

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

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr O Vincent, Cllr P Waller & Cllr Mrs D Stephenson.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk

TVBC Mrs M Flood

3 Members of the Public

**1 Apologies:**

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr P Harvey & Cllr S Baker.

**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**

The members of the public present were interested in the Neighbourhood Development Plan (see specific report)

**4 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> March were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Waller seconded Cllr Montagu. All in favour.

**5 Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris confirmed the green, in line with the entire catchment, has a high level of groundwater. However, Ray Welch has managed to cut the grass this week and will cut again before the Coronation weekend.

A request has been received from Amport Touch Rugby club to hold a tournament with a couple of other villages on the green on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> May from noon to 3 pm. It was confirmed the organisers will need to notify the residents around the green that the event will take place, and car parking issues must be addressed. After a short discussion the request was agreed by all present.

The Diamond Jubilee Plaque has been positioned by the tree opposite The Hawk.

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey was not present but had confirmed by email that he has recently checked all the play equipment and there are no issues.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Montagu had nothing to report.

**Communications & School Liaison** – Cllr Baker was not present but had sent a report highlighting alternative fuel payments. Some Amport residents did not automatically get the alternative fuel payment in February which is provided for homes that do not have mains gas. Applications can be made at [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk) website by searching for alternative fuel payments. Details have been highlighted on the Parish Council website and village Facebook.

She also highlighted work by the school to try to secure a defibrillator based at the school and that the school PTA are helping to run the Coronation quiz on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May at Amport Village Green.

Finally, she confirmed the issue of people walking in the middle of the road with children creating danger for both the pedestrians and vehicles had been highlighted to all school parents via the school communication platform.

**Projects-** See paragraph 8

**Neighbourhood Plan-** Cllr Stephenson explained that a recent leaflet drop to all households in the Parish regarding the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan had meant several members of the parish had raised

questions particularly with the possibility of building on the plots of land highlighted. For the benefit of the members of public present there was an explanation of how the parcels of land designated have been put forward by land owners. The rules about planning were explained along with government targets regarding housing. The Parish Council has no way of influencing planning at present however a made neighbourhood plan can have an influence because it is a legally binding document. The importance of engaging with the community was explained and request for help were made. The members of public present expressed an interest in joining the steering committee. She asked them all to complete the survey highlighted in the leaflet and encourage all those in the parish to do the same. She reported that 87 responses had been received so far. Cllr Flood said the latest data from the most recent census will be available soon which will provide numbers of residents in the parish.

**Highways** – Cllr Vincent and Cllr Hawkings Byass have been working on a report regarding possible sites for speed awareness cameras. A draft report will be circulated to councillors soon. Problems with pot holes continue and the importance of reporting these to HCC was highlighted.

**Young Persons Matters-** Cllr Vincent had nothing to report.

**Resilience Plan-**Cllr Waller reported a villager had expressed an interest in helping draw up a resilience plan. She is now reviewing the current plan and will meet with Cllrs Baker and Waller in May to discuss. The Parish has been given the opportunity to acquire a second-hand mobile generator. Cllr Oliver will establish the cost of servicing the generator to bring this to working order. If this is cost effective it will be necessary to find somewhere to store the machine.

#### **6 Southern Water over pumping & water quality**

Cllr Harris reported Groundwater levels in the catchment remain high and are rising. Tankers remain at Mullens Pond, which is by far the most concerning issue in the catchment. A closed trial of UV filtration will begin soon at Mullens Pond and the current advice is that there is no risk of overpumping at present. Due to the high groundwater levels, the tubogel lining work in the north of the catchment (Fyfield) remains on hold at the present time. The relining of the main sewers in Thruxton is still scheduled to begin in May, with other sewers in the catchment also in line for relining later.

#### **7 Annual Parish Meeting**

Cllr Harris confirmed the annual parish meeting will take place on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30 pm start. The process of completing the Neighbourhood Plan will be highlighted and it is hoped many parishioners will attend and engage with this. The event will be advertised via social media.

#### **8 Feed back on projects**

Neither Cllr Hawkings-Byass or Cllr Harvey were present.

#### **9 Amport House, revised planning application**

Cllr Harris reported Another Place have advised that there have been further delays to their planning application. The TVBC Planning Officer requires a further bat survey in one area to be carried out before the application comes before the Northern Area Planning Committee. This means that the Committee hearing is now likely not to be before **8<sup>th</sup> June**. Another Place thinks the planning process is reaching its end, and it has no option but to see the application through. If planning permission is granted in June, no construction work will begin until the end of this year, at the earliest.

#### **10 Update on superfast broadband.**

Cllr Harris confirmed the latest news from HCC is that the broadband procurement for Hampshire is currently underway and BDUK (the government agency responsible) expects to award a contract (or make an announcement) in July this year. Once the contract has been awarded, HCC will provide a further update. Hants CC have confirmed that both Amport Fields and Fox are included in the current BDUK procurement scheme with a July announcement expected.

#### **11 Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

Cllr Harris reported that progress to demolish the old hall and rebuild was being made. Some materials from the demolition are available to villagers but must be collected. Roof tiles and wooden trusses have been made available so far. Full details of anything new will be highlighted on social media.

The Village Hall trustees are seeking local people to join the build project team or the village hall committee. Interested parties should contact the clerk by email at [clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk) or by telephone on 01264 773976.

## 12 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

Quotes for insurance for the 2023/24 year had been requested from Zurich Insurance, BHIB and Gallaghers. So far only one quote had been received but was a much-reduced price on the previous year's policy. Further details will be shared before renewal on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.

There will not be a contested Parish Council election in Amport on 4 May 2023. Eight of the ten available seats are filled with those nominated, consequently after 4 May, two individuals can be co-opted as Councillors.

The company who supplies the water to the Village Green have confirmed an increase in costs from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.

Accounts for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March were discussed. Cllr Coke will review these alongside the audit return and a further discussion will take place at the May meeting.

## 14 Finance

The bank balance as 31/03/2023 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £5309.00

Lloyds deposit £15983.40

## Payments

**Resolved:** that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£437.80
HMRC	£109.40
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
HCC Street lights	£128.30
Ray Welch	£178.00
Brandon Hire	£425.00

## Retrospective

Business Stream £17.13

Bluestone Planning £7260.00

## 15 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC Maureen Flood confirmed TVBC have approved the new recycling regime which will now progress to the next stage of purchasing the necessary equipment. The scheme is likely to be introduced in 2024. TVBC have recently published a report on enforcement. She will provide further details to the Clerk for circulation.

## 16 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted: None

**Resolved:** that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed:  
23/00608/FULLN-erection of triple garage with lost store, Cloud House, Cholderton Road- no objection  
23/00678/FULLN-extension to garage for home office, Cherry Tree House, 4A Amesbury Road-no objection  
23/00710/FULLN-replace section of cob wall-The Mill House, Monxton Road-no objection  
23/00851/VARN- variation of habitat management-solar array, Lains Farm-no objection  
23/00886/VARN- vary conditions to increase size of window, Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane-no objection

## 17 Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted a recent brochure for street furniture

**18 New Items for next agenda**

None at present

**19 Community News**

The Coronation quiz will be held at Amport Village Green on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023

**20 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2023, 7.30pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.