

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16th September 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.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
HCC Chris Donnelly
TVBC S Hasselmann
Pam Chisholm-associate member
2 Members of the public

1) Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC Mrs M Flood, Cllr P Harvey and Cllr Mrs S Baker.

2) Co-Option new Councillor

Howard Dix and Pam Chisholm had both expressed an interest in becoming Parish Councillors and details of their knowledge and experience had been circulated to all Councillors. Cllr Coke had met with them both and explained that there was currently one vacancy however the Parish Council would create a post for an associate member who could help work on particular projects. Both fully understood and said they would be happy to be either a co-opted Councillor or an associate member. An associate could step forward to be co-opted in future should a vacancy arise. After a short discussion Cllr Hemmings proposed Howard Dix be co-opted. This was seconded by Cllr Hawkings Byass. All agreed. Cllr Coke proposed Pam Chisolm become an associate member, this was seconded by Cllr Stephenson. Both accepted their appointment and the Clerk will arrange for of the necessary paperwork to be signed.

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) Public Participation

Kevin Bird agent for the Dunning family provided some details of a building proposal on land in Weyhill, in the Parish of Amport. This was a proposal not an application and he asked that this be discussed at the next meeting of the Neighbourhood Planning Steering group.

5) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 15th July were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Montagu seconded Cllr Coke. All in favour.

Matters arising- Follow up on Ash Die Back

Cllr Harris highlighted the issue of ash dieback in the parish. He has sought advice from a local tree surgeon and TVBC. It seems that some trees while showing signs of the disease can recover so caution should be taken before felling. The advice from TVBC will be posted to the Parish Council website.

6) Specific reports and Cllr Responsibilities

A discussion regarding areas of responsibility took place and the following was agreed: -

Cllr Harris-Chairman, The Fen & The Green, Southern Water, Highways, Village Hall & local crime
Cllr Coke-Vice Chairman, principle & process, speed awareness
Cllr Baker- school liaison & resilience
Cllr Montagu- solar farm, Fox Farm liaison
Cllr Hawkings-Byass-communications including newsletter and Facebook & footpaths
Cllr Harvey-play area checks, projects
Cllr Stephenson-Neighbourhood Plan
Cllr Waller-Resilience including flood planning
Cllr Hemmings-Neighbourhood Plan and Weyhill area representative
Cllr Dix- Dauntsey Lane representative

All present were asked to consider if there were other areas they would like to become involved with.

Cllr Hawkings -Byass asked that others walking on footpaths in the parish could report any issues they see as she is unable to walk them herself at the moment.

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

The Fen & Green- Thanks were expressed to Will Hawkings-Byass for installing the new bench by the play equipment although he has raised concerns with the manufacturer regarding the top of the bench and awaits their response.

It was agreed the verge by the road should be cut back this autumn and the ditch should also be cleared when the lengthsman is available. The Clerk will organise this.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey was not present but had sent a report confirming the play area checks had taken place and all was well. He had also provided quotes to replace the goal posts on the Village Green which were discussed. Details will be circulated to all Councillors and Cllr Harvey will be asked to make a recommendation.

Weyhill- Cllr Hemmings asked that the Parish Council reach out via the newsletter to residents of areas that felt under represented such as Dauntsey Lane and Amport Fields.

She also suggested installing some flower planters in the Weyhill area. All agreed this was a good idea. She will research some types of tubs and costs to bring to the next Parish Council meeting.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings -Byass had nothing to report.

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 or by calling 01264 773976.

Projects- Cllr Harvey was absent.

Neighbourhood Plan– Cllr Stephenson reported the NP was still being scrutinised by the steering groups and needs to be agreed by them before more community events will take place to establish residents' views. Feedback will be incorporated before the plan moves forward to the Regulation 14 stage.

Highways- Cllr Harris reported the Highways Dept have had a team in Amport and surrounding villages recently and they have carried out some drain clearance and road repairs on Keepers Hill and Furzedown Lane. Further work needs to be done outside Amport School and at the junction at the foot of Keepers Hill, this will be carried out soon.

Repairs have also been carried out in Weyhill, notably at the Amesbury Road/Fyfield Road junction where a bollard was destroyed recently. The drain in this area still floods in heavy rains and needs to be cleared. The Clerk will report this.

In an attempt to preserve the junction, the Clerk will compose a letter to send to all business in the Industrial units at Weyhill asking them to observe the voluntary system of using the round-a-bout rather than turning left when approaching from the Amesbury Road or right when exiting the junction. In due course this will become compulsory, once HCC have gained the necessary traffic order.

Southern Water -Cllr Harris reported that Southern Water are predicting that the catchment will experience a moderate to bad groundwater season this winter, which will test the resilience of the work done to seal the sewers at the northern end of the catchment over the last winter. Furthermore, it is expected that groundwater levels will rise again in November. Maintenance work will be taking place in the catchment over the next few weeks, and some of this scheduled maintenance work may require tanker support. Southern Water will notify the PPF when tanker support is expected.

Finally, he confirmed Southern Water has re-seeded the verge by the Amport pumping station and it is hoped they will place kerbstones there to preserve the grass.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Waller had no specific update on the draft plan.

Cllr Harris said one of the initiatives that had arisen from Southern Water discussions is the request to produce a local map of hotspots for the HCC Flood Warning Management team where there is an identified risk of flooding irrespective of cause. Cllr Waller agreed to work toward producing a plan but asked that all Councillors report to him details of areas of which they are aware that regularly flood.

School Liaison-Cllr Baker had sent apologies.

Speed Awareness Signs Locations

7) Cllr Coke had reviewed the report from Hampshire Highways regarding possible locations for speed signs. He had circulated his report giving details of the five sites he believed to be most appropriate. He had begun gathering details of the price of the signs and agreed to produce details and recommendations for the next meeting.

New taller posts will need to be fitted and HCC will need to be approached regarding this. Volunteers will also be required to move the signs around the various locations. Volunteers should contact the clerk by email to clerk@amportparishcouncil.org.uk or by calling 01264 773976.

Local Crime- Use of CCTV

8) Cllr Harris said following on from the report at the July meeting contact has been made with Houghton PC which has its own community cctv system. Houghton has a very different profile from Amport Parish as it has only three ways in and out. The cost of their scheme amounted to £25k, including consultant's fees and a similar scheme for Amport Parish would almost certainly be more. It was agreed Amport Parish Council cannot support that level of expenditure and the suggestion was that individual residents could invest in modest personal cctv systems should they choose to do so.

A discussion regarding a community approach to rural crime – eg setting up a whatsapp group (or groups) of residents who can communicate in the event suspicious activity was observed. It was agreed the next step should be to talk to the local police to obtain their advice, and then possibly have a public meeting to explore what is workable. The Clerk will make contact with the local PCSO.

Amport & Monxton Village Hall

9) Cllr Harris reported the build is still progressing and a meeting shortly with the builder and architect will inform what work is still required.

A grant for the solar panels has been awarded by TVBC and applications have been made for further grants. Funds have been donated by the community but additional funds are still required. Any member of the Parish who is willing to donate please contact Mike Cleugh (Monxton PC) or Chris Harris (Amport PC), or donate via the QR code which has been publicised previously.

There is a further call for anyone interested in serving on the Village Hall Committee, especially as Treasurer or Secretary. Residents of Amport Parish are particularly encouraged to apply.

Amport House-update

10) Cllr Harris reported there continues to be progress regarding the sale of the property and it is hoped that confirmation of the date of sale will be available soon.

Clerks report

11) The Clerk reported as follows-

The decision regarding change of licencing hours at Breach farm Brewery had been made with some small changes.

The cabinet for the defibrillator at the Hawk needs replacing as the current one leaks and will eventually damage the machine. The Clerk confirmed the price to buy a replacement cabinet was £634.99 net. The matter was discussed and Cllr Stephenson proposed this be purchased. This was seconded by Cllr Coke. It was suggested the Hawk be asked if they would contribute to the costs The Clerk will liaise with the Hawk regarding the purchase and installation of the cabinet.

Finance

12) To note the bank balances as at 09/09/2024
Lloyds current £7028.44

Lloyds savings £22029.48

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

H Bourner salary	£475.76
HMRC	£119.00
H Bourner exp.	£40.49
Clear electricity (DD)	£10.36
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
BDO audit	£252.00
Ray Welch	£262.00
Buisness Stream	£22.70

Retrospective	
Greentree Garden services	£85.00
Eclipse pest control	£105.00
Eclipse pest control	£105.00
H Bourner salary	£475.76
HMRC	£118.80
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
One.Com	£100.64
Taits	£78.00
Greentree Garden services	£80.00
Greentree Garden services	£120.00
Taits	£69.00
Clear electricity (DD)	£34.51
Ray Welch	£262.00

Borough & County Councillor Reports.

13) HCC Chris Donnelly had circulated his recent report.

TVBC Susanne Hasselman highlighted her recent report which had been circulated.

She also highlighted the consultation currently open regarding planning reform. TVBC have been told by central government to increase the number of houses now required in the period to 2040 by 75% and this needs to be considered alongside the draft 2040 plan. There is great concern that large numbers of housing will be built where there is not the appropriate infrastructure, some of which could be in rural areas.

14) The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

24/01530/TPON-tree works The Cheese House, Hay Down Lane-consent

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

24/01229/FULLN-extension, 8Laundry Cottages, Cholderton Road-permission

24/01233/FULLN- timber outbuilding, the Lodge, Monxton Nurseries-permission

Reviewed between meetings

24/01605/CLPN-rebuild wall-Ashbrook, Furzedown Lane- no objection

24/01756/TPON-tree works, Musset Cottage, The Green-no objections

24/01743/LBWN-listed buildings work to path& terrace, drainage, access, windows and door, internal plaster & right of way-1 Mount Pleasant-no objections

24/01773/CLEN- lawful existing use certificate to change stables to residential dwelling, Middlecot Stables-no objections

24/01849/FULLN- Erect open sided steel frame, straw barn-Pipers Hill farm- no objections

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

24/01737/FULLN- two storey side extension & loft conversion-8 Sarson Close- no objections

24/02033/FULLN-Pipers Hill Farm-remove stables and erect an agricultural dwelling- no objections

24/02080/TREEN-fell 2 trees, Jasmine Cottage- no objections

24/02093/TREEN- fell 1 tree, Sherbourne Lodge, Furzedown Lane- no objections

24/02035/FULLN-extensions, Foxwell House, Georgia Lane- no objections- While Amport Parish Council has no objection to the above numbered application itself, it has been noted that the applicant also recently purchased a plot of field on the other side of Georgia Lane opposite the house, on which they have erected enclosed bird pens amounting to approximately 50m x 20m, together with a new gate opening directly onto Georgia Lane.

Neighbours have approached the Parish Council and have requested TVBC consider:

- (a) whether the installation of the pens constitutes development requiring planning permission,
- (b) and if so whether it is permitted development,
- (c) and if so is prior approval required and
- d) does the installation of the new gate require Highways approval.

Cllr Montagu reported that the application for a new solar farm at land on Lains Farm is likely to go before Northern Area Committee, hopefully at the October meeting.

Correspondence

15) The Clerk highlighted
The latest copy of Clerks & Councils direct.

New Items for next agenda

16) Parking at Village Green- discuss the possibility of enlarging spaces
Large pothole by telephone box.

Community News

17) None

Date of next meeting

18) The next meeting will be on Monday 14th October 2024, 7.30pm at Amport School