

## **Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 18th November 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 T Hawkings-Byass, Cllr P Waller, Cllr C Hemmings, Cllr H Dix. Cllr P Harvey and Cllr Mrs S Baker

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk  
2 Members of the public

### **1) Apologies**

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC M Flood.

### **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 comments from the members of public present.

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

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meetings held on 14<sup>th</sup> October were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Baker. All in favour.

### **Matters arising**

The Clerk confirmed she had established the lane next to the Village Green was not part of the highway and as such was not maintained by Hampshire County Council. Consequently, a resident has filled the large pothole near the telephone box.

Foliage in the Fen requires cutting back however a plan of what is required is still awaited from The Winterbourne & Watercress group.

### **5) Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**Cllr Coke had nothing to report

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported a work date for the lengthsman to clear the ditch and cut the verge by the road is awaited.

He said there has been new growth in the fen / green where some clearance work took place recently. This illustrates that such work will enhance the habitat here and further proposals are awaited from the ecology expert at the Wessex River Trust (via Watercress and Winterbournes).

The Parish Council recently had an offer for “standard trees” for planting in the parish. Further information had been requested but no response was received.

Finally, he reported the Pillhill Brook Association (consisting of riparian landowners in the various parishes along the Pillhill Brook, including the PC) has a new website - [pillhillbrook.org.uk](http://pillhillbrook.org.uk) – which is well worth a visit.

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey confirmed the play area checks had taken place and all was well. At the last meeting it was proposed that Sabre Goal posts be purchased to replace the old goal posts currently on the green.

Cllr Harvey had reviewed the current fittings and these will fit the new goals so has therefore established a pair will cost £580.00. Fitting will be required and the old ones removed Greenflints have quoted £420 to do this, Cllr Baker proposed this be accepted, this was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed. The Clerk will place the order.

**Weyhill-** Cllr Hemmings said she continues to research types of flower tubs suitable for the Weyhill area and will report back at the next Parish Council meeting.

**Footpaths-** no problems reported.

**Communications** – Cllr Hawkings-Byass 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. If you can help, please contact the Clerk on [clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk](mailto:clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk) or by calling 01264 773976.

**Projects-** Cllr Harvey had nothing to report.

**Neighbourhood Plan**– Cllr Stephenson reported the final draft of the Amport Neighbourhood Plan has now been submitted to TVBC and will then be sent out for consultation to over 100 stakeholders. She said a Neighbourhood Plan is a way for communities to have a say in the future of the places where they live and work. It gives the community the power to produce a plan with real legal weight that directs development in their local area. It helps the community:

- choose where they want new homes, shops and offices to be built
- have a say on what those new buildings should look like
- grant planning permission for the new buildings they want to see go ahead

An enormous amount of activity has been undertaken by the formidable working groups representing the parish in the areas of Weyhill, East Cholderton and Amport. The plan is over 120 pages long and addresses all the issues and concerns parishioners have fed back about the development of the parish. This plan has been shaped by the people of the parish to create policies around how they want future development to look and feel. It is almost certain there will be changes to planning rules as a result of the new government and the suggestion is that housing targets are like to increase by up to 80%. The Amport Parish quota at the moment is for 10 extra dwellings across the parish by 2030.

There will be a statutory 6-week consultation period once the pre submission document has been presented. The plan will be available on line and a hard copy can be made available to anyone wishing to see it in that format. Any comments and issues that parishioners wish to make can be addressed during this period. After this consultation the plan will be submitted to the examiner. The plan will then be subject to a referendum at which all parishioners will have the opportunity to accept or reject the plan.

Cllr Stephenson and the Clerk will work together to submit all required so the documents so the consultation period begins as soon as possible.

**Highways-** Cllr Harris reported no real progress has been made on the various outstanding highways matters previously recorded. The bollards at the junction of Amesbury Road and Fyfield road at Weyhill have once again been destroyed. HCC Cllr Donnelly is aware of all of the issues.

**Southern Water** -Cllr Harris reported that The PPPF held its quarterly meeting with Southern Water and others on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October. The theme of the discussion is to make sure that the achievements of Southern Water through the Pathfinder project in the catchment are locked in, that necessary tidying up in the villages takes place, and that all involved are properly prepared for whatever comes up this winter. The PPPF has reviewed HCC’s Community Toolkit. This is a useful document and the PPPF has provided information on the Local Area Flooding Hotspots to HCC. The PPPF is meeting with Sarah Reghif of HCC on 27<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the toolkit further.

**Resilience Plan-** Cllr Baker & Cllr Waller will attend an online community resilience workshop on 20th November and report back at the January meeting.

**School Liaison-**Cllr Baker confirmed she had been liaising with the school particularly on parking issues, in particular parking by the telephone box which blocks sight lines of vehicles leaving the lane. The school has agreed the Parish Council can continue to use their building to meet until the Village Hall is ready. Cllr Baker will speak to them before each meeting to confirm.

### **Speed Awareness Signs Locations**

6) Cllr Coke had circulated a report regarding speed awareness machines providing a timetable of actions required along with quotes for the purchase of machines. Three volunteers had come forward to assist with

this project, Cllr Hawkings Byass therefore proposed the project now goes ahead, this was seconded by Cllr Stephenson. Nine agreed 1 against. Project will proceed. Following a discussion, it was agreed the Clerk will make an application for grant funding to TVBC and HCC to help with the project, the Clerk will also contact HCC regarding the fitting of new posts required to mount the machines.

### **Zig Zag lines at school**

7) Cllr Harvey confirmed he had written to HCC regarding the urgent need to repaint the zig zag lines at school. Currently this is scheduled for works in 25/26 but Cllr Harvey is pushing for this to be treated as a priority.

### **8) Amport & Monxton Village Hall**

Cllr Harris reported November was a month of real progress with the new Monxton & Amport Village Hall. Specifically:

The internal build of the WC and kitchen walls is complete

The installation of the plaster work on all ceilings and walls, skimmed, ready for painting shortly using local tradesmen is complete

Installation and testing of the full fibre broadband circuit is complete and up and running with 550mb download speeds

First fix electrics are complete

Installation of light fittings has commenced

The Air Source Heat Pump has now been installed

Financially the following have been received

£2,500 in Gift Aid payment from HMRC with thanks to villagers for their generous donations

A grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund of £7,600 towards the Air Source Heat Pump

A generous donation of £5,000 from a local family

A further donation of £750 from Breach Farm Brewing, following their very successful Oktoberfest event

A grant of £17,235 from Scottish & Southern Electricity (SSE) for the Solar PV system, which covers 100% of the cost (no matched funding required). This is a significant development as, using solar power, the hall has the potential to be cost neutral to run and may even generate a profit from the sale of excess power to the grid. In addition, in the event of a power cut in the villages, the system will switch automatically to battery power meaning it will be totally resilient and have heat and light for home workers or to simply be a warm place for convening or shelter for anyone without power

While the fit out is making great progress some local funding is required to finish the job, one of the significant remaining costs is the tiling of the floor and the Village Hall Committee is inviting villagers to “buy a tile” (or several tiles) as a simple and effective way for everyone to have a tangible way to contribute. Getting the floor laid also means that progress is made toward the final fit-out stages so it is an important next step and one for which the committee would be thrilled to see a whole community collective effort. The 200 sq m floor requires approximately 370 tiles. The proposal is to draw up a plan of the hall including the floor tiles. Villagers can then donate the £40 cost of a tile (or multiple tiles) and their names will be added to the floor plan which will ultimately be framed and displayed in the hall for posterity. Any donations can be made via the QR code or for larger donations of £500 or more donations may be made directly to Mike Cleugh, with Gift Aid added and tax claimed back. To this end, the Village Hall Committee would like to invite all villagers to the hall on Saturday 14th December from 3-5pm for Christmas drinks, to meet other villagers, to see first-hand how impressive our new hall stands to be and, if desired, to be part of its completion by making a donation towards a tile (or tiles) on the day. The Village Hall committee are really grateful for all support thus far and look forward to meeting parishioners old and new on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Amport House-update**

9) Cllr Harris reported there has been no progress regarding the potential sale of Amport House.

### **Soldier Silhouettes**

10) Cllr Harris reported on an approach from a village resident asking the Parish Council to consider installing some soldier silhouettes in the village. The suggestion being that 2 or 3 are purchased and displayed in the parish for 2 to 4 weeks in November to mark Remembrance. Sites and permission to install would need to be considered and the current price for one model is £175.00. This is expenditure that should be added to the 25-26 budget if the project is agreed. It was agreed in principle to research this further and Cllr Baker will lead the project with help from Cllr Hawkings-Byass. An informed proposal will be made to the Parish Council at the next meeting.

### **Clerks report**

11) The Clerk reported as follows-

The change to National Insurance limits will impact the Parish Council in that some employer contributions will have to be paid in relation to the Clerk salary from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2025. The Clerk has calculated this to be £360.00 and this has been included in the draft budget.

The National Joint Council for Local Government Services have reached an agreement for an inflationary pay increase which amounts to 62p per hour back dated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Back pay of £158.72 is therefore due and the pay rate is increased to £19.20 per hour.

A draft budget for 25-26 had been circulated. All Councillors had considered projects which may require funding along with all annual expenditure which had been included in the draft. After some discussion the draft budget was agreed and Cllr Stephenson proposed the precept level be set at £28000.00. This was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed

The annual electricity test on the box on the Village Green has been arranged.

Finally, the Clerk reported the only key to the notice board at East Cholderton had completely deteriorated. An attempt to have a new key made had failed and no spare could be located. The board is locked and cannot currently be accessed. The Clerk said it was not essential the board was locked and that she will try to remove the key barrels so the board can continue to be used.

### **Finance**

12) To note the bank balances as at 02/11/2024

Lloyds current £5932.10

Lloyds savings £ 22079.67

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

H Bourner salary	£475.56
HMRC	£119.00
H Bourner exp.	£17.20
H Bourner back pay	£126.98
HMRC	£31.74
Clear electricity (DD)	£9.77
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
Ray Welch	£117.00
Taits October	£78.00
Taits November	£78.00
Thrupton Village Hall (PPF)	£36.00

### **Borough & County Councillor Reports.**

13) HCC Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC Maureen Flood had sent apologies.

14) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

24/02035/FULLN-extensions, Foxwell House, Georgia Lane-withdrawn

24/01737/FULLN-extension, 8 Sarson Close-permission

24/02080/TREEN- tree works, Jasmine Cottage, East Cholderton- no objection  
24/02093/TREEN-fell 1 Lime Tree- Sherbourne Lodge- No objection  
23/02812/FULLN-erect 2 industrial units, J Chandler & Co, New Abbey House, Fyfield Rd- permission

**Reviewed between meetings:**

24/02431/FULLN- install wheelchair access ramp-13 Elmstead Park- no objections  
24/02475/TREEN-crown reduce cherry-Alcazar- no objections

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

24/02520/FULLN- replacement conservatory roof, 10 Michaelmas Drove- no objections  
24/02555/TREEN-tree works, The Cottage on the Green- no objections  
24/02512/FULLN-change of use of land to equestrian, Middlecot Manor, Middlecot- no objections

**Enforcement**

Pear tree at Amport Mews, The Clerk reported the TVBC tree officer has said there is a reasonable foreseeability of the trees potential to cause damage to the property so a TPO will not be considered, however the tree will be replaced with something more suitable.

**Correspondence**

15) The Clerk highlighted  
A request from Citizens Advice to advertise for volunteers.  
A request from the Air Ambulance to advertise clothing banks- send info to Tessa for newsletter  
A brochure regarding street furniture

**New Items for next agenda**

16) None

**Community News**

17) None

**Date of next meeting**

18) The next meeting will be on Monday 20th January 2025, 7.30pm at Amport School