

**Minutes of the Amport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th June 2022,
7.30pm at
East Cholderton Scout Hall.**

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

Also present

Mr T Hartigan (non-voting member)
Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
HCC Chris Donnelly
TVBC Mrs M Flood
Caroline Unwin -Village correspondent
1 Member of the Public

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC D Coole, Cllr S Coke & Cllr P Waller.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Public Participation

Robert Talbot-Rice, a village resident attended to provide details of his research into the fitting of fibre cabling from the Weyhill exchange which could impact on several households in Amport Parish. The current quote for the work to be carried out was huge and less affordable than the first quote. A previous grant scheme has been suspended while a new tendering process to carry out this work is currently in progress. The outcome will affect the proposals for Amport so in the circumstances it was suggested the project is revisited later in the year. Cllr Harris will ask HCC Donnelly if he can establish any further facts.

4 Review and agree standing orders, financial regulations & code of conduct

All documents had been circulated to Councillors prior to the meeting. These were all based on NALC model documents and the Clerk confirmed no amendments had been published. All documents were re adopted for 2022-23.

5 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 16th May were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Hawkings-Byass seconded Cllr Harvey. All in favour.

6 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke was absent but had raised an issue as to whether a social media policy was required. It was agreed Cllr Baker & Cllr Coke will produce a policy for circulation to all to consider.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported a broken tree branch near play equipment will be removed.

Play Area -Cllr Richardson said the new play equipment is set to be installed at the end of July, at the same time the old broken equipment will be removed. Tim Hartigan proposed a working party try to make safe and cordon off any dangerous equipment in time for the fete. Several volunteers agreed to help.

Footpaths- Tim Hartigan reported that the contractor will cut the footpaths in the parish shortly. He has indicated the need for a price increase of £60. Cllr Baker proposed this was accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed.

Communications & School Liaison – Cllr Baker confirmed a request for volunteers to help with the school sports day had been circulated among Councillors.

Projects- Cllr Hawkings-Byass and Cllr Harvey reported on the project to promote the Parish Council at the Village Fete on 9th July. Cllr Hawkings-Byass confirmed a gazebo will be erected and a banner and posters will be used to publicise. The plan is to ask parishioners who stop at the stall to complete a questionnaire

asking them for details of anything they would like to see in the village, any possible problems, if they would like to volunteer and to provide details to produce a database which the Parish Council can use to circulate news and events. A prize draw will be linked to submitted questionnaires. All Parish Councillors will attend in time slots to answer questions. Cllr Harvey will produce posters and a questionnaire. A budget of up to £100.00 for printing was agreed.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson reported an issue had arisen in that the recommended consultant to help create a plan had suddenly withdrawn their services. She explained that she was trying to find another consultant and has been given some information by TVBC Cllr Flood which she will review.

Highways – Cllr Vincent said he had drawn up a plan proposing some traffic awareness signs which he will circulate for discussion at the next meeting.

Young Persons Matters- Cllr Vincent had nothing to report.

Resilience Plan-Cllr Baker reported she had met with Cllr Waller and has secured help from TVBC with creating a plan for Amport. They hope to circulate a draft plan before the next Parish Council meeting.

7 Southern Water over pumping & water quality

Cllr Harris reported that Southern Water removed the tankers in the village at the end of May and confirmed water levels are currently low, with the flow in the millstream drying up.

He confirmed Southern Water are proceeding with a programme to line the private sewers in the catchment at their expense over the next few months, beginning with the north end of the Pillhill Brook (Kimpton, Fyfield, Thruxton and East Cholderton). This will need the consent of property-owners. Letters have been delivered to each household in these villages explaining the work to be carried out and inviting residents to an open forum on 2 /3 July in Thruxton Village Hall. An article has been submitted to the Amport Parish Magazine to inform all residents. The work is all part of the plan to reduce the problem of groundwater infiltration at the north end of the catchment, in due course the programme will be extended into Amport and downstream. Southern Water intends to have a stall at Amport Fete on 9 July so it can engage further with residents. He further confirmed repair work will soon be carried out by Southern Water to repair the verge by the (misnamed) “Furzedown Water Pumping Station” at the foot of Wiremead Lane. Southern Water recognises that its repair work may be wrecked when tankering is next needed at this location and will need to reinstate again.

Mullenspond Pumping Station has been retrofitted with a new and more powerful pump and the site has been connected to the main power grid, doing away with the need to transport a bulky generator into the area. Spare parts are also being stored locally to reduce pump downtimes. A wooden fence is also going to be erected around the site to tidy up the area & lay-by.

8 Solar Farm Plans

Cllr Montagu said no decision had been reached on the planning application so no further progress has been made at present.

9 Avenue of Trees

Cllr Harris reported the avenue of trees on Haydown Farm is flourishing. One tree was snapped in strong easterly winds recently and a replacement tree will be planted in October. The public appeal for funding remains open – see www.haydown-link.co.uk

10 Feedback from Jubilee event.

Cllr Richardson reported on a very successful Jubilee event on Sunday 5th June which had been attended by some 300 + residents. Many volunteers had helped and she thanked all of them for the time they had given. The Clerk had assisted with finances for the occasion and accounts showed a small shortfall in funding. Monxton Parish Council had not made a donation toward the costs of the event and it was agreed a grant request of £200 would be made. The Clerk will arrange this. Cllr Richardson said she would like to make a financial donation to the local Scout Group for all the work they carried out erecting and dismantling the large marquee. This will be considered at the next meeting.

11 Clerks report

The Clerk confirmed Cllr Waller has been booked to attend a New Councillor training session on 19th July. Cllr Harvey would also like to attend. Cllr Montagu proposed the council meet the costs of the training at approx. £85 each, seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed.

Insurance for the year to 31/05/2023 has been purchased. A change of provider means that three comparisons were not automatically provided. The Clerk will therefore obtain this next spring in readiness for the following year to ensure best value is obtained.

The audit for the year ended 31/03/2022 has been carried out and a report received from the auditor. Various procedural matters have been highlighted. The report will be shared with Cllr Coke and he and the Clerk will provide recommendations at the July meeting.

13 Finance

The bank balance as 31/05/2022 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £11971.62

Lloyds deposit £12650.10

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£374.53
HMRC	£93.63
H Bourner exp.	£18.10
Do the Numbers Ltd	£240.00
Gallaghers Insurance	£1040.67
Water rates	£16.68

Retrospective

Kinex (electricity DD)	£13.08
Ace Liftaway	£162.00
Mrs S Richardson	£105.27
Ray Welch	£297.00
Stuart Morris (Jubilee)	£199.74

It was also agreed to make a donation of £16.00 to the Sea Scouts for hall hire for PFF meeting. Amport Parish Council will meet this cost on this occasion.

14 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly-highlighted a consultation regarding the Hampshire Transport Plan which includes bus services and accessibility to transport.

He confirmed he is responsible for a children & young people portfolio and is currently considering the best ways to provide support in the area including support to young offenders and support for mental health in young people. He is keen to hear about any issues which affect young people in the area and how services might be accessed in rural areas. He is also aware that issues that affect youngsters who live in rural areas will differ from those who live in towns and asks that anyone with details contact him. Two areas highlighted in the meeting were slow internet speeds and poor mobile coverage. Cllr Baker will ask the school if they have any areas they wish to highlight.

TVBC M Flood reported the new waste strategy will be discussed and hopefully approved soon. Full details are to be promoted at the TVATPC meeting on 6th July and she recommended at least one Parish councillor attend.

She also confirmed a new adventure 18-hole golf course is now open at Charlton Lakes Leisure Park and that every second Sunday there will be a new market in Andover town centre.

TVBC D Coole had sent apologies.

15 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

21/03726/CLPN- lawful development certificate change of use-Annex to grain store, Haydown Farm-certificate issued

22/01052/TPON-fell sycamore, Stable Barn, Fox Farm- consent

22/00692/FULLN-erection of two carriage house, Downfield, Wiremead Lane-permission

Resolved: that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed:
22/01456/FULLN-retile roof, change windows and fit roof lights-Strangford, Monxton Road- no objections
22/01475/TREEN- fell 2 x Askia trees, Haydown Lodge, East Cholderton – no objections

Update on Aport House

Tim Hartigan reported that revised reports have been submitted to TVBC by Another Place in the last few days. All Councillors were asked to review these. Another Place have proposed a meeting with the Parish Council soon.

16 Correspondence- none other than that already discussed.

17 Any other business – Cllr Montagu has invited the TVBC footpaths officer to the July meeting

18 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 18th July 2022, 7.30pm at 2nd Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.