

Minutes of the Ampport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20th November 2023, 7.30pm at East Cholderton Scout Hall.

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson, Cllr P Waller, Cllr Mrs S Baker, Cllr Mrs C Hemmings, Cllr P Harvey & Cllr D Douch

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
HCC Chris Donnelly
TVBC S Hasselmann
2 Members of the Public

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Maureen Flood, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass & Cllr A Montagu.

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

One of the members of the public present raised concerns about the huge increase in volume of tanker traffic, running all night on Wiremead Lane, at 20-minute intervals and at excessive speed. Cllr Harris explained the problem was burst pipes and the difficulty in repairing these which is exacerbated by the high level of ground water at the moment. It is a very difficult problem and can only be solved once the burst pipe can be fixed. Concerns were also raised with tankers still going down Furzedown Lane because the drivers think the pumping station is on Furzedown Lane when it is on Monxton Road. The Clerk will report this issue.

4 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 16th October were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Baker seconded Cllr Hemmings. All in favour.

5 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke -see budget planning-item 6

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported the ditch along the road by the Green, which runs into the millstream and into the Pillhill Brook, has a high level of water and will need clearing by the Lengthsman at some point.

Cllr Harvey confirmed a meeting with Maggie Shelton of Watercress and Winterbournes will take place on 22nd November to consider ideas for maintaining and improving the fen and millstream over the longer term. Possible funding streams will be explored.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey has approached a play equipment repair team and is obtaining quotes for minor low risk items to be repaired. He pointed out the old poles that mark off the parking area from the green are now rotting and a solution as to how this area can be improved needs to be found.

Cllr Baker agreed to obtain quotes for new picnic benches to be placed near the play area. S106 funds are available and can be used for this expenditure.

Weyhill Area- Cllr Hemmings reported the new dog waste bin has been fitted.

Having established that Aster Housing is happy for a notice board to be erected on land owned by them at the entrance to Fairways she had obtained two quotes for the purchase of a board. A third is awaited and all will be presented to the Parish Council in January. In the meantime Cllr Hemmings will obtain the required clearance from Aster Housing.

At the previous meeting, concern was expressed about the need for the Highways team to visit the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road. Without any notice to the PC or any residents, the Highways team

visited the junction on October 18th. They proceeded to carry out some cosmetic repair work but they did not address the major concern with the drainage there. Within a couple of days, the area was flooded once more, and has been suffering badly on occasions since then.

In addition, within a day or two of the repair work, a lorry from the nearby industrial estate wiped out the work done on the corner by the highways team (including demolishing the bollards and wrecking the new kerb and grass). The reaction from residents was that the HCC work had been a complete waste of time and money. This incident and the reaction of residents, as well as details of the vehicle involved, has been reported to HCC. Cllr Hemmings said the whole junction needs to be redesigned to accommodate the volume of traffic and suggested an engineer needs to look at this. She believes a round-a-bout would improve the junction but the drainage issue needs to be addressed. Cllr Douch said the road was no longer wide enough for the large lorries using it to access the industrial estate and was so poorly lit it was dangerous for pedestrians. HCC Chris Donnelly present said he will discuss the matter with highways and seek to get a resolution.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass had sent apologies.

Communications & School Liaison – See paragraphs 8 regarding communications.

Cllr Baker confirmed the defibrillator has now been fitted at the school and some training on its use is to be provided.

Cllr Baker confirmed she has highlighted the planning application at The Old Farm to the school and asked them to comment if they wish.

Projects- see Fen & Village Green.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson reported on the recent meeting of the steering group. It was agreed they will commission a housing needs survey from TVBC. A meeting with AECOM will take place shortly to address the design code issue. This work will be carried out for free. Hopefully it will then be possible to obtain a grant which will cover the next round of consultant's fees.

Highways – Cllr Harris reported that contact had been made with National Highways regarding safety concerns about the junction of the A303 and Sarsons Lane.

Cllr Baker reported a large pot hole on Wiremead Lane. She will provide a photograph and details of the location so the clerk can report this.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Baker had attended the TVBC resilience forum on 28th October and her report had been circulated. The main point to note was the Parish Council role was to inform residents and encourage them to consider their own risks and be prepared- IE if there is a real danger of flooding individuals or households should get sand bags at the ready not expect the Parish Council to do this.

Cllrs Baker and Weller will revisit the Ampport plan in light of the new information.

6 Draft Budget

A draft budget had been circulated and was discussed. There were significant discussions on the funding of projects and the impact on residents' council tax. All agreed the Parish Council had traditionally requested small precepts but that if work to improve the parish was to be carried out further funds were required. The draft as circulated showed a precept of £27000 was required to meet all projected costs in 2024-25. After further discussion Cllr Coke proposed the precept request as £27000, this was seconded by Cllr Stephenson. All agreed. A copy of the budget plan will be filed with the minutes.

7 Website and Communications

Cllr Hawkings -Byass had sent apologies but had previously circulated a draft newsletter. Details regarding printing and distribution need to be agreed, the matter will therefore be an agenda item at the January meeting.

8 Meeting dates

The Clerk had circulated a schedule of dates for meetings in 2024. There would be no meeting in August or December. All other meetings will be held on the third Monday of the month with the exception of June when

it would be held on the 4th Monday of the month. Cllr Baker had obtained agreement to hold all meetings in 2024 at Ampport school.

9 Southern Water update

Cllr Harris reported work to continue to line sewers continues in Village Street, Thruxton. Heavy rainfall and high ground water levels are of concern and may slow the work schedule. In addition, burst pipes have meant staff being diverted and additional tankers needing to pump water. While this is irritating Southern Water have little choice but to carry on with this until such a time as the re lining is complete.

10 Monxton & Ampport Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the builders are proceeding with the work on the new foundations for the hall. The oak frame for the hall will be delivered to site and erected fairly soon.

11 Food Vans on Village Green

Cllr Baker had updated the original policy and this had been circulated to all Councillors. It was agreed the document should be adopted and the Clerk will ensure this is posted to the website. Cllr Baker will seek food vendors in the new year. Proposed Cllr Coke, seconded Cllr Baker, all agreed

12 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

The Clerk reported she had contacted the land owner with regard to overgrown hedges in Fyfield Road, Weyhill and he had agreed to get this cut back. Cllr Douch confirmed some cutting back had taken place.

Notices asking parishioners to review and comment on the Resilience Plan have been posted to the website and all notice boards.

An updated S106 funds available spreadsheet had been received from TVBC.

The builder who had agreed to quote to fit the notice board on highways land has withdrawn as he has been unable to get the necessary advice from HCC.

The internal audit for 23/24 has been booked for 15th May 2024.

A new application to convert the Black Swan pub in Monxton to a house has been submitted to TVBC.

13 Finance

i) To note the bank balances as at 31/10/2023

Lloyds current £6313.25

Lloyds savings £13769.58

ii) Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£437.80
HMRC	£109.40
H Bourner exp.	£18.70
Ray Welch	£328.00
Ray Welch	£160.00
Kinex electricity	£10.66
Sally Baker	£16.00
HCC street lights	£97.94
TVBC dog bin	£472.16

iii) Inflationary Pay rise

The Clerks pay scale had been increased from £17.10 per hour to £18.10 per hour back dated to 1 April 2023. Back pay of £32 per hour for April to November, a total of £256(gross) was due. Monthly salary from December was £579.20. A performance related scale increase to £18.58 per hour from April 2024 was also possible. It was agreed the figures would be submitted to Cllr Coke for review.

14 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly reported he will pursue road repairs at Weyhill as previously mentioned and confirmed the road outside the Army Headquarters at Monxton was to be completely resurfaced.

He also reported HCC budget discussions have taken place and there is a large shortfall. While HCC have some reserves to use it was highlighted that these will not last for ever. Finally, he said central government had agreed further funding for potholes to be spread over 10 years.

TVBC Maureen Flood had sent apologies.

TVBC Susanne Hasselmann reported TVBC have been awarded levelling up funding for a new theatre complex in Andover. She said that changes to Parliamentary boundaries have now been agreed and Caroline Nokes MP is the candidate to represent Anna Ward at the next general election.

15 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted

23/02383/VARN- vary conditions, Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane- permission

23/02234/TREEN- tree works, Spinney Hill, Wiremead lane- no objections

23/02411/FULLN-single storey extension, Sefton House, Bush Farm Lane- permission

23/01467/FULLN-erection of gates & boundary fencing with works to vehicle entry and resurfacing of drive-1 Mount Pleasant-permission

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

23/02086/FULLN- construction of equestrian storage barn-Woodside House, Furzedown Lane- applicant present confirmed the application will go before Northern Area planning-no objections from Parish Council.

23/02585/FULLN-remove wooden stables erect single storey, 3 bed, agricultural workers dwelling-Pipers Hill farm, Sarson Lane- no objection

23/02686/FULLN- replace timber windows and doors, 1 Mount Pleasant - no objection

23/02136/FULLN- install swimming pool and associated plant room-the Old Farm, The Green- Cllr Baker will discuss with neighbours and all will then consider this application.

23/02884/TREEN- 10 year management plan for trees on Furzedown Lane- Fox Farming- will be reviewed by all before comments submitted.

Amport House-Cllr Harris reported that although planning permission to convert Amport House to a hotel had now been agreed it is understood the current owners will be attempting to sell the property.

16 Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted -

The latest Clerks & Councils direct magazine

An email highlighting the new CAF grant opportunity

An email regarding the Unity transport survey

A letter from Wildwood Machinery regarding machinery repairs and servicing.

17 New Items for next agenda

None at present

18 Community News

None

193 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th January 2024, 7.30pm at Amport School.