

**Minutes of the Aport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2022,  
7.30pm at  
East Cholderton Scout Hall.**

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke - Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs S Baker, Cllr Mrs S Richardson, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson & Cllr O Vincent.

Also present

Mr T Hartigan (non-voting member)  
Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk  
TVBC Mrs M Flood  
Caroline Unwin -Village correspondent  
0 Members of the Public

**1 Apologies:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr A Montagu, HCC Chris Donnelly and TVBC Cllr David Coole.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3 Public Participation**

There were no members of public present.

**4 Co-option of new Parish Councillor**

No expressions of interest had been received in relation to the vacancy for a Parish Councillor. Cllr Stephenson will organise a leaflet drop to advertise the position.

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

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meetings held on 21<sup>st</sup> February were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Baker. All in favour.

**6 Specific reports**

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

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported bulbs and flowers on the green are starting to emerge and that he will approach the contractor to carry out the first grass cut shortly.

He said he had obtained one quote for removal of the tree fallen for £1800.00, another quote is awaited.

A working party has carried out some work in the Fen to clear damaged and fallen trees. Further work will be required (now carried out).

An early morning bird walk will take place on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April led by Maggie Shelton of the Hants & IOW Wildlife Trust.

**Play Area** -Cllr Richardson said the damaged play equipment had been fenced off so part of the play area was available for children. She has met with two play equipment specialists to obtain quotes to remove the damaged equipment and replace with new and will present these to the Parish Council as soon as she can. It was agreed the disabled swing costing £5000 will be purchased by the Parish Council using S106 funds. The Parish Council will consider further equipment in due course.

The Clerk confirmed she had asked for the ROSPA play equipment check to be delayed until the damaged equipment is replaced.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Montagu was not present but had sent a report confirming footpath 13 had now been cleared. Tim Hartigan said he will liaise with Cllr Montagu and Cllr Hawkings-Byass to gather relevant data on footpaths.

**Communications** - Cllr Baker reported she hopes to attend a resilience workshop soon and is also researching local resilience plans so that a meaningful plan can be drawn up for Amport. The need for this was demonstrated recently with a power outage and an internet service outage both of which caused issues for many villagers (see paragraph 11)

She reminded all Councillors that they had agreed to draw up self-profiles to post on the website

**School Liaison** – Cllr Baker confirmed the school had helped communicate to parents and children the problems with the play area following storm Eunice.

**Projects**- Cllr Hawkings-Byass and Cllr Harvey were not present.

**Neighbourhood Plan**- Cllr Stephenson reported she has contacted TVBC who have given all the necessary information to obtain a grant to pay a consultant. An application will be made as soon as the next grant window opens.

**Highways** – Cllr Vincent said he will be working on a plan to identify road defects to report to HCC and is also now researching the possibility of installing speed cameras.

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

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

Cllr Harris confirmed work had been carried out by Southern Water around the Village Green on damaged laterals. Further work to identify other repairs required around the village will continue. The next Pan Parish Forum meeting is scheduled for the 11<sup>th</sup> April.

### **8 Solar Farm Plans**

Cllr Montagu was not present but had confirmed work to complete legal documents regarding the community benefit payments continued. The payment is likely to be made when building work commences. He recommends the Parish Council consider what areas this payment is spent on in the parish.

### **9 Blocked Ditches and drainage issues**

Cllr Harris reported he had been contacted by an East Cholderton resident regarding a collapsing ditch and damaged verges near the pumping station. Cllr Vincent had reviewed this as highways representative and had offered assistance to the resident. HCC Cllr Donnelly was also investigating.

### **10 Avenue of Trees**

Tim Hartigan confirmed the project to plant in excess of 80 trees as an avenue alongside the path from the Water Tower down to the house at Haydown Farm is progressing. The planned date for planting the trees is the week of 21 March 2022. This will be done by Will Hawkings-Byass and his team. Fundraising is going very well, anyone wishing to contribute should go to [www.haydown-link.co.uk](http://www.haydown-link.co.uk)

### **11 Internet Outage**

Cllr Harris confirmed that following storm Eunice several residents had been without an internet service for three weeks. The reconnection was painfully slow and the lack of progress and information for residents was unacceptable. While service has been resumed individuals are entitled to compensation and it was agreed Cllr Baker along with some members of public would work together to obtain the best possible outcomes for all. Work will also start now to build a database of residents contact details to help with any emergencies in the future. Cllr Baker, Cllr Stephenson and the Clerk will work on this.

### **12 Clerks report**

The Clerk confirmed a training session has been arranged for all Councillors on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April at Thruxton Memorial Hall from 10.00am to 2.30pm. It was agreed spare spaces can be sold to other councils for £75.00 and that the Clerk will organise tea and coffee. Participants should bring a packed lunch.

The damage to the play area and village green has been reported to the insurance company so that a claim can be made once the necessary quotes have been obtained.

The Clerk asked some Councillors to complete GDPR declarations.

She confirmed an inflationary pay rise of 1.75%, back dated to 1st April 2021 had now been agreed. Back pay has been calculated and is shown in the payments below.

The Clerk said she had received an up-to-date schedule from TVBC confirming what S106 monies were available to pay for any new equipment on the Village Green.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed she had attended a useful Clerks training event which in particular gave lots of advice on audit process. As soon as formal documents are provided she will meet with Cllr Coke to discuss audit requirements.

### **13 Finance**

The bank balance as 28/02/2021 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £13897.30

Lloyds deposit £12221.47

#### **Payments**

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

H Bourner salary	£369.24
H Bourner back pay	£48.28
S Hoare back pay	£16.38
HMRC	£104.40
H Bourner exp.	£37.54
HALC	£12.00
Thrupton Village Hall	£100.00

#### **Retrospective**

Charlie Derbyshire £500.00

PCC £500.00

Avenue of trees £5000.00

### **Finance for Jubilee Celebrations**

Cllr Richardson said she had applied for a grant from TVBC for £500.00 to help with the costs of the celebrations. She said she had asked Monxton Parish Council to also make an application. She asked that the Parish Council control the finance for this event and this was agreed. She requested a Parish Council grant of £500 which was also agreed.

The event will take place on the Village Green on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June and will be an event for all and will include an afternoon tea, games and competitions for children and a lasting gift for every child. The group also proposed planting a commemorative tree. Tim Hartigan said adding two additional trees to the order for the Haydown link was possible, one for the Jubilee and one to replace the fallen tree on the Village Green. Cllr Baker proposed two further trees were added to the order, this was seconded by Cllr Harris, all in favour. Tim Hartigan will place the order.

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

TV Borough Councillor Maureen Flood reported the TVBC budget had now been set and confirmed council tax had increased. She confirmed TVBC finance department are now working on how to provide payments of £150 for households who meet the criteria to help with increased energy charges.

Finally, she said TVBC are considering how they may be able to help support the crisis in Ukraine. She said some advice was available on the TVBC website for individuals and this will be increased as more becomes known. Currently she recommended any financial contributions are made via the Defence Emergencies Committee which is a group of recognised charities able to get aid to the places where it is needed.

### **15 Planning**

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

22/00004/TREEN- tree works -Brooklands, Wiremead Lane-permission

21/03697/FULLN- two storey side extension, Kimber, Sarson Lane- permission

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

22/00519/TPON- tree works where tree preservation orders in place- Georgia Farm Buildings- no objections

22/00378/FULLN-erection of pigeon loft, Victoria Cottage, The Green- no objections.

22/00623/FULLN-conversion of outbuildings to living accommodation, 1 the Old Stables, Amport Fields, Weyhill- no objections

22/00580/FULLN erect storage building on land at Broadmeadows, 1 Sarsons Barn- concerns raised regarding size of building, over development of the site and impact on the conservation area-objection to be submitted.

21/03726/CLPN Additional information has been added to the application for a certificate of lawfulness re Breach Farm Brewing, it was agreed the Parish Council will not make any further comment.

#### **Update on Amport House**

Cllr Harris confirmed a meeting with Another Place will take place on 15<sup>th</sup> March to update progress on the application. A report will be circulated following the meeting.

#### **16 Correspondence**

The Clerk highlighted a copy of the Clerks & Councils direct magazine recently received.

#### **17 Any other business –**

Cllr Harris confirmed progress was being made with the project to rebuild Monxton & Amport Village Hall. Monxton Parish Council are leading but are seeking volunteers from either Village to step forward and help with the project. Cllr Vincent agreed to help, the Clerk will provide contact details.

The Clerk also confirmed the Village Hall Committee are also seeking a booking clerk.

Cllr Harris said the school were seeking a new caretaker. Cllr Baker will obtain further details and the Parish Council will help to advertise the role.

Cllr Baker passed on thanks from the PCC for the donation toward the purchase of a new mower. The mower has been purchased but the church is still fundraising. The next event will be a quiz night on the 8<sup>th</sup> April in the church.

#### **18 Date of next meeting**

**The next meeting will be on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 7.30pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.**