

**Minutes of the Ampport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 12th June 2023, 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 Mrs D Stephenson & Cllr Mrs C Hemmings.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk  
HCC Chris Donnelly  
TVBC Mrs M Flood  
0 Members of the Public

### **1 Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC S Hassleman, Cllr Mrs S Baker & 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 Co-option new Councillor**

Clare Hemmings who attended the Parish Council meeting in May has expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council. She lives in Weyhill, an area under-represented on the Parish Council and has become involved with the Neighbourhood Development Plan. Her background is as a veterinary nurse, but she has worked for some time for Royal Canin dog food makers. She is well-respected in her local area, and willing to be involved. Cllr Montagu proposed she be co-opted to the council. This was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed. Cllr Hemmings signed the necessary declaration of acceptance form and joined the meeting.

### **4 Public Participation**

There were no members of the public present.

### **5 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meetings held on 15<sup>th</sup> May were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All in favour.

### **6 Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**Cllr Coke said that the findings from the audit report would be discussed later in the agenda. He said that now that the formal minutes of the May meeting were agreed policies on the website should be updated. The Clerk will action this.

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported the green continues to look attractive. The green and fen remain popular, particularly with younger families. The grass growing on the road-verge has been cut back to improve visibility on the road.

Recent events on the Green have been the National Gardens Scheme weekend over the late May bank holiday, the Touch Rugby tournament, and the School Sports Day.

Finally, he reported a parishioner has offered six oak trees to the parish some of which may be planted on the Village Green, advice from a tree expert will be sought.

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey was not present.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported that some of the parish footpaths are being cleared by a contractor. She is also speaking to landowners regarding footpaths that are their responsibility. A sign at Haydown Farm on Wiremead Lane saying Private when there is a public footpath present was discussed. The Clerk was asked to write to the householder asking them to change the sign so it reflected that there was no vehicular access. The gate from the lane to the field on land belonging to the same householder was in need of repair. The Clerk will report this to HCC Countryside Access.

**Communications & School Liaison** – Cllr Baker had sent her apologies.

**Projects-** See paragraph 9

**Neighbourhood Plan-** Cllr Stephenson confirmed the survey has now closed. A good response has been received and the results will now be analysed. Several parishioners have also agreed to help with the plan as it moves forward. A public meeting is planned for later in the year.

**Highways –** Cllr Hawkings Byass had circulated a report regarding possible sites for speed awareness cameras which was discussed and approved by all councillors. It was agreed the clerk would share the report with Hampshire County Council to establish which sites could be used.

Cllr Hemmings has identified an area in Weyhill where the road has sunk that needs to be reported. She agreed to provide details and photographs to the Clerk who will report this to Hampshire Highways.

Cllr Donnelly present confirmed he is continuing to push for potholes to be repaired, in particular holes on Wiremead Lane which have been reported but do not feature on the HCC website.

Finally, a parishioner is trying to obtain a Freedom of Information report from National Highways in respect of incidents at the junction of the A303 and Sarson Lane, but meeting much resistance. It was agreed the local MP should be contacted if the information is not provided soon.

**Young Persons Matters-** Vacant.

**Resilience Plan-**Cllr Harris reported that Test Valley Garden Machinery have serviced the generator which has been offered to the Parish. The invoice for this is £90 plus VAT (£108 gross). He proposed this be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All Approved. The Clerk will reimburse Oliver Vincent who has paid this invoice.

After some discussion it was agreed the generator would be stored at Amport Trout Fisheries. The Clerk will ensure this new purchase is entered on the asset register.

A recent incident in Kimpton was reported in the press when a resilience plan was successfully used. Cllr Harris will try to obtain details to inform the Amport Plan.

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

Cllr Harris reported groundwater levels in the catchment have recently begun to fall but not dramatically. Water levels in the Pillhill Brook itself remain high with slow flow, but some of the level is attributed to the amount of weed in the brook, which is now being cut back. Tankers remain at Mullens Pond, and at Stanbury Road.

Tubogel lining work on private sewers recommenced in the north of the catchment (Fyfield) on 30 May. Southern Water hope that as work progresses groundwater levels will fall enabling them to move onto Thruxton. They still hope to complete the sealing of all sewers in the north of the catchment this year, but this will be dependent on groundwater levels, availability of contractors and HCC's traffic management approvals.

Southern Water are studying using a wetland project in the catchment, to act as a filter for any over pumping required in the future which will remove the need for tankers, subject to regulatory approval. The example being considered is Langford Lakes in Wiltshire, which has regulatory approval for use of the technology.

## **8 Future of community website**

Cllr Harris confirmed he and Cllr Coke had met with 3 individuals, one of whom wishes to give up his role running a community website and a second wishes to step back from the role and the gap be filled by the community. The aim was to try and find a solution where the data can be retained and one site be used going forward, possibly by the four communities who receive the Parish News. If this was to succeed volunteers would be required to run the site. Cllr Harris will continue to speak to other communities and revisit this item at the next meeting.

## **9 Feed back on projects**

Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported a parishioner has approached the Parish Council with regard to opening a village shop. Some research is being carried out but the only assistance the Parish Council can give is to pass on information.

Cllr Baker is researching the possibility of adult gym equipment on the village green which will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Cllr Harris confirmed the telephone box on the Village Green has now been painted.

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

Cllrs Harris and Montagu confirmed they had prepared and submitted a report amplifying previous comments on the signage to and from Amport House, and adding points about Furzedown Lane. This report is now on the planning portal. Another Place has confirmed the requested bat survey of a couple of garages has been submitted to TVBC and verbally confirm that bats are not an issue.

The earliest possible date for this application to come before The Northern Area Planning Committee is now 29<sup>th</sup> June.

### **11 Power on village green**

Cllr Harris reported that on the Open Gardens weekend there was difficulty with the electricity power to the box on the green. As no power was reaching the box an engineer was called from SSE. An underground fault was discovered and SSE dug up the track by the green to enable repairs to the power and phone box to be carried out. A new smart meter for the power box is due to be installed by SSE on 20<sup>th</sup> June.

### **12 Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

Cllr Harris reported that following further work on the existing floorbase of the hall, which was intended to be re-used in the new hall, the recommendation has been made by the architect and structural engineer that a new approach is required to the foundations and that the north and west walls should be demolished. Consequences of this change are that the floor of the building can be lowered to facilitate disabled access, and that the footprint of the building can be moved slightly to enable unrestricted fire escape access down the side of the hall. The modified design has been completed, and the builders have been asked to advise on the likely cost implications. These costs are awaited. As a result of the delay, the hall construction is now unlikely to be complete until March or April 2024.

### **13 Clerks report**

The Clerk reported as follows-

A request to Hampshire County Council to site a notice board and dog waste bin on verges belonging to them had been met with a request to explore other possibilities first. Cllr Hemmings said she had surveyed those living in the area at least 80% wanted a notice board on the verge near the post box. There was no other land available. The same survey had established the desire for a dog waste bin near the entrance to the field next to Michaelmas Drove. The Clerk explained if highways land is the best option Amport Parish Council will have to gain a licence from HCC and they will require full details of what will be fitted, where and who will maintain these. Details of a dog waste bin package from TVBC were discussed. It was agreed the Clerk should contact HCC again and explain what was required and establish how the necessary licence can be obtained.

Insurance for 2023-24 has been purchased from Zurich Insurance. They offered the best value and a three-year undertaking was purchased.

The 2022-23 internal audit has been completed.

Cllr Coke said he had reviewed the audit report and that the message was that the Parish Council needed to be certain to follow procedure when both agreeing a purchase and how to record this and all decisions made. With this in mind the following decisions were made

The auditor had requested the June 2023 minutes reflect the agreement of the full return for 2021/22 as follows, *The Audit return was reviewed. Section 1 was reviewed and agreed followed by section 2 which was also reviewed and agreed, both were signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Stephenson. All agreed.*

As well as the same agreement for 2022/23- *The Audit return was reviewed. Section 1 was reviewed and agreed followed by section 2 which was also reviewed and agreed, both were signed by the Chairman. This was proposed by Cllr Harris and seconded by Cllr Stephenson. All agreed.*

She had also requested an updated financial risk assessment was signed and posted to the web site. Cllr Coke proposed this be signed and this was seconded by Cllr Hawkings-Byass. Cllr Harris signed the form and The Clerk will ensure this is uploaded to the website.

Finally, she had identified that the Parish Council had not recorded agreement to the engagement of the Neighbourhood Plan consultant. The groups terms of reference also needed to be agreed and this should be correctly recorded in the minutes. Cllr Stephenson will ensure the TOR are circulated for agreement at the next meeting. She will also ensure all copies of minutes of the NP steering group are forwarded to The Clerk who will post these to the website.

The lock on the new notice board on Amesbury Road has broken. A replacement lock has been supplied by the company. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will ask her husband to fit this.

Finally, a request has been received to repair the Bob Horne memorial seat. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will ask a contractor to look at whether a repair is possible.

#### **14 Finance**

To note the bank balances as at 31/05/2023

Lloyds current £6547.92

Lloyds savings £13715.85

#### **Payments**

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

H Bourner salary	£437.80
HMRC	£109.40
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
Playsafety Ltd	£111.00
Do the Numbers Ltd	£250.00
Ray Welch	£178.00

#### **15 Borough & County Councillor Reports.**

HCC Chris Donnelly- provided a full report which can be seen at appendix 1

TVBC Maureen Flood- reported as follows

Test Valley Borough Council Full Council met 24<sup>th</sup> May 2023. The following were appointed Councillor Phil Lashbrook (Bellinger ward) elected as Mayor of Test Valley.

Councillor Gordon Bailey (Blackwater ward) elected as Deputy Mayor.

The Leader of the Council for the next four years - Councillor Phil North (Bourne Valley)

In Anna Ward

Councillor Maureen Flood (Anna ward) – appointed Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources  
Councillor Susanne Hasselmann (Anna ward) appointed Vice Chairman of the Audit Committee, and member of the Oversight & Scrutiny Committee

She Also confirmed 99.8% of voters in Test Valley brought ID to the polling station for local elections.

Whilst it is disappointing that any elector was turned away, the Returning Officer had to comply with the new legislation introduced for polls from 4 May 2023. These figures demonstrate that the vast majority of electors who came to TVBC's polling stations were aware of the new ID requirements and were able to cast their vote.

#### **16 Planning**

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

23/00608/FULLN-erection of triple garage with loft store, Cloud House, Cholderton Road- permission

23/00678/FULLN-extension to garage for home office, Cherry Tree House, 4A Amesbury Road-permission

23/00851/VARN- variation of habitat management-solar array, Lains Farm-disposed of

23/00886/VARN- vary conditions to increase size of window, Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane- withdrawn

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

23/01242/FULLN- single storey rear extension-Georgia Cottage, Georgia Lane – no objections

23/01324/FULLN-two storey side extension-Kimber, Sarsons Lane -no objections

2023/01391/TREES-fell 2 x ash trees-2 Haydown Cottages, Wiremead Lane- no objections

### **17 Correspondence**

The Clerk highlighted a recent request for funding from Victim Support. She pointed out that the terms of S137 did not allow donation of this type.

### **18 New Items for next agenda**

None at present

### **19 Community News**

### **20 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 7.30pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.

### **Appendix 1**

## **HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL UPDATES**

**June 2023**

**Andover West**

**Cllr Chris Donnelly**



Please find below an outline of current programmes of work and public information from Hampshire County Council. I hope that this is useful.

If you have any further questions, then please don't hesitate to contact me at [cllc.donnelly@hants.gov.uk](mailto:cllc.donnelly@hants.gov.uk)

Kind regards

Chris

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### **Cost of living support**

Hampshire County Council has announced plans for how £14.2million of additional funding will be used to help local households struggling with the cost of food and energy prices. The funding is an extension of Government's Household Support Fund (HSF) until the end of March 2024. They will continue to work closely with other local organisations including district and borough councils, education settings, charities and neighbourhood groups to ensure that eligible households receive support with food, energy and water bills and assistance with essential household items. This includes up to £200,000 of funding to provide locally-based food and energy advice services, alongside practical help with costs.

The funding allocation includes:

- £800,000 to support the community pantry network and £361,000 for organisations supporting unpaid carers
- £800,000 in community grants for locally based organisations to support local residents

- £4,442,870 to district and borough councils to provide food vouchers and support with exceptional housing costs
- £2,845,622 to schools and other educational establishments to offer support at their own discretion to families most in need
- £460,000 in direct fuel support to vulnerable adults
- £715,000 in food vouchers to foster carers and connected carers

Details of how to seek support can be found at the connect4communities website <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/connectforcommunities>

### Greening campaigns

More communities across Hampshire can be empowered to take positive action on climate change over the next three years, thanks to almost £0.5million of National Lottery funding awarded to the Greening Campaign, with support from Hampshire County Council. This could include improving the energy efficiency of people’s homes, reducing CO2, reducing waste, reusing and repairing, being more sustainable through locally grown produce, and providing green spaces for wildlife to thrive.

The Greening Campaign is a structured process, guiding communities to act on climate change and biodiversity locally. Guidance, based on experience gained from working with over 200 other groups across the UK, provides a blueprint for success for each step of the way, starting with motivating people in the community to get involved, through to making it fun and rewarding.

Two events are being held for those wanting to know more - on 12th and 15th June. Information or booking at <https://greening-campaign.org/events/>

### Resurfacing works

Artists Way and Redon Way in Andover have now had permanent patching and resurfacing work completed.

### Digging for Victory!

Thank you to Cllr Jim Neal (Penton Grafton & TVBC) for teaming up to dig out blocked drains in Weyhill before the rain comes. This has now removed a notorious flood.



### Fostering campaign

A new campaign has been launched by Hampshire County Council to encourage residents to consider fostering an unaccompanied asylum-seeking child, whose numbers are increasing locally and nationally. Fostering one of these children can be extremely rewarding – by being a positive and enabling presence to support them to access education, stability in everyday life and to become settled into a new culture and country. More information can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/uasc>.

As an alternative to fostering, residents can join the Council’s Innovation Volunteers service, which supports local children, young people and families overcome challenges - details can be found at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/childrenandfamilies/innovationvolunteers>

### **New support for buses**

Operators of nine bus routes have secured funding totalling £3.5m from Hampshire County Council, protecting their services for the next four years. Buses locally are under pressure with bus passenger numbers locally and nationally still below pre-pandemic levels. This is making it more challenging for the operators to deliver viable services, especially when coupled with increased operating costs and driver shortages. However, the Government has extended the £2 bus fare cap to the end of October 2023, rising to just £2.50 until November 2024, so this is very much an affordable way to travel when services are available.

### **Rural verge cutting**

Hampshire Highways have now begun their seasonal grass cutting programme. This can be an emotive subject to many, especially in the nesting season. The department work closely with the conservation charity, Plantlife UK, to ensure that their work promotes biodiversity; in particular, they try to avoid cutting grass at ecologically important times, and particularly at sensitive sites. For safety reasons however, there are some locations where roadside grass still needs to be mown in order to maintain adequate visibility and sight lines, for example on the approaches to roundabouts or at junctions. More information can be found at the following link on our website; <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/grasscutting>

### **Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan consultation**

The consultation on the update to the Hampshire Minerals and Waste Plan closed at the end of January this year. The summary report on the responses can be seen at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/strategic-planning/hampshire-minerals-waste-plan/minerals-waste-plan-partial-update-consultation>. These responses are being considered and the next stage is for the Minerals and Waste Authority to publish a response.

### **Sir Harold Hillier Gardens Christmas Lights**

Good news if you enjoyed the light-up trail at Sir Harold Hillier Gardens last December. The experience is returning this year between November 30th and December 31st.

Tickets are available here: <https://www.lightuptrails.com/.../light-up-hillier-gardens>

There is an offer of 10% off for the first 1,000 tickets sold. Details on the poster below. Hard to think of cold mid-winter nights and Christmas just now, but worth booking, they were fantastic last year.

### **Effect of voter ID in Test Valley**

The big change with this year's local elections was of course the introduction of the requirement to show photo ID to vote.

On election day I visited our local polling stations and only found one instance of someone forgetting their ID, who subsequently returned and successfully voted.

The polling clerks reported no problems with the new system, everyone had been prepared and had brought photo ID or voter authority certificates with them.

This anecdotal response seems to be borne out by the official figures from election day:  
"Data shows most electors voting in the borough met newly introduced voter ID requirements.

Figures show that across Test Valley Borough Council, 21,789 electors voted in person at our 95 polling stations on 4 May 2023.

By the end of polling day, 52 electors who had tried to vote in a polling station had not been given a ballot paper because they did not meet the new voter ID requirements (0.2%). This equates to 0.1% of the entire turnout for the elections which was 33,916 votes cast, including postal votes.

The figures also show while 127 electors were initially turned away, 75 returned with acceptable ID and were able to vote.

The Electoral Commission is collecting data from all local authorities across England who held elections on 4 May. It will publish an initial assessment of the voter ID requirement in June and a full evaluation of the local elections in autumn."

Whilst it is disappointing that any elector was turned away, the Returning Officer had to comply with the new legislation introduced for polls from 4 May 2023. These figures demonstrate that the vast majority of electors who came to our polling stations were aware of the new ID requirements and were able to cast their vote.

### **Community Collective Energy Fixed Deal**

Hampshire County Council have worked with a green energy supplier to offer a collective energy fixed deal switch.

HCC have teamed up with iChoose to offer Hampshire residents the chance to be part of a collective energy fixed deal switch.

Register today for free, without obligation, and you could benefit from the power of group buying to lower your energy bills, gain the certainty of a fixed deal, and help reduce #ClimateChange

Once residents receive their personal quotation – from 4 July – they can decide if it's right for them.

Find out more <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../wha.../projects/energyswitching>

### **Support for Nursery Education for 2 year olds**

Local children could receive funded early years education in an approved nursery, pre-school or with a childminder the term after they turn 2 years old.

Families may be eligible if they have a low income or are unemployed, or if their child:

- Has been in care and/or adopted;
- Has a current statement of SEN or an Education, Health and Care Plan
- Receives Disability Living Allowance (DLA).



For more information or to check eligibility, apply online at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../freechildcare/2yearoldoffer> or speak to your childcare provider.

### **Access Hampshire's Parish Registers online for free**

Discover your Hampshire roots with millions of historical records now available online through our partnership with Ancestry!

From prominent figures like Florence Nightingale and Jane Austen to quirky insights into history, these records offer a fascinating look into the past. Hampshire residents can access Ancestry® for free through public libraries and Winchester's Record Office.

Read more at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/.../20230526HistoricRecordsAncestry>

### **Reporting Highway Problems**

Links to report road issues are here:

Missing or damaged signs:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/brokensigns>

Potholes: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/potholes>

Tree/hedge problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/treehedge>

Flooding/drainage issues: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/flooding>

Pavement problems: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/roadmaintenance/roadproblems/paving>

Problems with rights of way:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/rightsofway/reportaproblem>

**When reporting an issue, you'll be sent an email confirming a reference number for the report. If you would like me to follow this up for you then do please forward that message to me and I will chase for you.**