

Minutes of the Ampport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 15th November 2021, 7.30pm at Monxton & Ampport Village Hall

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke - Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr T Grimshaw, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr W Hawkings-Byass, Cllr Mrs S Richardson, & Cllr Mrs D Stephenson

Also present

Mr T Hartigan (non voting member)
HCC Chris Donnelly
Test Valley Borough Councillor David Coole
Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
Caroline Unwin- village correspondent
0 Members of the Public

1 Apologies:

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr Mrs S Baker & TVBC Mrs M Flood.

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Public Participation

No public were present.

4) Co-option of new Parish Councillor

A significant amount of work had taken place by the appointments committee to draw up terms of reference and co-option procedure documents. These had been circulated to all and no comments had been made. Cllr Grimshaw proposed both be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed.

The appointments committee had also spent time interviewing the five parishioners who had expressed an interest in joining the Parish Council and made recommendations in advance to all councillors.

Cllr Harris proposed Tim Redpath be co-opted to the Parish Council with Highways as his portfolio, this was seconded by Cllr Stephenson. All in favour. Cllr Grimshaw agreed to be the mentor for this role.

Cllr Harris proposed that Oliver Vincent be appointed as non-voting, Young Persons Representative. This was seconded by Cllr Coke. All in favour. Cllr Tessa Hawkings-Byass will be mentor for this position.

5 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 18th October were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Montagu. All in favour.

Matters arising

Cllr W Hawkings-Byass reported that some repairs to the play equipment had been carried out.

Cllr Grimshaw had circulated a full report on highways issues which was discussed. Recommendations from the report were that the Parish Council –

- Appoints an officer to lead highways issues, including the implementation of a speed awareness campaign.
- Conducts a campaign of community engagement to raise awareness of the issue of safety on our rural roads and the dangers of excessive speed and to consult about plans to increase road safety in the Parish.
- Develops plans to deploy a 'smart' speed indicator device on our Parish roads, to provide data to support consideration of how to reduce speeds on our roads and improve road safety for drivers and other road users (pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders)
- Consults with HCC Highways staff to develop plans for speed reduction measures on our roads, including the imposition of a speed limit of 20mph in villages across the Parish.
- Notes a campaign recommended by the Hampshire Association of Local Councils (HALC) to seek a default speed limit throughout Hampshire of 20mph in all residential areas and where people work and play.

All Councillors were happy to accept these recommendations. The new Parish Council highways representative will be asked to carry out work to put these recommendations in place.

6 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported that a review of trees and shrubs around the green and fen had taken place and a tree surgeon has identified some work that needs to be carried out. It is proposed a working party tackle these early in the new year. Some expenditure was possible and Cllr Harris proposed spending £100.00 on this work, this was seconded by Cllr Stephenson. All agreed.

He also confirmed the Lengthsman will be clearing ditches on 20th November.

Cllr Richardson confirmed a quantity of daffodil bulbs had been planted on the village green and also some by the entrance to the fen. Cllr Harris proposed expenditure of £79.20 be reimbursed, this was seconded by Cllr Grimshaw.

Cllr Richardson suggested that new goal posts be purchased as the proposed repairs had yet to be carried out on the old ones. Cllr W Hawkings-Byass agreed to establish when the repairs will be carried out and liaise with Cllr Richardson.

Communications Cllr Baker- was absent but had sent a report the salient points for which she sought approval are: -

1) Creation of Data Base- after some discussion this was proposed by Cllr Harris, and seconded by Cllr T Hawkings-Byass, all in favour.

2) Community Resilience Plan and creation of sub-committee – after some discussion it was agreed to consider this once a database is in place.

3) Parish Magazine- it was agreed there no interest in taking over the current magazine which was a Church led initiative for four parishes. It was suggested if a database is constructed this could be used to send electronic Ampport Parish newsletters in the future.

4) Councillor profiles – all Councillors agreed they would be happy to write a profile for the new website.

5) £500 donation for creation of a community garden- the proposal was to install fencing and gates and create raised beds for the community and children from the school to grow vegetables- Cllr W Hawkings-Byass proposed the Council make a grant payment of £500 which was seconded by Cllr Grimshaw- all in favour.

Footpaths- Cllr Mrs Hawkings-Byass said there is a tree down on footpath 13 but cannot establish who is responsible for this. She has contacted HCC for confirmation. She confirmed the footpath by London Lodge has been cleared,

School Liaison – Cllr Baker was absent but had sent a report confirming she continues to liaise with the school and has established the school database can be used to communicate items from the Parish Council to all parents. The creation of the community garden is a project fully involving the school.

Highways – see separate item in matters arising

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson confirmed she had spoken to a consultant who is now putting together a quote to assist Ampport PC with the initial work to create a Neighbourhood Plan. The first step is for the Clerk to ask TVBC to designate the area of the whole parish. Following these applications for grants will be submitted.

7 Southern Water over pumping & water quality

Cllr Grimshaw reported that Southern Water's surveys and repair work continues, as the groundwater season approaches. They have completed the repairs to the main at Little Ann Bridge, disrupting traffic on roads in the Parish for two days. The record of the Pan Parish Forum (PPF) has been completed and the actions list updated and both circulated. The first substantive discussion on the development of the Infiltration Reduction Plan (IRP – the regulatory framework for Southern Water's Operations in the Fyfield water catchment area) has now taken place. The groups representative has also briefed Kit Malthouse, the local MP, on progress.

8 Solar Farm Plans

Cllr Montagu confirmed discussions regarding the financial community benefit from this scheme have concluded a split with other Parishes of any sums received from the developers as 50% Ampport, 35% Quarley and 15% Thrupton. Cllr Montagu proposed these be accepted which was seconded by Cllr Grimshaw. All in favour.

Cllr Montagu also asked for approval from the Council for he and Cllr Harris to be given authority to complete negotiations regarding sums available and the manner in which this would be paid, which was duly granted.

9 Avenue of Trees

It was confirmed an order to purchase trees, stakes, deer protection sleeves and irrigation bags has now been placed with Barcham Trees. A quote to plant the trees from Greenflints Ltd has been accepted who will also supply the necessary chicken wire. A delivery date for the trees is awaited. Work to secure tree preservation orders on these trees continues. Significant funds are held for this project however some fundraising will follow.

Cllr Richardson proposed a tree be dedicated to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee. This could be part of the tree avenue or on the village green. Cllr Harris will talk to a local tree expert for advice on where a good location would be.

10 Fibre to the Premises

Cllr Harris reported Robert Talbot Rice has confirmed that the scheme to install fibre to the premises in Abbots Ann, which includes Monxton and areas of Amport Village east of Sarson Lane, is now going ahead. Prices are awaited for the same installation for properties on the Weyhill Exchange.

11 Clerks report

The Clerk confirmed she had booked a training session for all Councillors on 4th February 2022. A venue with WiFi and a projector and screen is required as well as tea & coffee making facilities. The Clerk confirmed Thruxton Village Hall has these facilities. Cllr Richardson suggested the Hawk Inn. The Clerk will establish which venue is most suitable and circulate details by email.

Data protection registration with the information commissioners was now complete and a charge of £40 was now payable by cheque. This is an annual subscription but reduces to £35 when paid by direct debit.

Work to the Parish Council dedicated website continues. All Councillors need to sign a GDPR form before the site goes live.

A schedule of meeting dates for 2022 had been circulated. Meetings in 2022 will be held in the Sea Scout Hall. It was agreed the February meeting should move from 14th to 21st. there was a suggestion that meetings start at 7 pm from January. The Clerk will establish if it is possible to access the hall at this time.

12 Defibrillators

Cllr Richardson has spoken to a manager at Rosebourne who are happy in principle for a machine to be located on the outside wall of the building. As we asked for a contribution to the cost, head office approval is still required.

The Clerk confirmed a defibrillator at a business on the May Field industrial Estate is not available to the public for health and safety reasons.

13 Finance

The bank balance as 30/10/2021 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £21274.62

Lloyds deposit £12220.95

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£369.15
HMRC	£92.29
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
Information Comms	£40.00
Ray Welch	£267.00
Electric DD	£6.66
HCC Street lighting	£91.95
HALC	£421.33

Sue Richardson (bulbs) £79.20
Greenflints Ltd £274.20

Budget 2022/23

The Clerk had circulated a draft budget of potential expenditure in the next financial year to inform the precept request. After some discussions it was agreed to set the precept for 2022/23 at £12000.00, proposed Cllr Stephenson, seconded Cllr Montagu. All in favour.

13 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly reported his willingness to support the parish with the initiative to create some 20 mph speed limit areas in the parish. He confirmed HCC have recently announced grants available for community buildings to help with climate change initiatives and finally, that all Hampshire Schools are to be given a fruit tree to plant to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee.

TVBC David Coole reported that Christmas lights and trees will be put up in Andover town centre but there will be no switch on ceremony, instead a series of smaller events across the borough are planned. He confirmed TVBC have signed up to the improved waste strategy which will see expanded kerbside collections in 2023. He highlighted a recent report circulated regarding potential housing sites across the borough which currently fall outside permitted development areas. Finally, he reminded all present that Councillor grants of up to £1000 were available as were community grants of up to £25000 and CiL funding for large capital projects. Further details and application forms can be found on the TVBC website.

TVBC Councillor Maureen Flood was not present but had sent a report confirming Test Valley Borough Council is in the process of purchasing wild-life rich countryside land near Upper Clatford for the public to use. Situated to the south of Bury Hill, the land is currently used for agriculture, and covers around 38 acres. The council recently exchanged contracts with the owner and will buy the plot using money secured from developer contributions to help improve access to the countryside. Once the council completes the purchase towards the end of 2021, it will begin working towards opening up the space for the public to enjoy. She also confirmed that programmed annual leaf clearance work has started. As with previous years, TVBC are targeting those areas around the borough which regularly accumulate lots of leaves. As well as the four usual road sweepers, a smaller road sweeper will be used to help clear pathways and other areas which are difficult to access. In addition to the scheduled work, TVBC will also respond to ad hoc requests.

14 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

20/02738/FULLN-erect 3 Bed house, Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane -permission
21/02629/VARN-variation of approved application 2-5 Amesbury Road, Weyhill- permission
21/02495/VARN-alterations of garage & installation air source heat pump-Georgia farm Buildings-permission
21/02390/TPON- tree works Rivendell, The Limes- consent
21/02643/AGNN- application to determine if prior approval required-create reservoir- prior approval required
21/02542/CLPN- lawful development certificate re erection of garage-Hillside Farm, Middlecot- certificate issued
21/02377/FULLN- alterations to garage roof, windows, door, porch, garden room & dining room- Bramley, Dauntsey Lane-permission.

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

21/03059/CLEN- lawful development certificate use land as residential garden- Brad Meadow- no objections
21/03169/FULLN-construct two timber towers & erection of a sheltered area in corner of two existing buildings for a classroom-The Hawk Conservancy- no objections
21/03190/CLPN- application for lawful development certificate-side extension Hillside farm, Middlecot – no comments.

Update on Amport House

Tim Hartigan had circulated a report providing details of his review of the amended application for Amport House. He believes the owners are addressing all of the issues that have been raised, but encouraged all Councillors to review the application and let him have comments before the deadline of 24th November.

15) Any other business –

Cllr Montagu confirmed he will log on to the Microsoft teams meeting being hosted by HCC on 25th November entitled 'The Greening Campaign'

16) Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 17th January 2021, 7.15pm at 2nd Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.