

**Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 14th April 2025, 7.30pm at
Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

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

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk

TVBC M Flood

0 Members of the public

1) Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC C Donnelly, TVBC S Hasselmann & Cllr Mrs C Hemmings.

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests. All Councillors confirmed that no changes to Register of Interest forms were required.

3) Public Participation

There were no members of public present.

4) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 17th March 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Montagu. All in favour.

5) Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke reported at point 11.

Devolution- Cllr Harris reported there have been very few updates on devolution and local government reorganisation. He has however attempted to complete the government's consultation on devolution, which focuses on the setting up of a Mayoral-led Combined County Authority for the proposed unitary authorities across Hampshire.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris confirmed the first cut of the green and the fen has taken place. He said there has been a noticeable increase in the amount of litter around the football goal which should be discouraged. He suggested it is time to move the goals on the football pitch to prevent damage to the grass, that moles have been active and the pest controller has visited again and the grass maintenance contractor is intending to cut back the strip along the road verge soon.

The damaged handrails on the wooden bridge at the northern end of the fen require repair as soon as possible. A contractor will provide quotes for replacement in both wood and metal.

It is apparent the damage has been caused by vandalism and the Parish Council are now considering installing cameras.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey was not present.

Weyhill- Cllr Hemmings had sent her apologies.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass had nothing to report. Cllr Baker reported a fence is to be erected alongside the footpath opposite the church in order that the field owner can keep livestock.

Communications – Cllr Hawkings-Byass said while she is able to compile and request printing of the next newsletter, help will be required with collection and distribution this month. Cllr Baker agreed to take on this task.

Cllr Baker said she had been approached by four separate members of public who found the newsletter very helpful.

Concerns were raised about the use of the what's app group and the need for items discussed on this to be appropriate to the Parish Council while ensuring anything requiring discussion and decision is part of an agenda for a Parish Council meeting. Possible items for the newsletter can be shared in this group but it must be remembered Cllr Hawkings-Byass is the editor and will make final decisions about what is included.

Projects- see item 10

Neighbourhood Plan– Cllr Stephenson confirmed the draft plan is now with TVBC for review before an examiner is asked to proceed with their formal review. In due course a formal referendum will be required.

Highways- Cllr Harris reported that the big pothole by the lay-by at Mullens Pond has been repaired, as have two holes on Sarson Lane. Repairs to the road outside Amport School have also been completed. No substantive feedback has yet been received by the PPPF from HCC's Flood and Water Management team on the "flooding hotspots" document shared with it.

Southern Water -Cllr Harris noted the success of the Pathfinder project in the area which has led to no tankers in the villages with the exception of those required for monitoring groundwater levels. The catchment has experienced an exceptionally dry spell in March and April, but there have nonetheless been spillages at Mill Lane in Abbots Ann. This problem has been discussed with Southern Water and they are now confident that they understand what happened, have remedied the immediate problem and has in place a programme for a permanent repair.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Baker spoke about the possibility of holding an event about community resilience, the idea being that a meeting of residents should discuss how local resilience could work in a particular scenario such as a storm causing flooding and damage to cables causing a complete power outage. Those present could then discuss ways in which the community can help vulnerable residents and provide information to official sources to recover power etc.

It was agreed this would be a useful exercise and Monxton parish should be asked to participate. Cllr Harris will speak to a contact at TVBC who will help facilitate the exercise to be planned for later in the year.

School Liaison-Cllr Baker confirmed the school is currently closed for the Easter break but she will ask them to move the goalposts on the Village Green as they have agreed to take on this task.

6) Local Crime

Cllr Dix said he has been giving thought to what the role a Parish Council can have in relation to local crime. He suggested sharing police advice via the newsletter about how to deal with concerns, such things as articles about keeping sheds locked and rogue traders. He receives details via a neighbourhood watch group and will provide details for the newsletter.

Update on Monxton & Amport Village Hall

7) Cllr Harris reported there was a successful official opening event of the Monxton and Amport Village Hall on March 29th. Events are now being booked by people from both parishes and beyond.

Special community events that are coming soon are "Little Twist" – a live music and dancing evening - on 26th April, and a VE day party for both parishes on 8th May. It is also intended that there will be regular features such as a cinema evening and a pop-up pub.

The trustees encourage all residents of Amport to get involved with the running of the hall and to join the hall what's app group, which keeps users in the parishes up to date on news

At a previous meeting Cllr Harvey suggested the Parish Council make a sizeable donation to the village hall build program. The Clerk explained what legal powers the Parish council had to be able to make such a payment and the maximum payment that could be given. No sums had been included in the budget for such a donation and anything given would need to be from reserves. A sum of £3500 had already been donated from CIL funds received. A discussion followed regarding levels of reserves and available cash. While the hall build project does still need funds there is a six-month window before this becomes critical, during which time fundraising events are planned. It was agreed the Parish Council will monitor the situation and revisit the possibility of making a donation in six months if a shortfall still exists.

Clerks Computer

8) The Clerk reported she was currently carrying out work on a desktop machine purchased some years ago from a NALC grant. This was running on Windows 10 and would soon not be supported by Microsoft.

In order to ensure full access to all Parish Council documents she suggested the Parish Council purchase an up-to-date laptop and software for Amport Parish Council matters. She had obtained three quotes which were discussed. Cllr Stephenson proposed the Clerk should purchase a laptop up to a maximum cost of £500.00 This was seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed. The clerk will action.

Clerks report

9) The Clerk reported as follows-

She has asked Hampshire Highways to fit the required posts for the speed awareness signs and awaits confirmation of a date for the work to be carried out. She gave details of the licence required between Hampshire County Council and Amport Parish Council. The Clerk will sign the licence documents as required.

The new .gov email service is not likely to go live until the autumn. In the mean time all Councillors should use the one.com service for Parish Council emails. The Clerk was asked to research other .gov email providers.

She confirmed that to complete work on the Neighbourhood Plan, in particular the work required to get all documents onto the website and all statutory consultees contacted at the time of the regulation 14 consultation, she had completed just over six additional hours of work. It was agreed this additional pay should be claimed in May.

Finally, she confirmed she would be taking leave between 27th April and 8th of May.

Parking Area at Village Green

10) Cllr Harvey had agreed to provide a proposal regarding this but was absent.

End of Year Accounts and Audit return

11) Cllr Coke confirmed he had reviewed the end of year accounts and completed audit return. He commented that Amport Parish Council has been selected for an additional assurance review which means additional documents including minutes and budget setting and monitoring records all have to be provided. The internal audit will take place on 20th May
Cllr Coke proposed that the accounts be agreed and this was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed.
The Clerk will present the completed audit return and conflict of interest forms to the Parish Council at the May meeting for signature.

Finance

12)

1) To note the bank balances as at 31/03/2025

Lloyds current £673.13

Lloyds savings £ 20151.53

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

H Bournier salary	£491.60
HMRC	£152.41
H Bournier exp.	£17.20
Clear electricity (DD)	£8.79
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
Monxton & Amport V Hall	£30.00
Taits printers (April)	£100.00
Business stream (water)	£24.62
Bluestone planning	£1387.20

Borough & County Councillor Reports.

13) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent apologies.

TVBC M Flood had recently circulated a report which highlighted the VE day grants available. She reported that house building targets for Test Valley have been increased by 78%. These targets increased by central government mean far more housing land supply is required. While work continues to identify this concerns have been raised about speculative applications which are now arising.

She identified an application for a site in a nearby village where there is an application to build houses on land outside of the village boundary which would in the past have been refused under planning policy. Because of the housing land supply shortfall, the presumption in favour of sustainable development is triggered and will now apply to the determination of all planning applications that propose a net increase in homes unless there is presence of protected areas or assets such as registered local green spaces or heritage assets. In this case it seems probable that 40 houses will be built on land just outside a village boundary.

14) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

25/00404/LBWN-replace front door-1 Mount Pleasant-withdrawn

Reviewed between meetings:

None

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

25/00600/FULLN- erect open sided steel frame barn-Pipers Hill Farm, Sarsons Lane- no objections

25/00686/TREEN-reduce height of magnolia tree-Bramleys, Monxton Road- no objections

25/00796/TPON- crown lift trees at 1 Brewery Cottage, Amesbury Road- no objections

Report regarding enforcement bird pens and access gate

The Clerk said she had been notified by TVBC that bird pens erected on land at Georgia Lane had now been removed and that as there was no evidence to prove whether there was an access gate or not the enforcement case has been closed

Solar Farm- Cllr Montagu said there is little to update since the last meeting. Cllr Flood will ask TVBC for an update.

Correspondence

15) None

Annual Meeting 19th May

16) Cllr Harris asked for suggestions or items of discussion for the annual meeting. The Clerk will ask the local police if they can attend.

New Items for next agenda

17) None at present.

Community News

18) Cllr Harris confirmed Amport House continues to be for sale but there are no offers to purchase at present.

It was confirmed Amport Village fete will be held on Saturday 5th July.

A new resident who runs a mobile food van will be asked to sell at the Village Green.

Date of next meeting

19) The next meeting will be on Monday 19th May 2025, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**