

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 17th March 2025, 7.30pm at Monxton & Amport Village Hall

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr H Dix, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr P Harvey & Cllr C Hemmings.

Also present

Heather Bournier – Parish Clerk

TVBC M Flood

Judy Hilton-Village Hall booking clerk

0 Members of the public

1) Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC C Donnelly, TVBC S Hasselmann, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson, Cllr Mrs S Baker, Cllr Mr P Waller & Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Harris declared an interest in a planning application on land behind the Almshouses as trustee of the Almshouses Charity. There were no other declarations of interests. All Councillors confirmed that no changes to Register of Interest forms were required.

3) Public Participation

There were no members of public present

4) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 20th January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Hemmings seconded Cllr Montagu. All in favour.

The minutes of the meetings held on 17th February 2025 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Harris seconded Cllr Coke. All in favour.

5) Update on Monxton & Amport Village Hall & presentation re booking system

Judy Bench, a parishioner of Monxton has taken on the role of booking clerk for the new hall and gave a presentation of the new system to the Parish Council. Some bookings are now being taken and the hope is these will increase as word spreads.

Cllr Harris confirmed the official opening of the Monxton and Amport Village Hall is set for 4 pm on March 29th. The hall will be opened by Andy Ferrier, Chief Executive of TVBC. All Parish Councillors from both Monxton and Amport parishes are invited to the opening. He said more community funds are still required in order to complete and pay for the hall and donations can be made via the QR code published in the Parish Pages. Finally, he confirmed the current trustees of the hall are pleased to report that Mike Bird, a resident of Fox, has agreed to become the treasurer for the Village Hall committee. He will be officially confirmed this week, when other trustees will be appointed. The current trustees intend to pass the running of the hall to the new committee as soon as practicable.

6) Neighbourhood Plan- final version to agree

Cllr Stephenson had sent apologies but had circulated the final version of the plan with appendices to all councillors. Some comments had been made and changes incorporated. Cllr Hemmings proposed this plan be agreed and sent to TVBC for the examiner to review. This was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed. The Clerk will liaise with the Neighbourhood Plan steering group to confirm agreement and organise submission of the plan.

Thanks were expressed to all those involved in putting together the plan and for the inordinate amount of work that has been carried out by the teams all of whom are volunteers.

7) Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

Devolution- Cllr Harris confirmed he had attended a talk by Cllr Adams-King and others regarding devolution and local government reorganisation and highlighted recent reports in the press speculating as to how Hampshire will be divided up into new unitary authorities, based around the bigger populations across the county. He said more information may emerge at the HALC teams meeting on Wednesday 19th March. Finally, he highlighted a public consultation on devolution which is open until 13th April.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris confirmed the damaged areas on the football pitch has been re-seeded and hopefully the pitch will be back to normal and kept in good condition for the summer.

He also confirmed that a number of fallen trees by and in the millstream in the fen have been cleared by a team of volunteers and the fen looks much better as a consequence. Thanks were expressed to all those that helped.

He reported that a written report on the condition of the fen has been provided by the Wessex River Trust recommending that further clearance work essentially to let in more light is done this year, which the Trust will assist with and fund. The purpose of the work is to enhance the fen in a minimalist way, so that growth in the fen will flourish and the fen will become more accessible.

Finally, he reported the wooden benches normally sited by the millstream, are currently undergoing refurbishment funded by the original donors, and that a broken hand rail on the wooden bridge at the northern end of the fen has been damaged and requires repair.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey confirmed all the play equipment is in a good state of repair.

The Clerk said she had been notified that the formal play equipment inspection will take place in May.

Weyhill- Cllr Hemmings had nothing to report.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass was absent but had confirmed by email there were no reported issues with footpaths.

Communications – Cllr Hawkings-Byass had sent apologies.

Cllr Harvey suggested the next Parish Pages should have a front-page article regarding the shortfall of funds required to finish the Village Hall build with the QR code to attract more donations. Judy also suggested that Cllr Hawkings-Byass keep in touch with her so details of events taking place in the hall can be advertised in the newsletter. The Clerk will pass on contact details.

Projects- Cllr Harvey suggested the edge of the village green parking area needs to be improved. Currently there is a line of rotting telegraph posts. Cllr Harvey was asked to consider what could be done and bring a proposal to the next Parish Council meeting for consideration.

Neighbourhood Plan– see paragraph 6 above

Highways- Cllr Harris reported Hampshire County Council highways have attended the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road and the damaged posts have been stood back up however news as to when the “no left turn” signs will be erected is awaited.

Some work to highways near The Hawk has taken place but road surfaces on The Green (notably outside the school), Wiremead Lane and Sarson Lane all still require attention. Cllr Harris will obtain up to date photographs and the clerk will report these again. Large pot holes at the layby by the pumping station at East Cholderton will also be reported again as will broken dragons’ teeth by the Village Green.

He said no substantive feedback has yet been received by the PPPF from HCC’s Flood and Water Management team on the “flooding hotspots” document provided by Amport Parish Council.

Finally, he said there are still parts of the Parish that would benefit from a concerted litter-picking exercise by parishioners.

Southern Water -Cllr Harris reported that groundwater levels remain high in the area despite the recent spell of dry weather. Following very heavy rain on 26 February Southern Water advised that the pumps at Monxton Pumping Station were struggling to cope due to a mechanical defect and this saw the return of tankers to the area for a short period. The tankers have again caused damage to the verge near the Amport pumping station and Southern water have been asked to remedy this.

He also reported there has been some discussion with Southern Water as to whether the Pillhill Pan Parish Forum meetings should be expanded beyond this catchment to include other groups in the area suffering

from similar issues to those that have arisen in Amport and the nearby surrounds. It is hoped a meeting in May at Monxton & Amport village hall can assist with this initiative.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Waller had sent his apologies. Janet Wright had attended the latest resilience meeting when groups were asked to plan in a fictitious town when a red alert storm hit. The exercise showed the real need for a working resilience plan and gave details of how TVBC can help produce these.

School Liaison-Cllr Baker had sent apologies.

8) Local Crime

Cllr Dix said he had been reviewing how to set up a whatsapp group to help with the local crime issues, who could contribute message, who would coordinate, who would respond and how etc.

He asked that this be an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting.

Soldier Silhouettes& VE/VJ day celebrations

9) Following an approach from a village resident asking the Parish Council to consider installing some soldier silhouettes in the village, Cllr Baker had circulated a proposal to purchase some silhouettes and lest we forget signs which can be placed around the village. She had also proposed the purchase of some VE/VJ day lamppost signs to be used within the parish.

The proposal was discussed as two units- first VE/VJ day lamp post signs. As there was no event to be held in the parish and these were one off signs, the purchase of these was not thought to be a good use of Parish Council funds

The second part was soldier silhouettes and lest we forget signs which were really to mark Remembrance Day. The proposals were to buy signs from a local business but a suggestion was raised that purchasing these from the Royal British Legion would be supporting the charity that in turn supported the armed forces, both serving and retired personnel. Concerns were raised as to which locations should be used given there was no War Memorial in the parish and Remembrance Day services would be held at the church, surely if they wanted to erect signs or silhouettes, they would purchase them. Concerns were also raised about who would move the signs around the parish. How they would be secured and who would co-ordinate this. Further discussion followed and it was eventually agreed this proposal would not be taken any further as there seemed very little appetite for it, there were reservations as to what message the Parish Council was trying to send and concerns as to what impact any signs may have.

Cllr Harris reported an event is planned for Thursday 8 May 2025 in Monxton around Monxton Green and in the new hall to commemorate VE day, this year the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2. The road outside the hall will be closed. Amport parishioners are encouraged to support this event. Cllr Hemmings confirmed an event to mark VE day is being organised in Weyhill.

Clerks report

10) The Clerk reported as follows-

HCC have confirmed the repeater sign near the Hawk can be used for a speed awareness sign. The revised quote for additional posts for £900.25 has been agreed and HCC have been asked to carry out the work as soon as possible. She highlighted a leaflet recently received regarding purchase of machines.

The lengthsman has been asked to clear the ditch alongside the Village green. A date for the work is awaited

Various road defects around the parish have been reported to Hampshire County Council.

The Clerk said she had been notified that the formal play equipment inspection will take place in May.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed she has arranged for the broken handrail in the Fen to be repaired.

Finance

11)

1) To note the bank balances as at 10/03/2025

Lloyds current £319.09

Lloyds savings £ 21134.77

2) To approve the following payments and authorise online transactions: -

H Bournier salary	£491.60
HMRC	£122.80
H Bournier exp.	£17.20
Clear electricity (DD)	£8.82
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
Monxton & Amport V Hall	£30.00
Greenflints goalpost points and grass repairs	£732.00
Eclipse mole services	£85.00

Retrospective (from last meeting)

H Bournier salary	£491.60
HMRC	£122.80
H Bournier exp.	£17.20
Clear electricity (DD)	£9.77
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
Monxton & Amport V Hall	£40.00
Eclipse mole services	£105.00
Greenflints goalpost fitting	£420.00
Taith printers	£200.00

3) Note spending of Pillhill Brook Association grant

Borough & County Councillor Reports.

12) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent apologies.

TVBC M Flood had recently circulated a report. She further reported an extraordinary meeting of the full council, followed by a cabinet meeting to draw up proposals regarding the procedure and processes for devolution and local government reorganisation will be happening shortly. Details will emerge as discussions continue.

13) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

24/02033/FULLN-remove stables & erect agricultural workers dwelling, Pipers Hill Farm-permission

24/02910/FULLN-replace annex with conservatory, Waterloo Cottage, East Cholderton- withdrawn

Reviewed between meetings:

None

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

25/00306/FULLN retention of vehicular access and hard standing, land rear of Sheppard Spring House-no objection

25/00404/LBWN-replace front door-1 Mount Pleasant- no comment

25/00188/TREEN-tree works, Ladys Walk, Wiremead lane- no objection

25/005002/FULLN- replace annex with conservatory-Waterloo Cottage, Wiremead Lane- no objection

25/00487/FULLN-replace paths and patio, handrail and fence and install soakaway-1 Mount Pleasant - no comment

Solar Farm application- Cllr Montagu reported the planning application for the solar farm at Lains Farm was heard by the Northern Area Planning Committee on 13th March. The planning officer's original recommendation was to approve the application but Thruxton Airfield raised last minute objections so further discussion is required before a final decision can be made.

Correspondence

14) The Clerk highlighted

The latest Clerks & Councils magazine

A leaflet regarding litter bins and street furniture

An email regarding litter picking in the village

New Items for next agenda

15) Possible Parish Council donation to village hall build program.
Parking area at the village green.

Community News

16) Cllr Harris reported news from Another Place regarding Amport House is optimistic in that contracts on the sale will be completed soon.

Cllr Baker was absent but had confirmed by email one visiting food vans to the Village Green has been booked. She will be absent for some weeks over the summer and asked if another Councillor could help with this project.

Date of next meeting

17) The next meeting will be on Monday 14th April 2025, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**