

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023, 7.30pm at East Cholderton Scout Hall.

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

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
TVBC Mrs S Hasselman
3 Members of the Public

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, TVBC Maureen Flood & Cllr P Waller.

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

Cllr Harris reported there had been an expression of interest in the current vacancy for a Councillor from Derek Douch from Weyhill. Details of his skills and knowledge had been circulated he was however unable to attend the meeting so co-option will be considered at the October meeting.

4 Public Participation

The members of the public were present to provide details regarding their objection to a planning application.

5 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

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

Matters arising- Cllr Harris has not been able to speak to member of Kimpton Parish Council regarding their resilience plan yet but will try to do so.

6 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke said the TVBC website regarding Amport Parish Council was out of date. The Clerk will contact TVBC to get this updated.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported the grass continues to grow vigorously and requires regular cuts. There is a new infestation of moles which Cllr Harvey will action and the verge alongside the road needs to be strimmed back. The Clerk will ask Ray Welch to do this. The donated small oak trees have been potted up to grow on and will be planted out once they are larger. Cllr Baker will try to recover the missing key to the electricity cabinet

Play Area -Cllr Harvey is trying to get a quote to have minor low risk items repaired. There are no major concerns. Cllr Baker suggested further picnic benches be placed in the play area. Cllr Harvey will look for a possible site.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported the contractor will carry out one more cut this season.

Communications & School Liaison – See paragraphs 8 regarding communications. The school now has a defibrillator but listed building consent is required before this can be fitted.

Projects- Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported she is still awaiting a response from HCC regarding potential sites for speed awareness cameras. The Clerk will contact HCC for an update.

Neighbourhood Plan- Cllr Stephenson reported on a successful community event held at Weyhill Village Hall. Positive feedback had been given by the consultant. The next steps are to gather all the comments made at the meeting and these will be published. Further meetings will be held to engage with parishioners

and these will be held in different locations in an attempt to engage with a representative spread of parishioners.

There was a suggestion that future Parish Council meetings should be held at Weyhill Parish Hall. The Clerk will research the possibility.

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 remains at the corner of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road. The Clerk will contact HCC for updates.

Southern Water – Work continues in the area to reline sewers including work in Village Street and Wiremead Lane, Thruxton and in Monxton High Street. Work to the layby at the East Cholderton pumping station is currently taking place. Southern Water are continuing to explore the possibilities of creating a wetland area near Mullens Pond to treat sewage naturally.

Young Persons Matters- Vacant.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Baker said the few comments she had received to the draft document had now been incorporated. After a short discussion it was agreed the draft plan should be published on the website, via social media and potentially in a newsletter.

7 Update on Solar farm and community benefit

Cllr Montagu reported that the planning application is to be reviewed by the Northern Area Planning group on 21st September. Full details of the officer's report can be seen on the TVBC planning portal. There are some technical points from both the developer and Western Air, the objector. Cllr Montagu will attend the meeting to hear from both sides. Currently officer recommendation is to refuse however an appeal is likely.

8 Website and Communications

The Clerk reported that Hugo Fox, the current website provider can no longer offer this service for free. They offered three packages; the current service would become chargeable at £9.99 per month. The various packages were discussed and it was agreed the basic model fulfilled all the legal requirements of the parish council and should be continued.

Communication in general was discussed. The use of the Parish Council website and social media groups engaged with some parishioners but not all and the possibilities of producing a Parish Council newsletter was discussed. Cllr Hawkings -Byass is happy to create a draft but requires other Councillors to provide content. She will produce a document for discussion for the next meeting.

9 Bob Horne Bench

Cllr Harris confirmed a replacement bench is to be installed with help from a local volunteer. Cllr Harris will be meeting the land owner regarding the position of the bench. The Parish Council will meet the costs of materials.

10 Postal delivery problems

Cllr Harris said it was well known that there were huge problems with postal deliveries to the parish. Without there being any publicity, the Post Office recently stopped the afternoon postal collections in Amport, East Cholderton, and elsewhere in the Parish. There is an afternoon collection from the Post Office in Abbots Ann. Often no deliveries to premises have been made for several days and some residents had even visited the sorting centre to collect items. While the use of electronic communications meant less letters were being posted this was still a service relied on by some particularly the elderly. Parishioners were encouraged to look out for neighbours and help with the issue where they were able. It was noted that a mobile post van visited Hilliers Garden Centre on a Wednesday, Thursday & Friday afternoons between 3pm and 5pm.

11 Monxton & Amport Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the structural engineer is working on a plan for new foundations for the village hall. Once this design is ready, costing will be needed before the builders can proceed to construction. The residents of the big house next to the hall have offered to pay £100,000 for the foundations if the village hall trustees swap the site of the hall for a larger plot of land closer to the river. The fundamental difficulty with their proposal is that the existing site has planning permission and the plot by the river does not. It is

also understood to be unlikely that planning permission will be granted to build the hall on the larger plot. If there is a new scheme formulated it is also probable the existing grant funding will be lost. The Village Hall Committee do not want to introduce any delays and they will now move forward with the building work.

12 Food Vans on Village Green

Cllr Baker had circulated the original policy. Some updates were required and this will be recirculated for agreement at the next meeting.

13 Thriving Communities workshop

Cllr Harris reported TVBC has launched an initiative to improve contact with the community in Test Valley. The first meeting took place on 2 August and was a useful forum in which to engage with other Parishes and with TVBC officers. Further meetings are proposed on 1st Nov and 5th Dec.

14 Sarsons Lane/A303 Junction

Cllr Harris highlighted a very unhelpful response from National Highways to the letter from Kit Malthouse MP regarding this junction. He proposed that on behalf of the Parish Council he seeks to engage National Highways in some discussion on the real safety concerns that exist.

15 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

As reported at the last meeting fitting a notice board on HCC land is more complicated in that a licence must be obtained from HCC by the contractor fitting the board. The contractor must have 10million public liability insurance cover and comply with NRSWA 1991 code of practice. A 1:500 plan of the location must be supplied along with signing and guarding proposals.

So far, the HCC approved contractors approached have not provided quotes however a building company has agreed to review the proposal and meet the Clerk at the site to discuss. Cllr Hemmings is also in discussion with Aster Housing regarding installing a board on land for which they are responsible at the entrance to Fairways

The Use of email and social media policy had been reviewed and amended and recirculated to all. Cllr Harris proposed this be adopted, this was seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed

The Clerk confirmed she had asked TVBC to fit a dog waste bin in Michaelmas Drove and awaited confirmation from TVBC that this had been installed.

Following a recent incident when the defibrillator at The Hawk was required the Clerk confirmed she had established the machine is fully operational and that the problem on the day was the incorrect code number to access the cabinet was given by the 999-call handler.

The TVAPTC/TVBC conference will be held on the morning of 30th September. It is open to all Councillors and Clerks.

Correspondence had been received from the Pageant Master regarding a proposal to ask as many communities as possible to light a beacon to commemorate D Day in June 2024.

Finally, all old minutes had now been deposited to Winchester Archives.

16 Finance

To note the bank balances as at 31/08/2023

Lloyds current £461.62

Lloyds savings £13744.08

Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£437.80
HMRC	£109.40
H Bourner exp.	£40.49

Ray Welch	£295.00
Kinex electricity	£26.40
One.com email service	£85.04

Retrospective (August)	
H Bourner salary	£437.80
HMRC	£109.40
Ray Welch	£238.00

Draft Budget- an early draft had been circulated and was discussed. Councillors were asked to give possible spending in the next year some consideration. The matter will be discussed again at the next meeting.

18 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

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

TVBC Maureen Flood- was not present

TVBC Susanne Hasselman highlighted two more thriving community workshops have been organised to try to establish what individual areas really need on 1st Nov and 5th Dec. She encouraged Parish Councillors to attend. She provided details on a possible grant stream for defibrillators and said she was obtaining advice for home insulation in her role as climate change representative.

19 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted

23/01746/AGNN- prior approval re erection of open barn- Pipers Hill Farm- withdrawn

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

23/01864/TPON- reduce overhang of walnut- Ash Tree Cottage, Amesbury Road- no objection

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

23/02086/FULLN Construct equestrian storage barn, Wood Side House, Furzedown Lane – *comments concern regarding fire risk, location of proposed new barn very close to houses, existence of barn on site permission for which was granted as a hay barn but is used to house machinery.*

23/02181/FUUL- single storey extension, 33 Fairways, Weyhill -no objections

23/02166/FULLN- convert existing garage to create independent dwelling- Mayfield Lodge, 2 Brewery Cottages, Amesbury Road -no objections

23/02234/TREEN, pollard willow, Spinney Hill, Wiremead Lane - no objections

23/00710/FULLN- replace cob wall, the Mill House, Monxton Road- no objections

23/02288/TREEN- crown reduce cherry, April Cottage, Monxton Road- no objections

Amport House- Cllr Harris reported that confirmation of the date of the long-awaited meeting of the Northern Area Planning Committee which will consider the planning application is still awaited. The possible date for this meeting is October 12th.

20 Correspondence

None other than that already highlighted.

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 16th October 2023, 7.30pm at 2nd Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.