

**Minutes of the Amport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 17th October 2022,
7.30pm at
East Cholderton Scout Hall.**

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr S Richardson, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr O Vincent & Cllr P Harvey.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
TVBC Mrs M Flood
2 Members of the Public

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Cllr C Donnelly, Cllr P Waller, Cllr Mrs S Baker & Cllr Mrs D Stephenson.

2 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Harris declared an interest in a planning application at the Almshouses of which he is a trustee. There were no other 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 18th July were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All in favour.

5 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris confirmed the new play equipment had now all been satisfactorily fitted. He has reviewed all the trees on the green with a local tree surgeon and some work will be required to cut back some branches and deal with Ash trees suffering from Ash Die Back. The grass has now made a full recovery since the summer heatwave and looks quite healthy. Finally, he said there was a plan to plant some more bulbs this autumn, Cllr Harvey will look into this and contact the school and scout groups to see if they want to help.

One telegraph pole by the parking area needed to be re sited, Cllr Harris and Tim Hartigan will deal with this.

Cllr Harris also said that fallen wood that was in the millstream at the northern end of the fen has been cleared while the stream is dry. He said a suggestion has been made that silt should be dug out to create a channel for improved water flow. Cllr Harvey agreed to look into this and will ask for advice from the Wessex Water Trust.

Play Area -see report on the Green above. Sovereign Play will carry out some free inspections of the new equipment to compensate for the delays to completing the fitting work.

Footpaths- The Clerk confirmed payment had been made to the contractor who cleared all the footpaths. He has asked that he be made aware of cutting earlier in the season next year.

Communications & School Liaison – Cllr Baker was absent.

Projects- The constant problem of dog mess was discussed but it was agreed little could be done except encourage all dog owners to clear up after their animals.
Cllr Hawkings-Byass will research adopting the telephone box.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson was absent but had sent a report to confirm a consultant has been engaged by the Parish Council to help draw up a Neighbourhood Plan. The Clerk has made the necessary application for a grant to start the process

Highways – Cllr Vincent reported that some work was required to establish potential sites for speed awareness signs and evidence was required to prove to HCC that a permanent sign was required. The Clerk explained how the HCC system works and what was required of the Parish Council. The Clerk will share some details she has and Cllr Hawkings-Byass will assist Cllr Vincent to draw up a plan.

Young Persons Matters- Cllr Vincent had nothing to report.

Resilience Plan-Cllr Baker had circulated a first draft resilience plan to all councillors asking for feedback. It is hoped a full plan can be considered at the November meeting.

6 Southern Water over pumping & water quality

Cllr Harris confirmed Southern Water continue to line the private sewers in the catchment generally at their expense, as part of the plan to reduce the problem of groundwater infiltration.

He further reported in order to test any tangible benefits from the program Southern Water is planning to install temperature and flow meters as well as sinking a number of boreholes throughout the villages. This will enhance their remote monitoring capability and allow checks to be made to ensure that the lining work being undertaken has the intended effect.

Other than the ongoing work referred to above, the main developments are:-

- 1) A visit has been arranged to the Water Treatment Works at Fullerton for the PPF on Wednesday 19th October.
- 2) A PPF visit to SW's headquarters in Worthing is scheduled for 30th November, when the group hope to see their "incident room". This is scheduled to co-incide with a "Pollution Event Exercise" on the Pillhill Brook that the PPF has requested Southern Water organise.
- 3) Simon Parker, the senior Southern Water director overseeing this project, will speak to the PPF and others on the overall Southern Water approach to water supply, regarding issues beyond the groundwater infiltration that is the focus at this time, covering a range of matters including climate change. A date for this talk is to be arranged.

7 Solar Farm Plans

The objection made by the operator of Thruxton Airfield is delaying progress with this planning proposal. The agreed draft Community Benefit contract between the developer and the Parishes is ready to be signed by all parties involved once the planning issue is resolved. TVBC Maureen Flood believes a decision from planners is imminent.

8 Avenue of Trees

Cllr Harris reported the avenue of trees on Haydown Farm is flourishing although requires regular watering. The public appeal for funding remains open – see www.haydown-link.co.uk

9 Amport House, revised planning application

The latest information from Another Place is that the planning is still on track. Their planning consultants are trying to arrange a face to face meeting with the planning officer at TVBC, with the hope that they then arrange a date for the application to come before the Area Planning Committee, possibly in November.

10 Replacement benches

Cllr Harris proposed the replacement of the poor-quality bench by the play equipment on the green with a new good quality bench along with a bench in the Fen to replace the old bench which has now disintegrated. Cllr Richardson has obtained a quote for two good quality wooden benches for £1242.00 including fixings and delivery for both benches. There was some discussion about buying recycled benches. The Clerk will obtain a quote and circulate to all Councillors before a final decision is made. The Clerk confirmed S106 funds held by TVBC could be claimed against this expenditure.

11 Broken Notice board

Cllr Coke reported that the notice board near the bus stop and opposite Rosebourne was broken. The Clerk suggested this be replaced with a larger board in order that minutes could be successfully posted here. The Clerk will obtain some quotes and circulate details.

12 Clerks report

The Clerk confirmed she had requested S106 funding from TVBC to cover the cost of the disabled swing recently installed on the Village Green. A VAT claim to recover that paid on all the new play equipment has also been made.

She reported that CIL funding of £3517.62 was held and had been ringfenced for the new Village Hall. A further CIL payment of £5123.43 was received in May 2021 and was currently not allocated to any particular project. After some discussion it was agreed to ringfence this payment but not allocate to any project at present.

A schedule of meeting dates for 2023 had been circulated and was discussed. 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.

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. All Councillors will consider the level of expenditure for next year. 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.

This matter will be revisited at the November meeting.

The Clerk confirmed she had request the Lengthsman clear ditches in the Parish and finally that she has requested a quote to remove the graffiti on the bus shelter at the Weyhill roundabout which she believed to be just inside Amport Parish. Several Councillors believed this to be outside Amport Parish Boundary. TVBC Maureen Flood will attempt to establish facts on behalf of the Parish Council.

13 Finance

The bank balance as 30/09/2022 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £6492.65

Lloyds deposit £15954.99

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£387.04
HMRC	£96.80
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
Ray Welch	£161.00
Clive Hutchinson	£900.00

Retrospective

Kinex	£12.81
Dr P Harvey	£75.60
Ray Welch	£161.00
H Bourner salary	£387.08
HMRC	£96.76
H Bourner exp.	£56.33
HALC	£117.60
One.Com (paid by H Bourner)	£85.04
Ray Welch	£161.00
Eclipse pest control	£85.00

A payment of £175.00 had been made between meetings to Ray Welch for work to cut back overgrown verges by the Village Green. No meeting had taken place in September due to the period of mourning following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd. Cllr Harris formally proposed this payment which was seconded Cllr Montagu. All agreed.

14 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly was absent.

TVBC Maureen Flood reported TVBC has collated a list of helpful websites to help those struggling with the cost of living crisis. She will provide details to the Clerk to publish in due course.

She also reported two new statues are to be commissioned to commemorate the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, one will be erected in Romsey and one in Andover, possibly at Vigo Park.

Finally, she confirmed Millennium man has been re-installed at the garden on the Weyhill Road, with some robust metal fixings to prevent further vandalism.

TVBC D Coole was not present.

15 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

20/02997/FULLN-use of land for 6 gypsy traveler pitches, The Firs, Sarson Lane-permission
22/00580/FULLN-erection storage building, Land adjoining Broad Meadows, Sarson Lane-permission
22/01044/FULLN-replacement dwelling-Hillside Farm, Middlecot, Quarley-permission
22/01818/TREEN-fell 1 ash, Little Bec, Monxton Road-no objections
22/01833/LBWN-replacement windows and doors, Kingsley Cottage, Sarsons Lane-consent
22/02283/TREEN-tree work Robins-no objections
22/02214/AGNN-prior approval for reservoir, Pig Field, Fox Farm- prior approval required
22/02033/FULLN- erect walls including access and windows, Annex to grain store, Haydown Farm-permission

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

22/01877/FULLN-Erect double garage, garden store etc-White Cottage, The Green- no objections
22/01882/VARN- variation to habitat management plan, Solar Array, Lains Farm-no objections
22/01961/FULLN-single storey extension, 2 Sarsons Barn- no objections
22/02033/FULLN- erect walls including windows and access, Annex to grain store, Haydown Farm- no objections
22/02214/AGGN- application for prior approval re reservoir-Pig Field Fox Farm- no comments
22/02376/FULLN-construction dormer windows with internal works, Sheppard Almhouses-no objections
22/02522/TREEN-tree works-1 Lindisfarne- no objections

A query has arisen as to whether the resident at No 1 Mount Pleasant needs planning permission for the work in the front garden to build a driveway to allow access to the car park and road. A report has been lodged with TVBC.

A resident of The Eights (off Sarson Lane) has asked about improving the condition of the footpath to the adjacent car park, which has a steep slope and is slippery in some conditions. The relevant path is owned by an Investment Company and is not the responsibility of Hants CC. The agents to the investment company have agreed to carry out repairs.

16 Correspondence

Cllr Harris reported he had received a request to erect a marquee on the Village Green on 28th & 29th May 2023 to serve teas on National Gardens Open Day. All agreed.

17 New Items for next agenda

None at present.

19 Community News

A builder has been asked to proceed with the work on the planned new village hall, with the aim of starting demolition in late January 2023.

Houses in Amport on the Abbots Ann exchange are having their Fibre to the Premises installed at present. The news for properties on the Weyhill exchange is not as good. There is a government procurement programme under way for a voucher scheme for all remaining parts of Hampshire, and this has been delayed until after April 2023.

Cllr Harris said there seemed to be lots of litter in the parish. Particular problem areas noted were Sarsons Lane, Wiremead Lane, Bush Farm Lane & Amesbury Road. Any parishioners able are asked to pick up litter when they can.

Finally, a parishioner has requested hedges be cut back where they encroach on footpaths. All parishioners are asked to cut back hedges where they cause obstruction.

20 Date of next meeting

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

