

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 15th September 2025, 7.30pm at Monxton & Amport Village Hall

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr A Montagu, Cllr P Waller, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson, Cllr Mrs S Baker, Cllr P Harvey, Cllr H Dix & Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
TVBC Maureen Flood
Michelle Penn-TVBC Community engagement officer
2 Members of the public

Apologies

1) Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC S Hasselmann & Cllr Clare Hemmings.

2) Declarations of Interest

Cllr Harris declared an interest in the item 10 regarding Monxton & Amport village hall as a trustee of the charity and took no part in the discussions. There were no other declarations of interest in matters on the agenda. All Councillors confirmed that no changes to Register of Interest forms were required.

3) Draft Local Plan

Following considerable work in the parish, including two public meetings, the Parish Council had submitted a lengthy and detailed objection to the proposal in the draft local plan for the expansion of Weyhill. The work in respect of this carried out by the Neighbourhood Plan consultant had been invaluable and Cllr Stephenson proposed we meet the £5100.00 fees for this from the allocation made in the budget for the Neighbourhood Plan given they were inextricably linked. Concerns were raised that this was a retrospective approval for a large sum. Cllr Harris explained that the time constraints of responding to the consultation, assisting members of the parish who had asked for help and the fact that there was no ordinary meeting scheduled had all played a part in this. It would certainly never be planned for a payment to be agreed retrospectively. Cllr Coke seconded the proposal to make the payment. All agreed.

Following the closure of the consultation a public briefing has been issued to confirm some of the sites in the proposed expansion have been withdrawn by the landowner, however a new submission had been made in respect of the Weyhill area from Jackson Planning on behalf of the Dunning family who own some land in Weyhill, in Amport parish and some in Penton Grafton parish which is part of the Ewelme Trust. This plan had been shared with TVBC.

The submission was discussed in detail, and it was agreed it was impractical to object to all applications made for the Weyhill area and that the Parish Council should engage with any plans submitted. It was further agreed that any plans or proposals that is submitted needs to demonstrate suitable infrastructure.

Cllr Stephenson said the lack of consultation by TVBC in respect of the draft local plan and the neighbourhood plan, which is now nearing endorsement was very disappointing, furthermore the new plan submitted by Jackson Planning Consultants does not take into consideration any of the work of the Neighbourhood Plan or the content which is based on the needs and wants of the community. It was agreed should this plan be put forward for consideration by TVBC then Amport Parish Council will form a working group with Penton Grafton Parish Council as they will also be significantly affected by this proposal.

Several local parishes, including Amport have formed a working group to consider the increased traffic on the A342 and further issues that will arise given the proposed plans for development in the area.

The Clerk reported she had received an email question from a parishioner which had arisen following the TVBC exhibition at Weyhill regarding the draft local plan. The parishioner questioned why Amport Parish council were at the event and whether it was open and transparent for members of the Parish Council to approach members of the public at the event offering help to draft objections. It was noted the question had been asked by one of the landowners and this was the only question of this nature which had arisen following the event when over 200 hundred members of public had engaged with the Parish Council. Those Councillors who had been at the event said they had been open to speak to any member of the community to listen to all views. The Clerk will reply to the email.

Finally, the Clerk confirmed she had submitted the Freedom of Information request as outlined by the Neighbourhood Planning consultant on 4th August. TVBC had responded saying they needed up to 40 days to meet the request, so a response has not yet been received.

4)Public Participation

The members of the public present engaged with the discussions regarding the draft local plan.

5) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 21st July were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Montagu seconded Cllr Waller All in favour.

The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 18th August were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All in favour.

6) Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke reported the Local Government Association had issued agreed inflationary pay rises to their published scales which are used to determine pay for the Clerk. The Clerk was currently paid at scale point 27 £19.20 per hour and the proposal was to increase this to £19.81 per hour. In addition the final rise in the pay band which was performance related saw the increase rise to £20.29 per hour. Any increase is to be back dated to 1st April 2025.

Cllr Coke proposed both be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Baker. All agreed.

Devolution- Cllr Harris reported Hampshire Council and The Government are pressing on with their attempts to devolve powers to an elected mayor and to restructure local government across the county into new unitary authorities (LGR). There is apparently no consensus in the county as to how the proposed unitary authorities should be constituted. There are proposals by Hampshire County Council and further proposals by a group which includes TVBC. The ultimate decision on reorganisation will be made by central government. The next TVAPTC meeting 27th September at King Sombourne will address the subject and any Councillor interested can register to attend.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported there have been further problems with moles on the village green which will be addressed, dead branches from a tree in the Fen need to be removed, the missing dragons teeth have been reported to HCC, a wooden sign on the green needs repair and the goal posts need to be moved. Finally, the roadside verge at the Village Green has been cut back but needs clearing by the Lengthsman.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey confirmed there were no problems with equipment at the play area.

Weyhill- Cllr Dix said many parishioners at Weyhill had expressed their thanks to the Parish Council for all the support and advice regarding the planning proposals for the Weyhill Expansion.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass confirmed all footpaths had been cut back again today. Concerns were raised again about dog waste not being cleared and horse riders using footpaths. Both will be highlighted in the newsletter.

Communications – The next newsletter will be drafted soon, for publication at the beginning of October. The circulated suggestion for the website opening page was discussed and approved. The Clerk will update this

Projects- Cllr Harvey has been researching how the car parking side of the Village Green could be improved. There are currently telegraph poles marking the area but some of these are now rotten. Cllr Harvey will obtain formal quotes for replacement posts. Grants to cover the costs of this project will be considered once quotes are received.

Neighbourhood Plan– Cllr Stephenson confirmed the Regulation 16 consultation by TVBC regarding the Ampert Neighbourhood Plan is now open. This will end on 20th October when it is hoped a referendum will follow.

Highways- See details in draft local plan regarding working group for A432 and item 7.

Southern Water -Cllr Harris reported recent rainfall has seen a rise in water levels and if this continues the current hosepipe ban could be lifted by November.

Work to start lining sewers in other neighbouring parishes is about to start and the Pan Parish Forum continue to press Southern Water to repair the area outside the Amport water pumping station and the lay by at East Cholderton.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Waller said the plan needs to be updated now that the new Village Hall has been opened. The plan needs to be communicated, and this will be highlighted in the newsletter. Plans for a training exercise are on hold at the moment but will be returned to later in the year.

School Liaison-Cllr Baker said the problems with parents parking at school drop off and collection times remain an issue.

7) Speed Awareness Signs

Cllr Coke confirmed the necessary posts for the signs have now been fitted and he has requested an up to date quote for the purchase of the agreed machine. The Clerk was asked to write to the people who agreed to volunteer and set up a communication group.

8) Parking at The Hawk

Following concerns raised by residents regarding parking on the green area opposite the Hawk a meeting between the head of Upham Inns, residents and the Parish Council has been set up to discuss the matter and hopefully agree some solutions. Cllr Harris will report details after the meeting.

Clerks report

9) The Clerk reported as follows-

It had become clear that the minutes of the meeting of 18th March were incorrect in that they had recoded members of the PC attending via zoom when in fact there was no zoom meeting. It is not acceptable for a councillor to attend and participate in a Parish Council meeting via zoom, although it is acceptable for a zoom meeting to be open to allow members of the public or the clerk to attend remotely. Cllr Harris proposed the minutes be amended to reflect the true situation. This was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed.

The new box and signs for the defibrillator at the Hawk have been purchased and delivered. The Clerk confirmed the new assets have now been recorded on the Parish Council asset register.

The new.gov email service and email addresses have been distributed, and all Councillors should be able to use these. A decision was made that from now on the .gov service should be used for all Parish Council business. The one.com service needs to remain open, and the Clerk will check this daily until all interested parties have been informed of the new contact details. This service will not be renewed next August when the current term expires.

The Clerk reported that over the summer period she had worked additional hours, mainly in relation to the draft local plan and the meetings required. She confirmed the recorded additional hours as 12 and a claim for additional pay will be made with the October salary.

Finally, she said Lloyds bank had written to say they needed to change the bank account type to a Charity Account. They know a Parish Council is not a charity, but the change meant the Parish Council will only face bank charges if they pay in cash.

10) Monxton & Amport Village Hall

A report had been circulated regarding the shortfall in funding required to complete the village hall build

Organisations with regular bookings had been asked to pay for a year in advance to help with cash flow. All agreed the Parish Council should pay the remaining £120.00 for bookings in 2025.

It had also been suggested the Parish Council consider making a grant to the hall to help with costs. The Clerk said any grant would need to be made via S137 LGA 1972 and comply with the criteria of £11.10 per elector (985 per register) a maximum grant of £10933.50. The possibilities of providing a grant were discussed at length while there were some funds available the Parish Council had already committed to pay

for speed awareness machines and there was the ongoing cost of the Neighbourhood Plan consultant. Given the possibility of more work in respect of the proposed expansion of Weyhill it was felt funds should be set aside to meet any costs arising. It was also noted that Amport Parish Council are paying to hire the hall.

After further discussion, Cllr Dix proposed it was agreed in principle that a grant should be made up to a maximum of £4000 based on budget constraints. However, before a final decision is made the Clerk will circulate some calculations by email to all Councillors for agreement. The offer should be subject to a rent free hire of hall for Amport Parish business, in perpetuity. Cllr Harvey seconded the proposal, all in favour.

Finance

11)

1)) To note the bank balances as at 08/09/2025

Lloyds savings £21853.04

Lloyds current £16626.37

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

H Bournier salary (sep)	£491.60
HMRC	£152.61
H Bournier exp.	£76.98
One.Com renewal	£132.66
Monxton & Amport V Hall	£120.00
YU energy (DD)	£24.82
Ray Welch	£150.00
Taits printers Aug	£140.00
Web site	£11.99
Monxton & Amport V Hall	£27.00
Thruxton Village Hall	£34.00
Weyhill Fairground hall hire	£45.00
Janet Wright(from grant)	£178.22
Eclipse pest control	£85.00

Retrospective	
H Bournier salary (Aug)	£491.60
HMRC	£122.80
Web site	£11.99
Ray Welch	£200.00
Defib warehouse	£557.94
CLIXZ DLZ (laptop)	£393.00
Greentree garden services	£80.00

Borough & County Councillor Reports.

12) HCC Chris Donnelly was not present.

TVBC M Flood confirmed the food waste collection scheme will commence on 13th October.

She highlighted an initiative by TVBC animal welfare highlighting the issue of those who are suddenly ill with pets who need to be looked after.

Finally, she highlighted a Post office consultation now open and encouraged all to respond.

Michelle Penn- TVBC community engagement officer said she would be emailing all Parish Councils with upcoming events and details of grants available. She plans to visit Parish Council meetings regularly but is happy to be contacted for help and assistance.

13) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

25/01338/FULLN- remove and replace paths and terrace, install handrails, fence, surface water drainage, soak away and right of way path-1 Mount Pleasant-permission

25/01403/FULLN-laying of underground cables to connect solar farm- Land at Lains farm-permission

25/01451/CPLN-lawful development certificate for garden shed, Ashside, Sarson Lane- certificate issued

25/0116/FULLN-garden office in front garden, Canberra, Sarson Lane- permission

Reviewed between meetings:

25/01879/TREEN- tree works Pipers Hill House-no objections

25/01549/FULLN- erection of 12 dwellings Dauntsey Drove-objection

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

25/01607/FULLN- replacement roof to conservatory- 27 Sarson Close-no objection

25/01678/FULLN- replacement garage to provide gym & home office-Ashside, Sarson Lane-no objection

25/01774/FULLN- first floor extension, single storey extension to link house & garage replace outbuilding with home office- Foxwell House-no objection

25/02064/FULLN-partial demolition and reconfiguration of side extension, erection of rear extension.

Division of plot with erection of new dwelling- 1 Brewery Cottages, Amesbury Road -no objection

Cllr Stephenson highlighted a previous application for traveller site at Sarson Lane- 20/02997/FULLN-and recent work at the site.

14) Update on Amport House

Cllr Harris reported that Another Place has confirmed there is no firm offer to purchase the property at present although there are still viewings taking place.

Correspondence

15) The Clerk highlighted the latest Clerks & Councils Direct magazine

Community News

16) Cllr Harris reported as part of the work with the neighbouring parish councils on the PPPF and draft local plan some preliminary discussions with other local parish councils have taken place about sharing information. This initiative is in its early stages, but common themes to date seem to be the lack of engagement with parish councils from the Highways team (HCC) and from the planning team (TVBC).

Date of next meeting

17) The next meeting will be on Monday 20th October 2025, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**