

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 19th February 2024, 7.30pm at Amport Primary School.

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

Also present

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

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr P Waller & TVBC S Hasselmann.

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

There were no members of the public present.

4 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 15th January 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. He asked the Clerk to check the last auditor report to ensure any remedial action had been taken and also to provide an up-to-date asset register for the next meeting.

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. The bulbs on the green have begun to flower. Tony Darbyshire is proposing to lead a team to cut down fallen trees and branches in the green and fen. This will probably take place in March and a date will be publicised once fixed. Finally, it has been suggested that individuals in the Parish should organise a family day on the green some time on June (not to be confused with the fete). The Parish Council supported the idea and were happy for the green to be used for this purpose.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey provided details of a quote to repair the small items highlighted in the play area safety report. The costs were between £200 and £300 and he proposed these be carried out. All agreed. He said the goal posts on the green were in need of some repair and the costs were £500 to repair and a further £600 to paint. New goals would cost in the region of £1200.00. After some discussion it was agreed quotes for new goal posts should be obtained. If new posts were obtained the nets on the old posts should be retained as these are relatively new and consideration made to sell the old posts as scrap. Finally, he said he had obtained a quote to rub down and repaint the bridge railings at £1300.00. It was suggested a working party could cover this work with the Parish Council buying the necessary materials.

Cllr Hawkings-Byass confirmed the order for a new picnic table will be placed shortly. Greenflints have been asked to install this once the item is received.

Weyhill Area- Cllr Hemmings reported the notice board has not yet been delivered, she will chase this. She reported, while delivering the newsletter several residents, particularly those in Dauntsey Lane had raised concerns regarding the lack of support from the Parish Council. She said that this issue was now being addressed and encouraged them to get involved in particular with the Neighbourhood Plan. Two matters that were raised by several were the concerns about traffic using Dauntsey Lane as a short cut. Traffic has increased considerably since the new garden centre has opened and some felt traffic calming measures should be implemented. The other major issue was the lack of open play space in this area of the parish. A question about purchasing a field was raised and Cllr Maureen Flood agreed to help research

grants available. Finally, it was agreed Amport Parish Council would liaise with Thruxton and Fyfield Parish Councils regarding planning applications in the area given that all three parish boundaries converge at that point.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass had nothing to report. Cllr Montagu noted there were still incidences of horses using footpaths which is illegal. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will highlight this in the next newsletter.

Communications—Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported there had been positive feedback to the first edition of the Amport Parish Council newsletter. The original print of 300 had been insufficient and a further 100 had been printed. The newsletter had been delivered by councillors and it was identified that further help was required, particularly in the Weyhill area. Moving forward it was proposed to try and find volunteers to help with delivery if possible although Cllr Hawkings-Byass has requested a quote from the Post Office to carry out a monthly drop of the newsletter.

School Liaison —Cllr Baker encouraged anyone experiencing problems with inappropriate driving and parking at school drop off and collection times to report this to the school office.

Projects- Cllr Harvey reported he had met with Tracy Standish from the Watercress and Winterbournes group along with Janet Wright to consider how the Fen area could be improved particularly to allow children to use this as a learning area. Further research and advice will be sought before any proposals are made.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson highlighted the report and finance schedule circulated to all Councillors providing up to date details of where the project had reached. She said a huge amount of work had been carried out by her and Tim Grimshaw as leader of the project. She wished to note thanks to the 20 volunteers all of whom had all joined the project voluntarily to help and were giving up so much time to this project. The next community engagement meeting will be held at Amport School 4-5pm on Tuesday 27th February and she hoped as many councillors as possible will attend. She said it was really important that residents completed the housing survey which is being delivered to all households and is also available electronically on the Parish Council website. Finally, she urged all Councillors to review the draft 2040 Local Plan and make comments as necessary.

Highways – Cllr Harris confirmed he continued to correspond with HCC Donnelly regarding the problems around the parish that have been reported but awaits a response in particular to the damage at the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road at Weyhill.

Cllr Harris also reported he had received a response from National Highways following a meeting regarding safety concerns about the junction of the A303 and Sarsons Lane. They have confirmed there is no immediate plan to upgrade the junction given current financial constraints.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Waller had sent apologies.

6 Visiting Food Vans

The Clerk reported following an exchange of emails, various posts on social media and a telephone conversation she had met briefly with Cllr Harris and Cllr Coke to discuss the issue of a possible visit from Nigel's Woodfire pizza. All Councillors had been asked to comment on a visit on 27th February and this had been agreed by all those who responded. The Clerk made it clear to the vendor that unpleasant posts on social media specifically naming Parish Councillors were unacceptable and that no further dates would be agreed for visits should the abuse continue. The vendor had been invited to the meeting but was not in attendance.

Cllr Baker reported she has been in communication with several vendors and has now arranged several dates over the next months for visits from a variety of vendors. Dates will be advertised in the newsletter and via social media.

7 Southern Water update

Cllr Harris reported that works to reline the sewers and manhole covers continues. The success of the project so far has meant a significant reduction in tankers in the area. A representative from Southern Water has visited the area and been shown all the areas where restorative work is required. Southern Water continue to engage with residents recently holding a drop in session at Thruxton Village Hall.

He also reported on the initiative to test water in various locations of the Pilhill Brook. Led by Janet Wright the proposal is that testing kits are obtained from the Angling Trust at a net cost of £1465.77 to be distributed around the parishes through where the river flows. Some funding has been obtained from Southern Water and local businesses and Parish Councils are being asked to pay the balance which equates to less than £100 per parish. Ampport Parish Council will be the financial hub for this project paying for the testing kits and invoicing all those who agree to contribute. All Councillors agreed that Ampport Parish Council take on this role and that they pay the small payment required. Precise figures would be confirmed for the next meeting.

8 Monxton & Ampport Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the oak frame for the new hall has been erected and the addition of the roof is underway, which will be followed by the walls and windows. It is hoped that the shell will be watertight by Easter.

9 Bus Shelter by The Hawk

Cllr Harris reported the roof of the bus shelter requires some repair. Attempts to find a local expert able to help will be made.

10 Gmail block solution

Cllr Stephenson reported she is in communication with a specialist who is hoping to find a solution to the current block from one.com sending emails to g-mail accounts.

11 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

Following the issues with unpleasant posts on social media the clerk reported on some research undertaken on how a Parish Council might act should there be any further incidents. Eight points were discussed and it was agreed the Clerk will create a policy for the Parish Council to adopt and publish. Of specific note was that any posts that threatened safety should be reported to the police and that if an individual felt it necessary legal action to obtain a restraining order could be taken.

She had met with the trustees of Monxton Village Hall to discuss the finance of the new build. Ampport Parish Council had agreed some time ago to allocate S106 funding received of £3517.62 to the project. She had explored the possibility of the Parish Council making any further donations however a review of overall finance, which was discussed in detail, revealed there was no further funds available for the project.

Finally, she reported, along with Cllr Harris and Cllr Stephenson she had attended a one day first aid course.

12 Finance

i) To note the bank balances as at 12/02//2024

Lloyds current £6774.95

Lloyds savings £13829.99

ii) Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£463.20
HMRC	£115.80
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
Kinex electricity Feb	£9.77
Hugo Fox website	£11.99

Retrospective

T Grimshaw (NP)	£53.17
Thrupton PC First aid	£135.00
Notice boards online	£1047.60

Future payments

Monxton Parish Council re Village Hall rebuild £3517.62

Angling Trust £1759.00

13 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly was absent

TVBC Maureen Flood highlighted the recently circulated monthly report. She specifically highlighted the consultation to the draft local plan and encouraged all those present to review and respond.

TVBC Susanne Hasselmann had sent apologies.

14 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

23/02717/FULN- demolish lean to sheds, remove paint and lime wash exterior wall, Lady's Walk, Wiremead Lane- permission

Resolved: that the planning advisory committee's approval on the following applications were endorsed:
24/00210/FULLN-two storey rear extension, 6 Sarson Close-no objections

24/00265/FULLN-remove wooden stables, erect single storey, 3 bed, agricultural workers property- Pipers Hill Farm, Sarson Lane- no objections

23/03233/TPON- fell 9 trees, oaks and elms, Hurstwood House, Georgia Lane -The Clerk confirmed this application had been withdrawn although Cllr Montagu confirmed some trees had been felled. The Clerk will report this to TVBC.

Amport House-Cllr Harris reported that the current owners have had significant interest regarding the sale of the property and are awaiting bids to be submitted by the end of the month.

16 Correspondence- none other than that discussed above.

17 New Items for next agenda

None at present

18 Community News

Thrupton Parish Council has invited members of Amport Parish Council to attend their meeting on 4th of March when a guest speaker will attend to provide details of planned development at Thrupton Industrial Estate. Cllr Montagu and Tim Grimshaw will attend.

19 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 18th March 2024, 7.30pm at Amport School.