

**Minutes of the Amport Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 19th January 2026, 7.30pm
at
Monxton & Amport Village Hall**

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

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
HCC Chris Donnelly
TVBC Maureen Flood
3 Members of the public

Apologies

1) Apologies for absence had been received from TVBC S Hasselmann & Cllr P Harvey

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

The members of the public present raised concerns regarding traffic and parking at the school and the apparent dangers to children. While walking their children to school they had become increasingly aware of speeding traffic and a large increase in the volume of traffic at school drop off and pick up times. This is exacerbated by parents driving their children to school despite living close enough to walk because they feel their children are safer as passengers. Parents and members of the PTA have now discussed this with the headteacher who is arranging for an HCC officer from the safer roads team to visit and review and hopefully find some solutions.

In the meantime, parents have been discussing ways which could help, they suggested asking the children to make warning posters which can be placed around the village which the Parish Council fully supports. They also suggested creating a permanent footpath on the village green alongside the ditch which would allow pedestrians safe passage and perhaps increasing the amount of parking available at the edge of the green. The Parish Council agreed both might be possible although there would certainly be a cost involved. Councillors agreed the first steps would be for the HCC officer to make some recommendations, while they would move the speed awareness sign near to the school as soon as possible and the Clerk will ask the local PCSO to visit at an appropriate time. They will also attempt to move the project to consider parking spaces at the village green forward with some pace.

4) Pillhill Brook Association

Janet Wright asked for the Parish Council's approval to display a poster in the village hall to promote the importance of the village chalk stream. She asked if a member of the Parish Council could work with her to add some data specific to Amport. Cllrs Hawkings-Byass and Waller will assist.

She also asked if Amport Parish Council would fund 1/7th of the Pillhill Brook's Association membership to the Angling Trust. This is estimated at a maximum annual sum of £36. It is through the Angling Trust that the PBA will get the correct level of liability insurance for working in the brook once Watercress & Winterbournes closes. All Cllrs agreed to meet this cost.

Finally, she asked Amport Parish Council if they will fund 1/8th of cost to produce 5 replicas of the Environment Agency award plaque that the PBA have jointly won with Southern Water. This will provide a plaque to each parish that makes up the PBA. The intention is to hang the original in the Monxton & Amport village hall. This will work out at £35.63 per parish. All Cllrs agreed to meet this cost.

5) Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Hemmings. All in favour.

6) Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke had nothing to report.

Devolution- HCC Donnelly confirmed that mayoral elections will not now be held until 2028 and there is an ongoing debate about whether Councillor elections will take place in May of 2026. He said he will try and organise a drop in session for Parish Councils when a full update on the reorganisation can be provided.

The Clerk confirmed she submitted a response to the recent consultation for Local Government Reorganisation on behalf of the Parish Council.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported the goalposts still need to be moved, Cllr Hawkings-Byass will approach the contractor.

The ditch on the verge along the green still needs clearing, the Clerk confirmed she had asked the lengthsman to carry out the work. Given the delay the question of belonging to this scheme was raised and will be an agenda item for full discussion at the February meeting. In the meantime, the Clerk will approach the lengthsman cluster lead to discuss. The gate to the Fen will need replacing soon and the matter will be addressed in the spring.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey had sent apologies. Cllr Baker has asked that any school parents finding issues at the play area report these to the school who will pass them on to the Parish Council.

Weyhill- Cllr Hemmings had nothing to report.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported a tree down on the footpath from the church, she will ask the landowner to deal with this.

Communications – The next newsletter will be drafted at the end of February.

Projects- Cllr Harvey was absent.

Neighbourhood Plan– Cllr Stephenson had circulated an email informing all Councillors about questions raised on the submitted Neighbourhood Plan. A response to questions had also been circulated and sent to TVBC who will submit this to the examiner. It is hoped the referendum will take place soon.

Highways- Cllr Harris reported the condition of the road along the Green and at the bottom of Furzedown Lane has been reported to HCC. He asked that all road / verge / hedge / tree issues are reported to HCC via the website.

Southern Water -Cllr Harris reported a section of a rising main burst on 31 December 2025. Southern Water reacted quickly and although a limited amount of sewage reached the Pillhill Brook, information is that the spill was contained with no lasting damage found. However, for a few days, Southern Water deployed tankers at Mullens Pond and Amport, and other water-pumping stations upstream from the burst main in order to manage the flow of sewage. These tankers

caused local noise when using the tankers' diesel pumps and some disruption to some people's lives in the community. The resulting ground damage and mess has been highlighted and requests for Southern Water to repairs these have been made. Given it is likely tankers will continue to be deployed in the Parish from time to time Southern Water will be pushed to make more permanent provision for parking of these vehicles.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Waller highlighted funding available from TVBC, for a maximum of £1000 to meet the costs of equipment for the parish. He also highlighted the need to update the resilience plan and agreed he will now review this.

Several flooding hotspots had been reported to HCC in a special report although no feedback had ever been received and it was noted these continue to be a problem. Cllr Donnelly said available finance to deal with flooding was limited. The Clerk said following the November meeting she had reported all the mentioned areas again via the HCC report a problem site. Cllr Dix highlighted the flooding at both ends of Dauntsey Lane. The flood waters were so deep they could only be crossed by car leaving vulnerable residents who did not drive effectively trapped. The Clerk said she would revisit her report of these flood areas and add this information.

School Liaison-Cllr Baker highlighted a request from Amport School to run forest schools on the Village Green. She has circulated some details on the type of activities that they will carry out but this will be on a leave no trace basis. HCC insure the scheme provided staff are fully trained but the Parish Council insurance will need to support this. The Clerk agreed to contact the insurance company to establish facts. The Parish Council agreed they are open to the idea in principle but will need further details before they can decide.

7) Tree Removal Fen

Cllr Harris provided details of a quote obtained to remove the dangerous tree in the Fen. The total cost for removal of the tree and all waste is £640.00 plus VAT.

Cllr Harris proposed the quote be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Coke. All agreed.

8) Draft Local Plan & A342 working group.

Cllr Harris said there had been no further details regarding the draft plan or the proposal put forward by Dunning's and the Ewelme Trust. Further correspondence from TVBC is unlikely before the Regulation 19 stage is reached.

The A342 Working Group continues to gather data from across the affected parishes and residents have been working on specific tasks so that a draft report can be circulated in the wider community when possible. A particular issue that the group currently faces is the lack of traffic data on the A342 from either TVBC or from HCC.

A survey designed by the Group across all local parishes is planned. TVBC has said that it is able to provide finance and resources to enable this survey to be conducted, using survey-monkey wherever possible.

Clerks report

9) The Clerk reported as follows-

The rate of interest on the Parish Council interest bearing bank account has been reduced from 1.4% to 1.2%

HCC Cllr Donnelly has spoken to HCC highways about the missing dragons' teeth by the Village Green. He is pressing them to take responsibility and replace those that are broken or missing however is certain that this will be a low priority matter for them. He suggested the Clerk obtain a quote for the work to be carried out locally and he would ascertain if he had any grant funding available to help with the costs.

The response to the Draft Local Plan consultation from Amport Parish council was submitted before the closing date supporting the TVBC proposal option 1.

All areas where flooding was noted as per the November meeting have been reported to HCC.

As mentioned at item 4 above funding of £75.00 from the Angling Trust and £200.00 from the Grosvenor Hotel, Stockbridge has been received by Amport Parish Council on behalf of the Pillhill Brook association.

Finally, she confirmed a change in the meeting date for May 2026 from 18th to 11th to accommodate other hall bookings.

10) see item 4

Finance

11)

i)) To note the bank balances as at 12/01/2026

Lloyds savings £21909.01

Lloyds current £563.21

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

H Bournier salary	£519.28
HMRC	£164.84
H Bournier exp.	£17.20
YU energy (DD)	£ 24.82
Taits printers	£110.00
Web site	£11.99
Email service	£24.99

Retrospective

H Bournier salary	£519.48
HMRC	£164.64
H Bournier exp.	£13.60
Monxton Village Hall	£10.00
Water rates	£27.66
Taits printers	£110.00
Stephen Coke	£33.97
Eclipse pest control	£85.00
Yu energy	£24.02

Borough & County Councillor Reports.

12) HCC Chris Donnelly reported he recently spent time on a police patrol, he is trying to organise a youth group to deliver PE sessions in and around Andover and finally he highlighted winter fuel payments are automatic and any residents who receive text messages regarding this should be advised they are a scam.

TVBC M Flood highlighted the recent TVBC Councillor report which reported a recent success in a fly tipping prosecution

13) Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

25/02365/TPON-crown reduce Beech, Mussett Cottage-refuse

24/01288/NMA1-remove solar panels to expand archaeological zone- Land at Lains farm- approved

25/02787/TREEN-crown reduce yew tree, Daisy Cottage, the Green- no objection

25/02650/CLPN-construct new garage & garden studio-36 Sarson Close, certificate issued

25/01975/ADVN- display advertising banner, Hillier Garden Centre- consent

Reviewed between meetings:

25/02700/FULLN- change of use to equestrian, land north of Amesbury Road- comments regarding suitability submitted.

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

25/02953/FULLN - demolish agricultural building and construct new dwelling-Fox Farm-no objections

25/03012/TREEN- tree works Sherbourne Lodge, Furzedown Lane- no objection

25/03011/TREEN- tree works 4 Sarson Barns, Monxton Road-no objections

Tree Applications

The clerk reported an application for tree works in the Fen had been submitted by the Winterbournes and Watercress group in relation to the planned works.

Amport House

Cllr Harris reported a buyer has been found, although contracts have yet to be exchanged, the hope is they will proceed to renovate the buildings and for them to become a boutique hotel. The new buyer has suggested this may take some time and Cllr Harris has suggested they speak to the TVBC planning department for advice.

Correspondence

14) The Clerk highlighted brochures for play equipment and leaflet from an arboricultural company.

Community News

15) None

Date of next meeting

16) The next meeting will be on Monday 16th February 2026, 7.30pm at **Monxton & Amport Village Hall**