

**Minutes of the Annual Amport Parish Council Meeting and AGM held on Monday 11th May 2025,  
7.30pm at  
Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr P Waller, Cllr H Dix, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson & Cllr P Harvey.

Also present

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

**Apologies**

1) Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Susanne Hasselmann & Cllr S Baker.

**Election of Chairman**

2) Cllr Hawkings Byass nominated Cllr Harris to be Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr Dix. All Agreed. Cllr Harris signed an acceptance of office form.

**Election of Vice Chairman**

3) Cllr Harris nominated Cllr Coke to be Vice Chairman for the forthcoming year. This was seconded by Cllr Dix. All Agreed. Cllr Coke signed an acceptance of office form.

**Annual Chairmans Report**

4) See report at appendix 1.

**Public Participation**

5) One member of the public present was there to observe, the other to discuss the project to upgrade the parking area at the Village Green.

**Review and agree Standing orders, financial regulations & Code of Conduct**

6) These were all based on NALC model documents and the Clerk confirmed there had been no amendments in the past twelve months. All documents can be viewed on the Parish Council website. Cllr Coke proposed all documents were re adopted for 2026-27. This was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed.

**7) Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda. All Councillors confirmed that no changes to Register of Interest forms were required.

**8) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising**

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

**9) Specific reports**

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

**Devolution-** Cllr Harris -see report at appendix 1

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported the goalposts on the green still need to be moved and the RoSPA inspection of the play equipment is due shortly.

A couple of weeks ago, part of a substantial tree in the fen collapsed into the garden of Bridge Cottage. Work has begun to clear this.

A new gate will be fitted to the fen shortly.

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey confirmed that he had discovered a pin protruding where a plastic disc had come loose. He has removed the pin and checked all others to make sure there were no other dangerous protrusions. He also suggested some bolts may need to be tightened as a couple of items were a little unstable. The ROSPA inspection, due shortly, will highlight any areas where repairs are required.

**Weyhill-** Cllr Hemmings was not present.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported the footpaths have all been cut recently.

**Communications** – Cllr Hawkings-Byass will be drafting the next newsletter soon for distribution at the end of the month.

The Parish Council intend to have a stall at the village fete on 4<sup>th</sup> July. The Clerk has asked the insurance company if the current policy will cover the event.

**Projects-** Cllr Harvey reported on research to refurbish the parking area at the Village Green.

He said the current poles that were not rotten could be re positioned and new ones used to fill gaps where required. The poles can be repositioned to increase the size of the parking area although the hard standing area would need to be increased. If this option was chosen it would still be possible to fit a post and rail fence behind the poles a later date.

Another option was to fit 4ft high picket fence and re site some telegraph poles This would be a far more expensive project and councillors expressed concerns that a whole fence might see children needing to use the road more frequently and this will add to safety issues

After a lengthy discussion the contractor was asked to provide a quote to use the posts available, patching with new where required but re siting these to expand the parking area. The quote should also include the new hardstanding required.

**Neighbourhood Plan**– Cllr Stephenson reported the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan was held on 7<sup>th</sup> May. Approximately 50% of those eligible voted, 453 votes were in support of the NP; 49 against. The plan is therefore made and becomes final after a six-week period when a legal challenge is possible. Thanks were expressed to Cllr Stephenson and the team of volunteers who made up the steering group for all their work.

**Highways-** Cllr Harris reported the cross-parish residents' survey on A342 is now closed and a detailed report on the survey results from TVBC is awaited. The number of completed surveys returned, particularly from Weyhill was pleasing.

He further reported that the resurfacing work required on Amesbury Road has no scheduled date now, but HCC says that "it should be over the summer". Sarson Lane, Wiremead Lane, The Green, and parts of Furzedown Lane all require attention.

Finally, he confirmed the previously announced intended closure by Southern Water of Fyfield Road, Weyhill on 11<sup>th</sup> May has been cancelled. Southern Water has been advised to contact businesses direct to discuss any scheduled works on Fyfield Road and to contact the Parish Council to discuss any other road closures in the parish before applications for works are made.

**Southern Water** -Cllr Harris see report at appendix 1

**Resilience Plan-** Cllr Waller had nothing to report.

**School Liaison-**Cllr Baker had sent apologies.

The Clerk reported that the Parish Council insurance company has confirmed that public liability insurance would cover forest school activities if a third party was injured or third-party property was damaged as a result of an incident stemming from the land. The Clerk confirmed she now has sight of insurance documents from Hampshire County Council which provide the required cover for the proposed Forest School activities provided the adult lead of the program has the correct training. The Parish Council were therefore able to give permission to the school for the use of the Village Green for these activities. The Clerk will inform the school.

## **10) Ampert Interactive Trail**

Following the previous presentation to the Parish Council from Kira Fuller of the HIOWWT an interactive trail around the village will be installed shortly. A series of QR codes will be mounted in several places around

the village which can be scanned by smartphone and provide a short film about the chalk stream habitats and the creatures that may be present.

Many thanks to Janet Wright for leading on this initiative. Parish Councillors gave their overwhelming approval to this plan.

### **Clerks report**

11) The Clerk reported as follows-

The VAT claim for 25/6 had been submitted and payment received. The first half of the precept claim has been received, and insurance cover has been renewed.

She reported electricity costs had increased substantially but by negotiation she has managed to renew the contract with a lower price but for one year only. The Parish Council are paying approximately £25.00 in standing charges so that a supply is available at the Village Green. If this is used the costs of power is added. Currently the use is restricted to the fete, occasional village fundraising events and the occasional private event.

She confirmed she has contacted the insurance company to establish if the PC insurance will cover the fete and if not, what further premium would be due to cover the event.

Finally, she reported she hold several hardcopies of the Village Design statement published in 2008. This is superseded by the newly adopted Neighbourhood Plan and it was agreed they should be disposed of.

### **Finance**

#### **12**

1) To note the bank balances as at 05/05/2026

Lloyds savings £20776.26

Lloyds current £20559.32

2) To approve the following payments and authorise online transactions: -

H Bourner salary	£519.48
HMRC	£164.64
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
YU energy(DD)	£73.52
Ray Welch	£325.00
Zurich Insurance	£927.79
HCC street lights	£106.96
Web site	£11.99
Email service	£24.99

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

13) HCC Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC M Flood confirmed the results of the recent elections. She also passed congratulations on to the Neighbourhood Steering Plan committee for reaching the final goal and the plan being made.

#### **15) Planning**

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

26/00554/FULLN-convert garage to annex, Hurstwood House, Georgia Lane- permission

26/02264/PIPN-permission in principle for self build dwelling on land rear of Sheppard Spring House- permission

26/00522/FULLN-remove timber outbuilding and replace with extension, 9 Sarson Close-permission

#### **Reviewed between meetings:**

None

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

26/00712/FULLN-new gate at roadway-J Chandler & Co, Fyfield Road, Weyhill-no objections

26/00710/FULLN-fire hydrant tank, J Chandler & Co, Fyfield Road, Weyhill- no objections

26/00811/FULLN-2 x single storey extensions Stonebrook, 5 Sarson Barns, Monxton Road- no objections  
26/00729/FULLN- erect retaining wall, 3 Mount Pleasant- no objections.

Cllr Harris highlighted a recent proposal to build 400 houses of the A342 in Kimpton Parish. Concerns have been raised about the lack of infrastructure and impact of additional traffic. Amport Parish Council will submit an objection.

TVBC will hold a training session for Parish Councils regarding planning. Several councillors expressed an interest in attending. Cllr Harris will liaise with other local parish councils to organize this.

### **Correspondence**

14) The Clerk highlighted a Clerks & Councils Direct magazine received.

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

15) None at present.

### **Community News**

16) Cllr Dix highlighted a new planning application for 50 houses in Fyfield Parish. The prospective developer will be holding a meeting to provide details to interested parties.

Cllr Montagu highlighted the sale of the solar farm and confirmed he is trying to contact the new owners regarding the community benefit deed which had been agreed with the previous owner.

### **Date of next meeting**

19) The next meeting will be on Monday 15th June 2026, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

## **Appendix 1**

### **CHAIR ANNUAL REVIEW – by Chris Harris - May 2026**

I am Chris Harris, chair of Amport Parish Council, or APC, and this is a brief review of APC's activities over the past 12 months. It will be the last review before the Parish Elections due in about 12 months time. At those elections, a new Parish Council will be elected probably for a five-year term until 2032.

The PC has experienced an unprecedented and busy year. We have seen the adoption of the Amport Neighbourhood Plan; in June 2025, we were faced with a Draft Local Plan from TVBC's Planning Policy Team that proposed 1,000 houses in the Parish; subsequently we have received speculative applications from developers for planning permission in the Parish and locally; meanwhile, local government in Hampshire is undergoing a transformational change; we had two months of exceptionally wet weather early this year, which revealed that Southern Water has much more work to do to control groundwater and remove the tankers that cause disruption and pollution in the Parish. There is much more.

#### **Neighbourhood Plan**

A team of Parishioners from across the Parish, led by Cllr Diana Stephenson and by Tim Grimshaw, and ably supported by Bluestone Planning, continued its work to develop a Neighbourhood Plan for the Parish. The objective behind the Neighbourhood Plan is to ensure that decisions on planning are rooted in the Parish and not just made by planning officers. The Neighbourhood Plan stands alongside TVBC's local plan.

The Neighbourhood Plan was put to a referendum last Thursday. The result, as you will know, was 439 in support and 49 against. Very well done to Diana and all the team.

Our Neighbourhood Plan does not object to all housing development. Far from it, but any proposals for development must recognise the character of the Parish and be on a scale that is in keeping with the local infrastructure. Infrastructure is crucial, and covers matters such as geography, roads, access and transport, water and sewage supply, shops, schools, medical facilities, wildlife, and everything else that is fundamental to the lives of the residents of a rural Parish.

#### **Draft Local Plan**

In June 2025, the local planning authority, TVBC, published its Draft Local Plan for consultation – DLP for short. This DLP came without warning to us. The DLP was mandated by Central Government and required a

rough doubling of TVBC's "five-year housing land supply" across TVBC. The plan as published envisaged an allocation of 1,000 houses in Weyhill, within the Parish.

Not surprisingly, the plan raised all sorts of issues and was strongly opposed by this PC. Responses were required by TVBC in September 2025. We were then told in September that a plot in Weyhill allocated for 600 homes and a school had been withdrawn from the plan and would not proceed. We have not heard further on any details of the next round of the DLP.

TVBC is expected to publish an update on the DLP in the next few weeks. The PC hopes that our comments overall have been accepted by the planners, but there is no guarantee of this.

Quite a lot of the work has been carried out in co-ordination with other local parish councils, who share a common interest in ensuring that any development is on a scale that is supported by local infrastructure. As part of this work, APC is involved with the A342 Group of parishes, which is co-ordinating the preparation of a report on the traffic and transport issues in the villages in this part of Hampshire. Watch this space. The Group has been encouraged by recent comments from the government minister that developers will not get permission to develop without the infrastructure being in place first.

### **Speculative Planning Applications**

It is not a surprise that developers have made applications for planning permission for three sites in west Weyhill, each involving more than 10 proposed houses. These sites are in roads which are narrow, and with poor access for vehicles; the surrounding infrastructure is lacking; the proposals cannot support so many houses.

APC has objected to these applications. We wait to see when the applications will come before the planning committee.

### **Local Government Reorganisation**

Last year I reported on the proposals to reorganise Local Government as they stood then, in terms of proposed new unitary authorities across the County, and the devolution of powers to an elected mayor. The plan has been developed over the last year but there is still an element of uncertainty in the proposals. For example, the announced proposals may well be challenged in the Courts.

HCC is planned to be abolished in 2028, and its powers redistributed into new unitary authorities. Most of the borough of TVBC will become part of an authority with Winchester, East Hampshire, and much of the rural New Forest. These are some parishes within the borough and in Hampshire that feel very badly let down by this plan, and they too are looking at what options they have to mount a challenge.

In terms of our local councillors going forward, there are elections next year for the new authorities to shadow the district councils and HCC for a year until they are abolished. The plan locally is that the area of Andover West, including this parish, will be covered by three councillors for the whole area on all issues, rather than our existing two ward councillors for Anna Ward, and one HCC councillor. Cllr Chris Donnelly was the successful candidate in the HCC election last week. However, the Conservative Party lost control of Hampshire, which is now under no overall control.

There is also some preliminary discussion taking place of giving more powers (or responsibilities) to parish councils. This is superficially attractive to us, depending on what we are asked to do and with what resources. This is again a complex issue which should not be rushed.

Nothing is yet certain on the reorganisation. For example, a year ago it was planned that we would be electing a new mayor this year. However, the mayoral elections are now postponed until 2028. There is also discussion of extending the life of parish councils for an extra year, meaning that the PC elections in 2027 will appoint a council until 2032, so as to fit into the same election cycle as the unitary authorities. In practice, the success or otherwise of the reorganisation will depend on the calibre of the people in the authorities, and whether the politicians grasp the opportunities that will be presented. We do not wish the reorganisation to turn out as an expensive exercise in rearranging the deckchairs.

### **Southern Water issues**

Last year I reported that APC and other parishes in the catchment had worked with **Southern Water** in the previous year to address the groundwater infiltration problems in the Pillhill catchment area. The sewer sealing work at the north of the catchment (from East Cholderton northwards) was successful. However, as mentioned above in the introduction, we suffered very heavy rainfall in the South for over two months at

the beginning of the year, leaving the ground saturated and with extreme levels of groundwater. We had flooded roads that inundated the sewers. The sewers could not cope with the extreme volumes of water, forcing SW to deploy tankers across the region, and especially in Amport at the water pumping station. It had been hoped before Christmas that tankers in this Parish were a thing of the past. But it was disappointing to find that some of the tanker contractors were not all that they could and should have been. The points have been made to SW, and we are working with SW to ensure that our sewers are as effective as possible going forward, and that tankers (if needed) serve the community as intended. In the meantime, SW will be committing to a programme of restoring the roadside verges damaged by tanker movements.

A further cross-parish discussion with SW is due to take place in June, when the focus of the PC and the local forum of affected villages (the PPPF) will be on the Fullerton Water Treatment Works, which takes all the sewage from Andover and the surrounding area. Although there is understood to be some capacity in the system at Fullerton, this capacity is understood to be limited. An upgrade of the facilities will be required if housing development around Andover takes place on the scale discussed in the DLP.

It is expected that TVBC will have taken full note of the above issues as they work on the DLP.

Finally, mention should be made of the Pillhill Brook Association (the PBA), a voluntary group which exists to preserve and enhance the chalk stream that runs through the catchment. The PC is very grateful to the volunteer members for all the monitoring work and maintenance that they carry out.

### **Parish Pages**

Over the past year, the local publication of Parish Pages continues to be well-received by the community. Many thanks to the editor, Cllr Hawkings-Byass and to her team of helpers. If anyone is able to become involved in the distribution of Parish Pages, please make yourself known.

### **Other issues**

APC has been involved in several other areas of local life. For example:-

#### 1) School

APC continues to liaise with Amport School on a number of activities, especially around the village green.

#### 2) Fete

APC supports the Amport and Monxton fete, to be held in 2026 on 4<sup>th</sup> July.

#### 3) Amport Fen and Green

Working with the Wessex River Trust, APC has sought to improve the habitat in the fen to allow more light into shaded areas and to improve the wildlife and biodiversity. This is an ongoing project, which is proceeding well.

APC is responsible for the cutting of the green, for the play equipment that is widely used, and for the spring showing of daffodils etc.

#### 4) Amport trail

Steps are under way to create an interactive trail around Amport, which will enable villagers and others to walk around key areas of the village (eg by the pub and the village green), and scan QR codes to see an explanation of the local wildlife. Thanks are due to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and the PBA for helping with the project.

#### 5) Amport House

The latest news from Another Place, owner of Amport House, is that things are progressing.

Also, Another Place is also working on its submission to discharge the pre-commencement conditions. This will allow the prospective buyer to make a start on the project when the transaction completes.

#### 6) Monxton and Amport Village Hall

Monxton and Amport Village Hall is the community's hall – for all the parishioners of Monxton and Amport. APC is involved in its management. Parishioners in Amport are encouraged and invited to get involved with the running of the hall and all activities. There is a whatsapp group for the village hall which gives information to parishioners on the hall including classes and events taking place. Do ask if you wish to join the group.

7) Highways issues

The state of the **Highways** remains problematic. Although it is acknowledged that some road repairs in the Parish have been carried out by HCC, HCC falls short in keeping roads in the Parish up to the standard required in terms of road safety and quality of surfaces. The constant response from the Highways team and from HCC is that there is a lack of government funding for repairs. I hope that there may be an **improvement** once the new unitary authority takes over responsibility for the roads.

8) Solar Farm

The planned Solar Farm in the Parish has been bought by Uniper Energy. It is expected that the new owner will proceed to construction in the next few months.

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APC have been involved with other matters too across the community – but I hope that you can see and appreciate the current level of activity.

I should thank and pay tribute to the service of many volunteers in the community. The parish is also fortunate to have been well-served by our two ward councillors, Maureen Flood and Susanne Hasselmann, and our HCC councillor, Chris Donnelly, who have all worked hard on parish affairs. Thank you to them.

Members of APC at this time, aside from me, are Stephen Coke, vice-chair; Sally Baker; Alan Montagu; Tessa Hawkings-Byass; Diana Stephenson; Peter Harvey; Peter Waller; Clare Hemmings, and Howard Dix. We are also very capably supported by Heather Bournier, our clerk. All make their contributions and thanks are due to all of them. Others in the community support the team on specific projects. Thanks to them.

There are several tasks that can be and are undertaken by ordinary people that benefit you, your friends and your neighbours. Things – whatever the size and complexity - get done by local people. Please volunteer when you can.

Please continue to provide us with your support.

APC hopes you all have a good year.

CH 8/5/26