

Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 14th September 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

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

In attendance: Claire Gale (Clerk), IW Cllr James Whelan, Lucy Hardy (We the 33) 1 member of the public

109/26 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were noted from Cllr Filer and Volunteer Tree Warden Steve Davis.

110/26 Questions from the public

There were no questions. The member of the public present stated that they were interested in inviting members of the community to attend a bonfire they host on 5th November. They were advised to contact the Clerk when further details are available.

111/26 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 116/26 regarding the Community Hall planning application.

112/26 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 124/26

There were no items to be raised.

113/26 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2026

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

114/26 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr James Whelan reported that the new Island Planning Strategy that is in line with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) will be voted on at the meeting on 15th September. The IW target for housebuilding is 790 per year as opposed to the national assessment at 1050. Currently 240 per year are being built. Under the new strategy developments of over 100 houses will require a IWC Planning Committee decision, applications below this will be for officers to action. A Neighbourhood Health Plan is in development. It is intended to improve the relationship between Adult Social Care and Health Services. The leader of IWC will be meeting with IWALC soon.

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman had contacted the landowner and Rotary to advise them that the Parish Council would not be going ahead with gift of land off Chapel Lane, obtained a quotation for removal of the dead cherry tree in the churchyard, dealt with email correspondence and prepared for this meeting.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the last meeting the Clerk reported the weed blocked drain opposite the cemetery to Island Roads (District Steward visited the site on 28th July and reported no concerns), reinvested funds in the Fixed Term Savings for a further 12 months, confirmed to the Methodist Church that the Parish Council is looking for alternative noticeboard locations, followed up on burial ground inspection (contacted grounds maintenance contractor, sought quotes for cherry tree removal, contacted IW College about a potential bricklaying course project and organised a "Please Close the Gate" sign at the cemetery, advised Funeral Directors that memorial tablets rather than wooden crosses are used on plots in the churchyard cremation plot, put up notices for the Gore Cemetery autumn clear up, contacted a relative about the grounds maintenance of graves in Plot E, contacted funeral directors/relative regarding memorial removal (Plot D77.5 Pearcey) (additional inscription application expected) and a broken wooden cross that needs replacing (B16

Parker). The Clerk also emailed residents and posted on the Facebook group asking for noticeboard location suggestions and whether a mural next to Gore shed would be welcomed. The Clerk requested quotations for website accessibility works.

The following planning application has been granted:

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.

During August when there was no meeting and following email responses from councillors, the Clerk responded to planning application 26/00961/FUL Land at Arreton Manor (Proposed Installation of a ground-mounted solar photovoltaic array within a recessed/sunken area) and 26/01019/RVC Parcels of land 7733 & 8319 at Hale Manor Farm (Variation of conditions 2 & 5 on P/01091/18).

The Clerk attended a webinar on the introduction of the Digital AGAR (free from Scribe), set up the online SAAA account for the forthcoming Digital AGAR process, continued entry of burial records on Scribe (over 900 burial entries for Gore cemetery are now complete), drafted updated GDPR Policies, reviewed Financial Regulations and the IT Policy for consideration at the September meeting, drafted and circulated the Autumn Newsletter, published the Co-option Poster for ongoing casual vacancy.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson stated that 2 lunches and 2 cream teas that took place over the summer were a great success. The Charity Commission name for the building has been updated from Arreton Village Hall to Arreton Community Hall. New bookings are in prospect from Trusted Care (Branstone) and Sight for Wight.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts attended the IWALC Executive Meeting at the end of July and reported that Dr Adams, the Chief Executive of the new Combined Authority will be reaching out to IWC and IWALC. It was noted that the devolution document made no mention of the island ferries. The Clerk was asked to forward the email on Finance Training.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no other meeting reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

The autumn clear up at Gore Cemetery is due to take place next week. The Clerk will respond to the grave tending business about the Parish Council requirements if any families engage their services. The Church Warden has advised that the Diocesan Advisory Committee has recommended the Faculty Application for approval for the tomb works and this will now move to the next stage. The Clerk will contact the grounds maintenance contractor about weed killing and the long grass at the rear of the churchyard. The Clerk was asked to organise a second "Please Close the Gate" sign for the inside of the gate.

h) Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Cooper reported that Newchurch Parish Council has requested a reduction in the speed limit from 50mph to 40mph between Horringsford and the Fighting Cocks. Recent works to bus stops, pavements, hardstanding and tactile paving have been completed in the Parish.

Other concerns noted were the inappropriate use of the entrance to Arreton Manor by some vehicles, the practice of local drivers using roads in Godshill, Rookley and over Arreton Down to complete a "circuit", the tendency of Island Roads to close roads rather than use traffic management having an impact on local

communities (including there being no buses to Merstone for 10 days). The Clerk will report blocked drains at Merstone Shute/Chapel Lane. The Chairman stated he would check the drainage at Gore Cemetery as he is visiting frequently at present. There is collapsed fencing and a general need for maintenance at Merstone Station.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

The Clerk read out the report submitted by email. Councillors supported the idea of creating forms that could be posted on the website and Facebook for residents to submit tree related issues or provide details of special trees in the Parish to help build a register of important local trees. It was also noted that the climate conditions of a very hot dry summer likely to be followed by autumn and winter storms will put many trees under stress and those with larger trees on their property would be well advised to assess their condition.

115/26 Finance

The Clerk advised that the notice of Conclusion of Audit had been received and published on the website and main noticeboard.

RESOLVED: To note the finance report for July and August and approve the payments as presented and to note the Conclusion of Audit for the year ending 31st March 2026

116/26 Planning and Appeals

The following applications were considered:

26/01124/FUL Part OS Parcel 2800, East of Arreton House Off Downend Road Arreton Isle of Wight

Proposed alterations to vehicular access to include parking area and gate

Island Roads comments were noted and concurred with.

RESOLVED: To submit a neutral response.

26/00792/14JPA Arreton Community Hall and Social Club

Prior approval for installation of roof mounted solar panels and associated equipment

RESOLVED: To support the application.

117/26 We the 33

Lucy Hardy gave a presentation about We the 33, a community based initiative bringing all the Town and Parish Councils across the island together. This work is being conducted with funding from "Together for Mission Zero". It is designed to build resilience by connecting communities and encouraging them to care for nature and each other. The top 3 priorities are energy and housing, community food growing and young people. An islandwide network of community food growing project sites are already meeting twice monthly to share ideas in conjunction with the IW Food Partnership.

We the 33 is working with partner organisations such as IW College, Wight Community Energy, The Footprint Trust, Cowes Enterprise College and The Youth Trust to help establish green skills and employment prospects for young people.

The Chairman thanked Lucy for attending and asked that the Clerk be kept updated with the work of the project.

118/26 Policy and Procedure Review

The Council conducted a review of the following policies:

- i) Financial Regulations
- ii) IT Policy

iii) GDPR Policies (Data Protection Policy, Document Retention Policy, Publication Scheme, Privacy Notice)

RESOLVED: To incorporate the amendments discussed and to adopt the Financial Regulations, IT Policy and GDPR Policies.

119/26 Website Accessibility

The Clerk presented a report on website accessibility. The website is very outdated. Having a new website built would be the most cost-effective way to deal with accessibility issues and future proof it. 3 quotations were considered.

RESOLVED: To approve the quotation provided by Hugo Fox Ltd.

120/26 Noticeboard Locations

No community feedback had been received on noticeboard locations. Councillors considered that the verge outside Park Cottages and the Community Hall would be the areas most likely to be effective in Arreton. The Clerk was asked to investigate these options including the cost of purchasing and installing noticeboards in these locations.

121/26 Churchyard Cherry Tree

The Council considered 3 quotations for removal of the dead cherry tree in St Georges Churchyard.

RESOLVED: To approve the quotation provided by Penny Tree Surgery and Landscaping.

122/26 Remembrance Poppies

The Council considered the purchase of 10 additional large poppies for display in the Parish. The Chairman stated he would look at the condition of the wreath for laying at the Remembrance service.

RESOLVED: To approve the purchase of 10 additional poppies.

123/26 To note the date of the next meeting 12th October 2026

124/26 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

The meeting closed at 9.06p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council

E-mail: clerk@arreton-pc.gov.uk

Telephone: 07587 008183

22nd September 2026

..... Chairman

..... Date