

## **Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October 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 H Dix.

Also present

Heather Bournier – Parish Clerk  
TVBC S Hasselmann  
Kira Fuller Wintercress & Waterbournes  
15 Members of the public

### **Apologies**

- 1) Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, TVBC Maureen Flood, Cllr P Harvey, Cllr C Hemmings & Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass

### **2) Declarations of Interest**

Cllr Harris declared an interest in item 10 regarding Monxton & Amport village hall as a trustee of the charity and took no part in the discussions. He also declared an interest in a planning application relating to a tree at his property.

Cllr Harris & Stephenson declared an interest in a planning application to build a dwelling on land adjacent to the Almshouses, a charity trust of which they are both trustees.

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) Presentation by Watercress & Winterbournes**

Kira Fuller from the Watercress & Winterbournes talked about an initiative to provide educational walking trails around chalk streams by erecting signs with QR codes which when scanned will provide information. These would be erected in areas around the stream in Amport and would be aimed at the species that are present thus engaging with those who walk the trail. All signs will be provided and erected by the Watercress & Winterbourne group with a commitment from the community to check these remain intact with any problems being reported back to them for repair. The Parish Council were happy to engage with the project and further details with proposed sites for the signs will be shared shortly.

### **4)Public Participation**

The members of the public present engaged with the discussions regarding planning and the Monxton & Amport Village Hall.

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

**Resolved:** The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Stephenson. All in favour.

### **6) General Power of Competence**

Cllr Coke had circulated details and suggested Amport Parish Council may wish to adopt the General Power of Competence. The Parish Council met the criteria in that two thirds of its councillors were elected, and they have a qualified Clerk. Using this power would provide opportunities outside the legal powers currently available to the Parish Council. The matter was discussed and Cllr Coke proposed it was adopted, seconded Cllr Stephenson, all agreed.

### **7) Specific reports**

**Principle & Process-**See specific items numbers 6 & 12 (iii)

**Devolution-** Cllr Harris reported Hampshire Council and the various District Councils in Hampshire have presented their proposals for Local Government Reorganisation to Central government who can then choose one option or decide on its own approach. A provisional view from the government is expected later this year.

**The Fen & Green-** Cllr Harris reported the goalposts are due to be moved, Cllr Baker will approach the contractor. There are still several dragons' teeth missing along the road beside the green, the Clerk will report again, the ditch on the verge along the green still needs clearing, the lengthsman will be reminded and a tree in the southwest corner of the fen has some dead branches hanging over the road, a tree surgeon has been approached for advice. Thanks were expressed to Ray Welch for his work maintaining both the Green and Fen.

Cllr Baker said the school had asked if the Parish Council would consider, in principle, allowing access to the Village Green for forest school activities. This was agreed in principle, but a full plan would be needed before any activity can take place

**Play Area** -Cllr Harvey had sent apologies but had confirmed by email there were no problems with equipment at the play area.

**Weyhill-** Cllr Dix had nothing to report.

**Footpaths-** Cllr Hawkings-Byass had sent apologies but had confirmed all footpaths had been cut back and were passable.

**Communications** – The next newsletter will be drafted soon, for publication at the beginning of November.

**Projects-** Cllr Harvey had sent his apologies.

**Neighbourhood Plan**– Cllr Stephenson confirmed the Regulation 16 consultation by TVBC regarding the Amport Neighbourhood Plan closed today. An examiner has now been appointed. It is hoped a referendum will take place early in the new year.

**Highways-** See details in item 9.

**Southern Water** -Cllr Harris reported the current hosepipe ban is still in place and a meeting of Southern Water officials to consider this will take place in early November.

No decisions have been made by Southern Water to repair the area outside the Amport water pumping station and the lay by at East Cholderton.

**Resilience Plan-** Cllr Harris highlighted the next resilience meeting at King Somborne on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Cllr Waller will attend.

**School Liaison-**Cllr Baker reported a success with parents and parking at the recent Harvest Festival service; there are however still some problems with parking at school drop off and pick up times so the local police officer will be asked to attend again.

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

There had been significant discussion at the September meeting regarding a grant to help with the shortfall in funding for the building of the new Monxton & Amport Village Hall. Following the meeting further details had been circulated by the Clerk with respect to funds available. Further correspondence had ensued.

Representatives from Monxton Parish Council and the Village Hall committee in attendance gave a presentation to the meeting. They said they were custodians of the hall for the whole community; events were being held at the hall to raise funds and included hall hire by locals and by those from other villages. They gave a presentation regarding the building costs of the new Village Hall and explained the shortfall in funds. To help meet the costs they requested a grant from Amport Parish Council of £4000.00. This was a reduction from the original request of £7000 as hall booking fees had produced income to support the sums required.

Cllr Coke outlined the three proposals he had circulated to all councillors. To make a loan of £4000, to make a £4000 pre- payment to be off set against future hall bookings or to simply make a grant. The idea of a loan had been rejected by the hall trustees with concerns about meeting repayments.

Cllr Coke reiterated the Parish council needs to be aware of other financial commitments both budgeted and those that have arisen in the year when considering whether to make a contribution.

Eventually, after a lengthy discussion it was agreed a grant of £4000 would be offered with the attached condition of free hall use for Amporthants Parish Council meetings in 2026 and 2027. Proposed Cllr Dix, seconded Cllr Montagu, all agreed. Cllr Coke will make the offer and confirm the response.

#### **9) Draft Local Plan & A342 working group.**

Cllr Harris confirmed he and the chair of Penton Grafton Parish Council have contacted the agents who have made proposal for building new homes at Weyhill and Penton on behalf of the Dunning family and await confirmation of a date to meet and discuss the plans.

It is clear it will be sometime before TVBC reach any conclusion on the draft local plan, but Cllr Harris has arranged a meeting to discuss this with TVBC officers on 7<sup>th</sup> November.

A separate, but connected, effort across Parishes from Ludgershall to Andover comes from the A342 Working Group. Cllr Dix, along with others in other local villages are working hard on developing ideas and seeking to obtain traffic data on the main roads and the “rat-runs” that might become busier if much development takes place in the area. A small cross-parish group is planning how to best develop the ideas and prepare a useful report. If there are any locals with expertise that could help with this project, please contact [clerk@amporthantsparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@amporthantsparishcouncil.gov.uk)

#### **Clerks report**

10) The Clerk reported as follows-

The damaged fence on the footpath behind the Hawk Inn has been reported to Hampshire County Council.

The new speed awareness machine has now been purchased along with fittings.

Meeting dates for 2026 have been circulated and were agreed.

#### **11) 2026/27 Draft Budget**

A draft budget had been circulated and the Clerk confirmed she had already received some feedback from Councillors. She asked all councillors to consider the figures included in the draft and likely expenditure not just on the day to day running of the Parish Council but any envisaged projects, with the aim of agreeing the budget at the November meeting.

#### **Finance**

##### **12)**

i) To note the bank balances as at 06/10/2025

Lloyds savings £21865.13

Lloyds current £16636.18

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

H Bournier salary	£853.76
HMRC	£213.40
H Bournier exp.	£17.20
Microsoft licence ( H B)	£84.99
YU energy (DD)	£ 24.02
Ray Welch	£150.00
Taits printers	£110.00
Web site	£11.99
Email service	£24.99
BDO Audit	£252.00
Bluestone Planning	£5616.00
Elan City	£3111.88
Cllr S Coke(fittings)	£31.98

#### **Retrospective**

Greenflints	£1140.00
Business Stream	£44.59

iii) Note conclusion of audit

The Clerk confirmed the notice of conclusion for the annual audit had been received. The only issue arising was a box confirming no trust funds applied had not been ticked.

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

13) HCC Chris Donnelly had sent apologies, but his recent report had been circulated to all councillors.

TVBC S Hasselmann confirmed TVBC have now submitted their proposals for local government reorganisation to central government. It is hoped a response will be received by the end of November. TVBC have agreed to continue to fund the Citizens Advice Bureau, planning permission has been granted for the new riverside park and the first food waste collections have now been made.

### **14) Planning**

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

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

25/01678/FULLN- replacement garage to provide gym & home office-Ashside, Sarson Lane-permission

### **Reviewed between meetings:**

25/02100/TREEN Tree works-Cottage on the Green-no objections

25/02168/TREEN tree works, Bramleys, Monxton Road- no objections

25/02162/TREEN- tree works, Malt House, Wiremead Lane-no objections

25/01267/TREEN- tree works Lindisfarne, Monxton Road-no objections

25/02218/TREEN-tree works The Old Farm House, Hay Down Lane- no objections

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

25/02226/OUTN- outline plan for erection of up to 20 dwellings, Land at Dauntsey Lane-objection

25/02233/OUTN-outline plan for up to 15 dwellings, Dauntsey Lane- objection

A long discussion took place when residents, Parish Councillors and TVBC Hasselmann raised the following points:-

Up to 30 objections to these proposals have already been submitted to TVBC by individuals

Many concerns raised are about road safety, drainage and sewage issues and the loss of rural character

The concerns raised to the draft local plan for building the area are all applicable to these proposals

TVBC Cllrs Lashbrook and Hasselmann have already asked for the proposals to be heard by planning committee and requested all three applications in Dauntsey Lane and Drove be considered together given their close proximity. They have also asked TVBC officers to view the sites. At the planning committee meeting parish councils and community groups will be given three minutes to speak so it is very important that groups work together to present as many points as possible relating these wherever possible to the current local plan policies.

The parish Council unanimously agreed to object to the two above-numbered proposals- an objection has already been submitted to the proposal on Dauntsey Drove.

25/02264/PIPN- permission in principle for 1 self build dwelling, land to rear of Sheppard Spring House-an objection will be raised on the grounds that the site is outside the settlement boundary, in a conservation area, will overshadow other properties close by and add to existing problems with flooding and road safety

25/02324/TREEN- pollard willow-Broadwater, Wiremead Lane-no objections

25/01975/ADVN- display three promotional banners, Hilliers Garden Centre- no objections

25/02365/TPON- crown reduce Beech tree- Mussett Cottage, The Green- a parishioner has raised concerns about this application, but the Parish Council agreed they would not object to the application given it would be reviewed by a TVBC tree officer with more expertise than they had.

Cllr Hawkings-Biass had highlighted the number of advertising signs that had been erected on the fencing at the White Horse Pub. There had been no application for the erection of these signs and the Clerk was asked to report these to planning enforcement.

### **Correspondence**

15) The Clerk highlighted an email regarding Christmas celebrations at St Mary's Church Amport and a brochure regarding Christmas illuminations.

### **Community News**

16) Cllr Harris confirmed an offer to buy Amport House has been Accepted by the current owner, further news will be shared in due course.

The Police have agreed to carry out local beat surgeries, and it is hoped these will be held at Monxton & Amport Village Hall and possibly at the Weyhill Fairground Hall.

Amport residents are sought to help run events at the hall. If you can help, please contact the Village Hall trustees- full details can be found on the website

Local Parish Council Chairmen have set up a WhatsApp group to share relevant information.

Cllr Baker highlighted the weekly coffee morning at Monxton & Amport Village Hall each Monday and encouraged anyone able to attend.

### **Date of next meeting**

17) The next meeting will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2025, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**