHS Trust lead to attend a future meeting to give advice on how the Parish Council can help.

106/26 Gift of Land

Further consideration was given to the offer of a gift of land to the Parish. The landowner was unable to say whether giant hogweed is present on the site and the project did not have the level of local support needed to make this viable. Establishing a green project would be a substantial and costly undertaking.

RESOLVED: The Chairman to advise the landowner that the Parish Council will not be going ahead with a project on this site.

107/26 To note the date of the next meeting 14th September 2026

108/26 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

The meeting closed at 8.40p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

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28th July 2026

..... Chairman

..... Date