

Minutes of the Ampport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th January 2024, 7.30pm at Ampport Primary School.

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

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
TVBC Maureen Flood
HCC Chris Donnelly
3 Members of the Public

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC S Hasselmann & Cllr Mrs D Stephenson.

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 asked for details about food vans visiting the village green. She felt that this was a service the community wanted and would be very happy for the service to resume. The Clerk explained that the Parish Council had now agreed a policy for potential vendors and the hope was to invite a vendor to attend once a month. Several vendors have expressed an interest and the hope is that the service will begin early in spring.

4 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 20th November were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Baker. All in favour.

5 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had no matters to report

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported the Village Green is currently very wet following high levels of rainfall. The ditch along the road by the Green has a high level of water in it and will need clearing by the Lengthsman once this recedes.

A meeting with Maggie Shelton of Watercress & Winterbournes took place in November to consider ideas for maintaining and improving the fen and millstream over the longer term. Watercress & Winterbourne's Education Officer, Tracy Standish, is due to visit the fen on 25th January and meet with Cllr Harvey and Janet Wright, so that the ideas for the fen can be considered further. Tracy also hopes to visit Ampport School to discuss with the teaching staff ideas for running projects with the children, insofar as time permits within the curriculum.

Tony Darbyshire has suggested which trees and branches ought to be cut down in the fen and by the millstream. A date for doing the work will be confirmed shortly.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey was absent.

Cllr Baker has obtained a quote for new picnic table to be placed near the play area. The cost of a recycled eight-seater bench is £508.33 and a wooden bench is £208.35. Fitting costs would be £180.00. Cllr Baker proposed purchasing the recycled bench and this was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed. S106 funds are available and will be claimed in due course.

Weyhill Area- Cllr Hemmings reported that Aster Housing are happy for a notice board to be erected on land owned by them at the entrance to Fairways subject to some conditions which can be met. She had obtained three quotes for the purchase of a board which were discussed. Cllr Hemmings proposed the board from parish notice boards online and this was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed. The residents have agreed to fit the board. Cllr Hemmings will place the order ensuring details are passed to the Clerk.

She reported there had been no further progress on repairing the damaged drains and kerbs at the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road, Weyhill. Cllr Donnelly said that the junction will be repaired but the proposal is to introduce a traffic order which will mean lorries will not be allowed to turn left when approaching from Thruxton or right when leaving Fyfield Road, they will all have to use the roundabout at Weyhill to turn. This will take some months to reach fruition.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported an issue with a quantity of full dog waste bags being left on a footpath. Please can all dog owners be responsible and clear up after their dogs and dispose of bags in an acceptable manner.

There have been some incidents of horse riders using footpaths which is not allowed. If a landowner has given permission, it is acceptable to ride alongside the footpath but not on it. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will include an article in the newsletter about what is allowed on footpaths.

Communications-

Cllr Baker reported on a very unpleasant post on a local face book page which eventually removed by the account administrator because the content was considered to be unacceptable. Abusive remarks in the post were targeted at a specific Parish Councillor.

It was agreed the Parish Council would: -

- Issue a statement on their website and official Face Book page saying abuse would not be tolerated and where necessary would be reported to the relevant authorities
- In future posts to the official Parish Council Face Book page would only be made by Cllr Stephenson or Cllr Hawkings-Byass
- Any Councillor seeing a post pertinent to the Parish Council on other local sites would pass details directly to the Clerk who could respond officially.
- All Councillors will refrain from responding individually to any post of this nature.

School Liaison -

Thanks were expressed to the school for allowing the Parish Council to use the school for meetings.

Cllr Baker highlighted continuing problems with inconsiderate parking at school drop off and pick up times. The school have reminded parents and carers via text message of their responsibilities. If the situation continues the local PCSO will be asked to attend.

Finally, congratulations were expressed to Ampport School for being confirmed as the top primary school in Hampshire.

Projects- see Fen & communications.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson was absent but had sent a progress report to all councillors. The NP steering group continue to meet and hold events to gather community feedback. A housing needs survey issued by TVBC on behalf of the Parish Council will be issued to all households in the parish soon and the results will help to shape the next stages of the neighbourhood plan.

TVBC are working on a revised local plan. A draft document has been prepared and consultation on this is expected to open shortly. Details will be circulated as soon as possible and all Parish Councillors were asked to review this in light of the Neighbourhood Plan and pass comments to the steering group by the 29th of January.

After some discussion it was agreed the Parish Council would like to see a time line showing each significant milestone required to complete a Neighbourhood Plan and where the Ampport Plan fell on this line. It would also be useful if this could show likely expenditure so it was clear how much the Parish Council was likely to spend.

Highways – Cllr Harris confirmed he continued to correspond with HCC Donnelly regarding the problems around the parish that have been reported but await repair. HCC Donnelly will continue to push for the work to be done but explained that this would not be immediate given the volume of works required across the county following the recent heavy rainfall.

Cllr Harris also reported a meeting had been held with a National Highways representative regarding safety concerns about the junction of the A303 and Sarsons Lane. It is hoped that progress to make the junction safer can be made although this is likely to take some time.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Baker reported a large tree on the bend on Furzedown Lane crashed down last week, destroying the garden wall, and causing local power cuts. Cllr Baker was able to use the contacts she had made while drawing up the resilience plan to report problems with damaged telephone and electricity lines which were quickly resolved. Posting details on social media had prompted others to post details of problems such as fallen trees and flooding which in turn informed other residents.

Cllrs Waller is currently updating the Amport plan in light of new information.

6 Newsletter and Communications

Cllr Hawkings -Byass shared a draft newsletter she had prepared. She confirmed she was happy to put this together but needed others to provide content. She suggested local businesses be approached for dates of events that could be included which was agreed. Costs for printing 300 copies had been obtained, £52.00 for a four sided black & white document. The suggestion was that eventually the newsletter be posted to every household but the initial print would be 300. The aim is to publish the first newsletter at the beginning of February when volunteers will be asked to deliver in different areas across the parish.

7 Southern Water update

Cllr Harris reported the recent high levels of rainfall have hindered the work Southern Water are trying to complete relining sewers and unfortunately tankers have had to be re deployed to avoid sewage entering the river systems.

Southern Water continue to liaise with the community and work with the Pan Parish Forum. They are holding a drop in event on Saturday 10 February at the Thrupton Memorial Hall (11am - 2pm) which is open to all residents in the whole PPF catchment areas.

8 Monxton & Amport Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the new foundations for the village hall are nearing completion and the oak frame for the hall should be erected by the end of January.

9 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

The Clerk reported she had been handed wood preservative for the information shelter at East Cholderton and some litter picking equipment for the parish. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will explore how the preservative might be used and Cllr Hemmings agreed to hold the litter picking equipment for the Weyhill area of the parish.

Two bins had been left at the information centre which had been used for collecting items for the last fete. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will explore their removal.

She highlighted a letter received regarding school admissions in 2024.

Details and revised prices of dog waste bin collections for 2024/25 had been received.

Finally, she highlighted a grant request from Amport PCC. She confirmed the official grant request form had been sent, the completed request was awaited.

10 Finance

i)To note the bank balances as at 31/12/2023

Lloyds current £10516.56

Lloyds savings £13800.49

ii) Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£463.20
HMRC	£116.00
H Bourner exp.	£27.20
Kinex electricity Dec	£9.45
Kinex electricity Jan	£9.77
Parish Online	£97.20
Thrupton Memorial Hall (NP)	£36.00
Business stream water	£25.63
Bluestone planning	£1800.00
Eclipse pest control	£85.00

iii) Clerk Performance related pay rise

Cllr Coke confirmed following a national revision of pay scales a performance related scale increase to £18.58 per hour from April 2024 was available to the Clerk based on satisfactory performance. He proposed this be implemented, this was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed.

11 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly reported HCC have launched a consultation regarding services they provide, details will be circulated by email.

Charges for disposing of DIY waste for households has been lifted in most circumstances but still needs to be declared when a site visit booking is made.

HCC have reached agreement on allowing 20mph limits in some areas. It will soon be possible for parishes to request these but costs to implement will be the responsibility of the parish. Further details will be provided to Parish Clerks.

TVBC Maureen Flood reported on an initiative to help those who find it difficult to move waste bins, they can apply for some assistance direct to TVBC. In addition, some households can apply for an additional waste bin but they must meet certain criteria.

TVBC Susanne Hasselmann has sent a report which had been circulated to all Councillors.

12 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted

23/02686/FULLN- replace timber windows and doors, 1 Mount Pleasant -withdrawn

23/02582/FULLN- new windows and roof covering, The Lanes, Monxton Road -permission

23/02613/TREEN- tree works, The Mill House, Monxton Road-no objection

23/02136/FULLN- install swimming pool, plant room and air source heat pump- The Old Farm, The Green- permission.

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

23/02884/TREEN- 10-year woodland plan, Furzedown Lane- no objections

23/02958-fell 5 ash trees and crown lift other trees over drive, Ladysfield, East Cholderton- no objections

23/02812/FULLN erect two general industrial buildings, New Abbey House, Fyfield Road- no objections

23/02717/FULN- demolish lean to sheds, remove paint and lime wash exterior wall, Lady's Walk, Wiremead Lane- no objections

23/03233/TPON- fell 9 trees, oaks and elms, Hurstwood House, Georgia Lane-concerns raised as there is little information about the trees which must be significant given they are subject to a TPO-The Clerk will ask TVBC for more information.

23/03185/FULLN- side & rear extensions plus alterations to driveway- Greenacre, Dauntsey Lane- no objections

24/00033/LBWN- replace windows, Kingsley Cottage, Sarson Lane-no objections.

Amport House-Cllr Harris reported that the current owners have had significant interest regarding the sale of the property although there have currently been no offers.

16 Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted -

The latest Clerks & Councils direct magazine
An email regarding bus shelter cleaning

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 19th February 2024, 7.30pm at Amport School.