

Minutes of the Ampport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th July 2023, 7.30pm at East Cholderton Scout Hall.

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr Mrs S Baker & Cllr Mrs C Hemmings.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
TVBC Maureen Flood
Sharon de Bru - Neighbourhood Planning consultant
Tim Grimshaw - NPSG
3 Members of the Public

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, TVBC Mrs S Hassleman, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson, Cllr P Waller & Cllr P Harvey.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. All Councillors confirmed there were no amendments required to register of interest forms.

3 Neighbourhood Plan

Tim Grimshaw from the Neighbourhood Plan steering group (NPSG) updated the Parish Council on the developments of the Ampport plan. Terms of reference for the group had been circulated and were discussed. Cllr Harris proposed these be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed. The signed document will be uploaded to the Parish Council Website.

He highlighted the results of the recent community survey and engagement with a good proportion of parishioners. Initial findings highlight the wish from the community to help shape the parish in the future, there was a great deal of opposition to possible developments in Weyhill, support for the Hawk Conservancy and the development of Ampport House, a strong desire to maintain the rural feel of the parish, a desire for footpaths to be maintained, a desire for improved facilities such as a village shop and a desire that any housing built be small homes for first time buyers or those downsizing but wishing to stay in the parish. A community engagement event is to be held in Weyhill on 13th September. Working groups will work on developing policies, the long-term aim is to produce a neighbourhood plan which can be taken to referendum. The Parish Council noted all the findings from the survey. Cllr Montagu raised some questions regarding where responses came from and if views of those outside the Parish should be included. The Neighbourhood Plan consultant said that once points were looked at in depth more detail would emerge and particular groups could be targeted. A report of the survey findings will be uploaded to the website.

While some funding has already be provided further grants are not yet available. Cllr Stephenson has therefore requested agreement to set aside £5000 of Parish Council funds to meet the costs arising before further grants can be claimed. Cllr Harris proposed this be agreed, this was seconded by Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All agreed.

Finally, Cllr Hemmings explained that at the public engagement meeting she planned to provide refreshments. The Parish Council agreed to meet this expenditure.

4 Vacancy on the Parish Council

There had been no expressions of interest in the current vacancy for a Councillor. All current councillors were asked to consider this and any potential volunteers who may wish to fill the position.

5 Public Participation

The members of the public present had attended to hear developments on the Neighbourhood Plan and to provide feedback from the recent village fete.

6 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 12th June were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Baker seconded Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All in favour.

7 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported the fallen tree on the green has been removed and that the grass growing on the road-verge will be cut back to improve visibility. Finally, he reported a parishioner has provided seven small oak trees to the parish. Suggestions for sites to plant these were requested.

Cllr Harvey and Janet Wright of Amport have been considering what might be done to improve the leat in terms of water flow and access, whilst fully appreciating the ecology of the area. The Watercress & Winterbournes initiative is in discussion with them and are likely to offer to fund the work

Play Area -Cllr Harvey was not present but had sent a report confirming he will action the repairs highlighted by the play safety report shortly. None of these were high risk.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported that several footpaths have been cut by a contractor. However, some further work was required. A report about footpath 6 related to a path in Monxton Parish.

The Bob Horne memorial bench is in a very poor state and may need replacing. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will try to trace the family of Bob Horne to establish who installed the bench originally.

Communications & School Liaison – See paragraphs 11 & 14

Projects-. Cllr Hawkings-Byass has put the resident keen to run a village shop in touch with the Chairman of Monxton Parish Council as the new hall could be a suitable venue.

Neighbourhood Plan- see paragraph 3

Highways – The report regarding possible sites for speed awareness signs has been submitted to Hampshire Highways. The report has been acknowledged and an engineer will now review the proposals.

Southern Water - Groundwater levels in the catchment are falling but are still high for the time of year, as is the water level in the Pillhill Brook. Two tankers remain at Mullens Pond.

Tubogel lining work on private sewers has recommenced in the north of the catchment (Fyfield) but has been delayed somewhat due to machinery breakdown issues. The sealing of public sewers in Thruxton Village Street is still expected to be in August, but no date has been confirmed.

Young Persons Matters- Vacant.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Harris has not yet been able to meet with Chair of Kimpton Parish Council regarding their resilience plan but hopes to do so in August. The generator is now operational and stored at Amport Fisheries. This is available for use by parishioners in an emergency

8 Update on Solar farm and community benefit

Cllr Montagu reported that some new documents have been submitted to the planning portal regarding this outstanding application. The only unresolved item is the objection from Thruxton Airfield regarding glare from the panels. The civil aviation authority has provided a report and the application is likely to go before planning committee.

9 Full fibre connections

Cllr Harris confirmed the local representative continues to seek advice regarding full fibre roll out in the parish and is awaiting details from Hampshire County Council regarding which areas will be covered.

10 Feedback from Village Fete

Cllr Harvey while not present had circulated feedback from the Village fete. This had been a well attended event and the Parish Council had received some positive feedback. Concern had been raised by some Monxton residents about Amport Parish Council's support of the planning application for Amport House and the additional traffic that will use Monxton High Street for access. The Parish Council expressed thanks to those who had organised the event.

Questions were asked about community funding which is available from funds raised from the Village Fete. Traditionally profits from the fete were split £5000 to the Church and £5000 to the school. Any excess was available to the community by application. Cllr Baker will research where funds are held and how these can be accessed.

11 Defibrillator at Village School

Cllr Baker reported that an anonymous donor had pledged sufficient funds to purchase a defibrillator to be sited at the Village School. The plan is to place the defibrillator where it could be used by the school but also by villagers if required. Planning permission is being sought. The ongoing costs of maintaining the machine were discussed and Cllr Baker confirmed that fund raising from a recent event will be provided to meet these costs.

12 Letter regarding footpath at Haydown.

The Clerk confirmed she had written a letter regarding the misleading sign erected at Haydown which said there was no access although there was public footpath. Unfortunately, the letter had been sent to the wrong house and the recipient was very unhappy as this was nothing whatsoever to do with him. Cllr Harris had spoken to him and apologised and the Clerk had followed this with a letter of apology. Subsequently the correct householder has now removed the misleading sign and erected a sign saying no vehicular access. The rotting gate has been reported to Hampshire Countryside Access who have agreed to work with the landowner to repair or replace this.

13 Monxton & Ampport Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the problem encountered with the existing floorbase of the hall has been considered by a structural engineer, but his proposal is far too expensive and would require an unrealistic approach from the builders. Further professional advice is being sought before the project can proceed at an acceptable cost.

14 Food Vans on Village Green

Following an informal discussion between some councillors the visiting pizza van had been politely asked to stop visiting. This was in line with the decision taken by the Parish Council in September 2021 which had agreed a variety of vendors would be asked to attend. The vendor had been unhappy and several emails and posts on face book had inflamed the situation. Following a conversation with the vendor the Clerk had established his concern was that having built up a good customer base another business would benefit from this. He believed there were many parishioners who wanted his visits to continue, he also pointed out that the Parish Council had invited him and that he had overcome an issue with local resistance in the past.

A lengthy discussion followed and the views of the public present were also considered. Cllr Coke proposed a three-month rota drawn up on based on public feedback and recent experience should inform which vendors would be asked to attend. Only one food vendor per month would be asked. This was seconded by Cllr Montagu. All agreed. Cllr Baker will research and approach vendors.

Given this issue had caused some concerns the Clerk had drafted a use of email and social media policy which had been circulated. Cllr Stephenson had suggested an additional paragraph regarding parish councillor emails which was agreed. They will be added and the draft recirculated for comment.

Cllr Baker had also drafted an agreement document regarding the use of the Village Green. Some comments had been made and work to produce a document for adoption will continue.

15 Sarsons Lane/A303 Junction

Cllr Harris reported the parishioner trying to obtain a Freedom of Information report from National Highways in respect of incidents at the junction of the A303 and Sarson Lane has now promised a report by the end of July, including proposals for an interim solution to the problem. The local MP has been alerted to the difficulties in obtaining the reply from National Highways and he will be contacted again if the report is not forthcoming.

16 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

The Parish Council has the power under S185 of the Highways Act to install a dog waste bin. TVBC can do this at a cost of £400 plus VAT and an ongoing annual cost of £220 to service this. Cllr Hemmings

proposed this be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed. The agreed location for the bin was on the left-hand verge at the entrance to Michaelmas Drove. The Clerk will action.

Fitting a notice board is more complicated in that a licence must be obtained from HCC by the contractor fitting the board. The contractor must have 10million public liability insurance cover and comply with NRSWA 1991 code of practice. A 1:500 plan of the location must be supplied along with signing and guarding proposals. Greenflints contractors have fitted replacement boards in the past and will be approached to establish if they can carry out work to fit a board on land by the layby at the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road, Weyhill

Issues have arisen sending emails from the Parish Council one.com accounts to Gmail accounts. The Clerk confirmed she had discussed this with the one.com help line and been told that the DNS settings of cloudflare needed to be upgraded with technical details. This was not something the Clerk was able to action and it was agreed technical help should be sought.

17 Finance

To note the bank balances as at 30/06/2023

Lloyds current £4269.05

Lloyds savings £13724.59

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£437.80
HMRC	£109.40
H Bourner exp.	£18.15
Ray Welch	£328.00
Kinex electricity	£17.07
Greenflints	£1080.00
Bluestone Planning	£2040.00

Retrospective	
Oliver Vincent	£108.00
Business stream	£20.47

18 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly- had sent apologies

TVBC Maureen Flood- highlighted the report provided by TVBC Hasselman, she also reported on a TVBC proposal to engage with Parish Councils in the autumn to establish ways of working together successfully.

TVBC Susanne Hasselman had sent apologies but had provided a report which had been circulated to all Councillors

19 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted

23/00886/VARN- vary conditions to increase size of window, Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane- permission

23/01187/FULLN-erection of Victorian Style greenhouse, the Cottage on the Green- permission

Resolved: that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed:

23/01731/FULLN- single storey extension to outbuilding, rear extension with balcony & roof lights-Sefton House, Bush Farm Lane- no objections

Ampport House- Cllr Harris reported that confirmation of the date of the long-awaited meeting of the Northern Area Planning Committee which will consider the planning application is still awaited. The possible dates for this meeting in August are the 10th and 31st.

Building work at the Hawk- The Clerk reported that some work to fit a fence and steps at the Hawk had taken place and a parishioner had questioned whether planning permission was required. TVBC planning

enforcement have confirmed erection of the fence would be allowed in accordance with permitted developments. The steps may well be covered by this although a full investigation would be required to establish facts. The landlord has confirmed there were no planning or licensing issues. There was unanimous agreement that TVBC should not be asked to carry out a full enforcement review.

20 Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted a brochure from a street furniture supplier

21 New Items for next agenda

None at present

22 Community News

Cllr Hemmings said she had been made aware of some problems in neighbouring Penton parish. She will send details to the Clerk to forward to the appropriate Parish Council.

23 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 18th September 2023, 7.30pm at 2nd Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.