

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 16th October 2023, 7.30pm at East Cholderton Scout Hall.

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr P Harvey, Cllr P Waller, Cllr Mrs S Baker, Cllr Mrs C Hemmings & Cllr D Douch

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
TVBC Maureen Flood
0 Members of the Public

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, TVBC S Hasselman, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson & Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest. All Councillors confirmed there were no amendments required to register of interest forms.

3 Vacancy on the Parish Council

Dereck Douch had expressed an interest in the current Parish Councillor vacancy. Details of his skills and experiences had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Harris proposed he be co-opted and this was seconded by Cllr Harvey. All agreed. The Clerk provided the necessary acceptance of office document and Cllr Douch 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 18th September were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Baker seconded Cllr Montagu. All in favour.

Matters arising- Cllr Harris has arranged a meeting with a representative of Kimpton Parish Council when he hopes to be able to discuss resilience.

Cllr Montagu reported that the Lains solar farm planning application has been refused. An appeal is expected however the process is likely to take up to nine months.

6 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had sent apologies

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported the grass continues to grow vigorously and requires regular cuts. The infestation of moles has been dealt with and the verge alongside the road has been strimmed back.

The missing key to the electricity cabinet has been located and copies will now be obtained. Finally, Cllr Harris confirmed he will ask a local tree surgeon to review all the trees both on the Village Green and in the Fen to ascertain if any maintenance work is required.

Cllr Harvey has made contact with Watercress and Winterbournes and is trying to set up a meeting with interested parties to decide what the best way to look after the Fen is. A specialist report commissioned in 2016 has been revisited and some of the ideas within this will be re considered. There is some potential funding available.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey is still trying to get a quote to have minor low risk items repaired. Cllr Baker suggested a further picnic bench be placed near the play area. She agreed to research some possible items and will bring details to the next meeting. S106 funds are available and a claim will be made.

Weyhill Area- Cllr Hemmings reported the new dog waste bin has been ordered and the Clerk confirmed this is expected to be fitted on 17th October.

She has also established that Aster Housing is happy for a notice board to be erected on land owned by them at the entrance to Fairways. They want to see a picture of the board and also require written

confirmation that the Parish Council will maintain the board in the future. Cllr Hemmings will research the best location and some potential wooden notice boards and the probable costs.

Cllr Douch raised concerns about the overgrown hedge between the field and Fyfield road in particular over the bus shelter. The bus shelter is regularly used by children, the overgrown hedge creates visibility problems and given the volume of HGV vehicles using the road is very unsafe. The Clerk will contact the landowner and ask for the hedge to be cut back.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass had sent apologies. Cllr Harris noted a potential trip hazard from a broken manhole outside a house by the Village Green. Cllr Harvey will speak to the homeowners.

Communications & School Liaison – See paragraphs 8 regarding communications.

The school still awaits listed building consent before the defibrillator can be fitted.

Projects- The Clerk confirmed she had contacted HCC for an update regarding possible sites for speed awareness cameras. HCC had confirmed they will send an officer to visit the parish to review sites and will send details of their findings once complete.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson had sent apologies.

The Clerk confirmed she had submitted a further claim for grant funding. This would only be granted if the plan will either allocate housing or include design codes. The consultant needs to provide details for the claim to proceed. The Clerk will also try to establish likely costs to the Parish Council for the Neighbourhood Plan for the 24-25 budget.

Highways – Cllr Harris highlighted several potholes that had still not been filled, the hedges on Amesbury Road that have still not been cut back and flooding that remains at the corner of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road. The Clerk confirmed she had contacted HCC regarding all of these issues. HCC Donnelly will be asked to pursue these matters.

Concerns had been raised regarding parents who stand in the road chatting at school drop off and pick up times. Cllr Baker will speak to the school and ask them to get a message to all parents to refrain from doing this.

Young Persons Matters- Vacant.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Baker said the few comments she had received to the draft document had now been incorporated. A further draft had been circulated. After a short discussion Cllr Baker proposed the draft plan should now be published on the website, the Clerk will action this. Signs will be posted to notice boards confirming where the plan can be viewed and asking for feedback.

7 Draft Budget

A draft budget had been circulated and was discussed. Councillors will consider any further possible spending. The final precept figure will be agreed at the November meeting.

8 Website and Communications

Cllr Hawkings -Byass had circulated a draft newsletter to all councillors. Generally, this was well received but the questions that arose were regarding distribution. After some discussion it was agreed that a mixed method of distribution was required but to start with a paper version should be posted to all houses in the parish. Councillors were encouraged to provide content so that the first newsletter could be produced.

9 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.

There was a suggestion that future Parish Council meetings should be held at Weyhill Parish Hall. The Clerk had established the hall was not available on the third Monday of the month.

A discussion regarding using the school took place. Cllr Baker will enquire as to whether this was possible, if it is not available the clerk will seek to book the scout hall again.

10 Southern Water update

Cllr Harris said Southern Water are in the process of completing the work at the Mullens Pond lay-by and work continues on sewer lining in Monxton High Street which is progressing towards its conclusion. Tubogel works to seal the lateral sewers in Fyfield are nearing their conclusion. Once the Fyfield works are complete, the team will start in Thruxton beginning at the south end of the village and working north. At its own cost, Southern Water will be installing planters and water butts at Amport School, at the neighbouring almshouses and elsewhere in the catchment where, given the age of the properties, the rainfall runs into the sewage system. This initiative will alleviate the flow of rainwater during periods of heavy rain.

11 Monxton & Amport Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the structural engineer has proposed a plan for a new foundations for the village hall involving less concrete and hence less cost. The builders, Hutton's, will be proceeding with the foundation in the very near future.

12 Food Vans on Village Green

Cllr Baker had updated the original policy and will send this to the Clerk for circulation and agreement at the November meeting.

13 TVBC/TVAPTC conference & TVBC Thriving Communities

Cllr Harris provided feedback from the conference which he had attended. In particular he gave details of the new waste strategy which is likely to be delayed well into 2024.

The next TVBC Thriving Communities will be held on 1st November and Councillors were encouraged to attend.

14 Sarsons Lane/A303 Junction

Cllr Harris said that on behalf of the Parish Council he has been liaising with a resident to discuss the real safety concerns that exist in relation to this junction and how to move ahead and engage with National Highways.

15 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

The Clerk reported she had been able to find a contractor who meets the HCC requirements for fitting a notice board on highways land. They are awaiting some details from HCC but hope to be able to provide a quote shortly.

TVBC have been contacted and asked to update Amport Parish Council details on their website which were out of date.

Correspondence had been received from Amport Riding centre in relation to a leaflet received regarding the Neighbourhood Plan. This will be passed to the Neighbourhood Steering Group.

16 Finance

To note the bank balances as at 31/09/2023

Lloyds current £6853.21

Lloyds savings £13756.92

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£437.80
HMRC	£109.40
H Bourner exp.	£45.97
Ray Welch	£145.00
Kinex electricity	£9.23
ICO	£35.00
Tim Grimshaw (NP)	£102.98
Eclipse Pest Control	£85.00

Retrospective

Greenflints £1080.00

Diana Stephenson (NP) £24.84

Business stream Water rates £25.91

18 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly- had sent apologies but his report provided has been circulated to all Councillors.

TVBC Maureen Flood- highlighted the resilience forum on 28th Oct, the upcoming Thriving Communities events and energy efficiency grants available, details of which are on the TVBC website.

TVBC Susanne Hasselman had sent apologies.

19 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted

23/02181/FULLN single storey extension, 33 Fairways-permission

23/02004/TREEN- tree works, Guyatt Cottage, Wiremead lane- no objections

23/00710/FULLN- replace cob wall, the Mill House, Monxton Road-permission

23/01864/TPON- tree works, Ash Tree Cottage, Amesbury Road-consent

21/03760/FULLN- solar farm installation, Land at Lains Farm-refused

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

23/02383/VARN- vary conditions, Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane- no objections

23/02411/FULLN-single storey extension, Sefton House, Bush Farm Lane- no objections

23/02500/TREEN-reduce walnut tree by 2 m-Church Cottage, Furzedown Lane-no objections

23/02503/FULLN- Replace window with door and window-Bryning Lodge-no objections

Amport House-21/02304/FULLN- Conversion of Amport House to boutique hotel- Permission granted at Northern Area Planning Committee

20 Correspondence

Cllr Harris highlighted contact from Amport Cricket Club with an offer to the community to use their facilities and also highlighting their need for new playing members.

21 New Items for next agenda

None at present

22 Community News

None

23 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 20th November 2023, 7.30pm at 2nd Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.