

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 21st February 2022, 7.30pm at
East Cholderton Scout Hall.

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke - Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr Mrs S Baker, Cllr Mrs S Richardson, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson & Cllr P Harvey.

Also present

Mr T Hartigan (non-voting member)
Mr O Vincent (non-voting member)
Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
Caroline Unwin -Village correspondent
Janet Wright – secretary Pan Parish Forum
Mr Darbyshire & Son- local tree surgeons
0 Members of the Public

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Mrs M Flood, TVBC David Coole, HCC Chris Donnelly & Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Stephenson and Oliver Vincent declared an interest in a planning application in Sarsons Lane to which they were both close neighbours.

3 Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

4 Co-option of new Parish Councillor

A suggestion had been made that Oliver Vincent, currently a non-voting member, should be invited to be a voting member of the Council. Oliver was very happy to be co-opted to the role. Proposed Cllr Harris seconded Cllr Stephenson, all agreed. The Clerk will send all relevant forms.

The Appointments Committee agreed that efforts should be made to encourage a new member from East Cholderton or north of the A303, being areas that are now under-represented on the Council. An advert has been prepared that will be delivered to residents in these areas. The Committee will also consider any other candidates across the Parish that emerge, and will report back to the Council at the March meeting. Cllr Stephenson said she could get a quantity of flyers printed for £50.00, this expenditure was agreed.

5 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 10th and 13th January were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Baker. All in favour.

6 Parish Councillor responsibilities

Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass had asked for a change in responsibilities as she is finding walking footpaths difficult following a knee injury. Two Councillors had also resigned recently one of whom was the lead for the Southern Water project and the other highways.

Janet Wright, an Amport resident has agreed to take on the secretary role for the Pan Parish Forum, although she will not become a Parish Councillor (see separate item 8), The Clerk will circulate her contact email.

It was agreed Cllr Vincent should become the Councillor for highways, a responsibility he was happy to take on. Proposed Cllr Stephenson, seconded Cllr Harris, all agreed.

The footpath officer role was discussed. Cllr Montagu suggested the role be split, he will take on part and Tim Hartigan will also help.

Cllr T Hawkings-Byass will take on the role of project officer with support from Cllr Harvey.

7 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported that a large tree had fallen on play equipment at the Village Green. Thanks to a local tree surgeon and several volunteers a great deal of clearing up had taken place however there are still some very large trunks yet to be dealt with. Cllr Harvey suggested this be adapted in some way as a natural play area or making it into a seating area however where one trunk had fallen it was

crushing play equipment. The local tree surgeon said the tree was a Poplar and therefore retained an enormous amount of water this means the trunk would start to sprout again and fungi would grow. In his view within two years this would be a mass of rotting wood so he believed it would be better to move it to a site where it can decay and add to biodiversity. A telehandler machine would be required to move this. Any logs would be best used as firewood. The fallen Beech tree could be used to create a seat however smaller pieces are likely to be taken for firewood. Cllr Richardson said the work needs to be done as quickly as possible and the tree surgeon was asked to provide a quote to do this. The damaged play equipment was considered and given the likely cost to replace this an insurance claim was considered necessary. A play equipment company have been asked to visit the site and look at the damaged equipment and provide quotes for replacements. The Clerk will contact the insurance company to establish what action is required.

Cllr Richardson also provided information for some new play equipment that is suitable for disabled users as well as the able bodied. The cost of this was approximately £5000. It is hoped that S106 funds can be used to meet this expenditure.

Finally, Cllr Richardson provided information from a recent meeting of the Jubilee celebrations group. The celebration will take place on Sunday 5th June on the Village Green. The hope is to provide afternoon tea for all residents, and hopefully hire a band to play some music. A group of villagers are organising the event. The matter of finance for the group will be an agenda item at the March meeting.

A working party will carry out some work in the Fen on 5th March. Volunteers can help, please arrive at the corner of the Village Green at 9.30am. An early morning bird walk will take place on Thursday 28th April led by Maggie Shelton of the Hants & IOW Wildlife Trust.

Footpaths- Cllr Mrs Hawkings-Byass was not present. Cllr Harris reported a tree down on a footpath opposite The Hawk conservancy. Tim Hartigan said footpath 21 has four trees down which are blocking the path and Cllr Montagu said footpath 13 had several trees fallen across it.

Communications - Cllr Baker reported that the village social media site had proved to be very useful following the damage caused by the recent storms. She said this was a real example of why a village resilience plan was needed to cover all sorts of incidents and that she would like to start now by building a database of contact information. She also asked all Cllrs to provide a self-profile for the website and reminded all to use the dedicated Parish Council email service.

School Liaison – Cllr Baker confirmed the school was closed during storm but had not suffered any damage.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson reported TVBC have confirmed the boundary for the plan has been approved. She will contact the consultant shortly to establish the next steps.

Highways – Cllr Vincent will try to move ahead with speed awareness signs supported by Cllr Harvey. The Clerk will send him the HCC document.

Young persons matters- Cllr Vincent had nothing to report

8 Southern Water over pumping & water quality

Cllr Harris introduced Janet Wright an Ampert resident who has agreed to become the secretary for the Pan Parish Forum dealing with Southern Water. She will have a weekly conversation with Southern Water to establish updates and will circulate any relevant information.

Cllr Harris confirmed since the last PPF meeting on 17 January, Southern Water has been active in the Parish, constructing a layby at East Cholderton, and undertaking repairs to pipe work that form the sewage system. The water-table levels in the Pillhill area have been low, but are approaching a level sufficient for Southern Water to determine whether the work done on the pipes has been successful, or if further work is needed. A particular area where improvements are needed is the development of a useful Infiltration Reduction Plan and improvements to communication systems. Southern Water regard the work of the PPF as a Pathfinder Project, which will be used by them to develop best practice going forward. Finally, he confirmed he and Tim Grimshaw had attended a PPF meeting with the local MP, Kit Malthouse, when the overall progress made by Southern Water was discussed.

9 Solar Farm Plans

Cllr Montagu confirmed the planning application for the solar farm has been submitted to TVBC. Any community benefit payments will be made once the build starts. He also confirmed legal documents regarding the community benefit are being processed and will be presented to the Parish Council when they are finalised.

10 Avenue of Trees

Tim Hartigan confirmed the project to plant in excess of 80 trees as an avenue alongside the path from the Water Tower down to the house at Haydown Farm is developing well. The planned date for planting the trees is the week of 21 March 2022. This will be done by Will Hawkings-Byass and his team.

A public appeal is under way – see www.haydown-link.co.uk It is planned that a TPO and/or a Conservation Covenant will be put in place to protect the trees in the future.

11 Defibrillators

Cllr Richardson said she had heard nothing from the manager of the local garden centre about the possibilities of siting a defibrillator at their premises. She said it was likely the installation of another machine would need to wait until the new Village Hall is complete.

12 Clerks report

The Clerk confirmed following cancellation of the previous training session she had been able to meet with the HALC trainer at a recent session for Parish Clerks. Two potential dates were put forward Tuesday 12th April or Tuesday 17th May. On both dates Thrupton Memorial Hall is available and has all the necessary equipment and WiFi. The Clerk will circulate dates to all Councillors and make a firm booking so the majority could attend.

The Clerk provided details of the increase in costs for the electricity supply to the Village Green.

The Clerk said she had asked TVBC to confirm what S106 monies were available to pay for any new equipment on the Village Green and would circulate details once received

Finally, the Clerk confirmed she had been able to secure a new experienced auditor who specialised in Parish Council records. The charge for the audit would be in the region of £250.00. Cllr Coke proposed this auditor be engaged and this was seconded Cllr Harris, all agreed

13 Finance

The bank balance as 30/01/2021 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £20470.76

Lloyds deposit £12221.26

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£369.24
HMRC	£92.20
H Bourner exp.	£21.99
Eclipse pest control	£80.00
Kinex electricity	£10.03

Retrospective

Kinex electricity	£9.70
PCC	£500.00
Avenue of trees	£5000.00

14 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

No County or Borough Councillors were present.

15 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

21/03594/TREEN- pollard ash-Victoria Cottage, The Green-no objections

21/03059/CLEN-lawful development certificate to use land as residential garden- Broad Meadow, 1 Sarsons Barn-certificate issued

21/03292/TREEN- crown thin beech- Copper Beeches, Monxton Road-no objection

21/03190/CLPN- certificate of lawful development, erection side extension- Hillside Farm, Middlecot-certificate issued

21/03169/FULLN- construction of two timber towers erection of sheltered area for classroom- The Hawk Conservancy-permission

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

22/00085/FULLN- convert out building for occasional use as home office and hobby room, Dove House, Dauntsey Lane- no objections

21/03760/FUULN- installation of solar farm, Land at Lains Farm- no objections

22/00176/TREEN- tree works, Robins, Monxton Road- no objections

22/00384/TREEN- fell leylandii and blackthorn-Robins, Monxton Road-no objections

20/02997/FULLN- use of land for 6 travelling gypsy pitches, The Firs, Sarson Lane- Concerns were raised that the site is already overcrowded, waste issues are real concern and the surrounding area is congested with many vehicles already. A further six households will substantially increase the number of vehicles in the area and highways access will become even more dangerous. The Clerk will formulate an objection and circulate to all Councillors for approval.

Update on Ampert House

Tim Hartigan confirmed that Another Place is expecting the planning application to be considered by the Northern Area Planning committee in June.

16 Any other business –

Cllr Harris said he had noted there is a fair amount of litter in some parts of the Parish. It would be appreciated if individuals in the Parish could do some picking-up in their own area.

Cllr Harris said he has written to the brewery concerning parking at The Hawk confirming views in the Parish differed on the outline proposals they had made. If a planning application is made all options will remain open for the Parish Council.

Cllr Baker confirmed volunteers are sought for a working party to help clear the graveyard on 2nd April, 9.30 am start. She said there is a possibility of some allotment space being provided to individuals in return for help keeping the graveyard tidy.

17 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 14th March 2022, 7.30pm at 2nd Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.