

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting followed held on Monday 15th July 2024, 7.30pm at Amport School

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

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk

TVBC Mrs M Flood

2 Members of the public

Apologies

1) Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, TVBC S Hasselmann & Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass.

Public Participation

2) The two members of public present were there to observe.

3) 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.

4) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 24th June were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Montagu. All in favour.

Matters arising- Breach Farm Brewery application to extend licencing hours.

Several members of public had attended the June meeting to air concerns regarding this application. They had then sent a list of concerns to the Parish Council. The Clerk had written to the business owners suggesting a meeting between members of the public, members of the Parish Council and a representative of the business. The business owner had recently responded and explained that the application was an effort to simplify operating hours. They had asked for more detail as to who might attend a meeting. The Clerk read a statement from the brewery explaining the operating hours and proposed changes. The Clerk was asked to respond to the business owner and try to set up a meeting which Cllrs Coke and Hawkings-Byass will attend. She will also contact the author of the list to establish if she would be willing to attend.

5) Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported the small wooden bridge in the south-east corner of the main green has now been repaired. Cutting the green and the fen continues and it will be necessary to have the roadside verge cut back in September, as in previous years. Some ground repair by the goals is desirable and there is also some damage to the grass from vehicles at the fete which will require attention.

He also reported that on Wednesday 17th July, Maggie Shelton of Watercress & Winterbournes will be leading a botanical survey of Amport Fen. This is an opportunity to obtain some more feedback from W&W as to what further work in the fen is desirable, particularly with regard to the muddy path north of the picnic bench.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey was not present.

Weyhill- Cllr Hemmings had nothing to report.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings -Byass – was absent but had sent a report highlighting an issue with footpaths that are landowner responsibility. The Clerk will contact HCC Countryside Access for assistance. A member of public asked if the hedge on Amesbury Road could be cut back as this was encroaching on the footpath. The Clerk will report this.

Communications – Cllr Hawkings-Byass has circulated the July newsletter. The next newsletter should be issued in late August.

Several comments have been made saying that the paper copy is preferred and that this only being digital would be difficult. For the paper copies to continue help is required with delivery and volunteers are asked to contact the Clerk on clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk or by calling 01264 773976.

Projects- Cllr Harvey was absent.

Neighbourhood Plan– Cllr Stephenson reported work to produce a draft plan continues. The design codes and the housing needs survey are all now ready to be incorporated in the first draft and volunteers in the working groups have been working very hard to gather all the information required so the consultant will write the report.

Concern was raised about inclusion of photographs within the report of individual houses. Cllr Stephenson will seek advice as to whether householder permission is required.

Highways- Cllr Harris reported that several sites in the area are to be reviewed by Hampshire Highways including both the bottom of Keepers Hill and the area in front of Amport School, with a view to carrying out the necessary repair work in the coming months. The promised repairs on the Fyfield Road/Amesbury Road junction and on Wiremead Lane have yet to take place.

Nothing has been heard from National Highways regarding a report on the A303 / Sarson Lane junction.

Southern Water

While the use of tankers in the area was almost entirely removed and the works to reline sewers and private laterals almost complete one major issue remains outstanding and this is the constant spilling of the manhole at Manor Farm in Abbots Ann during high ground water levels. Southern Water have now agreed to target this issue before levels rise again. Discussions are continuing with SW to improve their communications with their customers.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Baker reported the next TVBC resilience meeting will be held on 18th October 2024.

School Liaison-Cllr Baker reported the school administrator has now left after 20 years of service. She intends to make contact with her replacement at the beginning of the autumn term.

Increase in crime

6) Cllr Harris reported a targeted increase in crime in the area. All residents were encouraged to ensure sheds and outbuildings are locked and that homes are secure. Any suspicious activity should be reported to the Police and the online method is considered the most efficient. The use of CCTV was discussed as this has been effective in another Hampshire Village. Cllr Harris will arrange to talk to a representative of that village to establish facts.

Tree Planting around the village

7) Following receipt of an email from a villager regarding planting trees around the parish to replace dead and dying Ash trees, Cllr Harris confirmed he will be speaking to a local tree surgeon and hopes to be able to report on this matter at the September meeting

Amport & Monxton Village Hall

8) Cllr Harris reported the construction of the new hall continues. Good progress is being made with the shell of the hall. The floor except for the final tile covering is complete. The cladding and most of the render has been fitted, and the windows are fitted subject to final adjustments. The first fix electrics etc will be fitted in the next couple of weeks.

Further funds to complete the whole build are still need to be raised from the community. Any member of the Parish who is willing to consider a donation should contact Mike Cleugh (Monxton PC) Chris Harris (Amport PC), or donate via the QR code which has been publicised. Alternatively, if a resident wishes to fund (in whole or in part) one specific item such as the floor tiles, that can also be accommodated. All donors will be identified on a commemoration plaque in the hall – if they so choose.

Finally, he said anyone interested in serving on the Village Hall Committee, especially as Treasurer or Secretary should apply to Mike Cleugh or Chris Harris. Residents of Amport Parish are particularly encouraged to apply as the aim is to ensure both parishes are represented on the Village Hall Committee.

Applications for private use of Village Green

9) Cllr Harris reported on a request to hold a charity event on the Village Green on 28 September 2024. The purpose of the event is to raise money for cancer research and for the new village hall. The Parish Council agreed to this use of the Village Green provided the normal licence is signed by those organising the event.

Amport House-update

10) Cllr Harris reported there has been expression of interest in the purchase of the building by a hotel chain a number of points of clarification have now been received and the sale of the property is now progressing.

Clerks report

11) The Clerk reported as follows-

An order for the round picnic bench and fitting has been placed with the contractor. S106 funds were available and it was agreed the Clerk should make a claim once the invoice is received.

The speed awareness camera report had finally been received from Hampshire Highways and had been circulated. It was suggested that two Councillors will review the report and discount any sites that are not suitable

Finance

12) To note the bank balances as at 09/07/2024

Lloyds savings £12005.19

Lloyds current £11942.31

To approve the following payments and authorise online transactions: -

H Bourner salary	£475.76
HMRC	£119.00
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
Clear electricity (DD)	£14.52
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
Ray Welch	£295.00
Business Stream	£29.85
Amport PCC	£500.00

Borough & County Councillor Reports.

13) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent apologies.

TVBC Maureen Flood reported TVBC have awarded funding to help an education group, Koala to provide further education for those diagnosed as neuro divergent. She confirmed that TVBC have inspected all funeral homes in the area but no issues have been discovered. She also confirmed that the planning application to convert the Black Swan Public House in Monxton to residential use has been agreed and finally she highlighted several fun days will take place in Andover throughout summer holidays.

Planning

14) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

24/01140/TPON-replaced by further application

24/01114/CLPN-lawful development certificate for garden outbuilding, Greenacre, Dauntsey Lane-issued

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

24/01530/TPON tree reduction, The Cheese House, Hay Down Lane- no objections

Correspondence

15) The Clerk highlighted

The latest copy of Clerks & Councils direct.

New Items for next agenda

- 16) To discuss and resolve to hold and distribute excess funds from the Village Fete
New football goals on the Village Green
Food vans to visit the Village Green

Community News

17) Cllr Harris asked the members of public present if they had anything to add. Both said it had been very interesting to attend and that they wanted to get involved in the community. One suggested he may express an interest in becoming a Parish Councillor, Cllr Baker noted that it was necessary for an applicant to have been in the Parish for at least twelve months. It was also suggested a precis of each meeting could be published in the newsletter, particularly items such as the speed awareness signs project which would be of interest to many residents.

The Clerk reported she would be absent from the October meeting if this took place as scheduled on 21st October. After a short discussion it was agreed the meeting should be brought forward and held on Monday 14th October.

Date of next meeting

- 18) The next meeting will be on Monday 16th September 2024, 7.30pm at Amport School