

**Minutes of the Ampport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 7.30pm at  
East Cholderton Scout Hall.**

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr O Vincent, Cllr P Waller, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson & Cllr P Harvey.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk

TVBC Mrs M Flood

1 Member of the Public

**1 Apologies:**

Apologies for absence had been received from Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman & Cllr S Baker.

**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 was no public participation.

**4 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising**

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meetings held on 20<sup>th</sup> February were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposer Cllr Montagu seconded Cllr Vincent. All in favour.

The problems with overgrown hedges raised by a member of the public at the February meeting was discussed. The Clerk reported that in both cases she had written to the householders asking them to trim back hedges. The issue with the hedge by the exit to The Hawk carpark would not be resolved even if it were trimmed back. A solution to this problem could be to install a sight mirror on the green space opposite but The Hawk manager would need to be in agreement.

No response was received to the letter regarding the hedge on Keepers Hill.

**5 Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**Cllr Coke was not present.

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris confirmed the Lengthsman visited the Parish recently and cleared the ditch along the road by the green, as well as other ditches. A further mole attack on the green has also been dealt with.

The Diamond Jubilee Tree Plaque has been received and Cllr Harris will arrange for this to be installed.

**Play Area -**Cllr Harvey confirmed he has recently checked all the play equipment and there are no issues.

The Clerk agreed to update the forms used to record the checks and send them to Cllr Harvey.

The Clerk confirmed the annual ROSPA check of the equipment will take place in May.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Montagu has been made aware a sign near Mulberry House suggests the area is private when in fact it is a public footpath. The Parish Council will consider how revised footpath signs could be installed to make it clear that pedestrians can use the track.

**Communications & School Liaison –** Cllr Baker was not present.

**Projects-** see paragraph 8 below

**Neighbourhood Plan-** Cllr Stephenson reported household surveys have been completed by a few residents and these will now be delivered to every household in the parish, with a six week window in which to complete them. At the same time posts will be sent out over social media highlighting the need for engagement with the community. Results will be analysed following the closing date for submission. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will help with communications but if there are any residents with expertise in this field who can help this would be very useful. Please contact The Clerk Heather Bourner by email

[clerk@ampportparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@ampportparishcouncil.org.uk)

**Highways** – Cllr Vincent and Cllr Hawkings Byass have been working on a report regarding possible sites for speed awareness cameras. Cllr Vincent will circulate the draft report to all Councillors for review. If it is possible to have a 20MPH limit installed in the village following the HCC review, installing signs may not be necessary.

**Young Persons Matters**- Cllr Vincent had nothing to report.

**Resilience Plan**-Cllr Waller reported the draft plan has been updated and circulated on websites and an article posted to the Village newsletter. Minimal feedback has been received. Cllrs Baker and Waller will revisit and make decisions as to how to proceed.

### **6 Southern Water over pumping & water quality**

Cllr Harris reported groundwater levels rose recently in the catchment after heavy rains in the area. Levels are now either stable or increasing slightly. Monitoring work on the system is continuing, including on water quality. The one area in the catchment where there remains a live issue with the system is at Mullens Pond, where tankers are still deployed. The pump there has been changed over, and it was from here that there was the recent spillage of sewage on the edge of East Cholderton, that necessitated the closure of Wiremead Lane. The PPF remains concerned about this area in the event of heavy rainfall.

The tubogel lining work in the north of the catchment (Fyfield) remains on hold at the present time, due to high groundwater levels. This is frustrating for all parties. The relining of the main sewers in Thruxton is expected to begin in May, with other sewers in the catchment also in line for relining later.

Pollution prevention exercise by Southern Water planned.

### **7 Coronation Celebrations**

The Clerk confirmed she had applied for and been granted £500 from TVBC toward the cost of Coronation Celebrations in the village. Cllr Baker was driving the quiz and supper on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. A picnic on the green is also being held on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. It is hoped the marquee erected for the quiz night will be available for the picnic event if required.

### **8 Feed back on projects**

Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported she had made contact with BT and established repairs to the BT box have taken place. Repainting will take place in the summer.

Cllr Harvey reported he is still making progress with how to carry out enhancements to the stream in the Fen.

### **9 Amport House, revised planning application**

Cllr Harris reported Another Place expects its planning application to TVBC will come before the Northern Area Planning Committee at the meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> April. All planning documents are on the planning portal.

### **10 Grass Cutting contract.**

Cllr Harris confirmed Ray Welch was willing and able to cut grass areas in the village in the growing season of 2023. The prices he charged have not been reviewed since at least 2017. Revised prices were discussed and it was agreed that an increase of between 10% rounded up to the nearest pound should be applied. The Clerk will contact the contractor with proposals.

### **11 Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

Cllr Harris reported that progress to demolish the old hall and rebuild was being made. Asbestos has been removed and a meeting to discuss the updated work schedule will follow shortly. It is possible that fund raising will be required to meet the financial shortfall on this project.

The Village Hall trustees are seeking local people to join the build project team or the village hall committee. Interested parties should contact the clerk by email at [clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk) or by telephone on 01264 773976.

### **12 Lains Solar Farm**

Cllr Montague reported there had been no change on this application since the last Parish Council meeting.

### 13 Report on meeting with HCC Adams-King

Cllrs Harris and Vincent had attended a meeting of parish council representative hosted by HCC Adams-King and reported it was apparent that there are several current issues at HCC Highways regarding lack of funds and problems supervising contractors carrying out the work required. Many local parishes were present at the meeting and Cllr Adams King was on the receiving end of criticism from all of them.

HCC Cllr Donnelly continues to support parishes where he can with problems arising and in Amport is highlighting problems at the junction of Sarsons Lane with the A303, road widening on Wiremead Lane and 20mph speed limits within the parish.

Cllr Harris asked that everyone in the Parish should put as many "pothole" issues on HCC's website as possible, and that, if the exercise can be co-ordinated, a regular list of reported defects, with reference numbers could be shared with Cllr Donnelly.

### 14 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

A review of Parish Council assets had been undertaken and details circulated to all Councillors. The figures within this were agreed and will be used to obtain quotes for insurance for the 2023/24 year. Quotes for insurance from June 1<sup>st</sup> will be sought from three different companies to ensure best value.

Parish Council elections will take place in May 2023. Individuals will be responsible for completing nomination papers which have to be hand delivered, although delivery can be by a third party. Full details and application forms have now been circulated. The Clerk agreed to deliver papers on behalf of any current Councillors who wish to stand for election and confirmed she had made an appointment to do this on 29<sup>th</sup> March.

Local Council agreed pay scales have been updated with an inflationary increase backdated to April 2023. Back pay had been calculated. Old pay rate £15.602 per hour increased to £16.64 per hour, an increase of 7%. The revised scale from April 2024 is £17.10 per hour, a further 6% but this includes a performance increase.

The company who supplies the electricity to the Village Green have confirmed a credit of £150 has been applied to the account in line with Government grants for these costs.

### 14 Finance

The bank balance as 15/03/2023 was as follows:

Lloyds treasurers £6596.81

Lloyds deposit £15983.44

### Payments

**Resolved:** that the following payments be approved,

H Bourner salary	£387.04
HMRC	£96.80
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
H Bourner back pay	£319.49
HMRC	£97.08

### Retrospective

The sign maker	£84.31
Eclipse pest control	£85.00
Stump busters	£360.00

### 15 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC Maureen Flood confirmed TVBC have set aside money to develop and improve the area around Western Avenue, Andover. She said Council Tax in TVBC will rise but remains one of the lowest in the country. She confirmed cost of living grants are still available from TVBC. Full details can be found on their

website. Finally she noted that a national emergency alarm test proposed by the government is scheduled to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. All smart phones will receive an alarm alert. She will send details to The Clerk for general publication.

### **16 Planning**

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

23/00131/TREEN-Tree works Red Gables, Monxton Road-no objection

15/00519/NMA1-resite garage, non material amendment, Two Hoots, Dauntsey Lane- approved

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

23/00608/FULLN-erection of detached triple garage, Cloud House, Cholderton Road-no objections

23/00687/FULLN- extend garage to form home office, Cherry Tree House, 4a Amesbury Road- no objections

### **17 Correspondence**

The Clerk highlighted a recent edition of Clerks & Councils Direct which will be circulated amongst Councillors.

Cllr Harris highlighted a request from the Hawk Conservancy for Parish Councillors to help at an annual event on June 29<sup>th</sup> for 450 invited children from backgrounds where a free night is appreciated. Several local groups are involved and previously members of the PC have helped serve drinks from a pop-up bar. Several Councillors volunteered to help. Cllr Harris will respond.5 volunteers

### **18 New Items for next agenda**

None at present

### **19 Community News**

Cllr Harris notes an initiative proposed where surveys of wildlife will be carried out on the Pillhill Brook.

Anyone wishing to volunteer with these surveys should contact The Clerk by email

[clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk) or telephone 01264 773976

### **20 Date of next meeting**

The next meeting will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023, 7.30pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> Andover Sea Scout Hall, East Cholderton.