

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20th January 2025, 7.30pm at Amport School

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr C Hemmings, Cllr H Dix, and Cllr Mrs S Baker

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
HCC Chris Donnelly
TVBC Susanne Hasselmann
0 Members of the public

1) Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC M Flood, Cllr P Harvey, & Cllr P Waller

2) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest in matters on the agenda. 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 18th November 2024 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Stephenson seconded Cllr Hemmings. All in favour.

Matters arising

Cllr Harris reported a planned power outage today by SSEN had caused problems because Sothorn Waters's pumping station in Monxton stopped working and the resulting affect was flooding in Monxton High Street and sewage overspill in to the brook. There was also flooding in Abbots Ann. This is important for Amport as there is a outage due in the village on 24th January. Enquiries have been made to SSEN and SW. The Pillhill Pan Parish Group meet on Wednesday 22nd January and questions about back up power sources for this pumping station will be asked.

5) Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report

Devolution-Cllr Harris highlighted a recent report on the proposals for devolution in Hampshire. As more information becomes available Councillors will be encouraged to make their views known. Given the importance of this matter devolution will become a standing item on the Parish Council agenda.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported a number of trees were damaged in Amport Fen in the autumn and some trees need to be felled and tidied away. This work is planned for a weekend some time from mid-February to late March, weather permitting. A date will be advertised in due course. Volunteers are sought, especially anyone with skills or experience in using chain saws to assist the team led by Tony Darbyshire. There is a further mole attack on the green which is being attended to, and there are some trees on privately owned land near the water pumping station that require attention. The landowner is aware of this. SSE is proposing to remove some of the affected trees and branches and will need to turn the power off for a period however affected residents have been informed.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey had sent his apologies. Cllr Hawkings-Byass confirmed the new goals had been delivered today and will be fitted on Wednesday.

Weyhill- Cllr Hemmings said the Weyhill Group are considering a celebration for VE/VJ day. Cllr Hasselmann will research any events in the local area and provide details. She suggested an application for a TVBC Councillor grant may be available to help fund any events.

Footpaths- no problems reported.

Communications – Cllr Hawkings-Byass said the new colour newsletter had been well received. She asked those present to provide newsletter content as soon as possible after the Parish Council meeting. Local businesses are welcome to send details of their events which can be included in the 'What's On' section. She said some volunteers have stepped forward to help with delivery but more would be helpful, particularly to cover Amport Fields. If you can help, please contact the Clerk on clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk or by calling 01264 773976. Cllr Hawkings-Byass will start a what's app group for all those involved in delivery.

Projects- Cllr Harvey had sent his apologies.

Neighbourhood Plan– Cllr Stephenson reported the Regulation 14 consultation was sent to all stakeholders and the deadline has now passed. All responses will be reviewed by the steering group and the draft plan amended to incorporate any areas highlighted which are important. The revised plan will then be presented to the Parish Council for agreement and then go before an examiner.

Highways- Cllr Harris confirmed there is no further news of the required repairs on the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield Road. HCC Donnelly present said he was aware the traffic order required to change the priority use at this junction had been applied for and he hoped new signage would be installed soon.

Cllr Harris said HCC Highways have now carried out repairs to the junction at the bottom of Keeper's Hill in Amport, but did not attend to the serious road problem outside Amport School. The road surfaces on The Green, Wiremead Lane and Sarson Lane still all require attention. Feedback has been received by the PPPF from Hampshire County Council's Flood and Water Management team on the "flooding hotspots" document shared with it. The report asks that any flooding spotted should be reported as soon as possible.

Southern Water -Cllr Harris reported that groundwater levels remain high, but the sewers along the catchment are generally coping well. No tankers for the management of the sewer network have been deployed recently in the Parish.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Waller attended an online community resilience workshop on 20th November and reported via email that this had been very useful. The Amport plan will continue to be developed. Cllr Hawkings Byass confirmed the Parish Council owned generator has been serviced and is ready for use if needed.

School Liaison-Cllr Baker has liaised with the school admin officer confirming the Parish Council meetings will now return to the Village Hall. The Clerk will write and officially thank the school for allowing the Parish Council to meet there during the time of the Village Hall rebuild.

Amport House Update

6) Cllr Harris reported Another Place have confirmed that there has been progress in negotiations on the sale to another hotel group and news is expected fairly soon.

7) Amport & Monxton Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the tiling of the floor in the hall is proceeding well and should be finished by the 20th of January. The sanitary ware will then be installed. The design of the kitchen area is being finalised and the kitchen should be installed shortly, however the external landscaping remains to be completed. The building is expected to be fully open to the public in March 2025.

The booking system is almost ready to go live and the next meeting of Amport Parish Council and subsequent meetings are booked to take place in the new hall.

Further funds will be needed for internal furnishing and equipment and the appeal for funds remains open. Assuming that the village hall committee succeeds in its applications for CAF funding there is currently an estimated shortfall of around £15k against the estimated costs to completion.

There remains a vacancy for a treasurer for the village hall committee (preferably from this Parish), as well as for an events co-ordinator.

8) VE/VJ Day Celebrations

VE day, the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2, is on Thursday 8 May 2025 and Cllr Harris asked if the parish would like to commemorate this in some way. This will be considered along with the soldier silhouettes (see point 9)

Soldier Silhouettes

9) Following an approach from a village resident asking the Parish Council to consider installing some soldier silhouettes in the village, Cllr Baker said some research into those who lived in the parish and lost their lives during WW2 had taken place. Installing soldier silhouettes along with potential celebrations (see paragraph 8) will be tied into this.

Possible sites for the silhouettes were the churchyard and Village Green.

Clerks report

10) The Clerk reported as follows-

A quote from HCC regarding the installation of posts to fit speed awareness cameras had been received. The total costs will be £1477.37. There was however a query on the site near the Hawk and HCC had suggested the post would be better positioned on private land and that the Parish Council will need to seek agreement from the land owner before any post can be fitted. After reviewing the photograph of the site, it was agreed the Clerk should respond and ask that the 30MPH repeater sign post should be the site to use, the post will need to be replaced with a taller version.

HALC are recommending all Parish Councils use.gov emails. They believe it will become compulsory to do so in the future. Hugo Fox is in a position to provide these and have secured grant funding to help Parish Councils put this in place. The Clerk confirmed she had registered and was awaiting details. Putting this in place will mean the one.com email service can be scrapped.

Quotes for grass cutting in 2025 had been received and were discussed. It was agreed that Cllr Harris will establish if the current contractor wanted to continue, if so, he will be asked to do so.

Blocked gullies near Waterloo Bridge have been reported to HCC.

Finally, she confirmed the new Village Hall would be available for meetings from February 2025. The cost to the Parish Council for the hall was £20 per hour. The hall had been booked for February and the Clerk was working with the bookings secretary to make all bookings in advance.

Finance

11) To note the bank balances as at 13/01/2025

Lloyds current £2142.93

Lloyds savings £ 22115.38

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

H Bourner salary	£491.40
HMRC	£123.00
H Bourner exp.	£38.90
Clear electricity (DD)	£9.77
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
Taits December	£78.00
Parish Online	£97.20
Business stream Water	£27.25
HCC street lights	£97.92

Retrospective

H Bourner salary	£491.60
HMRC	£122.80
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
Greentree Garden Services	£260.00
Eclipse mole services	£85.00
Live 4 soccer	£602.00
Clear electricity (DD)	£9.45

Greenflints footpath cutting £1140.00

Borough & County Councillor Reports.

12) HCC Chris Donnelly gave a brief overview of the devolution proposals for Hampshire. He will be holding a briefing meeting for all parish councils, details will be sent to the Clerk.

He detailed some overnight closures of the A303 for resurfacing and the proposed diversion routes which may impact on rural villages. He will make representations to request that better diversion routes are used.

TVBC Susanne Hasselmann had circulated a recent report and will update Parish Councils on the new National Planning Policy Framework in her next report. She said she had recently attended a meeting regarding monitoring of the Test and its water quality.

13) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

24/02431/FULLN- install wheelchair access ramp-13 Elmstead Park- permission

24/02520/FULLN- replacement conservatory roof, 10 Michaelmas Drove- permission

24/02555/TREEN-tree works, The Cottage on the Green-no objection

Reviewed between meetings:

24/02821/TREEN-fell 2x ash trees, Robins, Monxton Road- no objections

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

24/02910/FULLN- conservatory addition to the annex-Waterloo Cottage- no objections

24/02940/FULLN new external door Bryning Lodge, Andover Road- no objections

24/02974/TREEN reduce height of 2 x cypress trees-Dukes Wood, Monxton Road- no objections

Solar Farm application- Cllr Montagu provided an update on the latest application which awaits a decision. Thruxton Air are still opposing the application on the grounds that glint and glare may cause an issue, although this is a very minor, mitigable risk. The CAA has no concerns but TVBC are asking a specialist consultant to review this case. The applicant may well consider another appeal.

Correspondence

14) The Clerk highlighted

The latest Clerks & Councils Direct magazine.

A letter from the electricity supplier regarding a change in contract.

New Items for next agenda

15) None

Community News

16) None

Date of next meeting

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