Minutes of the meeting of Arreton Parish Council held on **Monday 12th October 2026 at 7.00 p.m. in Arreton Community Hall**

Present: Cllrs Taylor (Chair), Filer, Cooper, Roberts and Mills
In attendance: Claire Gale (Clerk), Steve Davis (Volunteer Tree Warden), Mandy Blackler (NHS)

125/26 Apologies for Absence
Apologies were noted from Cllr Gurney-Champion (unwell), Cllr Dodson (away) and IW Cllr James Whelan.

126/26 Questions from the public
The Volunteer Tree Warden asked if councillors had received any information or training on the new National Planning Policy Framework which pares back local involvement in decision making and has a specific section on planning enforcement and the treatment of retrospective applications. The Clerk will look at whether there are any advice notes produced by NALC and Cllr Roberts will see if IWALC is offering any training.

127/26 To receive any declarations of pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest and requests for dispensations under the Localism Act 2011
There were no declarations.

128/26 To give notice of any item to be raised under agenda item 141/26
Cllr Filer gave notice of 2 items.

129/26 To receive and confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th September 2026
RESOLVED: To agree and sign the minutes of the meeting held on the 14th September 2026.

130/26 To receive regular reports

a) IW Councillor

Cllr James Whelan was not present.

b) Chairman's Report

The Chairman was not present but had asked for it to be noted that he had completed the Gore Cemetery clear up with Cllr Dodson.

c) Clerk's Report

Following the last meeting the Clerk forwarded details of IWALC finance training to councillors, contacted the grounds maintenance contractor re weeding and grass cutting, emailed the grave care business with the parish council requirements for if they are engaged by families, advised the volunteer tree warden of the councils support for the reporting forms idea and thanked Lucy Hardy of "We the 33" for her presentation and confirmed the parish council would like to be kept updated on the project.

The Clerk accepted the website build quotation from Hugo Fox, accepted the cherry tree removal quote (the Church Warden has advised permission for the work will be required), organised a second "Shut the Gate" sign for Gore Cemetery, reported the blocked drains at Merstone Shute/Chapel Lane to Island Roads, added approved policies to website and began noticeboard location and cost research.

Planning following application has been granted:
26/01095/PIP (Granted 09/09/2026)
Frys Cottage Arreton Street Arreton Newport Isle of Wight PO30 3AD
Permission in principle for new residential dwelling

The Clerk also attended the Community Engagement Through your Website session of the free "Scribefest" online conference on 17th September, visited St Georges Churchyard to measure cherry tree as permission for felling may be required, answered Burial Registrar queries, corresponded with the website building company, progressed the tomb faculty, reviewed Standing Orders and sent updated register of interest forms to IWC following change in legislation about withholding addresses.

The Clerk advised that Bob Castle had donated the Merstone Speedwatch speed detector gun (that he had personally purchased) to the Parish Council for future use within or beyond the parish. A letter of thanks will be sent.

d) Community Centre

Cllr Dodson sent in a report by email. The MacMillan coffee morning raised £272.50 and thanked all those who had made cakes or donated raffle prizes. The community lunch has generated funds to purchase 40 banqueting chairs which he will collect from London. On bookings Tap Dancing has resumed after a break for injury, the Remote Car Club has outgrown the hall and relocated, Sight for Wight will be holding a Murder Mystery evening this month. On maintenance the drains at the back of the building have been jet washed and new grills filled, repointing has been paused due to lack of college staff being available and a grant application has been made to resurface and mark out bays in the carpark.

e) IWALC

Cllr Roberts attended the IWALC Executive Meeting on 24th September. The German Twinning Association is looking for new members. Upcoming meetings include an in-person session at Westridge on 14th October about cooperation between IWALC and IWC and an online meeting on 19th with Dr Ruth Adams who will be heading up the new combined authority. Budget and Finance Training takes place on 29th October (details have already been circulated). Town and Parish Councils are encouraged to look for SINC sites in their areas. It was noted that there has been a steep rise in the IWC land hire fees.

f) Other Meeting Reports

There were no other meeting reports.

g) Cemetery and Churchyard Matters

The faculty fee has been paid for the Gibbs Tomb works and it is hoped that the process will be completed shortly so that the work can go ahead.

h) Highways and Footpaths

Cllr Dodson had submitted several queries for discussion. Regarding Police and Crime Commissioner funding for road safety projects enquiries with Godshill Parish Council and a Community Group found that the funding they received was from the 2025/26 budget. Further investigations had shown that to apply for future funding it is necessary to join the Funding Network. The Clerk was asked to go ahead with this.

Cllr Dodson had seen a news item featuring Hambledon Parish Council about being able to apply for speed restrictions for a small fee. The Clerk contacted their Clerk for further information who was not aware of this scheme and noted many frustrations in trying to make improvements to traffic flow in their village.

Cllr Dodson would like to arrange a site meeting with Island Roads, IW Cllr James Whelan and the Parish Council to discuss how better to manage traffic flow when there are diversions through Merstone. The Clerk will contact Cllr Whelan in the first instance as he was going to look at this following the last meeting.

The Clerk will also enquire with Island Roads whether there are any plans to cut back brambles on the verge opposite The White Lion and forward Community Payback Team details to Cllr Dodson regarding clearing mud and gravel from the car park edges.

i) Volunteer Tree Warden Report

The Tree Warden had nothing to report this month but did state he was working on the reporting forms mentioned previously.

131/26 Finance

The Clerk presented the finance report and quarterly budget report. It was noted that the dog bin at Merstone Station is a missing lid. The Clerk will contact Island Roads.

RESOLVED: To note the finance report for September, approve the payments as presented and to note the quarterly budget report to 30th September 2026.

132/26 Planning and Appeals

The following applications were considered:

26/01267/LBC Little Standen Manor, Burnt House Lane, Arreton, Newport, Isle of Wight, PO30 2NS
Listed Building Consent for installation of velux window in bathroom

RESOLVED: To submit a neutral response.

133/26 Armed Forces Covenant

The Chair welcomed Mandy Blackler (NHS) who has led on the adoption of the Armed Forces Covenant by the IW NHS Trust and achieved gold award status. When the 2-part pledge is sworn it is counter-signed by senior military personnel. 2 or 3 local organisations are needed to be able to invite guests for the ceremony. Mandy can offer support with this. The pledge has been made across the country by schools, the NHS and local government organisations. Legislation about the covenant is currently going through the House of Lords. Mandy stated that military personnel should not be put at a disadvantage because of their service, for example losing their place on NHS waiting lists when moved by the government to serve in a different area. There are around 7,200 veterans and 16,000 dependants on the island although GDPR makes it difficult to identify them. An article about this subject will be included in the next newsletter. The Chair thanked Mandy for attending.

RESOLVED: The Clerk will re-circulate the pledge documents to councillors and contact IW Cllr Whelan and the Central Rural Parishes to gauge interest with moving forward together to make the pledge.

134/26 Test the Water Grant Application

The Council considered a grant application from UKSA for the Test the Water Programme. In July 2026 13 year 6 pupils from Arreton Primary School had taken part in the programme. The UKSA will be expanding the programme in 2027 to cover beach, coastal and water safety.

RESOLVED: To award a grant of £200 to UKSA help fund places for pupils from Arreton Primary School

135/26 Annual Review of Standing Orders

The Council conducted the annual review of the Parish Council's Standing Orders. There were no changes.

RESOLVED: To approve the Standing Orders as presented.

136/26 Notice Boards

The Clerk reported that a potential site at the Community Hall on the slope between the bus stop and the steps had been identified. Island Roads had responded about the possible siting of a board on the verge in front of Park Cottages with a long list of requirements. Given the prohibitive purchase and installation costs Cllr Filer suggested removing the old map outside the hall and adopting the frame already there, Cllr Cooper suggested moving the existing noticeboard from the Methodist Church grounds to a more suitable site if one can be found. Cllr Taylor suggested that the bus stop opposite Park Cottages might be a good

location. The matter requires further consideration but in the meantime the Clerk will produce large print versions of documents for the Arreton noticeboard so information can be read more easily from the footpath.

137/26 Churchyard Cherry Tree

The Clerk reported that following correspondence with the Church Warden the cherry tree in St Georges Churchyard cannot be removed as it will be subject to either a full faculty or an application to the PCC for approval. Unless the tree is dangerous, evidence that it has been monitored and confirmation that the tree is dead will be required before any further progress can be made. The Clerk will contact the Diocese for access to any historical information on the governance of the burial ground. The Volunteer Tree Warden offered to inspect the tree and report his findings.

138/26 Website

The Clerk has obtained a TAC code to transfer the domain name to the new website provider and has answered a range of questions on content. The rebuild is underway.

139/26 Chairman's Notice of Resignation

The Council noted the letter of resignation of the Chairman from the Parish Council with effect from 31st December 2026. A letter of acknowledgement and thanks will be sent from the Vice Chairman on behalf of the Council.

140/26 To note the date of the next meeting 9th November 2026

141/26 Any other matters raised by Councillors for discussion only

Cllr Filer had received some feedback from a member of the public who was very pleased with the standard of grounds maintenance at Gore Cemetery. Following two recent near misses Cllr Filer raised concerns about the speed of police cars on blue lights travelling along the main road from the Sandown direction taking no account of the danger to traffic leaving school premises. Cllr Taylor will pass an email contact to the Clerk to report this.

The meeting closed at 8.37p.m.

Claire Gale, Clerk to the Council 15th October 2026
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..... Chairman

..... Date