

Minutes of the Ampert Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14th November 2022, 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 O Vincent, Cllr P Harvey, Cllr Mrs S Baker & Cllr Mrs D Stephenson.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk

TVBC Mrs M Flood

1 Member of the Public

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P Waller,

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Public Participation

No members of the public wished to raise any matters.

4 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 17th October were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Stephenson. All in favour.

5 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke suggested the Parish Council should ensure decision making is clearer and that once a decision is reached the matter is not revisited.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris said a new Councillor was required to monitor the play equipment on the Village Green following the resignation of Sue Richardson. Cllr Harvey agreed to take on this responsibility.

Cllr Harvey had contacted the school to see if they want to help plant some more bulbs this autumn. A local garden centre has offered help planting and bulbs are now reducing the price of bulbs. Cllr Harvey will organise a date for planting. A maximum budget of £300 was agreed for this project

Cllr Harvey said he had considered the possibility that silt should be dug out of the mill stream to create a channel for improved water flow. He has asked for advice from the Wessex Water Trust on the best way to proceed. He will also ask local people with knowledge of the watercourse for advice.

Play Area -see report for Village Green.

Footpaths- A tree has fallen across footpath 9 north of Nether Cottage. It is passable on foot, but the path should be cleared. A contractor will be asked to clear this. Two other fallen trees were noted, land owners will be asked to clear these.

Communications & School Liaison – Cllr Baker reported the school will be strengthening their links to the Church.

Projects-Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported on research to adopt the telephone box. As the box is listed, she is seeking guidance as to what restrictions may be placed on the box before a decision to adopt is made.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson reported she had discussed the way to proceed on the Neighbourhood Plan with the consultant. Other members of the Parish are needed to help with the large amount of work required. Work to establish a database so contact with parishioners is possible will begin now. Progress will be reviewed at the January Parish Council meeting. The Clerk confirmed the grant application has been approved and funds will be paid to the Parish Council shortly.

Highways – Cllr Vincent and Cllr Hawkings-Byass have considered the Hampshire Highways speed awareness signs policy document and also reviewed plans from another Parish for ideas. All Councillors were asked to consider possible sites for signs and take photographs for inclusion in a report which will be submitted to HCC for approval in due course.

Young Persons Matters- Cllr Vincent had nothing to report.

Resilience Plan-Cllr Baker had circulated a fourth draft resilience plan to all councillors asking for feedback. This includes previous suggestions. The plan was to create something high level without minute detail which would go out of date very quickly. The next steps are to decide how many people will take the lead if a crisis arises and how they can be contacted. It is hoped that creating a Neighbourhood Plan will mean a database of parishioners is created and that this will find volunteers to help with the various areas of the resilience plan. It was agreed to share the draft across the parish and ask for feedback. Cllr Baker will also discuss how to make progress with the TVBC lead on resilience.

6 Southern Water over pumping & water quality

Cllr Harris reported that since the last Parish Council meeting the PPF group had visited the Water Treatment Works at Fullerton. The Works were built in the late 1960's for the Andover area. They still work well, but the Environment Agency is reviewing the licence and some changes going forward. Very occasionally, there is too much sewage, and it is foreseeable that extra capacity might be required. Southern Water's work on lining the laterals with tubogel at the northern end of the catchment is proceeding. Electroscan surveys at the southern end of the catchment have been completed and Southern Water have identified the pipes that they consider need relining. Later this month, Southern Water will be putting boreholes in place at their water-pumping stations including Furzedown and Mullens Pond and will be monitoring water levels regularly. The current groundwater levels remain low. The "Pollution Event Exercise" on the Pillhill Brook, scheduled for 30th November, has been postponed until next year to allow more time for groundwater levels to recover.

7 Solar Farm Plans

The agreed draft contract between the developer and the Parishes on the community benefit fund has now been executed by all parties. No further news on the planning decision has been received but the developers remain optimistic.

8 Parking on the Village Green

Tim Hartigan had circulated a plan to create parking spaces on the edge of the Village Green which would alleviate some of the parking problems experienced at school start and finish times and when an event takes place on the Village Green. Current guidelines mean as many as 40 spaces could be sited here. The proposal was discussed however as the Village Green is not owned by the Parish Council and is a registered Village Green building here would not be possible. Cllr Harvey also commented that more parking spaces would encourage more parents to drive to school adding to congestion.

9 Amport House, revised planning application

Another Place has confirmed that its planning team had a good meeting with the TVBC planning officer and the tree officer recently, and it suggests that the planning application should come before the Northern Area Planning Committee soon.

10 Sarson Lane

Cllr Stephenson highlighted some serious concerns about the road surface in Sarsons Lane. Cllr Vincent has reported problems before and some areas have been repatched but this is now also breaking up. Cllr Vincent will take photographs and resubmit complaints via the HCC portal. He will ask for help from HCC Donnelly if necessary.

11 Replacement benches

Following the last meeting the Clerk had circulated details of some recycled benches. Details of replacement wooden benches had already been reviewed. Councillors had responded suggesting a wooden bench would be best on the Village Green but that a recycled bench was the best solution for the Fen. The Clerk was asked to order the required benches. Will Hawkings-Byass will be asked to carry out the fitting of these.

12 Village Shop

Cllr Stephenson said the feedback from the summer fete suggested a village shop was required and she suggested a good place for this would be the Hawk Conservancy. TVBC Flood highlighted areas of concern with stocking and running a small community shop. The first step was to discuss the idea with the Hawk Conservancy and Cllr Stephenson agreed to do this.

13 Broken Notice board

The Clerk had circulated details of types of boards available. The preferred option was a 6 x A4 size in green costing £726.08 plus vat and £10.00 delivery. Proposed Cllr Coke, seconded Cllr Harris, all agreed. The Clerk was asked to order the board. Will Hawking-Byass would then be asked to install this.

14 Clerks report

A schedule of meeting dates for 2023 had been circulated and was agreed. All meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month with the exception of June when this will be the second Monday and August and December when no meetings were scheduled. Cllr Baker will approach the school to establish if meetings could be held there.

A draft budget had been circulated and was discussed. Expenditure in 2023-24 is projected to rise, the Clerks pay has increased and inflation means the costs of all services are likely to rise. Discussions regarding possible projects and expenditure followed. The Clerk also pointed out that the precept level had remained static for several years and at the last budget setting it had been agreed to continually raise the precept at least in line with inflation. After some further discussion Cllr Coke proposed the precept request be raised to £16500, this was seconded by Cllr Harris. One Cllr abstained from the vote however all others agreed.

The Clerk confirmed she had established the bus shelter at the Weyhill roundabout is outside the Amport Parish Boundary. The Clerk for Penton Mewsey has agreed to take responsibility for this.

15 Finance

The bank balance as 30/10/2022 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £5864.59

Lloyds deposit £15955.60

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£387.04
HMRC	£96.80
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
Ray Welch	£267.00
Eclipse Pest Control	£145.00
HALC	£117.60
Kinex	£13.11
HCC Street lights	£108.80

Retrospective

Kinex	£13.22
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A grant request had been received from the PCC requesting £550.00 toward the project to replace a dying hedge with a fence which is part of the project to reclaim the Northern Churchyard and create a village allotment area. The grant request was discussed. £250.00 had been set aside in the budget for graveyard maintenance, however as the overall finances were healthy it was agreed the full grant could be given. Cllr Baker proposed the full grant be given; this was seconded by Cllr Montagu all in favour

14 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC Maureen Flood reported that TVBC have set aside a budget of £50,000 to help with the cost of living crisis. A Parish Council can apply if they want to fund such things as a warm hub.

TVBC D Coole was not present.

15 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

22/02522/TREEN-tree works-1 Lindisfarne-no objection

22/01637/FULLN erection of link, alteration and refurb Staddlestones Barn, The Old Farm, Amport Green-refused

22/01882/VARN-variation to habitat management, Solar Array, Lains Farm-refused

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

22/02747/TREEN- tree works, The Cottage on the Green- no objections

22/02732/FULL change of use to form residential accommodation, Briarwood, First Floor Flat, Amesbury Road- no objections

22/02777/TREEN tree works, 2 Lindisfarne, Monxton Road- no objections

22/02809/TREEN pollard willow tree, Strangford, Monxton Road- no objections

16 Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted a letter she had received confirming it was now possible to co-opt a new Parish Councillor. Councillors will highlight the vacancy to interested parties, it was noted that elections for Parish Councillors will take place in May 2023.

She also highlighted a magazine she had received which Cllr Baker agreed to review.

17 New Items for next agenda

None at present.

19 Community News

A resident in the village has expressed an interest in co-ordinating an improvement of the signs around the Parish that welcome people to Amport, East Cholderton etc. Other villages have good examples of the type of sign envisaged. It was proposed the resident be invited to a Parish Council meeting next year to set out their proposals.

Cllr Baker said The Church is open to all every Sunday morning at 10am for coffee and croissants and also highlighted the Church Christmas Fair which will be held on 3rd Dec 2022.

20 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 16th January 2023, 7.30pm at 2nd Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.