

Minutes of the Amport Parish Council meeting held on Monday 18th March 2024, 7.30pm at Amport Primary School.

Present: Cllr C Harris – Chairman, Cllr S Coke-Vice Chairman, Cllr Mrs T Hawkings-Byass & Cllr A Montagu.

Also present

Heather Bourner – Parish Clerk
TVBC S Hasselmann
5 Members of the Public

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence had been received from HCC Chris Donnelly, TVBC Maureen Flood, Cllr Mrs D Stephenson, Cllr Mrs C Hemmings, Cllr P Waller, Cllr P Harvey, Cllr Mrs S Baker & Cllr D Douch.

2 Presentation from Fox Farms

Fiona Jaques planning advisor to Fox Farms gave information regarding a prior approval application submitted to TVBC for change of use of a grain store with a proposal to convert this to five dwellings. She explained that this type of application did not require full consultation and the impact on highways and ecology are the only things tested. She explained a previous application was withdrawn as it is necessary to show how natural light is supplied into these units. This point had been addressed in this current application.

She explained Fox Farming is a 900-acre site which will continue to be farmed and that there is a woodland management plan in place. She confirmed the properties would be open market sales and are not necessarily for agricultural workers.

Concern was raised by members of public present about where grain would be stored if this unit was no longer available. She confirmed the company did have space in a collective grain store and had recently purchased another farm in the area which had storage which could be used. This led to further concerns about moving volumes of grain around the countryside. Given that planning permission had not yet been granted such matters had not yet been considered but any details arising in the future will be shared with the Parish Council. In the meantime, if she is able Fiona agreed to share her maps of the area showing which parcels of land belong to Fox Farming and which don't. Members of the public present were keen to have this information in particular there was interest in a permissive footpath upon which there is a long outstanding application for change to a restricted byway.

Finally, Fiona explained that Fox Farming were keen to strengthen contacts with the Parish Council and she will keep in touch regarding this application and any other matters that might affect local residents.

3 Declarations of Interest

Cllr Harris declared an interest in a planning application at Amport School. There were no other declarations of interests. All Councillors confirmed there were no amendments required to register of interest forms.

4 Public Participation

A complaint was raised by a member of public regarding visiting food vans. He had written to the Clerk and the matter had been dealt with in accordance with the adopted complaints policy. He had responded asking for the complaint to be escalated just a few days before the meeting and this matter was not an agenda item. It was agreed the matter now needed to be reviewed by full council and then discussed at a meeting. The Clerk will ensure full details are sent to all Councillors and that the matter is a further agenda item once all councillors have been able to review the matter.

5 Minutes of previous meetings & matters arising

Resolved: The minutes of the meetings held on 19th February were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. Proposed Cllr Coke seconded Cllr Hawkings-Byass. All in favour.

The bus shelter at the Hawk had been highlighted as needing repair Cllr Harris said it appeared some repair had been carried out. Cllr Baker said she can speak to a local builder if repairs are still required.

6 Specific reports

Principle & Process-Cllr Coke confirmed he had checked the last auditor report to ensure any remedial action had been taken and was happy that the Parish Council are ready for the review of 2023. He suggested the asset registered is signed by the Chairman and included in the audit papers.

The Fen & Green- Cllr Harris reported both the green and fen remain very wet but the daffodil bulbs are in flower. The ditch along the road, which runs into the millstream and into the Pillhill Brook, still has a high level of water in it. The ditch will need clearing by the Lengthsman when the water level has receded. Tony Darbyshire led a team to cut down fallen trees and branches in the green and fen on Saturday 16th March. Thanks were expressed to Tony for his continued help with this. Finally, it was suggested at the last PC meeting that individuals in the Parish would organise a family day on the green sometime in June. Following further discussion, the current proposal is that this should take place on the Saturday of the late May Bank Holiday weekend, before the National Gardens Scheme event on the Sunday and Monday.

Play Area -Cllr Harvey was absent however Cllr Harris reported on the suggestion at the February meeting that a working party could rub down and repaint the bridge railings near the village green. He had established that these were the responsibility of HCC who had confirmed they did not require repainting at present. They said the Parish Council could organise and pay for the painting of these but that an approved HCC contractor must be used. After a short debate it was agreed no work would be commissioned at present.

Weyhill Area- Cllr Hemmings and Douch were both absent but had sent a report to say the notice board was on order and would hopefully arrive soon.

Footpaths- Cllr Hawkings-Byass said all the footpaths were passable although very muddy.

Communications—Cllr Hawkings-Byass reported the second edition of the newsletter had been produced and delivered by Councillors. The quote from the Post Office for delivery was extortionate so volunteers to help with this task will be sought.

School Liaison –Cllr Baker had nothing to report.

Projects- Cllr Harvey had sent apologies

Neighbourhood Plan- see item 11

Highways – Cllr Harris reported discussions continue with National Highways following a meeting regarding safety concerns about the junction of the A303 and Sarsons Lane. Potential media coverage will be considered. He also said concerns raised regarding large lorries using Sarson Lane have been escalated to Hampshire Highways and finally, he confirmed he continues to press for pot holes and other repairs to be carried out in the parish.

Resilience Plan- Cllr Waller had sent his apologies.

7 Tackling online abuse

The Clerk had circulated a policy document regarding online abuse. After a short discussion Cllr Coke proposed the policy be adopted. This was seconded by Cllr Harris. All agreed. The Clerk will ensure this is posted to the website.

8 Southern Water update

Cllr Harris reported that works to reline the sewers and manhole covers continues despite the highest ground water levels recorded. The success of the project so far has meant a significant reduction in tankers in the area and also that the project is being used as a model in other Southern Water areas.

He also reported on the initiative to test water in various locations of the Pillhill Brook. Several volunteers have agreed to help with this project. Janet Wright will lead and analyse data.

9 Monxton & Amport Village Hall

Cllr Harris reported the construction of the new hall is proceeding quickly. Much of the structure has been erected, and in the near future the windows and doors can be installed. Work is underway to decide on the best method of power generation since the objective is to have a hall which is self-sufficient in energy, by use of solar panels and an air source heat pump. It is hoped this may also generate some income for the hall.

Finance of the build remains a difficulty with a £90k short of funds at present. Efforts to seek funding from TVBC and elsewhere are under way, and steps have been taken to obtain good quality furniture from donors. A local builder has offered his time to lead a working party to paint walls and lay tiling etc. A group of villagers from both Monxton and Amport is meeting to develop ideas for fund-raising. A gift aid campaign will be launched shortly. The Village Hall charity is looking for volunteers to take on roles for the new hall and in particular a person with a financial background and resident in Monxton or Amport Parish, to be the treasurer of the village hall charity.

10 New Bench for Village green

Following the previous discussions regarding a new bench for the Village Green Cllr Hawkings-Byass raised a concern that benches made from recycled material became very hot in direct sunlight and the risk from burning that this posed. Cllr Baker had confirmed the bench will be positioned at a site in the shade. A round bench was preferred as gaps between seats would allow access for wheelchair users. Greenflints will provide a quote for the fitting costs.

11 Neighbourhood Plan Character appraisal.

Cllr Stephenson was absent but had circulated documents regarding the Neighbourhood Plan character appraisal and design codes to all Councillors. These documents were acknowledged and all present agreed to review them in detail. Cllr Montagu suggested that eco friendly homes should be promoted in these documents.

Cllr Harris highlighted the draft Local Plan 2040 and in particular two proposed developments one near Kimpton for 1500 houses and the other redevelopment of the industrial estate at Thruxton Circuit. While these are only proposals at present concern was raised regarding the traffic increases on the A342 should the housing development take place. The public consultation of the plan is still open and all Councillors were encouraged to review the documents and comment as necessary.

12 Clerks report

The Clerk reported as follows-

Details of the email settings had been shared with expert who is trying to solve the issue of one.com blocking emails from Gmail accounts.

A request to send an end of year grant return for the Neighbourhood Plan grant has been received. This is due on 31st March. The grant had not all been spent at present but Cllr Stephenson has confirmed the plan is to spend the grant in full before the deadline.

HCC have confirmed a representative was visiting Amport parish on 14th March to consider the sites that have been proposed with regard to fitting speed awareness cameras.

Playsafety have confirmed they will visit the play area in May to carry out the annual ROSPA safety report.

Payments for the water testing kits have been made but reimbursement from Southern Water and Greenflints are still awaited. Once received all the Parish Councils who have agreed to contribute will be invoiced.

13 Finance

i) To note the bank balances as at 11/03//2024

Lloyds current £514.77

Lloyds savings £13829.99

ii) Payments

Resolved: that the following payments be approved,

H Bournier salary	£463.20
HMRC	£115.80
H Bournier exp.	£31.24
Kinex electricity Feb	£9.44
Hugo Fox website	£11.99
TVBC dog waste bins	£647.40

14 Borough & County Councillor Reports.

HCC Chris Donnelly had sent his apologies

TVBC Maureen Flood had sent apologies.

TVBC Susanne Hasselmann highlighted the recently circulated monthly report. She said council tax in TVBC has risen by an average of £5 per household to help meet ever increasing costs. She detailed her support for a motion to prevent sewage being released into local rivers. Finally, she highlighted the next TVBC community resilience forum on 20th April.

15 Planning

The following decisions by TVBC were noted:

23/03233/TPON-Fell 9 trees Hurstwood House-withdrawn

23/03185/FUUL Side & rear extensions, Greenacre, Dauntsey Lane-permission

23/02166/FULLN-Extend and convert garage to create 3 bed property, Mayfield Lodge, 2 Brewery Cottages, Amesbury Road-permission

24/00033/LBWN- replacement windows, Kingsley Cottage, Sarsons Lane- consent

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

24/00373/FULLN- demolish old and erect new double garage with home office over-Little Bec, Monxton Road-no objections

24/00511/FULLN- Demolish concrete garage and erect outbuilding to provide accommodation for aging parents, Border House, Cholderton Road- no objections

24/00578/LBWN- repairs to listed wall-Amport School- no objections

Amport House-Cllr Harris reported that there is no news on the possible sale at present.

16 Correspondence

The Clerk highlighted two sales brochures received regarding bus shelters and speed awareness cameras.

17 New Items for next agenda

Plan the AGM at the May meeting

18 Community News

Cllr Montagu confirmed an appeal has been submitted against the refusal to allow an extension to the Lains Solar Farm.

19 Date of next meeting

The next meeting will be on Monday 15th April 2024, 7.30pm at Amport School.